



The New (Legal) Killer Drug

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# Rolling Stone

**U2**  
ALICIA KEYS  
SUM 41  
Rule Our Annual  
Music Awards

It's a  
**Family  
Affair**

**No Doubt:** Sex, success  
and staying together

**Nickelback** ★ **Shakira** ★ **Wu-Tang Clan**



# NO

**DOUBT'S**

## ANNIVERSARY ★ PARTY ★

IN WHICH WE CELEBRATE THE  
UNION OF GWEN AND GAVIN,  
THE SPECTACULAR SUCCESS OF  
THE LITTLE SO-CAL BAND THAT  
COULD AND THE ARRIVAL  
OF A DANGEROUS CHARACTER  
KNOWN AS THE DOUCHE  
★ BY NEIL STRAUSS ★

**T**HOUSANDS OF STAIND AND Linkin Park fans are packed into the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles, unaware that No Doubt are about to make a surprise appearance. And, to tell the truth, no one is sure if these fans really care. No Doubt are the only band tonight with a female member, the only group more attuned to ska and reggae than rap and rock, and the only act whose current single, "Hey Baby," is full of New Wave electronics and drum-machine beats. There is no aggression or angst to be found in "Hey Baby," kids, just Gwen Stefani



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID LACHAPELLE





AT JAY'S JAYBURGERS IN SILVERLAKE, CALIFORNIA: YOUNG, DUMONT, KANAL AND STEFANI (FROM LEFT)







should try it – all of a sudden you're sexy. I finally feel like there's a side to me like, "I'm a woman now," which is fine.

*That's pretty good – you're thirty-two.*

Yeah, I never felt really strong growing up. I didn't know where I fit in. All the women around me that I could look at were in bands like L7 or Hole. They were angry, and I didn't really feel like that. And the other ones were these folksy girls, so there wasn't really anybody, until I discovered Blondie. She was sexy, and she wasn't ashamed to be rocking out, and to me, that's having it all. Because we all want to be sexy, even guys do. It's in human nature, because we've gotta have babies.

*But the way you work, it is all your own.*

I think the whole sexy thing, to do it seriously, is just a joke. I mean, have you seen me when I wake up in the morning?

**S**TEFANI WAS RAISED in a Catholic family, which is what she blames for her worst faults – namely, that she is too judgmental and not open enough. "My brother was an artist since the day he was born," she says, referring to Eric Stefani, who left No Doubt during the recording of *Tragic Kingdom*.

"He would win all the awards at school. I didn't have to do anything, because I had him. I was always a passive person, a one-on-one person. I always had my one best friend, and I didn't have lots of girlfriends. I never have."

Outside of the first boy she kissed, Stefani has dated only two people: Kanal and Rosedale. As for her goals in life, starting a family is the only one she hasn't yet fulfilled. In her music, she's already there: "Having a song ['Don't Speak'] that's going to be there when you're dead is just, I'm sorry, but it's just pretty cool," she says.

An evening with Stefani: When No Doubt walk the red carpet at the *Billboard Awards* in Las Vegas, the *paparazzi* scream not for the band but for "Gwenmn," who obliges them by opening her fur jacket and sticking out her chest, which is covered by just a bikini top. Later, a fan runs up to Kanal. "Man, I love your band," he says. "I have to ask you: When you guys first got together, did you just think, 'Wow, she is hot!'" Kanal doesn't answer.

**Y**OUNG COMES FROM THE OPPOSITE background of Stefani. He was born to hippie parents, though his mother left when he was young. The exhibitionist of the band, Young is a madman with a conscience. When he heard that a girlfriend was cheating on him, he got drunk, wrote that she was the Antichrist across the driveway of the Anaheim, California,

house where the band lived and passed out on the roof. Since the house belonged to Stefani's parents, he spent the next morning scrubbing the driveway.

Now married (to a woman who used to work in the band's touring production office) and with a child on the way, he's mellowing out. He just wants to drive some golf balls and be with his wife, though he still can't seem to avoid singing, "Hey, we want some pussy," during any lull in the conversation.

An evening with Young, age 32: In the bar of a New York hotel, Stefani lifts her glass for a toast: "To fifteen years of blood, friendship, love and the release of our new record." Young stands up and takes off his jacket. Underneath is a faded No Doubt shirt. "It's from 1987," he says. "I bought it at a No Doubt



IN THE STUDIO WITH ENGINEER KARL DERFLER AND PRODUCER RIC OCASEK (FAR RIGHT) RECORDING "ROCK STEADY"

show." Young is the band's newest member, having joined in 1999; before that he was the band's biggest fan. "You shouldn't wear that shirt," says Stefani. "You should frame it, and cut it so that both sides show in the frame." Young says nothing, but it is clear that in his mind, shirts are for wearing.

**K**ANAL, AS COOL AS HE SEEMS, is the band's most tightly wound character. His father and mother moved from India to London and then emigrated to America with their two young sons in 1981. Eventually, they opened a store in Anaheim called Kanal's

**"THE THING ABOUT THE SEXY SIDE IS THAT I EARNED IT," SAYS STEFANI. "I FEEL LIKE I'M A WOMAN NOW."**

Gifts and Fashion. "They're such beautiful people," says Stefani of Kanal's parents, "and they have such open minds. Especially in their community, because all their friends' kids are rich and going to Harvard. And here was Tony. In a band. With a white girlfriend."

An evening with Kanal, age 31: After a twelve-hour photo shoot and a Korean meal, he offers a tour of his house. "This window isn't supposed to be open," he

says when we enter the bedroom, sounding like a cop on patrol. In an office upstairs, he finds a few discs out of order. "I can tell when my brother's been borrowing my CDs," he says, rearranging them. They run from Eighties groups such as the Human League and Men at Work to Oasis and U2. "We judge everything we do by the Clash and U2," he says. Every time it comes to making a decision, No Doubt ask,



BEFORE THEY WERE ROCK STARS: HANGING OUT IN CALIFORNIA, CIRCA 1991



STEFANI ON THE "TRAGIC KINGDOM" TOUR, 1995

"What would the Clash or U2 do?"

He pulls out a daybook, in which he's listed a chronology of each day's events for the year of making *Rock Steady*. "Adrian has golf, Tom has surf-

ing, Gwen has Gavin, I guess, and this is all I have," says Kanal. "I wake, eat and sleep No Doubt."

**D**UMONT GREW UP AS THE only adopted child in a family of three kids. "His dad was really strict," says Stefani. "Like, if a chair was pushed out from the table when he went to bed, he'd have to go back and push the chair in. I think his

parents' divorce was just so hard on him. And he really takes care of his mom."

An evening with Dumont, age 34: He invites me to his small West Hollywood apartment to hear the original *Rock Steady* demos, recorded on a mini-Pro Tools rig in the living room. He plays an unreleased track recorded to a Dr. Dre beat and a failed jam called "Expensive Sushi" with improvised Stefani lyrics and samples he downloaded from Napster. "I'm the opposite of Tony," he says. "I'm lazy – I would just let something go and later on regret it. I always do this in my life."

Four days after *Rock Steady* is released, the band is backstage at *Saturday Night Live*. After touring with their idols U2, the success of the KROQ show and the buzz about *Rock Steady*, No Doubt feel like they are getting a second chance. On their first walk through the gauntlet of popularity, they

were too confused to enjoy it. Kanal remembers that when No Doubt played *Saturday Night Live* last time, in 1996, he was so nervous he screwed up.

Tonight, there is other drama. Young's wife, who is seven months pregnant, is sick. And Young is worrying himself sick, too. He calls her a doctor and returns to the dressing room, his face ashen. Stefani walks in with a torn black top and a haircut that basically amounts to a mullet. She isn't feeling very sexy in her high heels tonight. "They're too high," she says. "I can't feel my feet."

She switches shoes while Young places a paper bag next to the drum set in case he vomits during his performance. All goes smoothly, however, and after performing "Hey Baby" and "Hella Good," the band, plus Rosedale, climbs into a limo. "Can I borrow your phone?" Dumont asks Kanal. "I need to call my mom. She's been upset today."

As we sit in the limo, waiting to go to the *Saturday Night Live* afterparty, it sinks in what a strange group this is. You've got a mama's boy who's completely uncomfortable with himself, another guy who's so compulsive that he keeps a log of what he does every day, a punk with a mohawk who is actually a sensitive golf-playing father-to-be and a blond sex symbol who is actually a totally traditional love-smitten woman.

"Most people don't get it," Stefani says in the limo. "I love that you are getting it." And with that, she grabs Rosedale by the hand and jumps in another limo, and the lovers disappear into the night.

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