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Punk Drunk Country

The Koozies kick your ass into 2006.

What have the Koozies been up to since they cut their first CD in 2002? They've seen a lot of good shows, drunk more than their fair share of booze, spent some time in the dog park and broken hearts across Eugene. But only one woman matters for this story — the drunk hillbilly muse who took them under her wing asking nothing more than free-flowing whisky in exchange for massive doses of inspiration.

Whatever they've been doing, their newest CD, *Powderkeg*, is fucking incredible. Unfortunately you won't be able to buy it until February due to a little delay in the production process. But you can bring in 2006 with the best party band in Eugene, and at least you'll get to hear all the songs live.

twang and enough yee haw to make you feel like you've got some mud on your shoes. But even during the fastest, amped-up tracks, these songs have melody. Who knew Jacob Koozie and Tuan Bui (who goes by the moniker the Vietnamese Cowboy) could really sing? We're talking in-tune harmonies and lyrics as tasty as a shot of Jack — good for a party and way too much fun.

Speaking of Tuan (vocals and guitar), he really shines on this one. The title track is just incredible, with Tuan singing lead and Jake backing him up in a creepy echo. But the song that'll be their big hit single is "Wasted." With a catchy chorus simple enough that the drunkest fan can still sing along at the top of his or her lungs, it's pure gold. Combine that with some damn

The Koozies
w/ Sawyer Family
and Whopner County
Country Allstars
9 pm, Sat., 12/31
The Wetlands • \$5 door

Whatever they've been doing, their newest CD, *Powderkeg*, is fucking incredible.

Powderkeg is so much better that 2002's *Keep It Cool* it's almost like listening to a different band. Actually, it is a slightly different band, with Major Koozie replacing drummer Ken McClintock, who recorded *Powderkeg* but who's no longer a Koozie.

Powderkeg is fast, tight and the boys never miss a beat. The gritty howling is still there, along with the crooning, the country

good lead guitar and mindblowing solos (also from Tuan), and what we've got here is one of the best albums I've heard in 2005. Except it isn't officially released until 2006. Hmmm.

OK, that's enough about the album because we've still got to leave something to write about when they actually release it in February. Since that's a long way away, don't miss the New Year's show. **EW**

9:00 PM • SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST • 9:00 PM

NEW YEARS EVE



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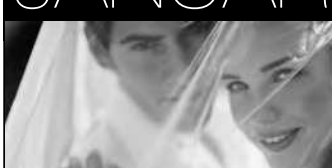
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THE WEDDING GUIDE

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