

# 'The College Dropout' is Kanye's Masterpiece

*By Brianna Jordan*

Many people these days would describe the hip hop veteran Kanye West as arrogant, narcissistic, egotistical, and overall, vain. West, who debuted his first album, "The College Dropout" in February 2004, did not always have his now self-absorbed persona.

In fact, in 2004, West presented himself as being humble, God-fearing, modest, and most importantly, down-to-earth. West sold over 3.4 million copies of this CD in the United States alone.

Just listen to the first track be released from the album, "Through the Wire." This tune details the life-changing car accident that nearly took his life. The track has sampling from Chaka Khan's hit "Through the Fire" and consist of realistic lyrics, such as: "...They got my mouth wired shut for like I don't know the doctor said for like six weeks/ You know we had reconstru.../I had reconstructive surgery on my left jaw/ Looked in the mirror half my jaw was in the back of my mouth man/ I couldn't believe it/ But I'm still here for you all right now yo/ This what I gotta say yo/ Yeah, turn me up yeah..."

West's first album primarily consists of tunes that evoke emotional as well as, mental awareness about love, family, religion, racism, and of course being a college dropout. There are even a few hits that can be turned several notches up if you decide to shake and groove. One of the most popular tracks to shake and groove to has to be "Workout Plan". This humorous hit was huge and even had everyone and their mama repeating the lyrics "...Thanks to Kanye's workout plan / I'm the envy of all my friends/ See I pulled me a balla man/ And I aint gotta work at the mall again..."

Though the majority of West's first CD, "The College Dropout," is a success; there is one disadvantage about the CD: Listeners may want to skip the interludes on this disc. The interludes follow the theme of West being a college dropout, but they interfere too much with the music.

Overall, "The College Dropout," is relatable. So many hits were released from this album that it essentially put West on the map.

