

## Stone Temple Pilots: Ugly People, Good Music

By Brad Moist  
Capital Times Staff Writer

In a music industry filled with beautiful faces that create crappy music, Stone Temple Pilots return to show that ugly people create the best music.

Their fourth album simply titled *No. 4* hits stores Tuesday, Oct. 26. The album is produced by Brendan O'Brien, who is well known for his work with Pearl Jam as well as STP.

Strangely enough, the new album proves to be some of the best STP work done, but without frontman/lead singer Scott Weiland to talk about it. Weiland is currently serving a one-year jail sentence in Los Angeles County Jail's Biscailuv Recovery Center for violating his probation.

L.A. Superior Court Judge Larry P. Fiddler said that "Mr. Weiland has to be punished. If the court makes a pronouncement and somehow fails to follow it, the public loses faith in the judicial system."

Weiland had been warned earlier after his first probation violation, and so the court had no choice.

Weiland recently released a

statement to all his fans from jail saying, "What can I say about jail? It is one of the travesties of mankind to lose one's freedom, to be locked and bound behind bars of steel, but if the wheels of a man's mind are free to turn and the wings of his spirit cannot be clipped, then is a man truly in chains?"

Well, no matter what Weiland says, the result of him being in jail will hurt the STP. They will not be able to tour, and any press and media attention on the band won't be the same without Weiland present.

*No. 4* is complete with straight ahead rock-n-roll mixed with ballads and melodic singing.

The first single "Down" thrashes your stereo with slamming drums in a catchy rhythm that will keep your head banging and your shoulders moving.

Weiland chimes in softly with "Pleased to meet you/Nice to know me/ What's the message?/ Will you show me?" and then lets the bats out of the bellfry with screaming "I've been waiting."

At first listen you are reminded of the band's first album, *Core*, which proved to be a great

album. The only downfall was Weiland had not yet found his own unique vocals, and sounded too much like Eddie Vedder, Chris Cornell and Kurt Cobain at times.

But, by the second album, *Purple* Weiland had found his niche. And that niche is prevalent on this album.

"Down" still shows that Weiland is not the clearest lyricist, and is evident throughout the whole album. While reading the lyrics one can only wonder if heroin was an influence.

"Down" flows right into "Heaven & Hot Rods" which bears incredible catchy guitar riffs. And what STP would be complete without some sort of ballad.

"Sour Girl" proves to be that ballad which makes *No. 4* complete. The harmonies with Weiland singing lead and O'Brien on backing vocals makes this track stand out as the two sing melodically "What would you do?/What would you do if I followed you?"

In all I definitely see this track being a radio single at some point. "Sex & Violence" is a



track you'll love to listen to as you speed up and down 283.

For the guys especially you'll find yourself singing along with Weiland to the lyrics "I used to love you, now you don't care/ Now I turn around, you're everywhere/ So you can chew me up and spit me out/ You're just the little bitch I cared about."

There are some weak tracks on this album that will frustrate

you including "Glide" and the annoying "Atlanta."

Though all in all this album surpasses the last STP release by far. If you loved their first release and the second, then you won't be disappointed. *No. 4* mixes the sounds of the first two albums to give you the STP that you have been waiting for.

For more info on the band go to [www.stonetemplepilots.com](http://www.stonetemplepilots.com).

## Guinness & Finnegan's Wake Oyster Festival

By Nicole Burkholder  
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Guinness, oysters, music, and more Guinness. Sound like a good time?

The answer is a resounding yes! That was the consensus at the Guinness and Finnegan's Wake Oyster Festival in Philadelphia on Oct. 9.



Photo by Nicole Burkholder  
Larry Kirwan,  
lead singer of Black 47

The Guinness company has been throwing these all-day bashes in other major cities for the last few years, but this year was the first time for Philadelphia. It was a huge success.

The festival was held in Historic Head House Square, right off South Street. The street was roped off to create a giant Irish block party right in the midst of South Street's usual activities.

The day started off at 11 a.m. That may sound a little early for Guinness and oysters, but not for the hearty Irish Philadelphians. Most of the diehard festival-goers lasted until 9 p.m., when the festival ended.

Along with the beer and oysters, the festival featured a marketplace full of Irish paraphernalia. The merchandise ranged anywhere from Irish wool clothing and jewelry to literature on Irish history.

There was also a very clear presence of those that supported

the Irish Republican Army; campaigns to free Irish prisoners of war; and Project Children, a group that brings teens from Northern Ireland to the States for four weeks to get them out of the conflict in such places as Belfast.

The highlight of the festival was the band Black 47. Hailing from New York City, their music is a wild blend of rock, reggae, and traditional Irish reels and jigs.

Introduced by the very intoxicated ex-Philadelphia Phillie pitcher Larry Anderson, they had the crowd wild when they broke into songs like, "Green Suede Shoes," "Funky Ceili," "Different Drummer," giving everyone an excuse to start dancing.

The band consists of Larry Kirwan, a native of Wexford, Ireland, and a slew of New Yorkers including Chris Byrne, Thomas Hamlin, Andrew Goodright, Fred Parcells, and Geoffrey Blythe.

The group combines history

and personal experience into a rockin' experience that is hard to forget.

Strong promoters of Northern Ireland's independence from Great Britain, the band whipped the crowd into a frenzy with moving protest anthems like "Time to Go" and "James Connelly."

Black 47 is truly an experience for those of any heritage!

The great part about seeing a band like Black 47 at a festival like this is the accessibility.

There is a great opportunity to meet the band and talk with them about anything from their music to beer and everything in between.

In a casual discussion before the show, Kirwan remarked that he knew of Harrisburg, Pa.

He then embarked on a story of his early career when he was booked on a tour of Holiday Inns in the area and sold as "Larry Kirwan: Irish Tenor."

One taste of Kirwan in Black 47 and it will become quite obvi-

ous that he is no "Irish Tenor" and that is very unlikely that he will be singing "Sweet Molly Malone" at his next gig.

He remembered this conversation later in the show when he gave a shout out to Harrisburg in an attempt to rouse up the crowd. His remark: "Come on Philadelphia! This isn't Harrisburg!" Hey, we have to get recognized somehow.

Kirwan also asked for a push on our own college radio station, WPSH. We'll see what we can do!

Other highlights at the festival included oyster shucking contests by local chefs, local celebrities, and other Irish musicians like Seven Nations, The Prodigals, and The Eileen Ivers Band, formerly of Riverdance.

Since this year's festival was such a success, the plans to make it an annual event are in the making.

Definitely keep your eyes peeled for Guinness and other festivals like it. It is surely worth your while!