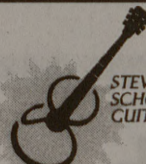


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VOLUME Control

50 Cent
Get Rich or Die Tryin'
Shady Records/Aftermath Entertainment

Beginning with the dominance of groups such as N.W.A in the late 1980s, the line separating the hip hop world from the criminal world has been blurry at best. With "Get Rich Or Die Tryin,'" 50 Cent erases this line completely.

The album skillfully fuses themes of violence, paranoia, drug abuse and incarceration into a graphic account of one man's troubled life. From referring to a bullet hole in his face as his "dimple" to indifferently mentioning his multi-year prison stays, 50 Cent reveals himself, apologizing for nothing.

But his tales of personal pain make for a solid album. "Patiently Waiting" with Eminem doesn't disappoint, as 50 lays bare the frustration of finding success in "this white man's world."

But "Many Men (Wish Death)" is the highlight of the album, revealing the emotional scars left on 50 Cent from being shot nine times, one bullet knocking out a wisdom tooth. 50's admitted favorite, the song details his eagerness to "put a hole in" anyone who crosses him.

The album does have lighter tracks, though, such as "In Da Club," but these are sparse, and, though enjoyable, do little to counter the album's overall negative tone. But don't be mistaken; "Get Rich Or Die Tryin,'" executive produced by Dr. Dre and Eminem, is technically and lyrically flawless, and inarguably deserving of the top spot it has held on the Billboard chart in recent weeks.

Tony Yayo and Lloyd Banks of G-Unit, 50 Cent's entourage of fellow rappers, also show promise. Given the success of "Get Rich Or Die Tryin,'" it wouldn't be surprising for G-Unit to do an album and achieve the popularity of Eminem's group D-12.

Bonus tracks "Wanksta" and "U Not Like Me" help round out a solid debut effort from 50 Cent. If Shady/Aftermath is indeed the future of rap music, 50 Cent is leading the charge.

★★★★★

—George Deutsch

The Donnas
Spend the Night
Atlantic Records

Most people would agree that a lot of the charge The Donnas emanates comes from the fact that these women could beat the crap out of boy bands like The Calling and Good Charlotte on any given day. Not afraid to admit that they like to shop at Wal-Mart, eat healthy portions of food and can be seen minus make-up every now and then, The Donnas is giving a new meaning to the word "female musicians." The band's latest album "Spend the Night" isn't just estrogen bashing, testosterone-driven world; rather, the daring and sometimes crude lyrics dunk into issues such as relationships, friends and drinking.

The 13-track disc is made with witty lyrics and overall solid rock music. The CD opens with a less than three minute heavy rock set. "It's on the rocks" which gives the finger to the callous ex-boyfriends. The songs "I Don't Care (So There)," "Who Love You?" and other tracks on the disc sound like a fusion of Chrissy Hynde and Joan Jett with a dash of female backup singers.

"Please Don't Tease's" lyrics, "I'm getting down on my knees/ C'mon and give it to me/ please don't tease" are probably the most hilarious use of the word "baby" in this era of music.

On "Spend the Night," The Donnas proves that the tremendous talent and apathetic clout to hang around for awhile. It's the cherishable Teen Kingdom type of clever disc that artists tend to create right before hitting it big and selling out the impressiveness of the songs almost serves as a subtle hint that they won't be the same anymore. They probably have only a few years left in their pop culture catches on and gives them that camp-worthy mainstream make-over.

★★★★★

—Nishat Fatah

★★★★★

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Spend the dough, buy your own
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Call for Nominations

2003 ATMENTOR of the Year Award

Howdy!

The ATMENTORS program will be giving a Mentor of the Year Award at the Division of Student Affairs meeting on April 30th, 2003.

The purpose of the award is to provide support for mentoring activities and recognition for excellence in mentoring. The winner of the award must be a member of ATMENTORS who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to making a difference in students' lives.

If you would like to nominate a member of ATMENTORS, send a letter to the ATMENTORS program office at 1263 TAMU. In your letter please indicate how the mentor you are nominating has "made a difference" in your life. Only currently enrolled students may nominate a Mentor for this award. Letters must include the student ID number and contact information of the nominating student and be no longer than one page with 12-point font.

A complete list of Mentors is available on the ATMENTORS web page at <http://mentors.tamu.edu>. All letters are due by April 15th at 5:00pm.

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War

Continued from page 1

not our resolve to meet it," Bush said.

For the first time since he took the nation's attention to Iraq last fall, Bush focused on the question most asked by Americans: War? And why now?

Spelling out the threat, he said Saddam has a history of hurting America, has ties to terrorists and is a destabilizing force in the Middle East. Primarily, he said Saddam could give his weapons mass destruction to terrorists who would "kill thousands or hundreds of thousands of innocent people in our country or any other."

"Before the day of horrors can come, before it is too late to act, this danger will be removed," Bush said.

Iraq denied it has weapons mass destruction, and Bush offers no new evidence to counter Baghdad's assertion.

He said that after 12 years of diplomacy and weapons inspections, "our good faith has not been returned."

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By [Name]

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