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August 23-29, 2007

AudioFile Sucks for you!

The Supersuckers continue searching for the limelight and touring for their fans

by *John Benson*

Like records, business plans are made to be broken.

Just ask the Supersuckers, who for nearly two decades have been combining a garage-rock sound and ass-kicking country sensibility into the punk aesthetic spittoon that is their catalog. Reacting to the modern-day music industry's economic downward spiral, the Seattle-based band decided that less is more when it comes to releasing material.

"We wanted to start putting out EPs instead of full-length records," singer-bassist Eddie Spaghetti (born Edward Carlyle Daly III) says by phone from his Washington state home. "We wanted to focus on one or two or three songs at a time, make them really awesome and cohesive in sound, in case they should all end up on a record together."

The plan began with 2006's *Paid*, but soon fell apart. Producer Billy Bowers wasn't available for studio time as quickly as the band would have liked, forcing the band to wait until next month to record material for what may now be a full-length.

"We're just making do with the circumstances we were given," Spaghetti says, laughing.

That statement has seemingly defined the Supersuckers' existence on the fringes of not only the mainstream, but also indie rock. Originally signed to Sub Pop in the early '90s, when it truly meant something (thank you, Mr. Cobain), the outfit was poised if not for alt-rock glory, then at least for



The Supersuckers may take press photos where they look into the sunset, but the band isn't ready to head for it yet. At least not while that car works.



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minor attention.

But the beast that is commercial success failed to appear in the first decade of the band's existence. So the Supersuckers started their own label, Mid-Fi Recordings, in 2001. Six years later, touring keeps the foursome — Spaghetti, Dan "Thunder" Bolton (guitar), Rontrose Heathman (guitar) and Scott Churilla (drums) — afloat.

"It does get tiresome at times, if the show isn't good or the attendance isn't what it ought to be, and you start to feel the miles on you," Spaghetti says. "But generally speaking, it's really good for us on the road. I mean, we'd like to have a hit, obviously."

Who wouldn't? It's not like the Supersuckers have eschewed opportunity. Aside from releasing albums and touring incessantly, the outfit has licensed its music for commercials (Mountain Dew), movies (*Baseketball* and *Hype!*) and TV shows (*Deadliest Catch*).

"We've never tried to be so obscure or artsy-fartsy or cutesy," Spaghetti says. "We never tried to be independent of the mainstream. We've always tried to write the songs as big as possible and make them as hit-oriented as they can be. It just hasn't happened for us."

Perhaps the singer should consider selling his soul?

Spaghetti laughs.

"Yeah," he says. "I need to find these crossroads. Where is that place? Somewhere in Mississippi or something?" — scene@csindy.com

Supersuckers with Sun Trash and The Boxsleeves
The Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave.
Sunday, Aug. 26, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$13 in advance, \$15 day of show; visit ticketweb.com or call 866/468-7621.

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