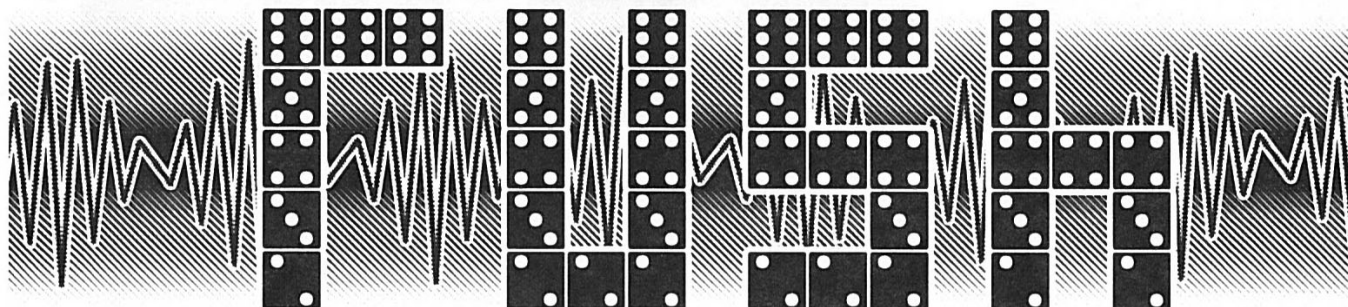


NUMBER 2
\$2.00

FALL
1991

a show of things

A R U S
F A N Z I N
F O R A N
B Y R U S
F A N



NO ME TO RO ME

<p>GO TO MEGADON!</p>	<p>YOU ARE STILL... SKIP A TURN</p>	<p>TAKE A DESTINY CARD</p>		<p>RADIATION SICKNESS GO BACK 5 SPACES</p>	<p>GOATS QUICK!</p>
	THE VALLEY	RIVENDELL	LA VILLA	RED SECTOR A	
	<p>ROLL THE BONES FATE IS JUST A WEIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES</p>	<p>DESTINY CARD</p> <p>HARD REALITIES</p>			<p>SUBURBIA</p>
		<p>BLUE JAYS WIN THE WORLD SERIES! GO TO ZION</p>	<p>BACHUS PLATEAU</p>	<p>1-2-3 BUCKLE YOUR SHOE GO BACK 4 SPACES</p>	<p>MAINDRAKE</p>
<p>TAKE A HARD REALITIES CARD</p>		<p>LAKESIDE PARK</p>	<p>TAKE OFF HOSTER! GO TO THE VALLEY</p>	<p>GREAT WHITE NORTH</p>	
<p>CYGNUS X-1</p>	<p>YOU ESCAPE THE BLACK HOLE! TAKE \$100</p>	<p>LOTUS LAND</p>		<p>TAKE OFF HOSTER! GO TO THE VALLEY</p>	<p>COMPUTER CRASH! GO BACK THREE SPACES</p>
<p>JUST VISITING! MEGADON</p>	<p>ZION</p>	<p>XANADU</p>	<p>WILLOW DALE</p>	<p>MIDDLETOWN</p>	<p>TAKE A HARD REALITIES CARD</p>
<p>ROLL THE BONES TOUR 1991/92 START</p>	<p>DRUG ENDUCED STATE DRIFT TO MIDDLETOWN</p>	<p>YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE MOVE UP 5 SPACES</p>	<p>JUST VISITING!</p>	<p>JUST VISITING!</p>	<p>JUST VISITING!</p>

THE FOUNTAIN

With the tour upon us, I feel a sense of wonder and enlightenment. I'm sure you all feel the same — at least to some degree! I know that this Rush experience will be the best one yet. Oh sure, mishaps are bound to happen! But nothing can stop that Rush drive! We must "face up," and be optimistic for the best of all possible times regardless of this jello-like economy! All of the stages of our lives seem to parallel Rush's music and words. For some of us its sheer de ja vu! You know that feeling when you start talking to a Rush fan and find similar pasts, then you knock your head and whisper, "are we replicants, or what??" We all have so much more in common than Rush alone. Rush leads us to change and new ideas. It drives us forward and helps us change with pleasure, or change...never knowing. Here's to the **best** tour for Rush and all of our readers!

I have mocked up my **dream** Roll the Bones set list and although this may look silly as you read this on the way to your fifth show — I degrees! (Note: This issue is to be mailed out BEFORE the first show...so onward.)

The Ultimate Rush Song List as of 8/91, given time constraints and the fact that it is impossible to "get em all in!" They'll have to cut some classics to make room for the new stuff!

- 1) Big Money - great opener, strong live song. (Show Don't Tell would also be a nice opener!)
- 2) Limelight - time to bring this one back!
- 3) New World Man - one of my favorites
- 4) Dreamline - the "killer" Bones lead track
- 5) Ghost of a Chance - this has GOT to be in there!! The Monster Hit!!
- 6) Distant Early Warning - could this be trimmed? I hope NOT!
- 7) Cinderella Man - my high school anthem! Love it to death!
- 8) The Trees - definitely bring this one back!
- 9) Tom Sawyer - a mainstay
- 10) Closer to the Heart - can't leave home without it!
- 11) The Big Wheel - What a strong track! "Chasing something new to believe in..." Wow.
- 12) Roll the Bones - Yo Alex Raps!
- 13) The Mission - a tear jerker. A modern day anthem.
- 14) Where's My Thing?/YYZ/Drum Solo/Red Lenses - SUPERDUPERJAM in warpdrive! Engage!

ENCORE: 21 12/Fly By Night/In the Mood - what a joy it would be to hear these! If not Fly By Night then how about Bastille Day? AND....if Rush would be willing to do another encore the following two songs could wrap it up:

1) Heresy 2) Chain Lightening ...and then.....

Too many you say? Well hell....that's the best I can do...remember this is a dream set. How do you trim down such a massive library of classics?? Whew!! Hey, wouldn't it be great to see Rush extend their show by say 22 hours? What do ya say guys? How about 20 minutes? Well...we can always wish for this. **ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!**

We'll list the REAL set list as we recover from this tour. It's gonna be a long one folks! Send in those reviews, thoughts, oars, boats, wishbones, comments and pictures!

It appears that the single, "Dreamline" has been released in some parts of the country (Boston seems to be the first!) way before the actual release date of August 12th! Some heard Dreamline 7-10 days before Atlantic released it! The station in Boston was reportedly scolded by Atlantic to some degree - but its really hard to blame them for playing it. We have been waiting so long for this one! The reason Dreamline was delayed in some regions was due to Atlantic not wanting to send out the new Stevie Nicks

single at the same time as Rush....so they sent the Nicks single out first, thus pushing Dreamline back a week (give me a break!!). Ah well, thats the biz! Are they just too darn excited about this one? (WE ARE!) The requests for Dreamline have been pouring in around here. The two Hartford, CT rock stations have been showered with calls!

Dreamline has been released in a beautiful promo only CD gem box with all new custom artwork that differs from the album cover. It is in fact the secondary album artwork. The whole Roll the Bones concept is shaping up to be a superb one indeed! The single artwork depicts three wishbones sailing into destiny with an angry looking sky, yet calm at the same time in the background. This is gorgeous!

Neil has penned a Roll the Bones story (or...the story of Roll the Bones...AKA, "Row The Boats" - see **Spirit of Rush** Number 17 for complete transcript) And — get this — this will be released initially as a promo only item on a SCROLL! Is this wild or what? Hawk your radio stations for this....or be forced to pay WAY OVERINFLATED Goldmine prices! (What's going on with all of this price gouging? In this day and age of recession, how can ANYONE afford to keep up with all the "stuff?" Something

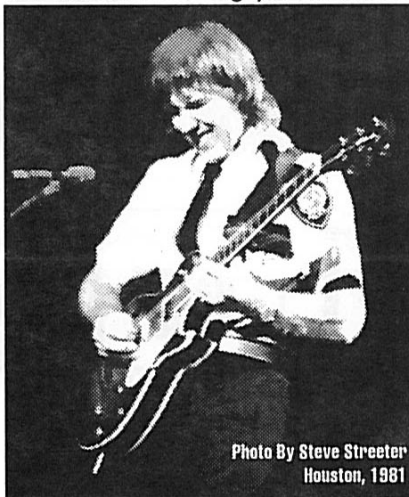


Photo By Steve Streater
Houston, 1981

has got to be done to bring this out of bounds pricing structure down to earth!!) It really must start at square one - the initial seller....otherwise we all get the shaft.

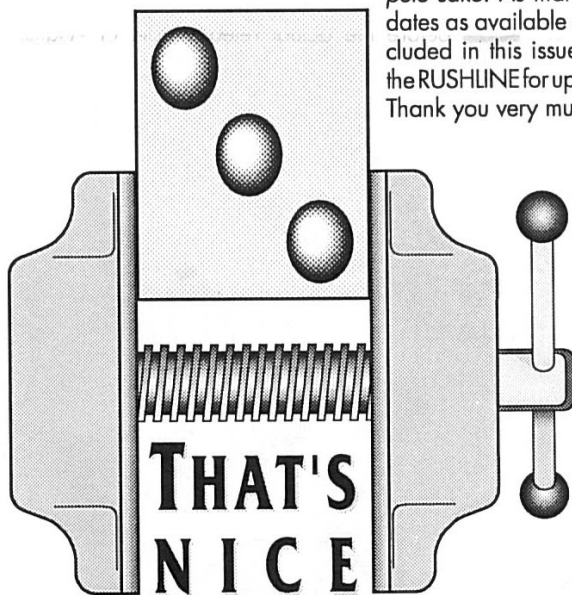
There is also a Super Deluxe Promo Press Kit with the same "Boats" story, some cool polaroid portraits and fabulous graphics galore! Album flat and cover posters are also being sent out. Check your local CD stores to see if you can claim one!!

We are a tad bit embarrassed to say the least due to our error ridden first issue. We caught the worst one and put the correction in the insert. Can you forgive us? Let it be known that we will try to have at least one other person read all of the galley copy that knows the proper content and maybe then we'll have near perfection. You know how us Rush fans are....perfectionists to the core! Right! So onward into destiny!

You will find some survey comments in our **FEEDBACK** section. We will wait some time before we tabulated data on age, M. F, etc...breakdown. All will be done in a chart format with no names....so don't fret. (geddit?)

Please remember that ASOF has a NEW phone number! The Rushline is (203) 693-0506. This is a dedicated line for Rush information exchange and rap. We intend to have an answering machine on it, so you may leave messages. Due to the incredible debt I had to incur with ASOF #1 and all prep work I will not always be able to call you back. Please understand this...thanks. Please make all checks out to **Steve Streeter - NOT ASOF** and please...no checks under \$2.00! Send cash or money orders for

pete sake! As many tour dates as available are included in this issue. Call the RUSHLINE for updates! Thank you very much.



**I AM NOT A DEADHEAD!
I AM A RUSH HEAD!**



Who is God? What is Love? (And Who are Rush?) By Keith Hebert - New Westminster, Canada

Awestruck at the thought of worshipping imperfection, I hoped I could find an answer to my predicament. Or just more questions about it?

I really admire Rush. Their is so many good things I could say about them, but I do not LOVE them.

"Love does not brag and is not arrogant. Love never fails." I am becoming quite convinced that this is the truth.

I am constantly amazed at the way people interject reviews and complaints with their own personal self-boasting emptiness. It is fine if you want to see Rush umpteen times on a tour or travel countless miles to see them. I would gladly do it again! But keep Love out of it!

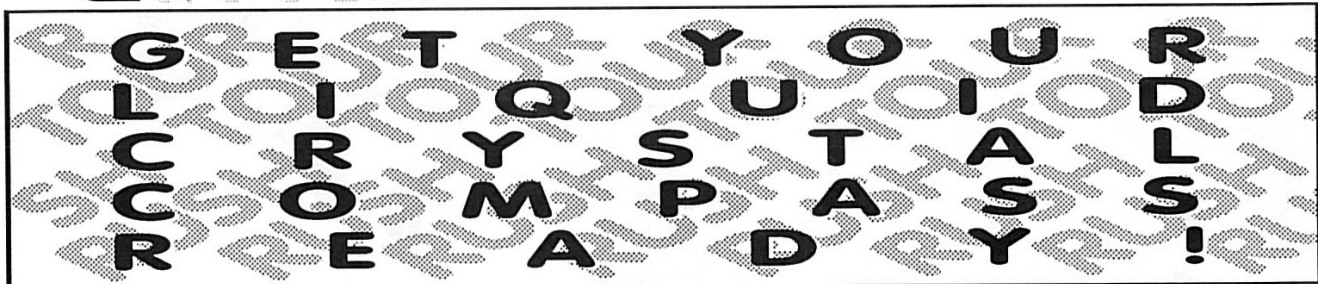
Are Rush Gods? Is their music the Gospel? To some of their listeners, perhaps!! If they were Gods, they could escape all the imperfections that exist in them. They wouldn't play the wrong notes, forget the words, or have the wrong projection in the background. They would be free from ALL of this....

No one is free from this obviously. We must stake out our own perfection in the eyes of ourselves.

If I started to list all the things I would like to have, or have changed, or have forgotten about Rush, I would still be listing tomorrow. Why would I want to bother?? As Steve said in ASOF#1, "We will present ONLY the positive!" And that brings me back to love again.

Love cannot be jealous! Love cannot act unjustly or unbecomingly! It cannot be provoked! (If indeed it is REAL.) And it cannot take into account a wrong suffered. So those listeners who Love, and wish for something else, take a second look! Look out, look around.

Rush are good friends of mine in that they put out music I can care enough to buy and praise. But I know now that it is simply cause and effect; it is provoked! It is not Love.



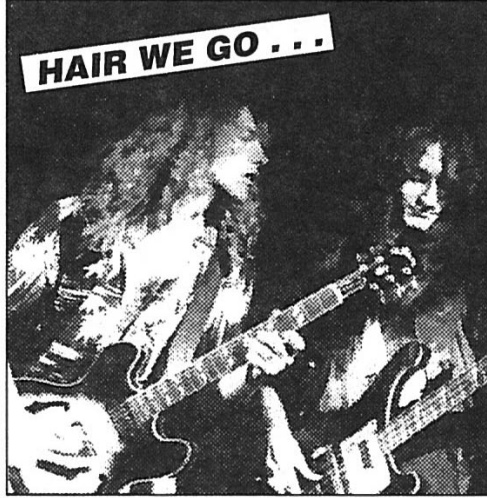


Alex
1981
Houston, TX



BLAST FROM THE PAST

(from **SOUNDS** (UK), 1987)



IN REPLY to Jeremiah Puddleduck's letter (Aug 14) there is no such thing as "HM length hair" or an "average axe here". Why is he so obsessed with long hair? Because it conforms to the HM image we've had shoved down our throats for so long.

As for his reference to Rush looking like reject skinheads -- wrong again, son. Neil Peart's hair is short, Geddy's sitting on his shoulders, and Alex's is shorter than in '78, but no less beautiful.

Quite frankly Rush have been around long enough to know better than care about stupid little kids like you who try to dictate what length their hair should be. They are three very fine individual musicians, and I certainly won't stop going to see them just because they've had their hair cut! -- Margaret, Falkirk.
PS God bless Rush!!! (because they're damn good musicians!)

Thank you Jim Wright.



**YOU
BET
YOUR
LIFE**

the Oracle

By Eric Ross
Chanhassen, MN

Roll The Bones Review Part 2

The Men: Neil sez, "We're Psyched!" Slarty Bardfarst sez, "Hey, they're just these guys, ya know?" Fabulously humble integreticians. Musicians. Magicians. Power-chord philosophers.

Men of spirit and purpose. Alex sez, "Yea, its a pretty good job." Zip sez, "Yow!" Truth seekers.

Heat seekers. And for fertile growth conditions and strong roots, Peat seekers. (You know, the sixties folk-meister). Objectivists, humanists, realists, pragmatic idealists. Geddy sez, "We hope to make that timeless album someday." Timeless indeed!

The Music: Hip-Hop Lite-pop metalists. *Roll the Bones* once again confirms the bands conviction to musicality and dynamics. The textures that were once a Rush trademark have returned. Gone are the sterile days of cold digitally synthesized music-scapes. Gone are the two-dimensional musical paintings, colorful and vivid though they were. Back is the tone, the depth, the space, the air on the strings. As Geddy tempers his voice down into a comfortable range, the songs are easier to sing-along with. This ability of the listener to pseudo-participate generates a warmth and a connection to the music and the message. Subtlety is still ever present. Seemingly seamless and simple melodies are played with the confidence and quality that only true masters can produce. There is much more going on than a first listen usually reveals. Every listen exposes a new angle and illuminates a different facet of each piece. Chords that build high like a mountain, and notes that fall gently like rain...

The Mission: One wonders about the increased use of song titles within the lyrics of the songs on *Roll the Bones*. With many artists this would be an obvious tactic to improve consumer recognition. Rush has to eat and buy new instruments once in a while too, you know. It's hard to blame them. Still it can be slightly worrisome. Beyond the superficial, though, *Roll the Bones* is about life. The chaos and yearning of youth. The seeking of fame, fortune and adventure. Pride. Love. Anger. Hope. Compassion. Uncertainty. Faith. Growing old. Destiny. It's all there. Life is an unpredictable crap-shoot. Fear and timidity will only smother you with complacency. Hope and hard work at the juncture of opportunity produce good luck. If Rush's mission is to sell their music and their message, they are selling top shelf goods. And yes, it is timeless and *about time*.

"Armchair rocket scientist graffiti existentialist"

("I am *not* an existentialist; I am a *free man*!"*)

"The Odds Get Even." Death is the Ultimate Equalizer. *You Bet Your Life* immediately splits open your skull with a bad-to-the-bone tone from Alex's guitar. It's very reminiscent of the sound of so many bands populating the college radio station airwaves. Interestingly, it's in college when many people do their most profound thinking about survival. And beyond mere survival, the lucky ones have time to examine and contemplate life itself. Studies journey both with-in and without the individual. And it's at this stage when a living framework or philosophy or skeleton for life is developed. This is eventually fleshed out, as experience and wisdom are acquired from living. But with so many choices, whose to know the Right Way? The chances must be taken. The choices must be made. *You Bet Your Life!*

"rational romantic mystic cynical idealist"

Perhaps a moment to dream**: Imagine, if you will, the three faces of Alex, Geddy, and Neil on your mental video screen simultaneously lip-syncing the words to the "Life" chant. Now duplicate these faces maybe a hundred times or so to fill the entire visual plane. (If you're a 3-D thinker, try filling the depth with all these simultaneously chanting heads.)

"deconstruction primitive performance photo-realist"

Sprinkle in a few extra faces of the timeless sages, say, Plato, Aristotle, Jung, Neitsche, (God?), and have them join in on the lip-synced chant. Add chromatic oscillations to the background and begin a slow linear motion of all the repeated heads. (Try right to left motion.) Yow!

"hindu muslim catholic creation/evolutionist"

Slowly Pan back so that instead of hundreds, there are now thousands of these chanting heads in view. With this new perspective, the linear motion is seen to be curved, like the surface of a rotating cylinder. The heads come from afar on the right, pass in the nearfield at the center, and dissapear into the vast eternal void again on the left.

"minimal expressionist post-modern neo- symbolist"

Continue to pan back to see that the moving faces are traveling along the surfaces of Neil's drum bodies. The perspective widens still to encompass the complete drum kit and then the entire stage to see all three again (Alex, Geddy, and Neil) performing *You Bet Your Life* in concert...

As many heads as there are on this planet Earth, there are equally as many combinations, permutations, and scintillations of the View of Life. Could it be that we all have the same destiny anyway? Could it be that we are all saying the same thing in zillions of different ways?

You Bet Your Life!

* '91 Neil Peart

** from a mutually exclusive vision with Mr. Steve

VITAL SIGNS

By BC Brandt
Roanoke, VA

The process of maturation is one of the most amazing and incomprehensible forms of growth. It exists in everything, saplings into trees, gaseous interstellar stuff into stars and sometimes even boys into men.

The process takes a lifetime. The day that we, as the newborn, first open our eyes is the first step into physical maturation; as is the day we begin to walk, our first word, puberty, and that first grey hair or wrinkle. Our first memory is systematic of the arrival of mental and personal maturity. The gaining of knowledge furthers our intellectual maturity, the gaining of experience, our personal maturity. We continue to grow as long as we function. And with growth comes change. Thus as with our environment, we are ever changing. After all, change changes aren't permanent, the change is.

If people could change individually then so can a single group acting as a single entity — such as a band. Rush has matured as much or more as any single sole entity.

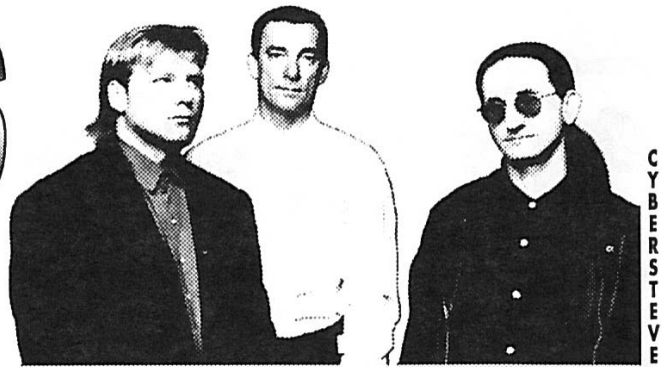
When we take our first step, we falter and fall. When Rush played their first gigs, they were, by their own assessment, pretty bad. But keep walking and soon you're running. Maybe you don't know where your running, but at least you're in motion. Rush kept playing, kept practicing, kept running and they ran into a few gigs along the way. They got attention, just like anyone running down the hall would.

In time you grow taller, you gain your balance and you learn how to combine the art of walking and running, as well as how to skip and gallop. Rush did their first set of albums and began to etch a place for them in the track of the music world. Sometimes they ran, sometimes they walked and sometimes they would wind up flat on their face — but like anyone, they would get right up and walk again.

Style eventually comes into play — you learn how to saunter, how to cruise past the chicks by the lockers, how to impress the guys and how to scare your parents. Rush learned style as well, deciding what they wanted to be and how to become that.

Soon you join the freshman track team. Your not quite running with the big boys, but you're running near them. Don't forget that the coach is watching — and that the world is listening. Then one day you win the big race and that's it — you're in the **BIG TIME**. Your running cross country now, being nominated for Junos and Grammys. People know your name.

Finally after years of hard work and learning how to run, you become a marathon torch runner in the Olympics. You've reached **IT**. Your performing before thousands and thousands of people and not only do people know your name, they inexplicably now want you to write it on papers that bear your semblance, various objects with your names, pieces of plywood and assorted body parts. Young men worship you and



CYBERSTEVE

blond women want to marry you.

Yes, you've matured, you've grown and all your hard work coupled with that has paid off. But the final test of your maturity comes not in your achievement, but how you react to it. Are you arrogant and hotly? Do you loom it over the heads of your former cruel and snobby classmates who are now working for Burger King? Do you blow your new found wealth on frivolous things or mealy be satisfied that you'll never have to worry about money again? Do you have Grace Under Pressure?

Rush does without a doubt. They've had to work at it I'm sure, but they've handled themselves with tact, grace, decorum, humor and maturity. Not only that but unlike bands that seem to remain in an arrested state of development, whether it be flash-in-the-pan-you-know-who-on-the-block*, or sixties folk singers who shall remain nameless — they're still growing — still maturing.

And they still hold promise for **NEXT TIME**.

For questions, comments and other assorted shared experiences about Rush or anything else mentioned in Vital Signs, feel free to write: BC Brandt, P.O. Box 9087, Hollins College**, VA 24020. If your idea is directly used for a column topic, you'll receive that particular issue of **ASOF** free of charge.

*New Shit on the Block

**It's not a collage! - Ed.

THE QUESTION

The most off-beat thing I have ever seen Rush do, or should I say see Geddy do, happened at Wembley Arena, England on April 24th 1988 on the Hold Your Fire Tour. We were fortunate enough to have backstage passes for the show and positioned ourselves at "Stage ... Left." The show went off as expected, without problems. It was only when the final notes of In The Mood had faded away, the goodnight's had been said and the band prepared to leave the stage that it happened. Geddy bounded down the stairs first, and ran with arms outstretched towards a guy holding out a straight-jacket! Geddy then proceeded to plant his arms into the sleeves and head off in the direction of the dressing room while being buckled and bound in! An open secret?

Neil Elliott, Surrey, England.

the Tidal Pool.

The Tidal Pool is ASOF's complete and totally free (we can't do this forever) classified ad section. This should serve as command central for all who wish to trade, buy, sell, meet, call, hook up on tour with fellow Rush fans, or just find a friend. We will sell NO BOOTLEGS nor will we allow them to be advertised in ASOF. Do that on your own. BUT, we will accommodate virtually anything else. Messages may also be placed. Be it an anagram to a friend, a poem on Rush, or just something plain old silly, it fits right in The Tidal Pool. Ebb and recede.

Due to the nature of the "fanzine beast" we have continued last minute classifieds in Pressure Release Insert. A couple of people have asked about taking out larger ads and or inserting a page in ASOF. We have not decided on this YET. However, if we do, we MUST cover printing costs and extra mailing costs. So it could be realistically about \$50 - \$75 per page...anyone STILL interested? Let ASOF know.

WANTED: Copies of things for ASOF. Of most interest would be local concert reviews and interviews that perhaps we have never seen. In some cases we would desire an original - ONLY if we need to "halftone" the item (giving the image a "dot" screen). Do give us a call and see if you might have an item that we could present! Send all submissions (manuscripts too) to Steve Streeter, ASOF.

WANTED: Rush 45's, cassette singles and posters. Willing to trade. Also am looking for photocopies of Rush ticket stubs from ANY tour. Brad Parmerter, 11 Division St., Schenectady, NY 12155.

Neil Peart on Roll the Bones...(Row the Boats!)

"But suddenly it's all different - all at once it seems obvious that we have a long creative partnership ahead of us. Maybe we're growing up a tiny bit; I'm not sure; but I do know that we are excited about this band in a whole new way. Each of us feels it, and *Roll the Bones* was the catalyst - this record was so enjoyable to make, and the process was so satisfying through each of its stages that suddenly we feel a new conviction, a sense of rebirth."

Comments from ASOF Fan Survey 1991 Number Eight, on the "experience" of Rush:

Rush's evolution pretty much parallels my personal evolution. Their music help me see the forest through the trees.

Rush is significant to my listening pleasure in many, many ways. A first is the emotive, powerful quality of the delivery of their musical art. Strong, rhythmic quality. Second is a visual quality. This quality transcends images inspired by the lyrics. It is a difficult thing to describe, but the musical tones, rhythms and nuances allow me to visualize movements and transitions with startling clarity and depth. Few other bands can induce this sensation so consistently. A natural high.

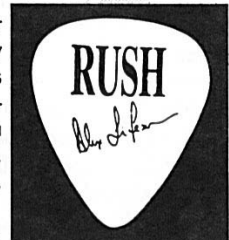
Literally, the stories & messages are clear and entertaining. Thankfully, there is no "boy meets girl" etc... ad nauseam (love is covered tastefully, not tactfully). Strong value statements are made which I agree with: honesty, integrity, change for growth, learn, hope for the best and hold on to humor with high regard.. Seek wisdom without pretentious, avoid complacency etc.

The live performance of Rush has attained a level which is rarely equaled by any other performers in arena rock. (simply awe inspiring to "witness")

And finally, the members of Rush aren't your average bone-head rockers. They're genuine people with a concern for others. Charismatic without being phony. They seem to remember who the friends are.

Rush brings out the very best in each of us. It's amazing how much "heaven" they can pack in a tiny shrink wrap package!! Listening

RUSH AUCTION!! I am auctioning off over 100 items from my personal collection. Many rare and unique. (i.e. pieces of Neil's drumsticks) Please send two I.R.C.s (International Reply Coupons) and I will send you a detailed list! Hope to hear from you all. AUCTION LIST, 200 Kirk Drive, Thornhill, Ontario, Canada, L3T 3L8.



SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR A SHOW OF FANS!

Now available. The next four issues for \$8.00 (U.S.); \$10.00 (Canada); \$15.00 (Rest of the world). Donations in stamps greatly appreciated! Please help make ASOF work for us ALL!!! Send to: Subscriptions c/o ASOF/Steve.

to Rush is like listening to an orchestra - even back to the first albums! Its all so "Big and Beautiful." The music conjures abstract images in the head. I always related Rush's music to an acid trip without the acid. Pure mind expanding noise! The best noise in the world. What the "experience" entails is growing up with Rush - that is - a unique experience - one that makes you THINK; one that makes you DREAM; one that makes you FEEL; one that makes you do the very BEST YOU CAN! Rush brings out the best that is in ALL of us.

The experience of Rush relates to me through my job. I take care of an elderly woman in her home. The family does not care about her. It is like the song The Pass. "Don't turn your back and slam the door."

Their music fills me with a huge amount of adrenaline and I feel like air drumming everytime I hear their music.

My feelings for Rush cannot be put into words. I can't imagine what my life would be without Rush. I have no idea what I would put into the void that would be there without them. I know their music as if it were born in me. Who knows...maybe it was.

There is nothing better in life than to see a Rush show. And I mean A LOT of Rush shows! At any point in my life, no matter what I'm doing or what I'm involved in, Rush is always present. Seldom a day passes when a Peart line doesn't cross my mind. Rush is a motivating force...a drug if you will. They are the best musicians in the business.

I have always felt that Rush were kind of special because they never rely on sexual themes to sell their albums. They are decent guys and prove that sex doesn't always HAVE to be there "to sell the music." (Let the music speak for itself.) Rush has the guts to be different.

The experience of Rush is one that quite simply encompasses ALL senses....usually at once. They seem to have an addicting quality that is so healthy and pure. As people, they appear to be warm and kind - and most of all RATIONAL! Their life philosophies also seem to be of the highest level. I have grown up as an extension of Rush. They are an ever present energy that drives me on and helps me create masterful works. Rush is the highest plateau of musical bliss.

Next issue: Your Personal Rush Discovery.

Tidal Pool Continued

WANTED: Rush Profiled CD.

I am a Peart-style lyricist and would like to correspond with other RUSH HEADS.

Write: Supriya, 8312 Sweet Cherry Lane, Laurel, MD 20723

VIDEOTAPES of RUSH and other "Progressive Rock" bands. BUY-SELL-TRADE. Your list for ours.

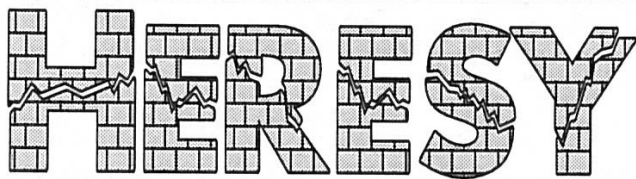
Jeff & Dena Morris, 202-180 Loft Lane, Raleigh, NC 27609

Let's TRADE RUSH items! WANTED: U.S. 45's, promo's, radio station LP's/CD's, tapes, press-kits, etc. Anything. Let me know what you have to trade. Send to: Neil Elliot, 8 Ryelands Close, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 5HY, England.

WANTED: Grace Under Pressure Tour book in good condition! Can you help me?

Heiko Klages, Brunnenstr-2, 3341 Denkte, West Germany

DISCLAIMER: The following represents views of your editor, Steve Streeter, and does not reflect the views of anyone else. This is pure opinion/editorial folks. A release of pressure. Sometimes it just must be said. Yes, tough talk demands.



A reflection of what this song means to me.

With Roll The Bones master lyricist Neil Peart unleashes some very strong verbiage, some of which evokes frustration and anger deep inside. Peart has displayed this type of writing ever since his beginning. Ever since the battle chords of Bastille Day, I've sensed a deep rooted interest in doing "the right thing." Neil's lyrics have always projected an honest and pure, yet sometimes mean, "Put on your Kid Gloves" mentality.

Heresy is a song that hits me like a 10 ton weight on a cold winter morning. The message is loud and strong in the main chorus, "All these wasted years, who will pay?" Who will pay?

Conceptually, Heresy touches on the idiocy of war, hate and prejudice. It glows with radioactivity as it rocks out some very serious problems facing us all! Oh, the irony of it all.

From my perspective I take Heresy as a "I told you so" type of song that really is saying stop and look at this barbaric behavior we are supporting and taking part in! This barbarism goes back many, many years. Just look how much is going on **right now!** Fresh in our minds are the horrible mistakes of our United States government here with Vietnam, Watergate, Iran/Contra Scam/Oliver North, Reaganism, Right wing religious nuts, the whole war on drugs farce (should be renamed: The War on Individual Rights! Why not scrap the First Amendment Mr. Bush?), credit out of control, hypercritical politicians wasting one year and claiming they support recycling the next, global warming, acid rain, and the abominable mistake of the Gulf War. Lest we forget

RUSH TRADES or AUCTION: 7" records, Posters (Neil/Ludwig Drums/purple) \$3.00 MB, Tourbooks (Presto autographed by all three) \$45.00 MB, 12" records, etc. If I can't get what you want I will eat my shorts. Toby "Superconductor" Greynolds, 1701 51st St. NE, Tacoma, WA 98422 (206) 471-1991

WANTED: Any/all Rush articles and correspondence. Please send lists to: Pat Choy, 913 W. Irving Park Rd., Itasca, IL., 60143. Have many unique items and tapes to trade.

What are the sources of Rush's infamous nicknames (Dirk, Pratt and Lerxt)?

Alex is **Lerxt**, sometimes spelled **Lerxst**, depending what album you look at. Neil is **Pratt** and Geddy is **Dirk**. The sources come from the back of the Signals album on the "Subdivisions" map. **Lerxtwood Mall, Old Dirk Road and Pratt & Co.**

Many thanks to Tony R, Rice and the many other **National Midnight Star** folks for real cool information! Now if only ASOF could budget in a modem! We do appreciate you posting us though!

other global ills such as what Thatcherism left behind or the Monsters of Moscow (what's left of the professors of Communism). Should we bow to the great barrel of the gun? Should we submit to the "Big Stick?" We have nothing to fear but fear itself. I say put the stick down now, or face an early grave.

All of this has happened in our lifetime and it just amazes me that we have **NOT** learned from our mistakes. "Stop the killing now! Do it, do it, do it, do it, do it NOW!" (John Lennon) And as Neil puts it, "All a big mistake!" Indeed. A mistake it has been. And now our country along with most others are suffering immensely. Here in the country that claims to "have it all" (granted, our system has glimmers of hope) we are facing a horrible down slide due to the neglect of presidents and politicians (hucksters) in recent years. Yes my friends, as science fiction author Phillip Dick once said, "the dark ages haven't ended yet!"

"From Moscow to Berlin" could just as well read "from Baghdad to Washington!" "All those wasted years, who will pay? All those **precious** wasted years!" When will we stop killing to win? NO ONE wins by killing. **NO ONE!** We must either evolve past "the killer instinct" or be doomed to a barbaric race not worthy of the glorious future that could be ours so easily. "The Next Generation" is really not that far off. Lets hope we don't blow it due to some cheap actor/CIA politician reeking of "1984." We must rise above the war lie and take the first bold step — and stop it all **NOW!** But who will take the first step?

"All those wasted years, who will pay?"

We will. We are the ones who will pay through taxes, taxes and other government BS (read: more taxes!). Call it what you will...it all boils down to the same basic theme. Fortunately **we** are smart enough NOT to be duped! Get out there and vote for the alternative or face "The New World Order" — one that smells like **crap** to me. **"All the crap we had to take!"**

So be aware. Don't let our crafty politicians and religious zealots brainwash you! Put on you Red Lenses. Be a free individual responsible for your own actions. "In **your** head is the answer, let it guide **you** along." The answer is within each and every one of us. Look, **listen** and see! "I will choose **freewill!**"

I certainly am **not** implying Neil wrote any of this into the song. Certainly not. This is what I get out of it and nothing more. This is what Heresy says to me, personally....a warning to the "movers and shakers." "All those wasted years...."

P R E S S U R E R E L E A S E E X T R A

THE LATEST BREAKING NEWS AND SPECIAL FEATURES

PRESSURE RELEASE

To answer a question from last issue, thanks to John Vinson, that picture that Geddy has had up by his keyboard setup for quite some time now is W.C. Fields. As a matter of fact, there are several pictures tacked up on the Rush set. Of course I forgot to jot them all down, but one seemed to be Rip Taylor and other old classic comedians. Can anyone confirm the rest? Was Groucho Marx up there?

Another "strange but true" musical appearance of Rush music happened just recently. Bravado could be heard during NBC's NFL Live segment! And another one brought to my attention is a wee bit degrading but on Bill Moyers "After the War" (The Gulf Thing) Force Ten was used for a U.S. Army commercial!! NO WAY could Rush have known about this!! This is a sad use of a Rush song. We all know Rush is for **life** (and the love of it) **NOT** killing!!! **SHAME** on Bill Moyers and staff! Let's see Rush songs put to PEACEFUL uses, eh? Yes, Rush cares.

RUSH APA (Amateur Press Alliance). ASOF has decided to try to merge an APA format into the fanzine. This would be an insertion by YOU (be it artwork, photos or words), copied by you and inserted by ASOF. If you are unfamiliar with APAs call or write and we'll explain in detail. This could be a way to further enhance and enlarge ASOF. We thought we would throw out this idea to you and see if it might be feasible. Let's hear from you!!

FEEDBACK

Hello Steve.

I was just reading ASOF # 1, and very good it is too. I'd like to ask a question. In ASOF # 1 it says that Signals hasn't been produced as well as other albums. Not being a producer, I'm confused - what is it you look for? And, as The Weapon is my favorite track (I just floated on the Signals Tour!) I reckon Alex's playing is the BEST! He really caught the mood, the scariness, the fear just brilliantly, and what about the little solo part in Subdivisions? - the track that probably has as many keyboards as any! And how about the fast opening to The Analog Kid, not to mention another blazing Lifeson solo; then there's Chemistry; (good fills all through, and ANOTHER solo of the spheres, where does he get them?); Digital Man (hardly any keyboards); New World Man (the new world man works hard all through); Losing It ("the main theme for this came from Alex's holiday exercises" - Mr. Peart's own words.); last but not least Countdown (give up yet?) - What a man, what diversity, what a guitarist - give the man a break! I wouldn't take anything away from Mr. Peart or Mr. Lee - it was a brilliant album performed by all of them (with recognition of Mr. Ben Mink of course). Alex is NOT overshadowed. He's ESSENTIAL! As Mr. Peart put it so well, "course he's not as good as he

use to be (he's WAY BETTER!)," praise from the praiseworthy indeed.

ED - any chance of ASOF being made available through Spirit of Rush?

Robin (The Major Oak!), Northants, England.

Robin, Say no more! Say no more! Of course Alex is as powerful as ever on Signals! ABSOLUTELY - no doubt in MY mind. I was just saying how certain Rush fans (myself NOT included) found Signals a weak album and a especially weak Lifeson. Personally Robin, I couldn't agree with you more! Just because some fans could not keep up with The Rush Evolution was no reason to rag on Signals. The whole album GLOWS! (On a personal note, Signals is the album I credit for pulling me through the toughest times I've ever been through. Very uplifting - Signals gave me a reason to push on through all the crap I had to take! It was the first album that really started speaking to me on a down to Earth personal level with my "Subdivisions" life and "Count-down," with it's awe inspiring technology high! This is not to say early Rush did not speak to me. I would have to assess early Rush as speaking in the celestial vein; i.e. COSMIC.) So I say to hell with the Alex bashers! Go somewhere else, because we think Alex Lifeson is the best damn guitarist in the whole gawd damn universe!

We will look into getting Mick (Spirit of Rush) to mail out some ASOF if the demand is there. And so far it looks like it WILL be. We will work on this - perhaps we will arrange something by #3, we'll see. Mr. Steve.

Dear Steve,

Hi! Thanks for ASOF! Finally a respectable Rush fanzine on this side of the ocean. Keep up the great work. I hope to see more pictures from your personal collection. (you will! ED) I thought of some more places where Rush has appeared. Metallica thank Rush in their 1986 album "Master of Puppets," the alternative/heavy/funky band, Primus, play the first 36 seconds of YYZ on their "Suck on This" live album. Also, in the Nintendo game "Mega Man," the hero has a sidekick cyber-dog named (you guessed it!), Rush! And ANOTHER one is everytime Paula Abdul sings "Rush, Rush," she's giving Rush some great free publicity!

Kicking the gluteus max, Steve Smits, Appleton, WI

Steve, Thanks for the additional tidbits! Much appreciated. I'm afraid I would need a large barf bag if I had to listen to Paula Abdul, however, it is interesting!

Keep the letters coming! We have enjoyed reading them ALL! Thank you very much! - Mr. Steve

**PULL-OUT
SECTION!**



THE RUSH PAINTER

By Mandy Riffle • Belvidere, IL

My most memorable concert experience was actually a series of shows from the last tour. I've been following this band for ten years. I love these guys. I love the music they give me. I needed to let them know all of this so I began a long journey. A drive of obsession. Every tour I do a sign to take to the show. Usually, it's something simple with song titles and such. Well, in 1990, I wanted it to be something a little more special. I agonized over what sort of a sign to do. Inspiration struck. A painting on canvas. What to paint? There's so much. Maybe a collage of all the album covers. But how to arrange them? Again, I agonized. Then, one night it came to me, in a dream. I sat up in bed, my heart racing. It was beautiful-absolutely perfect. I went out and bought canvas (ever try to find 6' wide canvas?) and brushes and paints. I had so much fun. Then I stood there and wondered, looking at the bare canvas, how do I get the vision in my head onto this canvas. I had never painted before. But I had a desire, very strong and a vision burning in my heart and mind. See, these guys have been with me for a long time. I've grown up with them. They've

put smiles on my face when I thought I'd give it all up. I had to let them know. I wanted to put that smile back on their faces. I spent four months of my life with this obsession. "Mandy, it's dinner time," yeah, I'm coming hours later I'd be eating cold food. "You've got a phone call," I'll call 'em back. "Hey, you want to go to this party tonight?" No, I've got to paint. I fell asleep with the paintbrush in my hand some nights. It was something I HAD to do. This was it, after all. I was going to do this painting, they were going to see it and love it and sign it for me. Many people laughed at me and asked how I was going to do that. I told them I wasn't sure, but watch me. The painting was completed just before I was to go see them in San Diego on the 5th of April, 1990. I unrolled it on the living room floor and stood back to take a look at my masterpiece. Tears rolled down my face. I felt so empty inside. It hurt like hell. I thought to myself "what have I done?" I put everything I had into that painting. Half of my life, all my hopes and dreams, sorrows and joys, everything they have ever made me feel and everything I've ever felt about them. My

P R E S S U R E R E L E A S E E X T R A

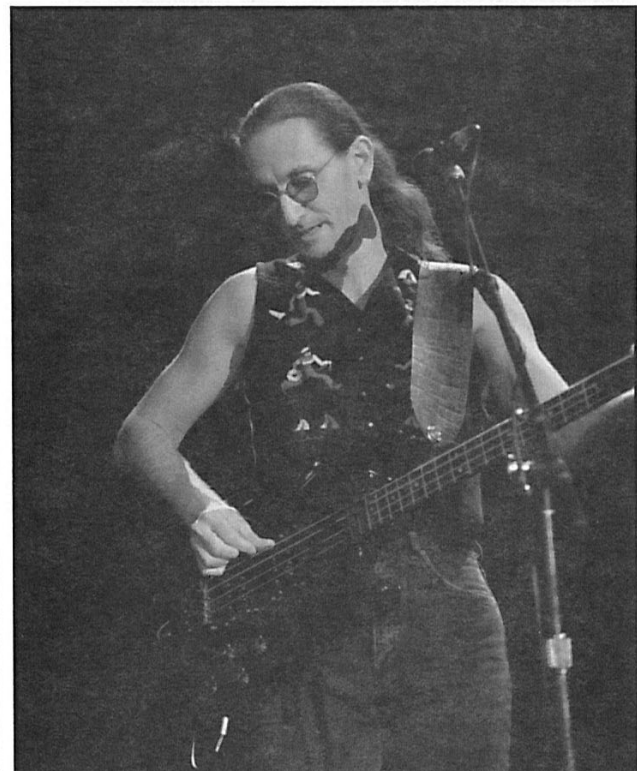
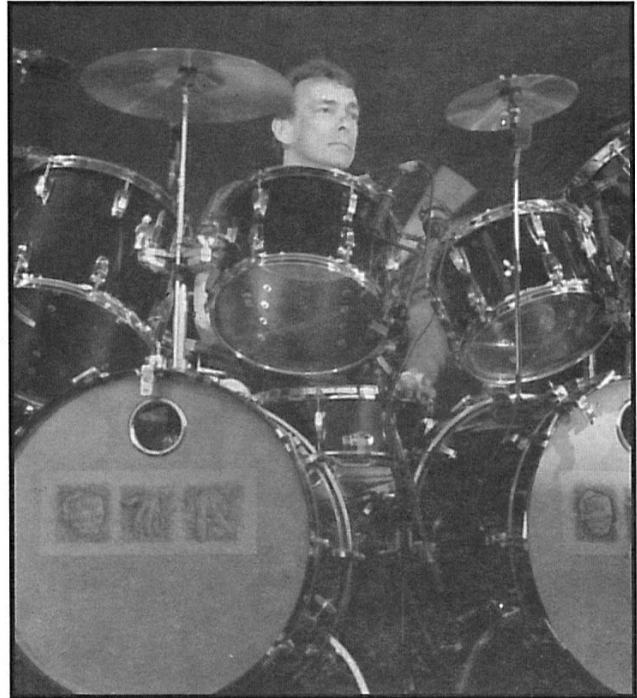
heart and soul, the very essence of my being was spilled out onto that canvas. It was all gone. Fleeting, I wished that I hadn't done it. Then I heard them in my head, like so many times before and it all came flooding back to me. I stood proud. All I had to do now was make sure they saw it.

I photographed it and put it on t-shirts and did all sorts of stuff then I went to see the show in San Diego. It was incredible. Me, being emotional about these things, cried. I hung around after the show to speak with Jack Secret and gave him a picture of the painting. I brought the painting to my second show in Phoenix on the 8th. Rush arrived and Jimmy Johnson came out to get my painting to take back to them. He brought it back to me a few minutes later and told me they thought it was beautiful and they wrote messages to me on it. We got the painting and immediately unrolled it to see what they had written. I turned suddenly to see at least 50 people crowding around us. And there at the bottom- their words and signatures. I busted out crying like a baby. It all came rushing back (no pun intended). All those years. (Not wasted ones either.) All the love, the music, the devotion and now recognition! They appreciated my work. I made them smile. So I stood there and drenched my brother's shoulder. After this, I was given a pair of Neil's sticks (personally bruised by the Professor himself) and a handful of Alex's guitar picks. I thoroughly enjoyed the show that evening. I had very mixed emotions on the way home. I was happy yet sad at the same time. Here, I had given my best, did all I could, and still hadn't met them. Yet, at the same time, they did recognize me. I got something from them. I think I cried the whole way home. I thought it was over then but gladly, I was wrong. I was asked to photograph my cousin's wedding in the middle of June around the Chicago area. Lo and behold - who should happen to be on tour in the area at the same time? One guess. Rush at Alpine Valley. Yes!! I extended my trip by a day and headed out for the show. I sent word that Mandy, the painter, was there. Jack Secret came down to meet me and said, "You're a long way from home. Let me see what I can do." Forty-five minutes later he comes back with a guest pass. Yes!!! Backstage I got to meet Geddy. (I also met BC Brandt there and contrary to what was written in ASOF #1, I am not going to marry the guitarist for Mr. Big!) He was standing there so I walked up and introduced myself. He says, "Oh yes, you're the painter! You did a very nice job on that painting. We really appreciate it. I'm very pleased to meet you." He's pleased to meet me? I've been waiting my whole life for this moment and he actually remembered my name from two months prior. I stood there unable to remember a damn thing I ever wanted to say to the man. We had a wonderful conversation none the less and ended it saying "See you in Irvine!" A couple weeks later I flew out to California for the last show of the Presto tour at Irvine Meadows. This time I got an Access All Areas pass and was not only able to meet all of them but actually walk around the stage, check out all the equipment (I nearly drooled on Geddy's Wall), and witness the soundcheck (more on this in another story). What can I say? It was another evening of Rush magic. Presto!

Editors Note: Yo! If you have had a "brush with greatness" like Mandy here, won't you sent us you story, artwork and/or photos? We would love to feature you in the pages of ASOF!

Photography By John Vinson

Presto Tour, Denver, CO



P R E S S U R E R E L E A S E E X T R A

As ASOF #2 goes to press Alex was quoted in recent a recent interview that Xanadu will once again be in the set. I guess Rush felt since they are most likely going to Europe, that fans overseas should have the opportunity to see Xanadu! Of course, we can't complain....it's a all time CLASSIC! Also, it has been rumored that By-Tor and the Snow Dog might make an appearance. Now wouldn't that be a heart attack! Roll the Bones is on it's way to Number One in the nation (keep your fingers crossed!) and all the reviews have been wonderful! Where's My Thing is available as a CD single, RTB was released in Europe on vinyl and word is that Atlantic has done one hell of a job treating Rush with the respect they deserve! Thank you Atlantic for your belief in Rush. And don't forget to mail in your concert reviews!

The Night Has 1000 Thank Yous! Special thanks to ALL within ASOF, Regina, Merf, Mick and the gang, Kathleen, The National Midnight Star, Godzilla, Damn good coffee, Doug and his forthcoming tech column! (how's Nipsy Russell doing?), Brandon, Brett and his bulletin board postings, The Borg, all who pass out flyers and make copies for ASOF - this is invaluable!, The letter "X," and mutants everywhere. And very special thanks to Alex, Geddy and Neil for being the inspiration for us all. You are MUCH more than just entertainers to us. You are The Three Stooges incarnate. Be seeing you.

A Show of Fans is a 100% Rush fanzine for and by Rush fans. We are not in this to make money off of Rush. This is a labor of love folks. Our goal is to break even. We all have real jobs (thankfully in this age of mediocrity and gloom) and do this for the love of Rush. The best band in the universe!

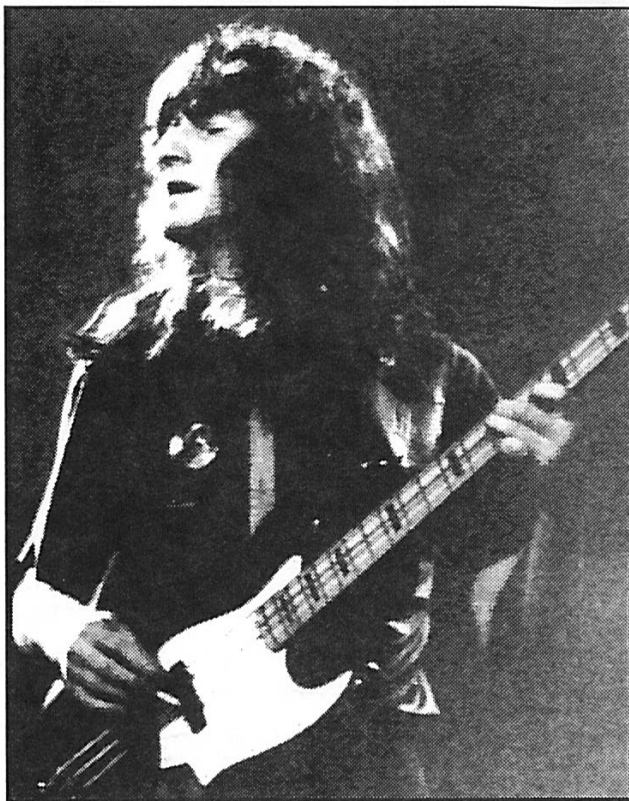
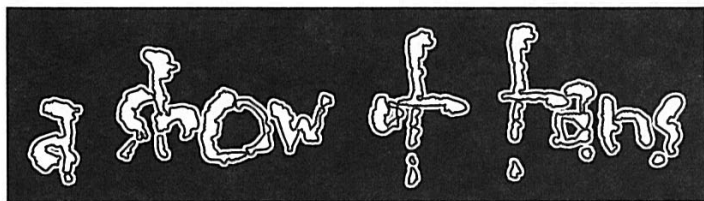


Photo by Kira Argounova, 1981



A RUSH FANZINE FOR AND BY RUSH FANS

P.O. Box 292, CANTON, CONNECTICUT 06019 U.S.A.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



TO:

**ROYAL
RUSH**