

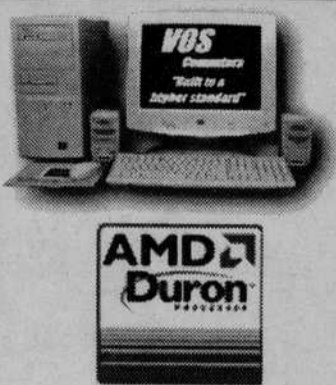
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## FEATURES

# This gross Kid doesn't Rock

■ In his 'Cocky' new album, Kid Rock continues to live a male fantasy

By Mason West  
Oregon Daily Emerald

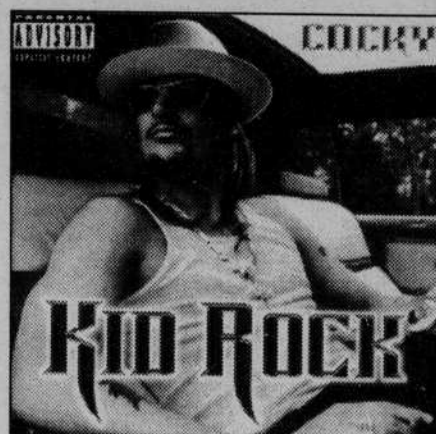
There is one reason not to buy Kid Rock's new album: Kid Rock.

Kid Rock sells CDs based not on their quality, but on his bravado. The music on his third CD, "Cocky," is disposable. There has always been a place for pointless music, so Kid Rock has found a temporary home. The reason one brand of pointless music succeeds over another is its packaged image, and that's the problem.

Kid Rock's image is gross! And I'm not just talking about how ugly the guy is, I'm talking about the arrogant, womanizing, substance-abusing jerk he proudly proclaims himself to be — in every song.

All the songs on "Cocky" are about him and his exploits, which can be summed up with the following words: "booze," "bitches," "hoes," "tits" and "ass" (BBHTA). In the song "Trucker Anthem," Kid Rock states: "You want to fuck with me/don't test the odds/cause your arms are too short to box with God." Though Kid Rock likes to hail himself as some musical deity, real rock musicians have more to do than blabber about the BBHTA. Self-indulgence was and is a big part of musician's lives and careers, but it should not be the centerpiece of their music.

Kid Rock picked up the BBHTA tradition from old-school rappers such as L.L. Cool J and Run-D.M.C. He likes to bring up how he is "keepin' it real" and paying respect to his rock influences, such as Lynyrd Skynyrd and Led Zepelin, while at the same time incorporating this hip-hop style. Hooley. That is not reality. That is pure pornographic male fantasy.



The appalling "bonus track" featuring Snoop Dogg sums up everything wrong with Kid Rock. The track features the "artists" rapping in grotesque fashion about how they treat women. The line "Hoes get fucked/ They don't get kissed" is only the tip of the profane iceberg. If there was any quality on this CD, this one track would take it all away.

The unfortunate truth in all of this is that Kid Rock can't be dismissed as an idiot. He is conscious of everything he is saying, and he must keep saying it because he thinks it is either fun, unimportant, profitable or some combination of the three. I'm sure he knows people buy his CD because they like hearing him talk like this. What the hell is wrong with us? There should be no market for this.

Ultimately, I don't blame Kid Rock for the atrocities of "Cocky." I blame every person who ponies up the \$13 to let him continue to exist. There is much better music out there to shake up a room or oversized four-wheel drive. Go buy some Linkin Park or Rage Against the Machine to soothe the angry-white-guy pain. If anything, go check out the older rock influences Kid Rock gives so much lip service.

Emerald Pulse reporter Mason West can be reached at [masonwest@dailyemerald.com](mailto:masonwest@dailyemerald.com).

## Harrington

continued from page 1A

star chose the University of Oregon, in part because he could remain closer to his parents, John and Valerie Harrington, and their home in Portland. Harrington's grandfather, who Joey called "his buddy," lives about a mile from the parents.

Sports were as intrinsic to Harrington's childhood as his Irish Catholic values. Like many of his immediate and extended family, Harrington graduated from Central Catholic High School. When he wasn't playing football, basketball, baseball, golf or tennis, Harrington could often be found watching Oregon or University of Notre Dame football on television.

Harrington shares this passion for football with his family. His grandfather Bernie played football for the University of Portland and passed up an opportunity to play professionally with the Chicago Bears in order to get married. Two of Joey's uncles played football for the University of Oregon, and his dad was the quarterback for the Ducks during the 1960s.

Now Joey Harrington is something of a celebrity, but he has made an effort to remain close to the people who have supported him from the beginning. These people include his two younger brothers, Mike and Nick, his immediate family, and the many rela-

tives and family friends who charter a bus to Eugene on Saturdays to watch home games.

The quarterback returns the favor. This summer, Harrington drove up from Eugene to visit his grandfather in the hospital.

"He will come to see us, where other youngsters don't have the time," Harrington's grandfather said.

While Harrington often spends eight hours a day practicing and preparing for games, his father said it is important for Joey to leave the scrutiny and publicity of football behind when he walks away from Autzen Stadium. Although the sports marketing major is celebrated now, John said his son wants to be accepted as an ordinary college student.

Both John and Bernie said the family does not talk about Joey's future, which sets him apart from most Oregon graduates. While most are facing the tough task of finding a job, Harrington could be drafted in the NFL and earn millions.

"My only hope for him is that he will make decisions that will cause happiness in his life," John Harrington said. "Some of those awards would be nice — but that would not make any difference in the big picture, to what kind of person he is."

Emerald features reporter Anne LeChevallier can be reached at [annelechevallier@dailyemerald.com](mailto:annelechevallier@dailyemerald.com).