

# TAD

just released their major label debut on Mechanic or Giant or whatever. If you're unfamiliar with the

band, where have you been? I (Frank FOE) spoke with Kurt Danielson, who's been in the band since it's inception.

**FOE** What made the band leave Sub Pop?

**TAD** We've gone as far as we could go with them distribution wise, and it is frustrating when you spend all your time and effort and you tour and put out records and you can only reach a certain number of people. I think at first it was a blessing being on Sub Pop, when we were starting out. Not to hoist yourself on an unsuspecting public. It's better to develop and that's what independent labels are good for. And we thought the music we are playing is to the point where we could reach more than the hardcore underground people. Not that "God's Balls" couldn't reach every house in the nation, but it just felt like we were ready as a band, as musicians, to take it one step higher, and to deal with all the pressures involved. We weren't getting what we needed from Sub Pop, and the timing was right, with Nirvana, because they changed everything with all their success and they opened a lot of doors for bands like us.

**FOE** What does "Luminol" (Song from their latest lp) mean?

**TAD** I am an avid reader of crime novels, and in one of the novels, there was a chemical used to bring back blood stains, very old stains, 20 to 30 year old blood, from stone or concrete or wood. So it became a metaphor for repression and remembering.

**FOE** Very deep.

**TAD** You never know what you'll find when you lift up these layers.

**FOE** How about "Paregoric" (Another song title)?

**TAD** It is a derivative of opium, which is used today for most cases of severe diarrhea. It's a stool hardener. But is an opiate. It's an opiate in other cultures. I've had friends die by the needle and others have been ruined by it. It's a song about it. I'm not judging anybody, I'm not putting anyone down. It's just a song about it.

**FOE** These past two years have been very bad for that.

**TAD** The last few years, famous friends and not so famous.

**FOE** You only hear about the famous ones.

**TAD** Ya, it is crazy. But whatever trips your trigger is my motto. But it can be sad to watch.

**FOE** Are you allowed to speak about the legal problems you had with the "8-Way Santa" album cover?

**TAD** Yeah

**FOE** Great! What's the story behind what happened with that photo.

**TAD** I was at a party, at a friend's house, and she had a bunch of photo albums that she picked up at a yard sale. They were full of pictures of this family. Their birthday parties and weddings.

**FOE** They actually sold a family photo album?!?!?

**TAD** I don't know how or why, but they did. And I came upon this photo and I was like Jesus, this is the album cover. I showed it to TAD and he loved it, Sub Pop loved it. Gary said, "What if these guys see it?" Sub Pop was like, "They'll never see it. They're probably dead by now, but even if they do see it, we'll get a lot of publicity from the controversy", and we said "Ok", and went along with it. Not even two weeks after it was out, the lady in the photo, who divorced the man, and married some Born Again Christian dude, saw the album advertised in Spin, and flipped out. She ran into a Tower Records flipping out, yelling "That's me on the record", and everybody was looking at her, and that was the beginning of it. We were on the road at the time, in Columbia Missouri, when we got a call from our lawyer. I didn't realize the importance of the call until a few days later when I found out that all the records had been recalled. They didn't get that much out of it, they had to pay as much in legal fees, as they probably got in cash. Sub Pop and us had to pay through the nose in legal fees. It just caused a big interruption. I think it's highly amusing, and you'll notice on the cover of our new album we use dogs, not humans, because we don't have to sign any model release forms.

**FOE** I was gonna ask about all the animal photos, the dogs.

**TAD** That's just a coincidence. Josh's uncle is a shutterbug, and he had tons of photos, the best ones were of his many dogs. Most of which are long since dead. And when we were in the studio photo session with Charles Peterson there was a dog there. And I picked it up and it's on the back of the cd.

**FOE** How'd you hook up with J. Mascus to do the producing.

**TAD** He's an old friend, and when it came time to record we were in a quandary for who to choose, and I happened to call up and he was available. He came out, we smoked lots of weed, he moved us out of this studio we were in, into a much better studio in California. Which was reason enough to have him along. We played, and he picked the songs he liked, he also brought an amp, and some fuzz pedals, and he also plays drums, so he helped tune the drums.

**FOE** On the one song, on the new disc, there's a part that sounds like a patented Dinosaur Jr. part. Was that him?



Tad Doyle, Josh Sinder, Gary Thorstensen, Kurt Danielson

**TAD** No, other people have asked us that, and all the songs were written, and all the solos weren't written but we knew where they were gonna be, and how they were gonna be, and um, it just came out sounding that way, but that's Gary playing the guitar, I think he had one of J's pedals though. We weren't actually imitating Dinosaur although I would say they're an influence to us. And uh that's nothing to be ashamed of.

**FOE** No, Hell no! Your other legal battle, the Jack Pepsi battle, can you talk about that one?

**TAD** No, we can't.

**FOE** Ok my back up question - What's the TAD Diet - (whole band) and is Jack, or Pepsi in that diet?

**TAD** In the diet there is Potato Salad, Eggplant, Baked Alaska, Busch mills, Stolyka, Absolute, no Jack Daniels, No Pepsi, but there is coke, and uh pig snouts, feet and tails, chicken legs, patties, bacon, hash browns, maple syrup, scalloped potatoes, sauerkraut, squash, and sweetmeats, head cheese, gizzard hearts, tripes.

**FOE** Is this from the farm influence?

**TAD** No, I'm just trying to think of all the foods I hate, Tuna Casserole, Brussel Sprouts.

**FOE** So you don't like any of that stuff?

**TAD** No! Well Bacon's alright.

**FOE** I won't use Jack and Pepsi in the same phrase, how about that?

**TAD** You got it. Actually Stoli, Absolut, and Bush Mills. I like too.

**FOE** I figured those, were serious, along with Baked Alaska. Any other serious legal problems, that I don't know about?

**TAD** Probably, but I can't talk about them, well yes we do, but it's all in the day of a life of a fucked up scumrock.

**FOE** How do you handle this, you seem to have more obstacles, than the average band.

**TAD** We're just a magnet, but it hasn't destroyed us yet. We come through it all a better band. And we're doing what we love, that's what counts, all the rest is occupational hazards.

**FOE** How did the TAD-Pussy Galore split, come about?

**TAD** We were hanging around Seattle waiting for things to get going with the God's Balls Ip, and Pussy Galore, just happened to land in town, they were on tour in Japan, and they booked a last minute West Coast tour, and they wanted to pick up a Seattle band to go with them, they wanted to borrow gear, and we turned out to be that band. They borrowed our equipment, and we went with them, and that was the first tour we did, and when we got back, we decided to do the single. And John Spencer chose Black Flag "Damaged" and uh I've heard the tune before but not in the terms of playing it. So the producer Jack Endino said these are the notes, and I said OK and TAD said ya, like that AC/DC tune, and we had that running through our heads. I think Steve the drummer never even heard the song, and it was one take, bang see ya later. Never played it again.

**FOE** While out on tour have you ever gotten into any fights or brawls.

**TAD** Oh yeah. Actually we were on tour with Primus, and we came to Seattle and the stage manager at the venue

we played flipped out, and attacked our crew, with a lead pipe then they disarmed him and kicked the shit out of him; that was great. Once in San Francisco, the security at Slims, got mad at me, for kicking a security guard, who got in my way for kicking a stage diver. And after the show, they definitely were hostile but no fight. We played a show with Alice in Chains, and we were in a bar, by the venue, afterwards, and there were a ton of people in there and we were all fucked up, so the A/C guys and us were drinking and one of the security guards really had a problem and the A/C security jumped on him, that was great, he was a total asshole. And uh, I know I'm forgetting something, oh yeah one time TAD and I were wearing hats, two identical ones like the ones on the 8-way Santa replacement cover. We were at the Metro there, and they flew off our heads after about three notes, and they were sitting on the stage as we played, and some joker jumped up there and grabbed both hats, and ran off through the audience, and we threw down our guitars, and ran in there and grabbed him, and he gave up both hats, and we went back on stage, it was during "Behemoth" as a matter of fact. So he didn't take out hats after that.



**FOE** I think I have one more question I was supposed to ask, if I talked to you about space stories?

**TAD** When I was a cub scout, I was out on a camping trip, we were earning our merit badges, and we were actually out there with a woman, our den mother.

**FOE** That's good for young men to be doing.

**TAD** It was even better for the alien spacecraft, that abducted us, and they didn't do anything to us, but they did all kinds of tests on this woman, which we got to see, and that was the best. They didn't give us a badge for that one. The aliens were very clinical, with grey skin and black eyes and they seemed serious, like they were scientists gathering specimens. They weren't mean, but very impersonal. They didn't speak. I just remember certain images, because it was so frightening, but one thing, I will tell you that I remember was that sitting off at a table on the side was Willford Brimley, eating a bowl of Quaker Oats, and he was sitting taking a mighty healthy bowel movement, that's all I remember.

**FOE** How did this affect you later on in life or didn't it? Did it make you more of a man?

**TAD** It made me have more in common with J. Mascus, because he was abducted by aliens as well. At this point the phone lines went dead, the power went out in my apartment and I blacked out until my alarm clock went off the next morning...