

# Big Head Todd and Robert Plant attack Bally's

BY ARIEL

STAFF WRITER

This Thursday, October 14, Las Vegas will be introduced to Big Head Todd and the Monsters when they open for Robert Plant at Bally's Event Theater.

Having released two independent records and selling 75,000 copies on their own, it is no wonder why Giant Records signed them. Todd Mohr, lead vocalist, explains, "We did a lot of travelling (and) started working markets like Chicago and San Francisco knocking on record store doors." The band eventually got mass distribution and *voila*, a record deal. It is obvious that these guys are go-getters. "We've been touring for about five years," says Mohr. For this new album, *Sister Sweetly*, they've been on tour

since April and won't finish until December.

Big Head Todd was invited to tour with Robert Plant on fifteen dates. "It's really an honor to be opening for Robert Plant," says Mohr. "We're completely excited about this whole thing."

When asked to describe their live show, Mohr says, "It's the greatest rock and roll show of all time." After a moment of thought he adds, "second to Led Zepplin's, of course." Of course! "We're a three-piece

bass, guitar, drums. Very stripped down," explains Mohr. "We never have a set list so it's kind of a very spontaneous show." Without a playlist, the

lucky.

Mohr talked about the band. "I do all the writing" which includes lyrics and music. The new album, *Sister Sweetly* is a mixture of blues and soul. It's quite melodic and relaxing. "We started out actually as a blues band which is how we named our band."

Mohr is a huge fan of Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson and "Fathead" Newman. "We ended up playing a lot of blues and soul covers, so we have a very funky, soulful side" which is apparent on the title

track, "Sister Sweetly."

Mohr admits, "In a lot of respects we're white guys trying to play the blues." He adds, "outside of that, I don't think we have too much in common with a genre or classification."

The members of BHTM met in high school and have been playing together for seven years. "We're best friends," says Mohr. A highlight on *Sister Sweetly* is "Soul For Every Cowboy," which features guitar master Leo Kottke. The band met him before recording their album and he asked if he could play on it. It's not just luck. These guys are really good!

This will be BHTM's first time in Las Vegas. Opening for Robert Plant "is a great way for us to go in," says Mohr. Tickets are still available for tonight's show, so pick them up and check out the band. You won't be disappointed.



Big Head Todd and the Monsters open for Robert Plant tonight.

## Rich Little

from pg. 7

J: You also told the story about doing John Wayne to John Wayne

RL: (smiles) Yeah.

J: -and he didn't get it?

RL: No, he got it. I did the walk for him. I just did the walk for him. (Bruce Mickelson approaches again.)

RL: Hey, Bruce! You doing something?

BM: Yeah, I'm your opening act. (laughs)

RL: "Your opening act!" God, I don't want to follow you. This guy's funny! It's the Japanese John Wayne! (laughs)

J: I'd like to see that.

RL: I always wanted to do Clark Gable with that (Bruce's) face. (laughs)

BM: How are you doing?

RL: Good, good. Have some more champagne. Get sloshed and then you wouldn't care -

BM: What do you want me to say about you, that you're a legend in your own time? (laughs)

RL: A legend. (laughs) Geez!

J: How about that they're going to open a new building on campus, called the Rich Little College of Deconstructionist Mimicry?

RL: (laughs) Really?

J: If you keep doing this stuff, they'll have to give you something more permanent.

RL: (laughs, then, as Richard Nixon) "And they can have all my tapes." All my video. All my albums.

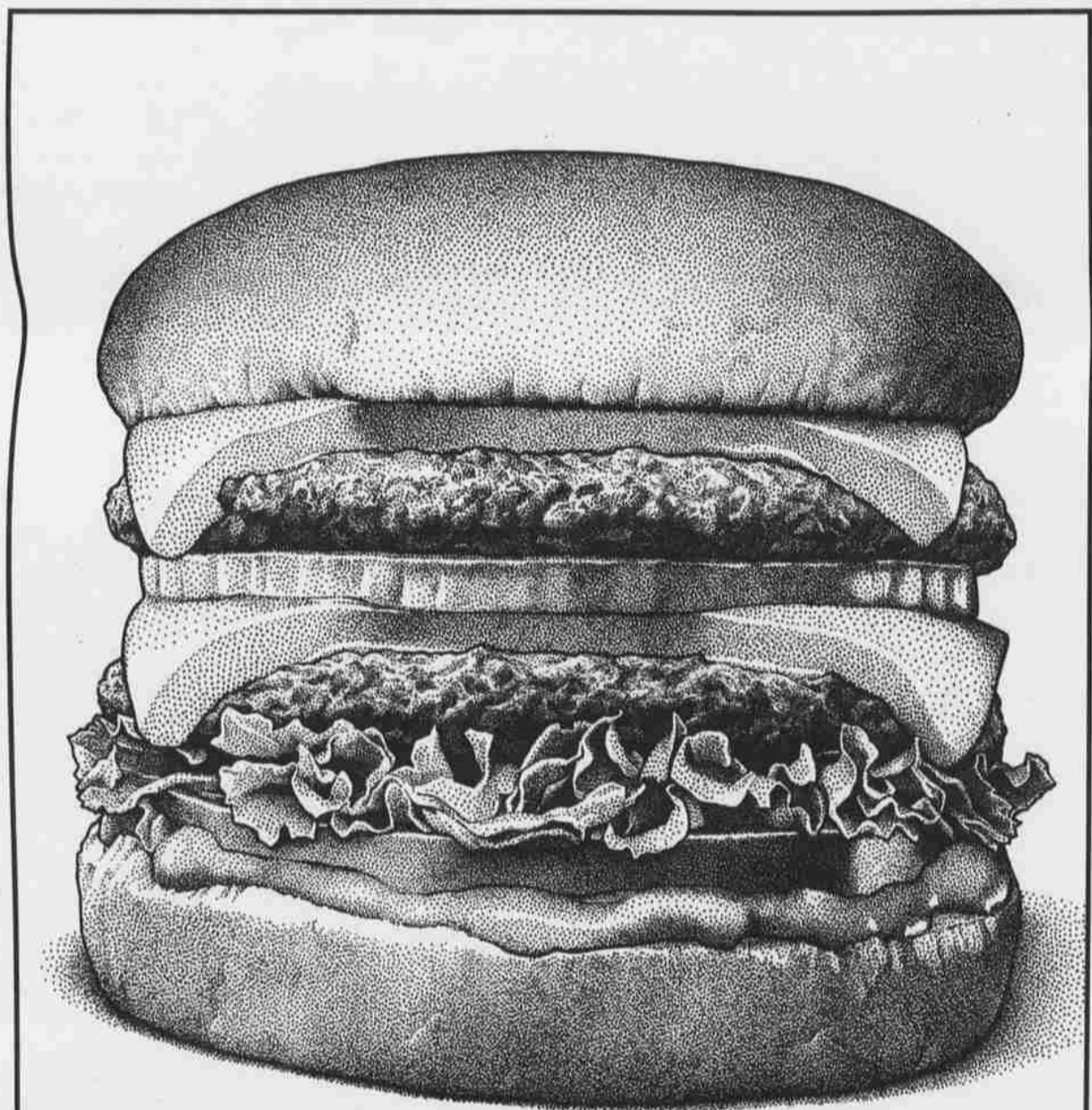
BM: No, seriously.

RL: I don't know Bruce. What can you say about me?

BM: I can something like I was a young child watching you on "Ed Sullivan."

RL: How about a man who has more voices in his throat than Linda Lovelace. (laughs) No, I don't think we can use that.

Next week, the conclusion of the exclusive Rich Little Variety interview.



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