

Metal Head?

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reviews



CD: Living The Dream?	Artist: Common Enemy
Label: Overdose On Records/Horror Business Records	Rating: 2.5/5
Best Song: Pac-Man Fever	Reviewer: Cole Faulkner

Common Enemy looks back to the 80's for inspiration. To a time when underground thrash punk ran rampant and melody didn't just take a back seat, but was stomped on and kicked to the curb without remorse. Simply put **Common Enemy** sounds as raw and unhinged as legacy acts like **The Exploited** and **Minor Threat**, with an additional dose of adrenaline a la revivalists **Municipal Waste**.

Their latest release, *Living The Dream*, feels like a non-stop house party of destruction. The type with skaters grinding on mother's china cabinet, everyone has a keg sized beer bong, and at least a few baseball bats provide the lucky homeowner with gift of new interior windows. And while this type of raw and unhinged punk might not be my style, for me to say that **Common Enemy** lacks finesse would entirely miss the point. On the opening track, "Still Having Fun," lead vocalist Gary Critical screams "Getting Older, Hearing voices, saying I should give up/Aren't these all of my choices?/Why should I give up?" Clearly *Living The Dream* doesn't subscribe to any lofty ambitions, but that's not what the band has set out for.

For the most part the band sticks to what they know (partying), and delivers some pretty humorous moments in the process. "Beer Bong" nicely sums up their obsession with alcohol, "Thrash House Party" reinforces their love for destroying things, and "Pac-Man Fever" narrates us through a game of Pac-Man (inserting new quarters and all). On these track **Common Enemy** feels most at home.

So when **Common Enemy** tries touching on some social issues they stumble as they apply their one-dimensional take on the world to something a little more complex. In "Police Story," which the liner notes promote as a true story, the band details a police encounter. Of course like many bands of this kind (**Leftover Crack** being an easy example), **Common Enemy** portrays the police as gun strapped thugs ready to bully innocent skaters on sight. While I don't doubt many run-ins are based on prejudice, I can't help but feel that their anger is misdirected. If they want to harp discrimination, a more effective approach could focus on those in power, or even the social conventions at the heart of society. After all, police don't make laws – they enforce them.

But generally *Living The Dream* is a case of street punk meets thrash punk that those who regularly crank **Municipal Waste** won't want to miss out on. That being said, **Common Enemy's** singular and narrow focus makes them very much a niche group, rather than one with broad appeal.

album streams



media gallery



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