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Boarding Call:

Catch a ride on what's going in and out of Howard Payne University

Dear Reader,

We're all inclined to agree that Howard Payne University is one of the many stops we'll make along life's journey.

In August, hundreds of students stepped onto a campus they will come to call "home" over the next four years. In May, hundreds more will leave—graduating and taking their first step into the "real world," intent on taking the lessons taught to them and becoming a positive contributor to society.

This magazine is symbolic of all that is current culture among the student body at HPU. It's about people—people who have gone and are going places. It's about people who like to have fun; and it's about people who like to get serious. Within these pages you'll find a variety of stories on music, racism, technology, professional athletes, more musicians than you can shake a stick at and hopefully a little about Howard Payne.

No doubt you've seen the cover; inside is an interview with the only president brave enough to take his picture in a tub of popcorn. See how much we've enjoyed reporting on him and how much he's been a blessing to this university!

Check out the lowdown on the continuing saga of HPU's Internet access. Is it fact or fiction? We've taken the time to get all the facts—so now you'll know the whole story.

And of course, no HPU news-related product could be complete without John Rabon's twisted outlook on current movies and music. Check out our music feature as well: Petty on Petty!

No matter what your taste, you'll find something to satisfy you inside.

"All Aboard!"

John, Jason, James & Mark
(The Beatles: The Next Generation)

P.S. — In keeping with the spirit of *HPU Station*, remember: It doesn't matter where you've been; all that matters is where you're going. Come ride with us!

HPU STATION

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HPU Station is an information-oriented magazine designed for informing, educating and entertaining the students, faculty and staff of Howard Payne University. All letters of a critical or praise nature are welcomed, story ideas are also encouraged. Send all correspondence to *HPU Station*, Howard Payne University, 1000 Fisk, Brownwood, Texas 76801.

Popularity finally catches up to Petty and Heartbreakers

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers finished up their *Wildflowers* tour early this fall after playing before numerous sellout crowds. It shows that his popularity has finally caught up to him and many believe that it was long overdue.

by Jason Petty Petty and his band hail from Gainesville, Florida but officially formed in Los Angeles, California in the mid-1970's. In 1976 the band kicked the stagnant music scene in the face with their self-titled debut album. The brand of rock they introduced was stripped down, it combines jumpy blues rhythms and ringing guitars, over which Petty got in the listeners faces with his blunt and direct vocal style. It took listeners in the United States a whole year to catch up with the album. The single "Breakdown" was released for the radio and became a top-40 hit after word got back to the states that Petty was igniting flames in Europe.

Much success was soon to follow but there were several detours along the way. Petty broke his hand in frustration at his inability to finish the album *Southern Accents*. There was a dispute with his former record company when he fought against the companies wish to raise the price of his *Hard Promises* album because of his "superstar" status. Petty won. A dispute with a tire company saw Petty force them to remove a Petty- soundalike song from a TV commercial. And in 1987 someone burned Petty's house down. The guilty parties were never found and Petty rebuilt the house.

In 1989, Tom Petty released his debut solo album, *Full Moon Fever*. The album was produced by Jeff Lynne who was in the group The Traveling Wilburys along with Petty, Bob Dylan, George Harrison and Roy Orbison. Along with long time friend and

Heartbreakers guitarist Mike Campbell the *Full Moon Fever* album was on the Billboard Top Ten Album Chart for 34 weeks and was and went triple platinum. The album also produced some of Petty's most recognizable hits such as "Free Fallin'" and "I Won't Back Down."

The group had continued success in 1991 with their album *Into The Great Wide Open*. This album also achieved platinum status as Lynne, Petty, and Campbell teamed up again to produce the album. This record too produced some landmark Petty songs such as "Learning To Fly" and "Into the Great Wide Open," which was an attempt to show the bleak side of show business. Also in 1991 the video *Take the Highway*, which was footage from an L.A. show, was released.

The Greatest Hits album released in 1993 featured some of Petty's solo work along with some songs with the Heartbreakers. This album covers material that spans three decades. It compiles songs from nine different albums. It has 16 previously released tracks along with two new songs, "Mary Jane's Last Dance" and "Something In The Air." Since being released in 1993, the album has sold over two million copies in the U.S. alone.

At the 1994 MTV Music Awards, Petty won *Best Male Video* for "Mary Jane's Last Dance," and for his long time contributions to the field of music video he was also given the *Video Vanguard Award*. Petty also was given a Grammy Award in 1989 for *Best Rock Performance By a Duo Or Group With Vocal* for his work with The Traveling Wilburys. Petty has received eight nominations since 1981 when he won the award for his single "Stop Draggin' My Heart Around."

Petty's newest album *Wildflowers* is still impacting the national album charts. He and his band finished up their world tour this fall.



This was one of the most anticipated tours in recent years and as always, Petty did not disappoint. The tour covered 47 cities across the U.S., including Dallas and Houston, Texas. This tour also marked the bands first with highly touted drummer Steve Ferrone. Ferrone plays on most of the *Wildflowers* album. In a recent article in Britain's *Mojo* Magazine, music editor Bill Flanagan said of the album: "This is probably the purest collection of work Petty has ever done, with a great emphasis on lovely folk and country blues melodies that sound a hundred years old. On repeated listening, and it's hard not to start the album over as soon as it finishes, it begins to sound like the strongest collection of songs Petty has ever come up with." On Friday, January 20, Petty and VH1 Television made music history when Petty became the first artist to have his tickets sold by television before being on sale to the general public. Viewers set in with an astounding 500,000 phone calls in the first 15 minutes.

Although Petty's success has been something he has had to deal with for over 30 years he has remained married to his wife of 21 years, Jane, who was his high school sweetheart. Their oldest daughter Adria, 20, studies film in New York while their youngest daughter Kim, 12, lives at home.

Smashing Pumpkins' latest best dish yet

I do not like Billy Corgan. He has got to be the most pompous, self worshipping, big-headed jerk I've ever seen. His interviews are so self-centered, my eyes hurt just reading them. Now that I've made that clear, let's put that aside.

by John Rabon His band, the Smashing Pumpkins, have just release their latest, *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness*. I find it very unusual in that this is only their third mainstream release, and it's a double CD collection.

The art on the cover and booklets are a copy of older photographs from fairy tales. This is mixed with rather colorful titles for songs like "an ode to no one", "cupid de locke", "porcelina of the vast oceans" and "tales of a scorched earth." Add a collection of a wide variety of music and you have a soon-to-be classic recording.

From the opening of the first few notes of the piano, to the end song ("farewell and goodnight") of the second CD (or tape), all the songs gel together as one unit, not like a collection of songs. It has a definite start, a definite finish and its ups and downs throughout.

Variety of music and display of talent is prevalent on both discs. Songs like "tonight, tonight" and "take me down" use strings or steel guitar. Music styles seem to change almost every turn along the way. With 28 songs, that's a lot of different styles. There are some slow, REALLY slow, fast, faster, hard and fast, etc. There are even a couple of western-style and disco-style songs close to the end of the second recording.

Corgan's lyrics are very poetic and passionate, whether you agree with him or not. His singing style is very typical Smashing Pumpkins, which is a good thing.

I physically and emotionally felt tired and drained after listening this collection. Besides the fact that almost every tune is worth listening to, that there is something for everyone and that it's worth checking out, you have to take this into consideration. The last double album I liked was Guns-N-Roses "Use Your Illusion 1 & 2." Of course those jerks used this as an excuse to sell them separately to make more money. Unlike that recording, in which one CD was better than the other. "Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness" cannot do without one or the other. It is their best work yet. There are 28 songs for about 120 minutes of music. Right now, it is on sale for about 20 dollars. That's a bargain. I'd get it before Billy Corgan gets the idea he's worth more than he's making.

MUSIC

**HPU Station
CD Reviews**
(Cd's rated on a scale of 1-10)

1. Presidents of the United States of America (7)
2. Green Day *Insomniac* (6)
3. Tripping Daisy *I am an Elastic Fire Cracker* (8)
4. G Love & Special Sauce *Coast to Coast Motel* (6)
5. Urge Overkill *Exit the Dragon* (7)
6. Red Hot Chili Peppers *One More Minute* (5)
7. Lisa Loeb and Nine Stories *Cat Tails* (8)
8. Petra *No Doubt* (3)
9. Van Morrison *Days Like This* (9)