

# SPINAL TAP'S



P.D. Mach II  
Volume I, Issue I  
May 1992

## PAINFUL PROCEDURE FAN CLUB 'OFFICIAL' NEWSLETTER

# TAP IS BACK!!!

**On April 1st, 1992, the world celebrates the 25th anniversary of the birth of a phenomenon - and we, the eternal fans, are the receivers of the gift - TAP IS BACK!**

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE it was a quarter of a century ago that we all sat glued to our television sets as Jamboreebop brought 5 unknown British musicians into our living rooms and into our hearts with their smash hit, (Listen To The) Flower People. Over the next 18 years, Spinal Tap would go on to rearrange the face of rock and roll forever. Then in 1984, after the release of the poorly packaged Smell the Glove, a disastrous concert tour and finally the excretion of a certain highly unflattering "rockumentary", the quixotic chaos came to a fizzling halt. Tap, disgraced, disillusioned, and disbanded, disappeared. We had taken it for granted that they'd always be here for us, and suddenly they no longer were. Our speakers fell silent (by comparison), and Spinal Tap receded into a pristine memory.

And now, seven years later, our prayers have been answered and our wildest dreams realized - TAP IS BACK!

### GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello! Welcome to the first issue of Painful Procedure, the one and only official, I mean straight-from-the-band-to-you Spinal Tap Fan Club newsletter. Your hard-earned \$15.00 has not been flung our way in vain! You, Official Fan, will be the very first living human in all the universe to receive the very latest news and information directly from Spinal Tap Central!

Let me assure you that I am not some marketing company staff writer hired by Tap to churn out some mediocre, generic fanzine to rake in a profit. NO! I am a real-live Spinal Tap fanatic, appointed by Tap to churn out a *superior, unique* fanzine to rake in a profit. You see, they realized that no one but a genuine Tap enthusiast could present the kind of captivating, gee-that's-just-what-I-would-ask-them, quality newsletter that the fanage deserves and that no one but a real fan would do it for nothing.

As your president I'm here not only to keep you informed, but also to serve as your personal connection to the majesty of Tap. Have a question? Write me! Have a complaint? Write me! Want to ramble on incessantly about how much Spinal Tap's work has strengthened your very being? You get the picture. With one hand clasped firmly and figuratively in David, Nigel and Derek's, I reach out the other to you, Constant Fan. Take it if you will - it's yours for the price of a stamp.

We've got a hell of a year in front of us. The new album, the concert tour, television appearances... enough to make you weep instantly. So savor the delicious anticipation that taunts you as you speculate the unseen pleasures this glorious reunion holds forth for you as we **TAP INTO THE 90'S!!**



- Bonnie Rose, President



# he RETURNING

... A CHRONOLOGY ...

**SEPTEMBER 5, 1991** - During an otherwise unhistoric MTV Video Music Awards show, Spinal Tap makes the staggering announcement of their reunion to an unsuspecting world. Then they give away some award.

**OCTOBER 6, 1991** - Tap performs their first live set since Japan at Rip Magazine's Fifth Anniversary Party at the Hollywood Palladium. Guitarist Joe Satriani (who would later go to earn some notoriety of his own as one of the guest soloists on "Break Like the Wind") joins them on stage for a crunching four-bass version of "Big Bottom".

**OCTOBER 15, 1991** - The braver of LA's unemployed drummer population squeal with delight over the sight of this ad, which runs in L.A. trade papers.

Wendy Goldfinkel's office is flooded with 400 RSVP calls the first day alone, but only fifty would actually be chosen for the perilous honor of auditioning.

### DRUMMER DIED, need new one.

Must have no immediate family.

Auditions October 31  
at LA Coliseum with  
David St. Hubbins  
Nigel Tufnel  
Derek Smalls



R.S.V.P. 818-777-8929

**OCTOBER 31, 1991** - On a sweltering Halloween afternoon at the L.A. Coliseum, Spinal Tap holds a press conference to formally proclaim the truth of *The Returning*. They sign an exclusive deal right then and there with MCA, and after fielding a few questions from the throng of media present, explain a bit about the audition.

*David*: "We're looking for a new drummer. Our last one, Joe "Mama" Besser, he disappeared under mysterious circumstances. We looked around and he was gone. If you can count to four several times in a row, that's all we really need."  
*Nigel*: "Yeah, what does a drummer do? It's counting, isn't it?"  
*David*: "And as far as style goes, I mean it's not as important, you know,

because we're just gonna replace 'em with a machine anyway."  
*Nigel*: "The prime requisite would be



good health."  
*Derek*: "Survivability..."  
*David*: "Strong heartbeat, good blood pressure..."  
*Nigel*: "Low cholesterol..."  
*David*: "That sort of thing."  
*Nigel*: "And an optimistic outlook on life, knowing that you'll be dead soon."

After some brief instruction from David, the fifty trembling aspirants including Mick Fleetwood (wearing a fire-retardant suit), Debbie of the Bangles, Gina of the Go-Gos, and Steven Perkins of Jane's Addiction pound out their stuff, one by one, to a taped "Big Bottom" baseline on a giant drum kit set up behind the goal posts. Four grueling if-I-hear-Big-Bottom-one-more-time-I'll-scream hours later, David dismisses the hopefuls and Derek thrusts his fists skyward, shouting "Thank you L.A." to 92,000 empty seats.

**DECEMBER 3, 1991** - Tap's last day in the studio. *Break Like the Wind* is in the can.

**DECEMBER 28, 1991** - David & Derek jet to London to appear on Amnesty International's Big 30th Birthday Bash special. They perform "Big Bottom" on the televised celebration with the assistance of Pink Floyd's David Gilmore and some English musicians you've never heard of, and Nigel does make an appearance on the show via satellite from Hollywood. He thanks Amnesty for the award and wishes them well for doing "whatever you do".

**JANUARY 30, 1992** - Tap headlines the Pollack Media Group party, an annual bash thrown for music industry mucky-mucks in Santa Monica, California.

Under the watchful eye of a Santa Monica fire marshal, new drummer Ric Shrimpton arrives in an ambulance marked *Spinal Tap Emergency Percussion Unit* to join the band on stage. "Hello Long Beach!" David yells to an audience that includes Tom Petty, Eddie Money and Pete Townsend, and somewhere into their set Dweezil Zappa (the guy who plays guitar on *Driva Fever*) joins them on stage for what the L.A. Times would describe as very impassioned, very pointless guitar solos.

**FEBRUARY 16, 1992** - Tap into Europe! Our boys embark on an

intensive promo tour of the U.K., Sweden, Norway and Germany. It's ten exhausting days of nonstop interviews, press conferences and photo sessions for the international superstars, punctuated with drummer auditions in each country to ensure backup in the event of any untimely vacancy.

**MARCH 2, 1992** - Tap Down Under! With nary a moment to water their plants, D, D & N are back on the plane, this time bound for Australia. Eight more days of being crushed by the Tap-hungry press and their Aussie fans, another drummer audition, of course, an appearance on *Tonight* with Steve Vizard (yes, the Steve Vizard) and an appearance on the Australian Record Industry Awards, Bruce & Sheila's answer to the Grammy's.

**MARCH 17, 1992** - *Break Like the Wind* is let loose upon the earth. History repeats itself when Spinal Tap's artistic expression is again thwarted: MTV refuses to air their "Bitch School" video in its original form due to its "questionable content."

**MARCH 27, 1992** - Tap makes another American network television debut on *Late Night* with David Letterman. After a flawless performance of "Bitch School", Nigel dismisses the misdirected yet growing controversy surrounding the song by pointing out the obvious: the song is about dog training, not women (oh, sorry... womyn).

... TO BE CONTINUED ...

## SADDER UPDATES ON THE TAP FRONT:

Most recent keyboardist **VIV SAVAGE**, a close friend of deceased Tap drummer **MICK SHRIMPTON**, is now closer to Shrimpton than ever. The band recounts:

David: "It's a sad story, really. Viv was actually a drummer when he started playing. We didn't know this."

Nigel: "He didn't tell us."

David: "No, we wouldn't have hired him and endangered his life."

Derek: "He was very close to Mick Shrimpton, and he took Mick's loss very hard - as did we all, but I mean we soldiered on. Viv would make frequent pilgrimages to Mick's grave to pay his respects."

David: "His homage."

Nigel: "Yeah, it's up in Hampstead that grave."

Derek: "In a graveyard. On day he was, uh, visiting at the graveside and... it was over, just like that."

Nigel: "The grave exploded."

David: "It was gas, it was a natural thing, a gassy build-up."

Derek: "Like that swamp gas you get."

David: "It just wiped Viv out."

Nigel: "I suppose it's ironic because we have the same drummer dying twice and then another keyboard-playing ex-drummer goes with him."

David: "I still don't think Viv would have died if he hadn't been a drummer previously."

Nigel: "No, if he'd solely been a keyboard player I think he'd still be with us today."

And what of former manager **IAN FAITH**? "He's dead," Nigel states. "He's biologically dead." The cause of his death remains, in the tradition of **JOHN "STUMPY" PEPYS**, unsolved. Or at least unmentionable. "I like to say he's dead," Nigel continues. "I just don't like talking about how it happened or anything like that because I'm a bit superstitious. He's not with us anymore."

Ironically, dropping dead was Ian's greatest managerial accomplishment, kicking off the labor pains of Tap's rebirth. "You should have seen this funeral, it was amazing," Nigel fondly recalls. "I've never seen such happy people in my life... the joy of that afternoon was so contagious that we walked over to my flat, picked up the guitars and started bashing away. It was so much bloody fun that we thought, 'we've got to do this again.'"

## SPINAL TAP 1992

Take a real close look, and you may notice a few changes in this Tap of the 90's. They've got their own label, a trustworthy and competent manager, and two new band members bring the grand total up to a nice, even 40. Let's take a real close look...

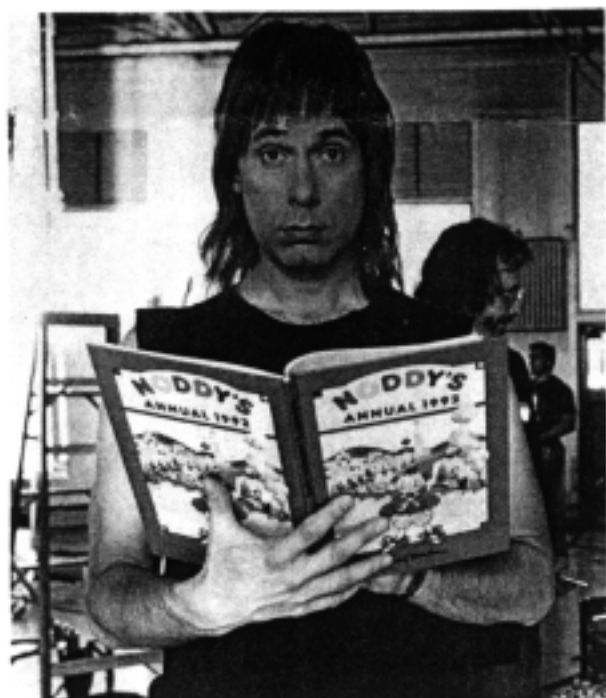
**THE NEW DRUMMER:** It takes a special kind of courage to pound the pagan skins for Spinal Tap. But when you've already lost a brother to the curse and you come in with full knowledge that you're going to be Tap drummer #13... well, **Ric Shrimpton** is a special kind of guy. The younger twin brother of #11 drummer Mick was actually considered the better drummer of the two, but living in the shadow of his famous sibling eventually drove him to Finsbury Park, U.K., where he worked in one of those shops that sells used stamps. All that suddenly changed toward the end of 1991 as Spinal Tap labored over the list of auditionees they'd seen at the Coliseum. David tells it this way: "We got this call from Ric Shrimpton and he says, 'What about me?' and we said 'Oh, God! Look, Ric mate, we have already broken your mother's heart once, please don't!' But he managed to persuade us. He knew all the songs, and learnt the news ones really quickly and we said, 'fine, we'll give it a go.' So, indeed, Ric is aboard." But before he was even allowed to touch the sticks the band decided they should insure him. Lloyd's of London wouldn't touch him, but luckily they found another company called Lloyd's of Luton that needed the publicity. "The insurance company is happy," David says, "and of course, we are happy and feel safe in the knowledge that if Ric goes under, at least his mum will be taken care of."

**THE NEW KEYBOARD PLAYER:** "He's brilliant! He's a genius!" David enthuses over Tap's new keyboard player, Caucasian **Jeffrey Vanston**. "He must be good, his equipment weighs over three-quarters of a ton! Jeff's also really great at bending and recreating sounds. We don't do a lot of sampling in Spinal Tap, but he can do lots

of things. Last week he said to me, 'Watch this, Dave.' He loaded up some software and pressed a key and you could hear, quite clearly, the sound of a cat vomiting. You know? That real hairball sounding cough and you could see, in your mind, what sort of cat it was. It was a gray tabby, it was just so apparent. Anyway, he is just amazing." Nigel explains the reason for the odd name: "He was playing in a black group where there were a bunch of other Jeffs."

**THE NEW MANAGER:** Tap has found their damsel in shining armor and she is called **Wendy Goldfinkel**. Many years ago Wendy was the original Painful Procedure Fan Club President, so the boys couldn't have found anyone better qualified. Ms. Goldfinkel's iron-fisted method of command has no doubt earned her some enemies - when angered, she has been known to cut off interviews with Tap mid-sentence - but because of her no-nonsense approach the band won't be subjected to the humiliations of the past that they underwent with Ian Faith (notice how this album came out before the tour started?). And speaking of Ian, do the guys miss their cricket bat-wielding former manager? Hardly. Spinal Tap, if not the earth itself, seems well rid of him. Locating mandolin strings in the middle of Austin turned out not to be all that this pasty character was up to. Mr. Faith, as Nigel puts it, was "prone to apoplexy and - what do they call it? Embezzlement." "He sold off our entire back catalog for nothing," Derek said. "50p one song went for. We tried to take legal action, but Ian's attitude was, you see me once, I'll sue you twice back. He had a solicitor permanently on beeper. He was buried with that beeper."

**THE NEW RECORD LABEL:** "We have not had good luck with labels," David noted. Indeed. Their first label, Megaphone, no longer exists, and the label most identified with Tap, Polymer, has given them nothing but trouble ever since **Smell The Glove** turned out to be somewhat of a financial disappointment for the company. When rumors surfaced last year that MCA Records was negotiating a recording deal with Spinal Tap, MCA received a cease-and-desist letter from Polymer's CEO, Sir Dennis Eton-Hogg, claiming that Tap was still legally bound to Polymer in an "exclusive, universe-wide agreement." Not that Sir Dennis wanted Tap for himself. "We're committed on paper not to make records for him," David explains, "and he used that to try and stop us from making records for anyone else." Luckily for all of us, it didn't work. MCA signed Spinal Tap and even gave them their own label, **Dead Faith Records, Tapes & CDs And Any Other Form Of Recorded Entertainment There May Be In The Known Universe**, "named partly in honor of the deceased," David smiles, "and partly as a celebration of his current status."



# ASK TAP!

Attention, Official Fans, this is your forum! Ever wonder why (insert your question here)? Now you can ASK TAP! Simply write to me, Bonnie Rose, with any Tap-related question, and I will ASK TAP and publish the answers right here with your name printed and everything! This being our first issue, I've taken questions that some of our MTV-viewing Tapheads ASKED TAP and here are the answers they received:

**Q:** WHICH ONE OF YOU GUYS WEARS THE TIGHTEST PANTS? - Ashley

**Nigel:** The answer is, it's not so much about tightness, Ashley, it's about pain. And if you have really tight trousers, it should pinch a bit.

**Q:** I HAVE A QUESTION FOR SPINAL TAP. I'M JUST WONDERING HOW YOU GUYS FEEL ABOUT SOME OF YOUR CRITICS SAYING THAT THE CONTINUITY OF THE HARMONICS YOU GUYS CREATE IS DERIVATIVE OF A BASELINE ALREADY INDIGENOUS TO METAL BANDS AND THAT YOUR MUSIC ADDS ABSOLUTELY NO NEW RHYTHM, OR CANT, ON THAT LINE. - Anonymous

**David:** Can we... I'll go back to what Ashley was asking.

**Nigel:** What Ashley was asking, yeah.

**David:** Because she was really onto something...

**Nigel:** That's something that could be... extrapolated.

**Q:** I HEARD YOUR JAPAN TOUR WAS PRETTY BAD. I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WOULD CONSIDER THAT A FAILURE. - Rod

**David:** Did George Bush do all that well in Japan? Let me ask you this.

**Derek:** That's my point. At least we didn't throw up on anybody's lap...

**David:** No.

**Nigel:** Yes.

**Derek:** ... on t.v.

**David:** Missed it completely.

**Q:** IS JEANINE GOING ON THE ROAD WITH YOU THIS TIME, OR ARE THERE ANY HARD FEELINGS - WHAT'S THE DEAL? - Christine

**David:** Fear.

**Nigel:** The answer is she's not coming.

**David:** Fear!

**Nigel:** I feel good about it, we've spoken...

**David:** Castration anxiety.

**Nigel:** This has all been aired out. It's not like a wound that has pus in it anymore. It's like a wound

that's been squeezed...

**David:** You see that??

**Nigel:** ...and the pus has shot out...

**David:** You notice the cruel imagery...

**Nigel:** ...and been wiped up.

**David:** ...the cruel imagery that's happening here.

**Nigel:** (To David) I didn't say she was a boil.

## THE GREAT SPINAL TAP TOUR 1992

♪♪♪♪♪

5/17/92	Colorado Springs	Arnold Hall Air Force Academy*
5/19/92	Minneapolis	Orpheum Theater
5/21/92	Milwaukee	Riverside Theatre
5/22/92	Chicago	Riviera
5/24/92	St. Louis	Riverport Amphitheatre
5/26/92	Denver	Paramount Theatre
5/29/92	Seattle	Paramount Theatre
5/30/92	Portland	Civic Auditorium
6/01/92	San Francisco	Warfield Theatre
6/02/92	San Francisco	Warfield Theatre
6/03/92	San Diego	Symphony Hall
6/05/92	Los Angeles	Universal Amphitheatre
6/06/92	Phoenix	Mesa Amphitheatre

\* yes, really

Now don't get your knickers in a twist if you don't see a concert near you listed here - these are only the confirmed dates at press time, and is actually only about half the tour. After they've frolicked through all the major cities of the U.S., the tour will culminate in one historic and glorious performance at the Royal Albert Hall in London in early July which we'll all be able to behold through the magic of the television special.

And after that? Well, who knows. We can only hope that we, their devoted fans good and true, will give them the honor, the applause, and the cash that will keep Spinal Tap rockin' for another 25 years.

*We can only hope.*

1984 - 1991

## No One Knows Where They Were

or...

## What They Were Doing

*What did Tap have on tap when it got tapped? That's what Spinal Tap fans all over the uncivilized world want to know as the world's loudest -- and now one of the world's oldest -- bands reunites after seven oh-so-long-since-my-ears-have-hurt years. Derek, Nigel and David gave us the lowdown on what life without Tap was like.*

### Derek Smalls

For bassist Derek Smalls, Taplessness started off badly. After the Japanese "Smell the Glove" tour ended prematurely due to popular demand, the logistical precision of rock-n-roll travel quickly unraveled. Having left his passport in a hotel room which - despite hypnosis - he couldn't identify, Smalls was "trapped" in Japan for eight months of money and paperwork hassles. He made the time pay off by developing a taste for Orientalia, a passion which continues to this day (if you're ever at his East London Docklands flat, check out his collection of ceremonial robes!).

Freed finally from the land of the rising yen, Derek resumed gigging, firstly on a series of particularly hard-rockin' jingles for the Belgian Milk Board (he recalls the translation of the lyrics as being, in essence, "Milk -- if it was any richer, it'd be cream!") then replacing his pal Geoff Hough as bass player for the Christian heavy metal band Lambsblood.

"Geoff had backslid, basically," Smalls recalls, "and they had 150 dates lined up, mainly in tents." Intense it was as 'Blood rocketed up the Christian charts with the crunching, Zep-influenced "Whole Lotta Lord." During this time of almost constant touring, Derek sharpened his writing quill, coming up with a staple of the Lambsblood repertoire, the "SinBad Suite."

When Lambsblood next-to-headlined at the "Monsters of Jesus" concert in Orange County, California, a chance meeting with David St. Hubbins led to Small's decision to, as he puts it, "throw in my lot with evil again."

### Nigel Tufnel

Nige's travel experience after Japan was even more harrowing. He went on a trip around the world, "to experience many lands. To hear many languages. To meet many women living strange lives," he explains.

"One of the things that happened, I was in Switzerland with a young girl named Monga and I was kidnapped by the Swiss army and I was inducted. And it took eight weeks for anyone to rescue me and all I have to show for it is this bloody knife."

Returning to London, Tufnel threw himself into tinkering in his "inventing shed" whence once he had originated his revolutionary neckless guitar. After a couple of years of fruitless effort on innovations such as his amp-capo and new musical notation system (it substitutes letters with numbers; A is one, B is two, etc.), Nigel reports he achieved a viable prototype of an invention every traveling rocker needs -- the now-legendary folding wine glass. "Look," urges Nige, "it fits ever so neatly into the smallest bag." While waiting for the authorities to get off their asses and grant him a patent, Nige woodshedded musically with many of his idols, including "some people who are very much on the cutting edge with Scottish pipes, finding the spaces between the usual notes." Is there room in there for all of us, Nige?

### David St. Hubbins

Bad news, girls. Your golden-tressed love god is taken. Full-on. David wed Jeanine Pettibone in 1986 and moved to Pomona, California to settle down to a life mixing suburban leisure with urban enterprise. Jeanine, David notes proudly, opened adjoining small stores; The Drippy, specializing in candles with "vibrational significance", and Potato Republic, a clothing store selling garments from Ireland. "A lot of wooly, itchy sweaters," David says. "It's not really Los Angeles streetwear, more fishermen's gear, that 'Man of Aran' look."

David, meanwhile has been busying himself on the musical and sports fronts. Musically, he's been finding and managing local bands, giving them the benefit of almost thirty years' worth of music business experience, and recording them in his garage studio direct to eight-track cassette for his own Pettiwhip Productions. He's proud of his latest discovery, Meconium. They sound, he says, like a cross between two of his other bands. Another, David says, is called Lamé. "Yeah, we need a new name obviously. You leave off that little french accent at the end and you've got a really duff name. We thought of calling them Diaperload - didn't like that either. We're working on it."

David has also been sharing himself with young would-be footballers in the Pomona Valley area, having spent the last four years coaching soccer in the local schools. "I've spent more time coaching in schools," chuckles David with his characteristic smile, "than I ever did studying in one."

In recent years he's also been collaborating (by mail) with his amateur musician father, Ivor, on an "all-scat" version of Bizet's Carmen.

