

Positively

Songwriter Improves With Age

By JOSH NOEL
Staff Writer

PHOENIX — By 1985, it seemed Tom Petty just couldn't have been any bigger.

With 10 years of solid material behind him and a long-winding string of hits, Petty's credibility as one of modern music's finest songwriters was firmly established. Songs such as "Refugee," "Don't Come Around Here No More" and "Don't Do Me Like That" had earned places on radio playlists that would never be lost.

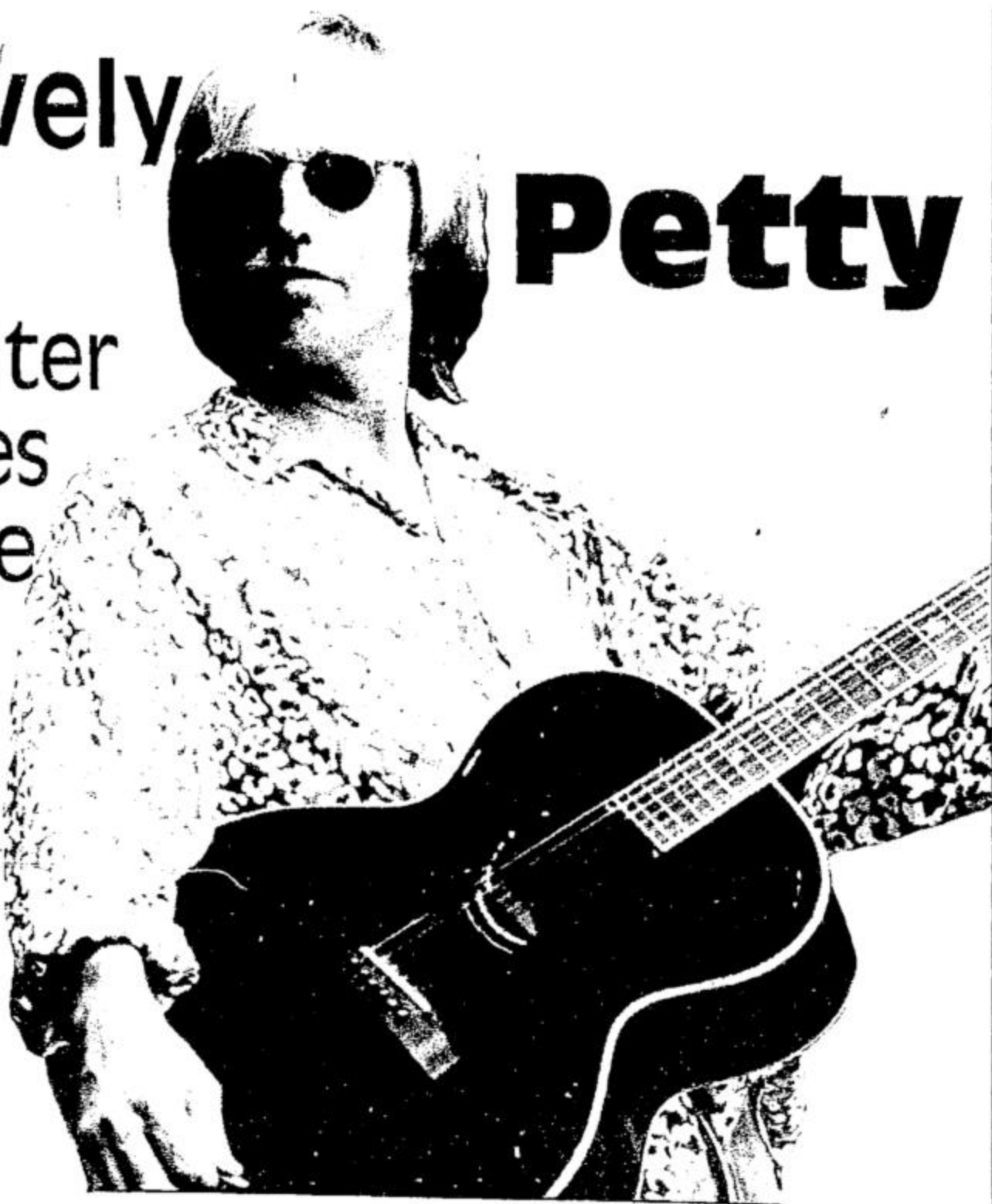
Even though Petty may have been a second-tier songwriter behind the likes of Bruce Springsteen and John Mellencamp in 1985, it seemed he had peaked and just couldn't have been any more popular ...

Yet here we are, another 10 years later, and Tom Petty is even bigger. Almost everything he has released during the last six or so years has been a resounding success, be it an album, single or video (think about it — it's true).

Since Petty abandoned stadium rock in 1986 and moved toward folk, his work has consistently improved. He is no longer riding shotgun to the Boss and Mellencamp among modern songwriters — Petty is now driving the truck while Bruce and John are loading produce out of the back (sorry).

Petty's massive popularity was plenty evident Tuesday night when he and long-time backing band The Heartbreakers made their Phoenix stop on a national tour in support of last year's brilliant "Wildflowers" album. More than 20,000 fans packed into Desert Sky Pavilion and after two hours of Petty's fine showmanship, they seemed to leave happy.

Appropriately, Petty and The Heartbreakers focused most of their efforts on the material from the last six years that made them huge. More than half of the set consisted of songs from two of Petty's biggest albums



Petty

— "Wildflowers" and 1989's "Full Moon Fever."

The rest of the set was sprinkled with a little of everything — "Girl on LSD," an ode to women and/or drugs (and the B-side to "You Don't Know How It Feels"), "Diamondhead" an excellent surf-punk instrumental cover that highlighted the skill of lead guitarist Mike Campbell, a new song that has yet to be recorded and some Petty classics: "American Girl," "Listen to Her Heart," "The Waiting" and the most classic Petty song of all, "Refugee."

Highlights included the louder and more anthemic songs that brought the audience (ranging from late teenagers to those, um, well into adulthood) to its feet — "You Wreck Me," "Cabin Down Below," "I Won't Back Down" and "Refugee."

Unfortunately, some of Petty's best work — the quieter songs — weren't quite as successful. The beautifully contemplative "Time to Move On" (from "Wildflowers") was lost for no

reason other than the huge crowd, as were the title track from "Wildflowers," "Into the Great Wide Open" and "Learning to Fly," the last of which was performed as a piano ballad. Those songs, despite their brilliance, just aren't meant to be heard at a stadium show. The fickle audience proved this by seeming to lose interest when they were played. Such is life.

Even though everything wasn't a success, it wasn't the fault of Petty and The Heartbreakers, who gave every song a strong, tight treatment.

Campbell was fantastic and probably the hardest-working person on stage. He extended several songs to as long as 10 minutes with long, grinding solos that aren't heard on any album. Also, drummer Steve Ferrone, who recently replaced long-time Heartbreaker Stan Lynch, helped drive the songs with crisp, faultless playing.

As the primary songwriter, it is Petty who gets the headlines

but he probably wouldn't be as consistently impressive if he didn't have such a talented group of musicians behind him (just like Elvis Costello and Springsteen).

The strangest — and at times most overwhelming — part of the evening was the size of the concert: 20,000 screaming people. There is just something inherently strange about attending a show with 20,000 other people. The hysteria, created purely by the number of persons, transforms the atmosphere from that of a musical event to something more like a rally.

Therefore, it seemed as if the great mass of people was there not to listen to music, but to protest something. With the smells that filled the air, it could have been legalization of marijuana.

If that was the case, Petty could have been the protest leader; mid-way through the show, he informed the crowd that he was "high as a kite."

May he never come down.

Students Win Journalism Awards



Cathy Montijo



Jamie Johnson



Shannon Carney

Three members of the Casa Grande Union High School yearbook staff won awards at the Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association conference held from April 6 to 9 in San Diego.

Senior Cathy Montijo won a superior (first-place) award for caption writing; senior Jamie Johnson won an excellent (second-place) award in layout and design for theme; and senior Shannon Carney won an honorable mention (third-place) for copy and caption writing for clubs.

CGUHS students also attended seminars led by professional journalists at the conference.

More than 3,000 students representing over 300 schools from 36 states attended the conference, and about 2,000 students participated in the competition.

Eloy Christian School Car Wash

ELOY — The Eloy Christian School will be holding a fund-raising car wash from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday behind Carl's Jr. Restaurant. Donations will be accepted, and funds raised will be used to pay the students' expenses to Disneyland.

Literacy Council Seeks Volunteers

The Western Pinal County Literacy Council will offer a 12-hour literacy training workshop on May 9, 11, 16 and 18 from 6 to 9 p.m. each night at the offices of Arizona Grain Company, 601 E. Main St.

In the workshop, participants will be trained to teach adults to read using the Laubach Way to Reading method. This method has been used worldwide with great success in teaching adults to read and write. Upon completion of the training, certified tutors will be matched with an adult literacy student and will work with them on a regular basis, helping them to improve their skills.

The literacy council has been active in Western Pinal County for eight years and has provided direct tutoring service to over 500 adult students. One-on-one tutoring is offered free of charge to all who are motivated to learn.

No previous teaching experience is necessary to become a literacy tutor. If you can read, you can teach someone else to read. For more information, contact the Casa Grande Public Library at 421-8690, or contact any other library in western Pinal County. Registration forms will be located at all libraries.

VFW Plans Loyalty Day Parade

Casa Grande Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1677 will be holding a Loyalty Day Parade at 9 a.m. on Saturday beginning at Fourth and Florence streets. Programs are available at the VFW Post, 111 E. Second St., and refreshments and lunch will be available at noon at the post. The parade route runs down Fourth Street, and will cross Marshall and Picacho streets, ending with a turn onto Drylake Street.

Loyalty Day falls on May 1, and is a day to "let the world know that Americans are behind their country and that America, because of this, is still a strong, vibrant nation."

What a Guy ...

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Bobby Brown urinated inside a police car and gouged four-letter words into the upholstery after being arrested for a nightclub brawl, police said.

The singer, his publicist and his bodyguard were charged with aggravated assault and disorderly conduct Wednesday. They were released on \$5,000 bail each.

Brown, whose hits include "My Prerogative," is married to Whitney Houston.

Contract Bridge

Contract bridge will be played at 12:30 p.m. at the Peart Adult Center on Wednesday. Anyone interested in playing should contact Betty Miller before Tuesday at 723-7801.

Dear Abby

Unique Lesson in Government Milked for All It's Worth

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: About five years ago, you had a letter in your column from a teacher who taught economics in a high school. The letter explained in a humorous way the various types of governments throughout the world. Will you please try to find it and run it again? I need it for a speech.



Van Buren

DEAR NO NAME: Here it is:

DEAR ABBY: I teach government and economics at Grant High School in Van Nuys, Calif. This is a belated thank-you for one of your columns. I have been using it for years to explain the difference between communism, socialism, capitalism and a few other "isms." My students love it.

BARBARA HALPERN, VAN NUYS

DEAR ABBY: You have two cows. The government takes both your cows, then shoots you.

BUREAUCRACY: You have two cows. The government takes both of them, shoots one, milks the other, then pours the milk down the drain.

CAPITALISM: You have two cows. You sell one of them and buy a bull.

Abby, what happens in a democracy?

MRS. J. MC C.

DEAR MRS. MC C.: In a democracy, everyone has two cows, then a vote is taken, and whatever the majority decides to do, you do, and that's no bull!

DEAR ABBY: I am a 12-year-old girl. My birthday is next month, and I can't wait. I'm looking forward to being a teen-ager, but more than that, when I'm 13, adults won't think of me as a "little kid." Most adults think when you are 13 you are more responsible than you are when you are only 12, but actually, you aren't. It makes me angry when adults assume that I'm irresponsible be-

cause I'm a "little girl." (Some of the teen-agers I know act like 2-year-olds.)

Please publish my letter, Abby, so adults will know how people my age feel when we are treated like "little kids" when we are not.

NICOLE QUINTERO, GAINESVILLE, FLA.

DEAR NICOLE You appear to be very mature for your age, but please don't be in a rush to grow up. People have only short time to be children, but a very long time to be adults.

DEAR ABBY: I teach government and economics at Grant High School in Van Nuys, Calif. This is a belated thank-you for one of your columns. I have been using it for years to explain the difference between communism, socialism, capitalism and a few other "isms." My students love it.

BARBARA HALPERN, VAN NUYS

DEAR BARBARA: Thanks for your thank-you. I'll run it again for others to enjoy. Here it is:

DEAR ABBY: A friend gave me these definitions of the various forms of government, and I thought you might want to share them with your readers:


COMMUNISM: You have two cows. The government takes both of them and gives you part of the milk.

SOCIALISM: You have two

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