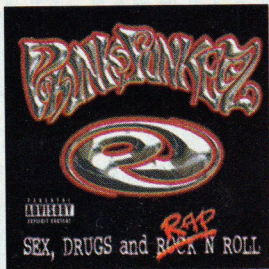


PHUNK JUNKEEZ

Sex, Drugs And Rap 'N' Roll Uncle Scam

By all rights, the Phunk Junkeez should be the first thing people think of when the term rap-rock comes up. Instead, the veteran outfit remains one of Arizona's best kept secrets. "It's a cutthroat business," they claim amid the mellow Kid Rock-ish blues groove of "Strugglin'": "Labels talking major shit because they can't have me/ Wine me and dine me and then they try to sign me/ Next thing I know they come sneakin' up behind me." The alternative? Build a studio and start a label to release your own fourth album, which is what these guys did. "What's Next" shows the Junkeez have been keeping their eyes on the scene: "What the hell happened?/ Everybody and their mother/ Even Tommy Lee's rappin'." The tune features Cypress Hill's Sen-Dog and a funky flavor that Limp lacks, yet it's got a Bizkit-ly fuck-you violent vibe: "I'll wrap metal around your neck and choke your ass out for a royalty check." But it's wit that rules the sci-fi-inspired "The Quest" (the tale of a weed war against alien dope fiends) with its intro narrated by a James Earl Jones sound-alike. A hip-hop-stylized, faux country rewrite of Jerry Reed's "When You're Hot, You're Hot" includes industry-critical lyrics, clap-alongs, and over-the-top girlie la-la-las. Armed with rock, rap, funk and humor, the Phunk Junkeez prove that there is intelligent life in the realm of rap-rock. >>>ROBIN A. ROTHMAN



Out

January 23

File Under

Jurassic rap-rock

R.I.Y.L.

Limp Bizkit, Cypress Hill,

2 Skinnee J's