

'Long after Dark' lacks passion

A review of "Long After Dark" by Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers. Produced by Tom Petty and Jimmy Iovine. A Backstreets Records release.

By JAY WATSON
Red and Black Staff Writer

Musically, "Long After Dark" is Tom Petty's most self-assured, well-constructed album to date. On "Damn the Torpedoes," Petty and his Heartbreakers darted from verse to verse with such a deft, bright vigor — restless and full speed ahead — that the listener, after repeated listenings, could get the impression that he was seeking to dash out from under the shadow of a not-complete confidence in his material, a fear that it might not work. Thus, for all its uncharacteristic optimism and its compositional and instrumental triumphs,

"Torpedoes" stands as Petty's most two-dimensional album.

1981's "Hard Promises," conversely, swept past its predecessor in covering more musical and lyrical ground, and also in revealing an indisputably dark side to the artist, exposing him to a multidimensional, omnifaceted canon of work, and opening him up to both landslide appeal and financial success simultaneously for the first time.

"Torpedoes'" outstanding characteristic was energy. "Promises" was passion, smoldering at the core of Petty's only great torch songs, "A Woman in Love" and "Insider," and hardly restrained, though sometimes the music was. The fact that "The Waiting" could co-exist on a piece of vinyl with the aforementioned

ed heart-wrenchers is testament enough to the startling breadth "Promises" had.

"We Stand a Chance" leans into the clean slash of Mike Campbell's guitars and Stan

catalogue, but it works unquestionably, and along with Petty's playful vocal, is the real cornerstone of the song. The dirgelike opening to "Straight Into Darkness," a jumble of funereal bell tones from Tench's piano, is Petty's bleakest instrumental concoction ever. "Change of Heart," "Deliver Me," and "Finding Out" form a trio of twang which challenges and surpasses anything on "Torpedoes."

Aurally, that is. Because there's more to a great rocker than great rock; there is emotion, and this is where "Long After Dark" pales next to "Promises." Characteristically, Petty's lyrics find his relationships teetering on a tightrope, hanging in the balance of powers beyond his control — namely, in a woman's heart. But the most raw and

vulnerable side to the terrifying, precipitous suspension of emotion in Petty's world — the mood he created so masterfully in "A Woman in Love" and "Insider" — is not here.

Though he attempts a poignant and moving ballad in the album's closer, "A Wasted Life," Petty can't find the emotional range (i.e. the emotional lows) which made his previous album so exquisitely bittersweet. It's as though it is a bit too long after dark, and TP sees more of the dawn than of the black of night. Such desolate vision as I call for has its price, of course, but the demanding listener finds himself yearning for it. Though "Long After Dark" will no doubt be one of the great radio albums of the year, its promises simply aren't quite hard enough.

That beautiful, naked passion is exactly what is missing on 'Long After Dark'

That beautiful, naked passion is exactly what is missing on "Long After Dark," though Petty has honed his tonal craftsmanship and pop sensibility to its sharpest edge yet. His side-of-the-mouth delivery on rockers like "One Story Town" or

Lynch's polished percussion work and elbows its way past them to rivet the listener.

Benmont Tench's synthesizer figure on the single "You Got Lucky" — straight out of the Cars "Touch and Go" — is the most brutally derivative riff in the Petty



Petty can't find emotional range

ROADS TO THE TOWN ATHENS DAYS SALE!

DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS STARTING SATURDAY FOR WINTER CLEARANCE

STARTING FEBRUARY 4th, AND FEBRUARY 5th

25% off Selected Ladies and Men's WATCHES

From our Regular Stock

Foster's
JEWELERS

REGISTERED JEWELER AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY
MEMBER NATIONAL BRIDAL SERVICE
DOWNTOWN ATHENS, GA

Brownstone Fashions

FINAL CLEARANCE

Fall and Winter Merchandise

GYRO WRAP

Athens' Best Mediterranean Cuisine

Cappucino Espresso
Baklava Gyros Vegetarian Delights
Steak Sandwiches

Broad & College
Downtown Athens 543-9071

THE BULLDOG VALENTINE

I Love You...
 More Than
 As Much As
 Almost as much as
THE DAWGS!

Available Exclusively At:
LOCAL COLOR

College Square-Downtown 543-7392

Fascinating, Captain.

At Kinko's Copies we can get our passport photos, and we can have all our technical manuals copied and bound. And no coins are needed to operate their self-service units. Beam down the entire crew at once.

700 Baxter St.
297 E. Broad St.
Mon.-Thurs. 8-9
Fri. 8-6
Sat. 9-5
Sun. 12-5

OPEN 7 DAYS

kinko's copies

50-75% off

Sale Begins Thursday-9A.M.

All Sales Final

No Exchange or Refunds

184 E. Clayton • Downtown • 546-6952

Buy One Get One Free Annual Sale

Buy a Suit-Sport Coat-Pants
Shirts-Leather Jackets
Hats-Caps-Shoes at Regular Price and select another similar item absolutely **FREE**

Designer Jeans Sale

Jordache
Calvin Klein
Sergio Valente

\$25⁰⁰
Reg. 42⁰⁰

Sanford & Son Ltd.

152 College Square

ATHEENS FINEST VITICLER

Smoke's

DRINK SPECIALS WEEKLY

This Thursday, Feb. 3

Black Daniels Nite

\$1.00 Black Daniels

Neil Young Ticket Stub
Good For One
50c Black Daniels Drink

Look for Coupon Special in Fri. Red and Black

Savings Days Special

MENS	Casual Lace Styles or dress Slip ons Reg. \$40 sale \$19.99
LADIES	Patent Browsabouts and others Reg. \$26 sale \$12.99

Nancy Rosenthal's
Downtown Athens 353-1976