

# Nappy Roots bring more life lessons on new CD

By Keith Caesar  
SPECIAL TO THE ARGUS

Review: *Nappy Roots: Wooden Leather*  
Atlantic Records

Back with their second album, "Wooden Leather," off the success of their first, the boys of Nappy Roots have something to say as they address one lesson they have learned from their entire journey, "the who damn world country."

This time around Skinny Deville, Scales, R. Prophet, B Stille, Big V and Ron Clutch retain much of the formula that made their first CD Watermelon, Chicken and Grits a platinum-selling album.

And for those who like the soulful tune of Anthony Hamilton, he's back on a number of tracks on the CD, most notably, "Sick and Tired." In the chorus to the song Hamilton belts out, "I'm sick and tired of being criticized, sick and tired of barely getting by/I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Other thought provoking tracks include "Push On," "These Walls," "Work in Progress," which are among

some of the best the album has to offer. Besides Hamilton the sextet also collaborated with Raphael Saadiq who produced two tracks on the CD "Leave This Morning" and "Work In Progress."

Other producers included Kayne West, David Banner, Lil John and Mike City to name a few.

While there is a blend of conscious music which is built off of much introspection, the boys seem to have fun on several of their other tracks.

"Nappy Holiday," which was produced by Banner, recalls the groups 2002 honor of having an official "Nappy Roots Day" declared by Kentucky Governor Paul E. Patton. The chorus of it all shows the dedication the group have made to each other as the chorus goes, "I am because I am/we are because we are."

Tracks such as "Twang," Lac Dogs & Hogs," "What Cha Gonna Do?" will no doubt be a pleasure on the club scene.

If you're a fan of Nappy Roots, this CD will be a pleasure, and even newcomers will enjoy it. The CD will have you stomping your feet, and nodding to your head to the beat.



Photo by Scott Schafer/Atlantic Records

Nappy Roots members, Skinny Deville (from left), Scales, R. Prophet, B Stille, Big V and Ron Clutch, are at it again on new CD "Wooden Leather."

What this album represents most and does best is to showcase the struggles of staying together even when fame can drive a wedge between. It represents not forgetting where you come from even when they paycheck gets a little better.

More so it is an anthem for all the people out there who are on the grind and on the hustle trying to find a better way.

"Wooden Leather," proves that the sequel can be as good as the first.

## For Music Lovers Thrice's latest CD will have you rocking your head

By Demond Cureton  
ARGUS REPORTER

Review:  
*Thrice: The Artist in the Ambulance*  
Island Records

Melody and aggression have wedded in the newest album release from the band Thrice entitled "The Artist in the Ambulance." Thrice has created their latest masterpiece seeking to break through the boundaries and confinements of limited music, hoping to tear down the walls of stagnation.

Not only have they made music that gives way to catharsis, they have managed to pay even close attention to their musicianship without losing the raw aggression that they want to capture. In short, this album punches you in the face and then sings you a lullaby while you're lying on the ground before you pass out.

Originating in California, the band is heavily influenced by both hard core and punk rock music. However, they wanted to create something more than what could be categorized, so each one of the members put their creative input in the music to create a unique work of art. After getting settled they decided to create their first EP in 1998 and another entitled First Impressions. This album would gain them a great deal of attention from the music scene, and they began gathering a good crowd of fans. When everything began falling into place, they started work on their first album entitled Identity Crisis in 1999, and released the album in 2001.

There are so many elements in the music that I don't know where to begin. For one, the lead singer and guitarist Dustin Kensrue incorporates both very well sung melodic vocals along with hard core-style screaming vocals. The lyrics cover so many things and are very abstract but are tangible in the sense that the listener can relate to the overall message.

Both he and guitarist Kepei Teranishi have a playing style that is based off of melodic notes and great harmonic chords. The playing is tight;

all of the members mesh very well giving their sound a professional sound. The drumming of Riley Breckenridge fits so well; everything from mellow drives to hard core drumming and even some double bass surprises. The drumming is not chaotic, but it is technical when it needs to be, giving their music the extra drive and precision in well chosen areas to make the music sound whole. Eddie Breckenridge (yes, he is the brother of Riley Breckenridge) does the same with the bass by going between simple accompanying melodies to wild walking-bass patterns. The recording work of Salad Day Studios in Beltsville, MD allows for a crystal clear recording while still adding just a touch of rawness to the feel of the music.

It's hard to pick out any favorite tracks, but if I had to it would have to be songs like Stare at the Sun, Cold Cash and Colder Hearts, The Artist in the Ambulance, and Paper Tigers. Some of their best musicianship is on the mellow but complex arrangements of Stare at the Sun; E. Breckenridge's bass lines are top notch on this song, and so are Kensrue's vocals. It's best to hear from yourself, because it's hard to describe how these songs (let alone the album) rock.

Well, all I can say is that this album is great; if you're a fan of great music and creative output, "The Artist in the Ambulance" is right up your alley for people who have even the most discerning tastes of what makes music great.



It's hard to pick a favorite on the new CD by Thrice, "The Artist in the Ambulance." It's all good.

### MR. RAM, from page 9

Brown was disappointed that he missed the SGA campaigning, so being given the opportunity to participate in the Mr. Ram pageant was directly up his alley. Trailing behind this new, major position are also major responsibilities, which Brown said he is quite prepared for, although he understands that he can't do it all by himself because, "No man is an island," he said. He assured everyone, "The whole year is going to be 'The Mr. Rams presents', so whatever I do, the other guys (contestants) names are going to be on it." Brown continued and said, "I called the guys up and said that I don't want anybody's idea...to go to waste, because you (they) don't have the title."

Brown's foremost goal and plan is to create a series of events by the name of 'The Mr. Ram presents...Black Jazz.' All of the former Mr. Ram contestants who desire to be a part of the show are welcome to participate. One of the purposes is to have somewhat of an introduction to who the Mr. Ram court is. Brown added that, "It's basically introducing everyone to honoring the purpose of Mr. Ram and how each male is Mr. Ram, rather than degrading [people]." Brown went on to say, "It's honoring those guys that open doors for ladies, and those guys that truly respect themselves enough not to curse in front of an elderly or seasoned individual." He "stole" a much-liked quote from another contestant, Jay Murray, who said, "Each person on this campus is a ram, and should conduct themselves accordingly."

Brown already has a few of the acts in mind. Elliot Yourse, a sophomore contestant in the pageant, is one. Yourse serenaded the crowd with his saxophone during the talent portion of the pageant and wowed many.

If you were to ask Alan Brown about the bunch of six males that he ran against, there would be many phrases that would flow off his tongue, but none would have a negative presence. Brown stated that, "These guys (contestants) are very honorable and dignified." Although his feelings may be slightly mixed on if he was the most deserving of the Mr. Ram title, he contests that all things happen for a reason.

"Among the gentlemen I was in the running for, they were definitely noteworthy and through them, I'm honored to be a part of a group of guys that have ambition and uphold themselves with respect."

Upon graduation, Brown plans to pursue his love for hospitality. Although he also expressed his love for music he said, "Serving is my passion ... I'm going to go towards the hospitality realm and just advance through that field."

Brown said that he couldn't be more excited about the year of his reign, and has decided to "serve" the WSSU family, fulfilling his duties as Mr. Ram.

He knows he is in a position that is very demanding.

"Integrity is the key," and while under his sovereignty, the students at WSSU will all get well acquainted with his Indeed Philosophy: "Integrity, nobility, development, excellence, and dependability; for INDEED is not just a word, it is a way of life."

## The Problem: 'Destruction of the Black Man'



Solution: BMC  
Black Men for Change

**FREE** Ticket to  
Paradise  
with every Spring Break package!  
Limited time offer. Check our website for details!  
[www.studentexpress.com](http://www.studentexpress.com)  
Call NOW: 1.800.787.3787