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CD REVIEW: Welcomed punk-rock chaos

by Lisa Schaeffer

Weekender correspondent.

Hardcore punk band Common Enemy's new album "Living The Dream" can best be described as a punk-rock frenzy. If "Living The Dream" means not compromising to fit into society's view of what popular music should be, then Common Enemy is definitely living by its words.

Formed more than a decade ago in Reading, Common Enemy is Gary Critical (vocals), Greg Disorder (bass, backing vocals), Justin Enemy (guitar, backing vocals) and Tank (drums).

With song names such as "Beer Bong," "Pac-Man Fever" and "Syphon & Destroy," it might be difficult to take Common Enemy seriously. Despite the funny titles, this band does have a serious hardcore edge to its sound. The band creates the type of music that conjures up visions of sweaty masses throwing down in a circle pit and brings the kind of out-of-control mayhem that makes you want to smash a fellow concertgoer through a nearby table.

Unfortunately, that kind of sheer craziness is usually accompanied by little direction.

Although Common Enemy definitely possesses a harder edge, "Living The Dream" is all over the place. Actually, the album's 20 tracks bleed together to form one huge nonsensical mess. After about five songs, listeners might actually forget what they are even hearing.

Despite a clear lack of direction and somewhat surface music writing on "Living The Dream," there is definitely still good reason not to initially discredit Common Enemy. In some ways, the band's utter lack of seriousness is quite refreshing and could even be viewed as a welcomed surprise. The band has an offbeat sense of humor that listeners will most likely enjoy when in the right setting. With so many bands producing nothing but dark and depressing metal these days, an upbeat and raucous punk album was something that was well overdue. "Living The Dream" is track after track of total chaos; if it is poetic and insightful meaning you are in search of, it's probably best to look elsewhere.

Although this band will most likely never produce music that will shake the cores of their followers, there is something to be said for the kind of comical pandemonium that only a punk rock band like this can bring.

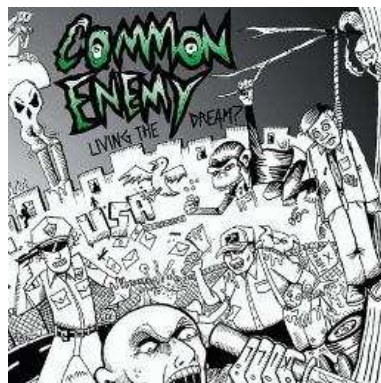
Rating: *W W 1/2*

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