

# DEATH+TAXES



## AS TALL AS LIONS

### It's About Pride

By Stephen Blackwell  
Photo by Epizentrum

**Daniel Nigro has a Long Island accent. Exactly how a suburb developed its own accent will remain a mystery, but it does exist. It's tricky to explain, but I'll give it a spill: The Kennedy accent is to Bostonians as the Long Island accent is to Guidos.**

**Although the As Tall As Lions front man is anything** but, despite being home right now. "We've been on Long Island for the past three weeks, relaxing," he says over the phone from his parent's house. "It's been wonderful."

The band has toured with little time off for six months in support of their Triple Crown Records debut, *Lafcadio*, but they decided it was time to make a new record for a 2006 release a few months back.

"We were afforded the opportunity of people not expecting much

from us. Our first record didn't do very well—granted we didn't make a very good first record," he says, honestly, of *Lafcadio*. "It's not like we had a big fan base, so we were able to make whatever we wanted. If we came out with a great thing, it'd be more of a shock."

It's rare people slag on themselves this hard, but I get the feeling it's cathartic for Nigro, part of excising the illusions of grandeur that plagued him during and after the making of *Lafcadio*.

"It was a terrible time for us, it was awful," he says of 2004. "We had the preconceived notion that things were going to be handed to us. My head totally blew up. I am so embarrassed of it," he sighs. "When I think about it now, I really thought we were going to be the biggest band in the world. I wish you had a camera to watch what I was like. It was pitiful."

Throughout the rest of our conversation, Nigro mentions he hates saying cliché things, usually right before he says them. But he is absolutely less pitiful than his prior self, and wants things to go well for As Tall As Lions' recently released self-titled album. He wants people to explore the band's new atmospheric sound, and, let's face it, doing anything else sucks. "Honestly, it does," he laughs. "Two days ago I worked construction for my uncle. It was awful, man. It was really, really awful."