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CD reviews



Todd Snider, "*East Nashville Skyline*" (Oh Boy Records)

By Ryan Lenz / Associated Press

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Far beyond the bright lights and shining stars of Nashville's country music culture, you'll find Todd Snider gazing back from the East Nashville Skyline with a sound purer than any rhinestone cowboys. Reminiscent of Bob Dylan's foray into country music called "Nashville Skyline," Snider's album, "East Nashville Skyline" is a collection of stories - some his own - modeled in the tradition of hard-living country renegades such as Johnny Cash and Merle Haggard. Snider talks of getting in a drunken fight and arrested on "Tillamook County Jail," and at the end of the night wanting nothing more than a telephone call, two Tylenol, and someone to come pay his bail. It's bar humor Snider knows well. And like Cash and Haggard, Snider moves on a single album from songs as entertaining as Iron Mike's boom box flunky to others about personal and often political matters. On "Conservative Christian, Right-Wing Republican America," Snider proclaims himself as a "tree-huggin', pot-smokin', porn-watchin'" folk singer who's nothing like the "soul-savin', flag-wavin', Rush-lovin', land-pavin'" subjects of his songs. Snider is probably right.

He comes from the other side of town.

GRADE: **B+**