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**10 YEARS**

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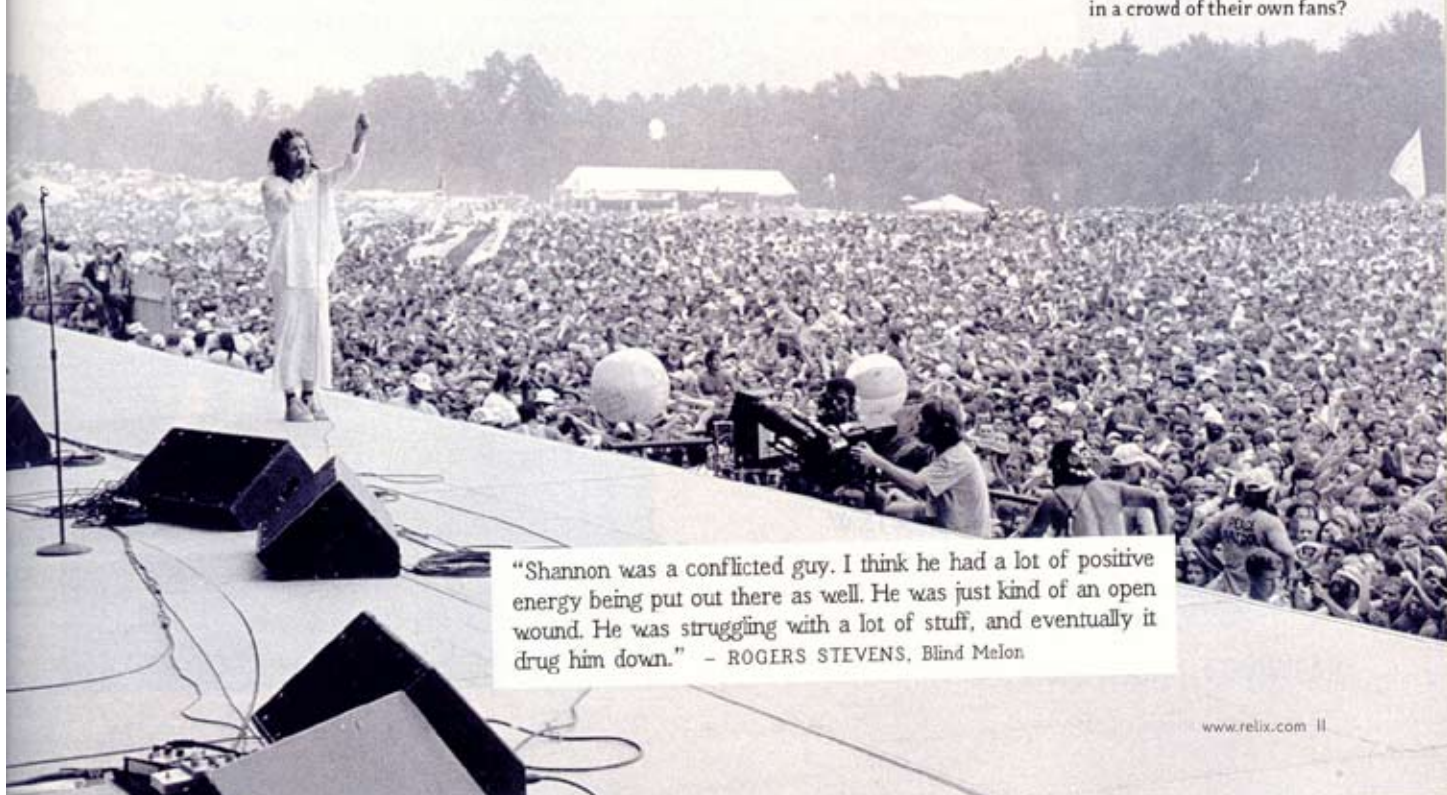
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
*Douglas R. Gilbert*  
TEXT BY *Dave Marsh*  
Just barely 23, Bob Dylan spent the summer of 1964 riding motorcycles, hanging out with friends and churning out potent folk music—a care-free kid with an ambitious heart and mind. Douglas R. Gilbert and Dave Marsh return us to Dylan's last days of innocence.

56 **SHANNON HOON REMEMBERED**

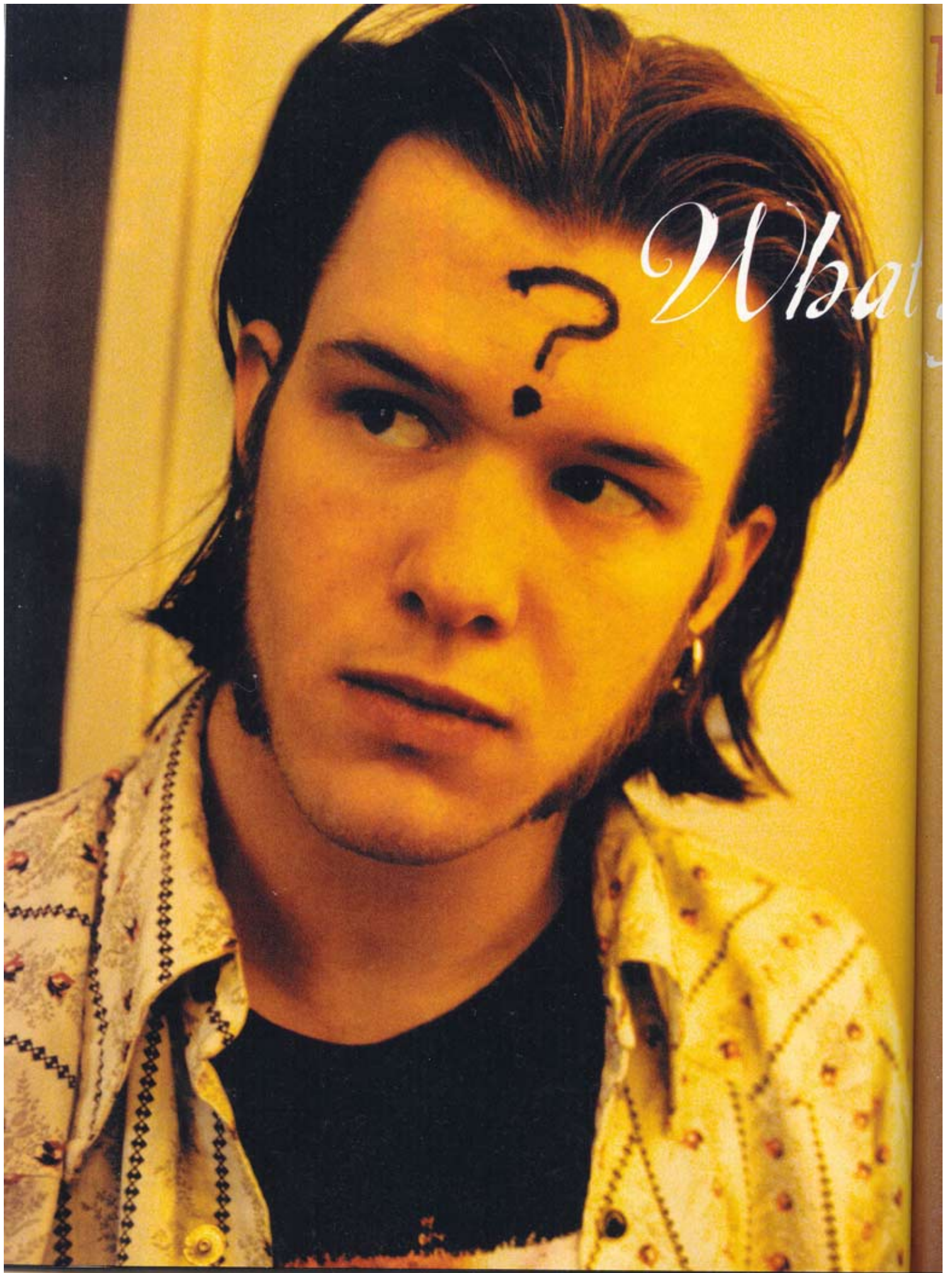
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
*Danny Clinch*  
Like some of the best bands, Blind Melon went from omnipresence to extinction in a relative blink of an eye. This fall marks ten years since singer Shannon Hoon's fatal overdose. Through band member reflections and the work of lauded lensman and band insider Danny Clinch, we remember Shannon and ponder what was lost, and what could have been.

62 **O.A.R.**

BY *Scott Frampton*  
A decade removed from the Rockville, MD, basement where the band was born, the members of O.A.R. are both in awe of their success and eager to test the band's limits. "It's not about bigger," says singer Marc Roberge. "It's not for the money, because we only get like 12 cents out of every record. It's for that burning desire as a human being to get better." The band's new Jerry Harrison-produced *Stories of a Stranger* might just move them up a few rungs on the ladder of success. But will they still pass unnoticed in a crowd of their own fans?



"Shannon was a conflicted guy. I think he had a lot of positive energy being put out there as well. He was just kind of an open wound. He was struggling with a lot of stuff, and eventually it drug him down." — ROGERS STEVENS, Blind Melon



# TONES OF YESTERDAY

## BLIND MELON'S SHANNON HOON REMEMBERED

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANNY CLINCH

What if?  
It's a question we ask ourselves when a loved one passes before their time. What if I had just done this? What if we had just left sooner? What if I had said something? On the afternoon of October 21, 1995, and in the days and months that followed, what-if's surely filled the minds of the members of Blind Melon, after they woke to find their singer, Shannon Hoon, dead from a cocaine overdose in the back of the group's tour bus.

In the months prior, the band (while not saints themselves) had done everything it could to help Hoon get clean. They kept booze off the bus, held interventions, convinced him to go to rehab... they even brought a drug counselor on the road with them. But none of it worked. Hoon, 28, even sent the counselor packing not long before this tour stop in New Orleans. Their consciences should have been clear. But they surely second-guessed themselves—and some of them still do.

A decade later, it's hard not to look back at Hoon and Blind Melon, and play the what-if game as a band outsider. What if Shannon had lived? Would the band have made the transition out of novelty act status, as they seemed to be doing? Would they have found a new fanbase in the jam scene, as some suspect? If so, where would the music have gone? Would Shannon have gotten clean?

It's safe to say that if you had met him, chances are good that he might have pushed your buttons a little, and enjoyed watching you squirm. Chances are just as good that you would have loved him, that he would have been warm and sweet and would have left you happier than he found you. Maybe you would have stayed up until dawn getting high and singing songs. Maybe he would have punched you. Maybe he would have floored you with a new song instead. What if?

When Hoon first met photographer Danny Clinch some 13 years ago, he wasn't exactly open, and he kept him at arm's length for quite a while. But over the next three years, Clinch would become genuine friends with the singer, and the band, whom he shadowed on several tours and at numerous tour stops. In those three years, he became a part of the band figuratively and literally—a harmonica player, Clinch joined Blind Melon onstage at Woodstock '94, among other places, at Shannon's request, no less. "I would just like him to be remembered," Clinch says. "People are missing out if they don't check that stuff out."

Through Clinch's eye, we take a look back at Hoon and Blind Melon, and just for a moment we remember what was, instead of what could have been. ★ *Wes Orshoski*

[NEW YORK, 1994] "This was taken backstage at David Letterman, the day that Kurt Cobain died. Shannon was really upset, and I remember him taking it out on a TV. I think he saw a lot of himself in what happened. I think it was just too close. He took it personally, even though he didn't know Kurt. He was experiencing the same sort of stuff: You get built up, and you get torn down, and all eyes are sort of looking at you—and you're dealing with having a drug problem." — CHRISTOPHER THORN, *Blind Melon*

[NEW YORK, 1994] "Our band certainly had its problems, and when Shannon came around—because he was one of Axl and Izzy's old buddies from Indiana—he didn't take any shit from Axl. Because he was outside of the band, he didn't have to deal with the day-to-day politics. So it was kind of uplifting to have him around sometimes. He was very fun and energetic, and if there was something fucked up going on with our band, when Shannon came on the tour bus, or to the video shoot, he was the equalizer." — DUFF MCKAGAN, *Guns 'N Roses/Velvet Revolver*



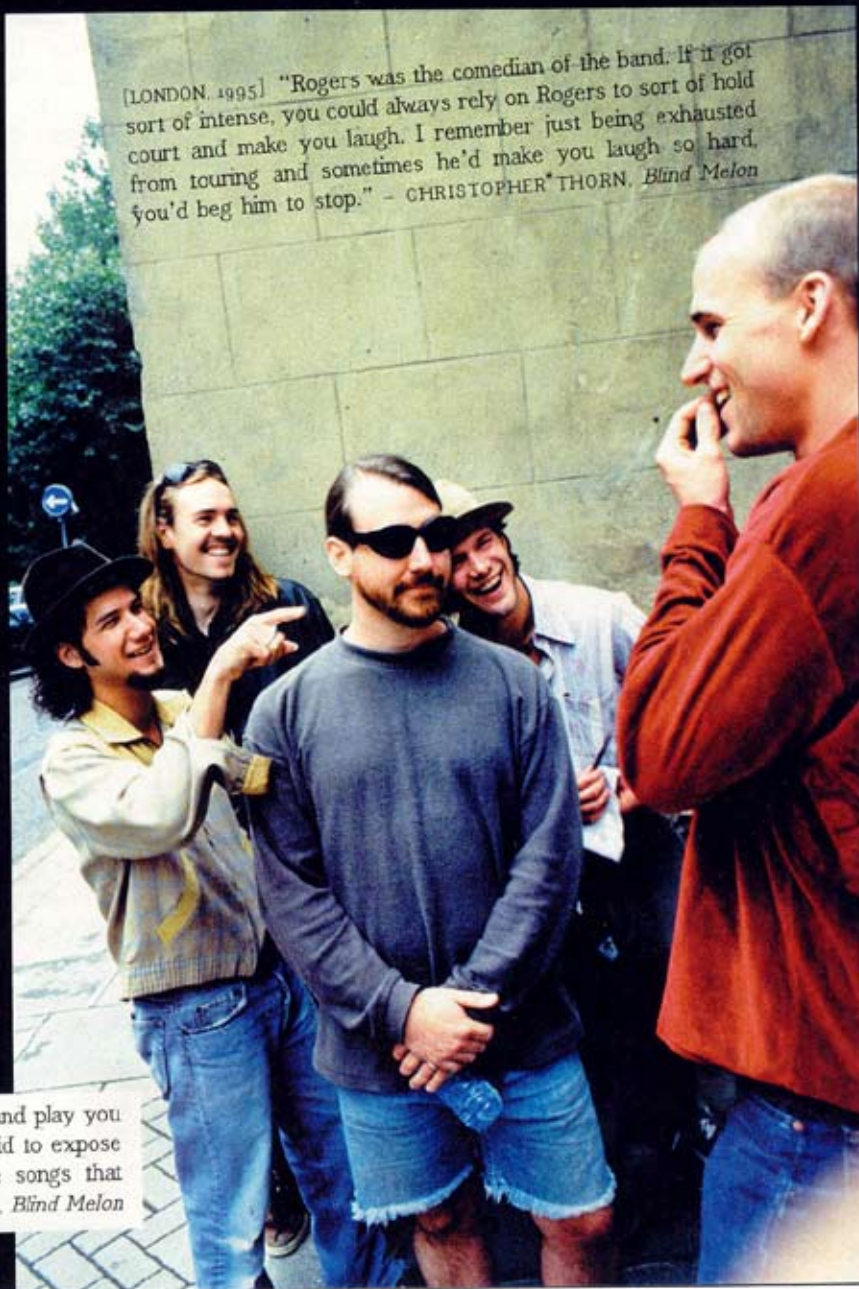
[NEW YORK, 1993] "I asked a couple of times to photograph his back, and he kept saying, 'No, it's not done yet.' You can see the scales aren't colored in, and there's another tattoo underneath it. I'd say, 'I'll photograph it now, and when it's done.' He would just say no, and one day he ended up letting me shoot it. I don't know if it ever got finished." - DANNY CLINCH



[PHILADELPHIA, 1994] "This was at one of the shows when they were opening for The Rolling Stones. Christopher and Shannon are on a clothing rack, and I was sitting on a golf cart, with someone who was pulling the rack. I'm shooting the picture from the side, hanging off the golf cart. Shannon was always raunchy and up to no good." - DANNY CLINCH



[LONDON, 1995] "Rogers was the comedian of the band. If it got sort of intense, you could always rely on Rogers to sort of hold court and make you laugh. I remember just being exhausted from touring and sometimes he'd make you laugh so hard, you'd beg him to stop." - CHRISTOPHER THORN, *Blind Melon*



[LOS ANGELES, 1993] "When he would sit down and play you a song, it would just drop you. He wasn't afraid to expose himself as a songwriter. He wrote incredible songs that have a lasting power." - CHRISTOPHER THORN, *Blind Melon*

[AMSTERDAM, 1995] "This was taken in Amsterdam. I remember at one point on that trip, we were all really high and just freaking out over this bloated dead dog that we saw floating in a canal. We were poking it with a stick, going 'Whoaaaa.' [Laughs] Shannon had eaten one of those brownies and got so high that he had to go back to the hotel." - ROGERS STEVENS, *Blind Melon*

"We had our drama, but we were really tight-knit, and you can see that in the fact that we didn't carry on with a new singer. We fought like brothers, but when the family was over, and the brother died, that was it." - BRAD SMITH, *Blind Melon*

[NEW ORLEANS, 1995] "As cheesy as it sounds, Shannon lived on the edge. That railing he's standing on is like a hundred years old. It was all rusty and falling apart, and he didn't care. He stood on it anyway. I was scared for him. I said, 'Dude, don't,' and he was, like, 'Yeah, get this picture.' I took it fast, thinking that any minute he could go flying down and hit the pavement." - DANNY CLINCH



[LOS ANGELES, 1993] "I met Shannon not long after my close friend Andy Wood [of Mother Love Bone] had died, which really threw me hard. I had never met anyone that was anything like Andy, but there were a lot of similarities with Shannon. He was very outgoing, very funny, very vibrant, colorful, fun to be around and open. That's the main thing—just the openness. What he would have done personally is what I was excited about. Someone so young and just starting to scratch the surface... I felt like he hadn't really come into his own yet, and that's when it gets exciting—because who knows what that's going to be?" — CHRIS CORNELL, *Soundgarden/Audioslave*



[SAUGERTIES, NEW YORK, 1994] "As I look back at some of these photos, I just get really sad. It doesn't get any easier. The hurt starts to fade a little bit, the devastation and the grief. But as more time passes, the sadder it gets." — BRAD SMITH, *Blind Melon*



[SAUGERTIES, NEW YORK, 1994] "This is at Woodstock '94, and I remember feeling so incredibly overwhelmed that day. Shannon gave everything to the audience that day. He would give everything to a live performance. He didn't always sing great, but he gave everything. It was like watching some sort of exorcism. I remember he told us later that day he had dropped LSD." — CHRISTOPHER THORN, *Blind Melon*



[BELGIUM, 1995] "This photo is really telling. He had just gotten out of rehab, and he's just not together mentally. It's really sad. You can tell he's been just beaten down and he's really having to think about how he's living his life. We cancelled the tour shortly after. He's really, really lost right there." — BRAD SMITH, *Blind Melon*