

Charlotte, NC  
**creative**  **loafing**

January 28-February 3, 2004

DRUGMONEY  
**MTN CTY JNK**  
HYBRID

There's a popular adage that "there's nothing new under the sun." When you're talking about music, that becomes particularly true. Band A takes from Band B, who in turn took from Band C, who took everything they knew from Blind Mississippi Whoever, who got it from the devil.



Which is not to say that a band cannot be truly original, even within this context. Specifically, I'm speaking about emotional originality. The Asheville-bred DrugMoney don't do anything you haven't heard before, but they manage to do it in a way you haven't felt before, more often than not.

Bandleader Fisher Meehan looks a little like the Butthole Surfers' Gibby Haynes, but writes melodies more in line with another famous surfer, Brian Wilson. The rest of the band — specifically bassist Bill Reynolds — provide the necessary swells and barrels and psychedelic loops for Meehan to carve, which he does with marvelous aplomb — see "I Know," the classic-in-waiting "Oregon Song," and "Small Thinking."

A fair amount has been said — regionally, at least — about Meehan's hair-flipping, stage-bounding charisma and star-level wattage. Good thing they finally got it all on tape, then. After all, the word "charisma" comes from the Latin word for "gift," and a gift is only truly good when shared.

*Track to burn:* "Oregon Song"

Grade: **A**

—TIMOTHY C. DAVIS