

Being 'Cocky' not always braggin'

BY BLAKE ARNOLD

Kid Rock lets everyone know that he has become *Cocky* with his latest offering. With 13 tracks and a bonus featuring Snoop Dogg (only on the unedited version). The CD greets you with a dual salute reminiscent of *Devil Without a Cause*, which sets the tone of pure raw rock laid down throughout the album.

You are introduced to this album through the first track, "Trucker Anthem," which takes you into the first single released, "Forever." The title track, "Cocky," is a hardcore sounding tune which lets us know "It's not bragging... if you back it up." He sings about partying with country icon Bocephus and tells of where his inspiration to become a musician came from, and true to his word "You Never Met a... Quite Like Him."



Country, Rock, Hip Hop, it's all here. There has never been an album that covers as vast a musical difference as this (well, maybe there has but they weren't as entertaining).

He throws back to the style of "Only God Knows Why" with "Lonely Road of Faith." This song, as well as the entire album, is about living the rock-n-roll lifestyle and he certainly does "take the punk rock/southern rock and mix it with the hip hop."

This album, like its artist, has staying power and will infect you with feelings from sadness to rage and all others available are tapped into. You will be hard pressed to push the stop button. Go ahead, find a bad song on this album, I dare you. "You can't say that kid, Yeah Right, I Just Did."

Celebrate resilience with Dave Pelzer

BY PAULINE CAMPBELL

Have you ever been in a situation where all odds are against you? Dave Pelzer's book *Help Yourself* gives encouragement, so you can make the best of a difficult situation.

Pelzer was exposed to the third worse case of child abuse in the state of California. In this book he shares what he has done to bounce back into a positive world. Today, he is a very successful motivational speaker, and is married with a little boy.

We are to learn from the situations of others and in his book he presents you with not only the things that he has done to better his life, but what others have done. For example, he talks about people such as Secretary of State Colin Powell, who was raised in a ghetto.

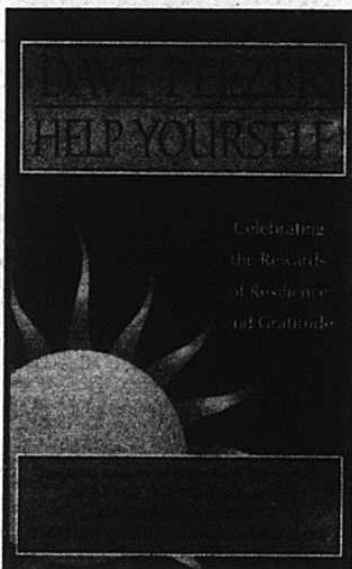
The book is a wonderful way to wake yourself up to the fact that other people can only help you so far. At the end of the day you're going to have to rely on yourself to get through. Pelzer realized this when his mother ordered him to lay on a hot stove and burn himself. There wasn't anyone around to help

him, so he knew then that he had to help himself.

Approximately 90% of our time is spent talking to ourselves and 40% of that time we are saying negative things to ourselves. You will learn that being positive when things are negative will improve the situation Pelzer had to tell himself all the time that he was going to survive, otherwise he would not have.

You will cry, you will rejoice, you will find yourself wanting to help yourself and you will know how to give yourself this help when you sit down and think about what Dave Pelzer and others have been through and how they have over-

came their obstacles. You will soon realize that you, too, can gain resilience.



Holiday favorite steals hearts of Whos, kids, and adults

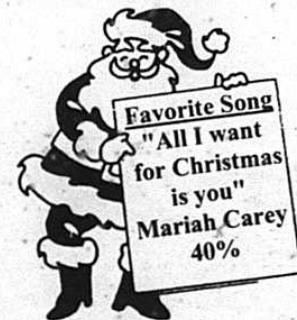
BY CASSIE SMITH

It's a Wonderful Life is not what I would consider an interesting holiday film. Though most find this film to be a classical favorite, I find the character's voices annoying and the plot too jumbled. While I can do without this "wonderful" film, there are five holiday movies that I enjoy watching during the Christmas Season.

Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* begins the countdown of My Favorite Holiday Movies, coming in at number five.

#5. After World War II, Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye join together with two sisters for what is meant to be a winter vacation in Vermont. However, they spend their vacation working to help the lodge owner, (who happened to be the guys' army general), recover from a tremendous debt. This musical is visually and musically interesting.

#4. Number four on my list is none other than the shiny-nosed reindeer himself. "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is the timeless tale of the ugly duckling who turned in to a swan. The outcast reindeer and his red-bulbed nose finally find acceptance among all of Santa's Christmas workers when he



helps Santa save Christmas.

#3. *Gremlins* is the ultimate portrayal of the Christmas gift gone bad. A teenage boy receives an unusual creature, Gizmo, as a gift from his father. Gizmo looks very similar to the modern day Ferby. However, after being exposed to water, this cute little "Ferby" produces many large, hairless, and slime-covered gremlins. Gremlins are nothing to be messed with.

The boy and his girl friend must now find and destroy all of the gremlins before the gremlins can find them. This is not your average Christmas story. That's why *Gremlins* joins my list at number

three.

#2. Rounding off the top of my list is Jim Henson's *Muppet Christmas Carol* at number two. The entire Muppet cast, from Gonzo to Kermit, takes part in the remake of this classic story.

The penny pinching Scrooge learns to soften his heart after experiencing a series of realistic dream sequences one Christmas Eve. The cute, furry Muppets provide a constant comedic relief, and eventually, Kermit and his family become blessed by

Scrooge's newly found generosity.

#1. We're finally down to number one. I bet you're just bursting



with anticipation, waiting for me to reveal my favorite Christmas movie. Here's a hint: "He's a mean one...." Of course, it must be the Grinch! "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" may only be thirty minutes in length, but it is packed with color, music, description, and a very twisted plot.

The Grinch hates the Whos, the Whos love Christmas, so the Grinch hates Christmas and the Whos. He thinks that if he can steal every possession of the Whos, including their Christmas gifts, decorations, and food, that Christmas will not come. However, even after they are stripped

of all they have, the Whos still gather down in Whoville to sing Christmas songs and celebrate the season.

From the top of his mountain, the Grinch can hear the Whos' singing and his teeny, tiny heart begins to swell with Christmas spirit. He returns all of the stolen goods and celebrates with the Whos. I LOVE this movie!

No matter what movie is at the top of your Christmas video list, I hope you enjoy watching as much as I do!

Holiday Favorites results from random survey of 75 people.

