

So, you're talking with Mickey Quinn, bass player from Oxford three-piece Supergrass — a band you love to love, the retro incarnation of everything that's young and worth bothering about, a band one gifted scribe called 'the very thing that keeps you from the suits and the mortgages' — and what do you get talking about? Other bands. Oasis and Blur actually, and Blur's slim victory in the recent battle of the singles ('Roll With It' versus 'Country House').

"I reckon it was pretty rigged. Blur did about, ooh, four million tonnes of press before they released it, and Oasis didn't do any, and there was all this television coverage a couple of days before that Oasis didn't get, so its not surprising who won."

Yeah, but you've just had a Number 1 album! That wasn't rigged was it?

"Nooooowww," drawls Mickey. "No way. Actually, I don't know what happened there really. That really shocked me when it went to Number 1. It was because the single 'Alright'

sat at Number 2 for four weeks, which meant loads of people were buying it."

And buying into the whole idea. 'Alright', the third single taken from their brilliant debut *I Should Coco*, turned Supergrass into superstars in the UK. Why? Because it says 'bollocks' to the over cautiousness of the 90s. The kids are still sleeping around, smoking up, rolling cars in fields (cleaning their teeth?) and doing whatever. You know, they're 'alright'. The song bounces along with *that* piano and *that* guitar lick, and with vocalist Gaz singing typi-

cally Gaz things. It's a perfect moment in pop. Of course it's got that weird, coolly video, that recalls *The Goodies* (ask you're older brother). Like all their other videos, it was made by a mate of Mickey's and the brother of Supergrass' drummer Danny, because "the record company video directors are all idiots".

Does having the Number 1 album in the UK mean loads of cash?

"Well, it should do, but I haven't seen any yet. We've got to recoup the cost of it first, so I don't know what's going to happen. But just having it at Number 1, like, you look through all those archive books of the charts, and there's like the Beatles Number 1 here, and that's there and now for all time. There's going to be 1995, this month, Supergrass at Number 1. You really set yourself down in history, which is really amazing."

And for anyone wondering what the hell *I Should Coco* means...

"It just means 'I don't believe you', in a cheeky sort of way. It's a really old 60s cockney expression. I saw Basil Fawlty say it in *Fawlty Towers* once. It's like: 'Supergrass? I don't believe you.' Like someone says: 'There are people walking down our street with green hair,' and it's like: 'Yeah, right, I should coco, mate.'"

Musically though, *I Should Coco* means having a bit of fun. There are the punk stabs about being busted with a joint on 'Caught by the Fuzz' ('Here comes my mum / She knows what I've done'), the hummable helium vocals of 'We're Not Supposed To', the rock out of 'Lose It' (released in the States on a Sub Pop compilation!), the glam Madness mosh of 'Mansized Rooster',

"We write the songs"



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