glelife hursday, September 27, 200

Breaking up is hard to do

Toadies are parting ways after 12 years, will perform a farewell tour in Texas is term, h

By LYCIA SHRUM THE BATTALION

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he right the It has been five months nce the release of the badies sophomore album, to really a the gove ell Below/Stars Above, and that read er 12 years and two albums i ce and an Toadies will play five to do it re shows in Texas before ing it quits. Ini said:

The Fort Worth band, formed 1989, faced change after change a way from fore their career took off. After feel that In ive transitions, the band's final line ny duties p was in tact. Todd Lewis (vocals were k ad guitar), Lisa Umbarger (bass), Gark Vogeler (guitar) and Mark

eznicek (drums) found a mix that With the release of Rubberneck in

term limit August 1994 the Toadies started to gain k a full thrational recognition. By the end of 996 the album reached platinum status. ind of un t would he Seven years later, the Toadies graced the usic scene with Hell Below/Stars mayor.

The success of their sophomore album ell short of Rubberneck. It took their first bum more than a year to be noticed and ere was hope that it would be the same for as been se Hell Below/Stars Above.

Since July, rumors had been floating of the loadies break-up and on Aug. 22 Lewis called he Dallas Observer to officially announce the nd's breakup. Lewis told the Observer that as been of the break up was a result of Umbarger's decion to leave the band, as well as overwhelming ustrations with the music industry.

"She's (Umbarger) given a lot of reasons, but I haven't been able to make a whole lot of sense out of it," Lewis said. "She's going through a lot of life changes. I don't know how long she'd been thinkng about it. You know, who knows? She's decided she wants to have a real job and was not the only factor to do boring, real-people consider in the break up. He stuff.'

Josh Cisnerof, who promotes Toadies concerts, said that the Toadies did not want to play without Umbarger. He said that if it were not for the fans, the Toadies would not do any shows. The Toadies had cancelled several shows around the nation, but wanted to have a small farewell tour in

Texas, he said. "The Toadies are a very familyoriented band and they just couldn't themselves playing too many shows playing without her (Umbarger),' Cisnerof said.

Lewis told the Observer it did not take him long to decide that if Umbarger not going to continue playing with the Toadies, then the Toadies would not

play without her. Lewis said that Umbarger and he had been together since the beginning, and it would not seem right to continue without her.

said there had been problems with the Toadies and the record label, Interscope Records, as well. "The label was

doing the usual label thing: 'If you don't sell X number within X number of days, then you suck,' " Lewis told the Observer.

As for the band members' plans after the farewell tour, everyone will be independent According Cisnerof, to Reznicek wants to continue with music Cisnerof said Reznicek has already

established a band named Warsaw and already has a date to play The Metro

in Austin. According to The Observer, Vogeler wants to attend film school in Los Angeles and Lewis will continue with music. Cisnerof said Lewis is planning to take a long break before starting any projects

Todd is wanting to take a break from every-Cisnerof said that Umbarger leaving the band thing," Cisnerof said. "He's tired of the polities and lawyers in the industry. I think it will be a while before Todd comes

out with anything." As for Umbarger, Cisnerof said she may possibly move back to Australia, although that has not been confirmed. He said that during the long break between Rubberneck and Hell Below/Stars Above, Umbarger started concentrating more on her personal life. Umbarger wanted to get back to the things she had been involved in during the Toadies seven-year break, Cisnerof said.

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The kick-off tour began Sunday in Austin with opening bands such as Pushmonkey, The Reverend Horton Heat, Blue October and local favorite, Feeding 5,000.

Feeding 5.000 band member Jeremy Rocha said there are many big bands that support the Toadies and it is sad that they are breaking

"I think it's really cool that the Toadies are sticking to their roots and playing in Texas," Rocha said.

Other show on the Texas tour include:

Sept. 27 in San Antonio at Sunset

Sept. 28 in Houston at the Aerial Theatre Sept. 29 in Dallas at the Bronco Bowl Sept. 30 in Lubbock at The Pavilion **ILLUSTRATION BY GUY ROGERS**



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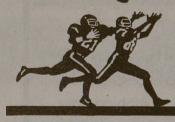
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