

**HEATHER BRONDY**  
The Battalion

This Friday night, the Monkee Bar, formerly known as The Theatre, hosts its first concert of the semester, showcasing Tripping Daisy and the local bands Kid Fantastic and 12th Egg Conspiracy.

The members of Tripping Daisy, best known for their radio song, "I Got a Girl," said they are excited about the changes the band has made since its mainstream success. Mark Pirro, bassist for Tripping Daisy, said the band now sounds better than ever.

"People who heard us five or six years ago and didn't really give us a chance need to come out and see what we've got going on now," he said. "The band really is the best it's ever been."

Tripping Daisy, once a four-man band, is now a five-member band, and members are lead singer Tim DeLaughter, Wes Berggren (guitar and keyboard), Mark Pirro (bass), Philip Karnats (guitar) and Ben Curran (drums). The band's latest CD, *Jesus Hits Like the Atom Bomb*, was distributed by Island Records and includes all five members.

Unfortunately, the mainstream experience left a hard-to-swallow pill in the band's mouth. Pirro said Tripping Daisy has left Island, and started a record label of its own, Good Records, to help put an end to the band's big label blues.

"We're no longer with Island Records, which is an unfortunate thing in one way and a fortunate thing in another," Pirro said. "We started having trouble with the label, and so we decided to start up Good Records so that we could be more in control of our own s---t. It's just a vehicle for putting out our own records, as well as other people's."

Chris Penn, tour manager for Tripping Daisy, said Good Records is not only about making music, but also about making it available to others.

"Me, Tim [DeLaughter], his wife and Webmaster Eric Carson decid-



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIPPING DAISY

ed to take Good Records to the Web, as well as make it a store," Penn said. "We got some space in downtown Dallas for the store and a large Web domain that Eric helped us put together."

Pirro said the Web site includes the skinny on Tripping Daisy and Good Records and also features the

band's newest music-promotion scheme, [trippingdaisy.com](http://trippingdaisy.com).

"Basically, if you have a computer, you can get into Tripping Daisy radio," Pirro said. "What we've done, basically, is taken our favorite music or bands that we think are really valid or worthy and put not just one or two of the songs on the Web

site, but we eventually play the whole album. It's all mixed together so you just never know what's going to come up. I don't even know what I'm going to hear."

Daisy Radio is a source for music lovers looking to find and buy new music. Pirro said there is a link connecting listeners to information on

the songs played and where listeners can go to buy the CDs.

"There's a lot of good music out there that people would like if they just had access to it," Pirro said. "So if you're listening to Daisy Radio and you hear something that you're not familiar with, you can hit a window that

will tell you the artist and the link where you can buy it."

Nathan McKown, bassist for Kid Fantastic and a senior industrial distribution major, said Tripping Daisy had a big impact on his choice to become a musician.

"For me and Tim [lead singer of Kid Fantastic], Tripping Daisy was the first concert at a club we ever went to," McKown said.

"We took his [Tim's] mother's car and saw them play at the Agora Bar with the Toadies and Adam's Farm when we were like fourteen years old. It really turned us on to that type of music, and I would even say that before that show, neither one of us had really thought much about becoming musicians."

Pirro said fans should look forward to some old sounds, some new sounds and even a little eye-candy in the background to keep fans aesthetically happy while listening.

"We'll be playing music from *Jesus Hits Like the Atom Bomb* even though we're no longer with Island because we obviously still want to turn people on to it," Pirro said. "We'll also be playing songs from our new record due out in January, as well as some songs no one's ever heard before. We have a full-on media show with a projector, too. It's always nice to have any kind of visual stimulus."

Sean Close, a junior mechanical engineering major, said he has enjoyed watching the band in the past.

"The last time I saw them play was at the Curtain Club in Dallas, and it was the best show of theirs I'd seen," Close said. "They had these big balloons up, and cartoons and public service announcements were being projected onto them."

"There were like twenty bubble machines over the audience — it was really cool."

Doors open at the Monkee Bar at 8 p.m. 12th Egg Conspiracy will kick off the show around 8:30, with Kid Fantastic following around 10 p.m. and Tripping Daisy closing out the lineup at 11:30.

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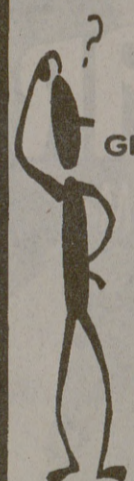
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