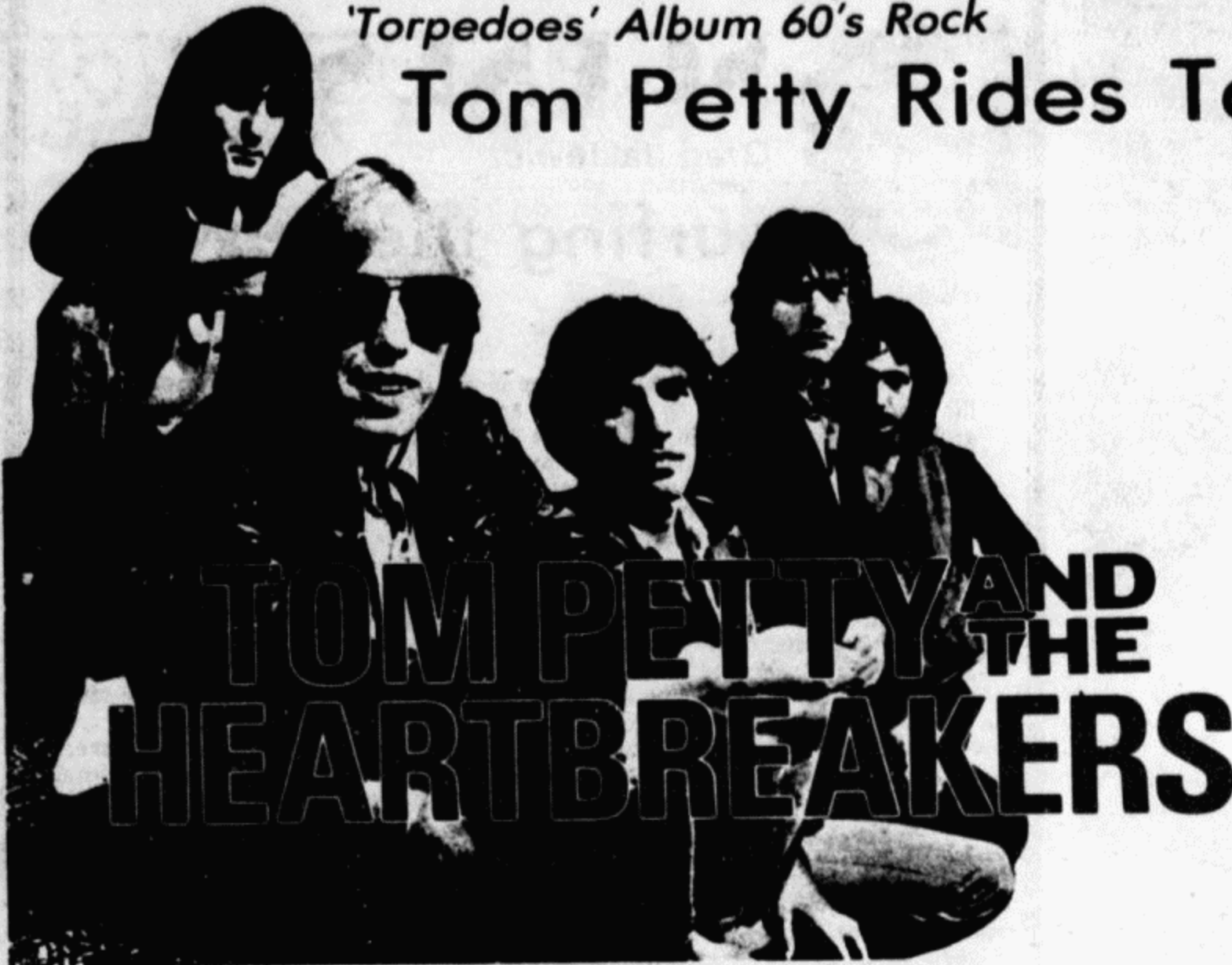


# ARTS & AMUSEMENTS

'Torpedoes' Album 60's Rock

## Tom Petty Rides To New Wave Fame



**Editor's Note:** The Brand continues to review newly released albums this semester. Hastings Records & Tapes and manager Jo Lynn Embrey provide the music for us to listen to.

By GREG JAKLEWICZ  
Brand Editor

### Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers DAMN THE TORPEDOES

(Backstreet (MCA), \$6.99 at Hastings.)

Tom Petty and his Heartbreakers soared out of the pack of New Wave artists in the late 70's and already have become a major force in the return to good ole 1960's rock & roll.

Petty's music has transcended the original Punk scene and fits nicely into the class of artistic New Wave material that has gained immense popularity such as that by the Cars. The music is driving, forceful and is packed with emotion from the soul of the artist.

The first time I listened closely to his latest hit, 'Refugee,' I thought I was hearing an old Bob Dylan tune. Petty's vocals in the hit single have fooled even the die-hard Dylan fan on initial listenings.

Side 2 contains the hit 'Don't Do Me Like That' but it is side 1 that provides the best listening. My favorite is 'Here Comes My Girl' because of the excellent guitar work of Petty and co-writer Mike Campbell. The topic echoes the theme of the album which is a look at the life as Petty has seen it through the eyes of the everyday man.

In this song, Petty talks about being stuck in a rut in your hometown. Somehow, things aren't so bad when he is with his girl and he can rise above all the hard work that seems to be taking him nowhere.

Joining the accompaniment of the well-planned guitar work are the lyrics. In 'Refugee,' Petty describes bad love as "Somewhere, somehow, someone must have kicked you around some/Who knows, maybe you were kidnapped, tied up and held for ransom." He adds that "Baby, everybody had to fight to be free/So you don't have to be like a refugee."

The side also has 'Even the Losers,' 'Shadow of a Doubt (A Complex Kid)' and 'Century City,' all of which feature a driving rock sound that quickly takes you from first to last groove of the record. Each song is easy to relate to, unpretentiously rock & roll.

Petty even stepped out of character a bit to record 'Louisiana Rain,' a nice change from the crowded sidewalks and nowhere towns he hails from. The Heartbreakers, now veterans of three albums, are among the reasons why New Wave has grown on the American public at the same time disco has maintained a tight grip. *Damn the Torpedoes* is a treatise into rock & roll's original roots and its works in the 60's.

Tom Johnston

### EVERYTHING YOU'VE HEARD IS TRUE

(Warner Bros., \$6.99 at Hastings.)

I was very eager to hear this album by the former "Voice of the Doobie Brothers." I was especially excited after his first single release 'Savannah Nights' hit the air.

I have liked Johnston's voice for many years. He is the man who did such big Doobie hits as 'China Grove,' 'Listen to the Music,' 'Long Train Runnin' and others. He doesn't have the Doobies to back him on this album but his soulful voice, funky and raw, is just enough to the listener through eight songs.

I became more impressed with the album after hearing Johnston perform Tuesday night on *Sound Stage* on TV. Johnston is quite an accomplished guitarist and displayed his talents during extended jam versions of his new and old hits. Too bad he sided with a more commercial sound on the album, which seldom gives a hint of his true abilities on guitar.

'Savannah Nights' worked its way into the pop top 20 because it mixes "good time" Doobie rock & roll that still captured the imagination of dancing world. Johnston tossed in a moderate guitar solo in the song, added the talented Mem-

phis Horns and came up with something to please everybody. Even though the hint of the old rockin' Doobies sound comes up from time to time, the only other song that really stands out is 'Outlaw.' Michael McDonald, the heart of the Doobies now, helps on keyboards in 'Outlaw' which talks about the guy that always has to keep a step ahead of the law.

Johnston's southern roots come out in 'Down By the River' and uses his rugged soul voice in a remake of the old Joe Tex tune 'Show Me.'

The constant reference to the Doobies may be the problem on this album. Johnston's distinctive voice and guitars remind us too much of the Doobies. This perhaps is because we never realized how large a role he played in one of the 70's favorite groups.

Now that Johnston has put out his commercial album, hopes are that he can get down to more serious business on his next work.



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