## Metal Head?

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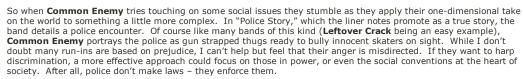


CD:Living The Dream?	Artist: Common Enemy
Label: Overdose On Records/Horror Business Records	<b>Rating:</b> 2.5/5
Best Song:Pac-Man Fever	Reviewer: Cole Faulkner

**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 humourous 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.



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.





## media gallery







Real McKenzies (04/04/09)



S.C.E.N.E. Festival 2007



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