

CD Review

Supersuckers
"Must've Been High"
 Sub Pop
 Grade: A

The Supersuckers, those crazy punk-rock if-we-can-fake-it-we-can-make-it Seattlites, are back with their fourth effort, "Must've Been High."

This album is a complete 180-degree change from anything they've done before—it's all country. But don't let that scare you. Really—these guys are fabulous musicians, and it's obvious they had a lot of fun making this record.

You can picture the boys sittin' on the front porch, drinkin' whiskey, strummin' a beat-up acoustic guitar, maybe smokin' a little Seattle ditch weed. The album kicks off with the title track, a traditional country acoustic guitar/harmonica number with background vocals added via telephone by none other than country legend Willie Nelson.

It's obvious these musicians have never for one minute taken themselves seriously, whether they're barreling through a punk-rock classic or gettin' back to the country.

Take these lyrics from "Must've Been High": "I kind of bum around and I wonder/What I'm feeling like and why/I take a look around and I wonder/I'm underwhelmed with my big bad self/Ah, what the hell, I must've been high."

Then there's the rollicking "Dead In The Water," the ode to slackerdom "Roamin' 'round," and the mandatory booze-'n'-drugs mantras, "One Cigarette Away,"

"Hungover Together" and "Non-Addictive Marijuana." Breeders singer Kelley Deal does a convincing country duet (meaning she's got the appropriate level of twanginess and breathiness in her voice) on "Hungover Together."

For fans of the faster stuff, there's also the fun, bouncy "Hangin' Out with Me," "Juicy Pureballs" and the flat-out punk stomp "Hanggliders" (a personal favorite) to show they haven't lost their 'suck-y edge.

When the band performed at the SXSW Music and Media Conference in Austin, Texas, in mid-March, they came onstage wearing the traditional country garb—hats, boots and cowboy shirts. A bit odd for a rock show, but the intentions became clear toward the end of their set when they brought out a pedal and a lap steel guitar. They performed a few songs from the new album, including "Non-Addictive Marijuana" and "Hanggliders," all the while telling the audience, "Forgive us if we suck; we've never done this before. We did what we said we were never going to do; we made a country album."

The refreshing thing about the Supersuckers is that although they know the stereotypes against country music (traditional country, not the glamorized "Nashville" kind), they're working to break those down. Rock has its roots in country music, and this is the Supersuckers' nod to their influences. And it's pretty cool.

—Ann Stack

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Clinton asks liquor industry to restrict advertisements

LIQUOR from page 12

50 years. ... I think they were right."

He left open the possibility of broadening the FCC study, saying that "if there is no difference, if there are problems, the FCC can evaluate whatever evidence comes in."

But White House spokesman Mike McCurry later told reporters, "I'm not aware of anyone foreseeing a next step that suggests that you look at beer and wine. I think we're just taking it one step at a time."

Distillers were quick to cry hypocrisy Tuesday. And some groups denounced any distinction between hard liquor's harm and the dangers of beer drinking.

"Alcohol is basically alcohol," said Carolyn Nunnallee, president-elect of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. "When beer is the No. 1 alcoholic beverage of choice among our youth, it just doesn't make sense that these beer ads would not be targeted also."

Elizabeth Board, spokeswoman for the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, noted that the major national networks still refuse to run liquor ads and only 50 of some-1,000 cable stations have accepted ads since November.

By contrast, she said, beer commercials saturate the airwaves—\$2.5 billion worth since Clinton took office.

"If the administration is serious about children and wants to look at the issue of alcohol and advertising, we have no quarrel about that. But they cannot do it by ignoring 99 percent of the alcohol advertising on television," Board said.

On Capitol Hill, Rep. W.J. Tauzin, R-La., chairman of the House commerce subcommittee on telecommunications, scrapped plans for public hearings on the issue. He is instead pursuing behind-the-scenes negotiations with industry representatives for voluntary restrictions.

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The highly successful Supplemental Instruction Program is again being expanded. Currently, positions are open for undergraduate leaders of voluntary discussion groups in Biology 101, History 100, Political Science 100, Psychology 181, Sociology 101, and Geography 155 for the Fall 1997 semester. Applicants must be undergraduates who have recently completed one of the above courses successfully (received an A) and are interested in assisting other students in achieving academic success in the course. The stipend is \$850 for the semester; the time commitment is 30 hours per week. Pick up applications at the Division of General Studies, 333 Canfield Administration Building, SI leaders' positions provide valuable experience for majors and students interested in careers in teaching. Application deadline is Thursday, April 10, 1997.

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