

Daybreak

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2003

Section D: Television 4D ♦ Comics 5D

The Gainesville Sun TODAY: The Buzz



The Next New Thing

Passionate about Petty



Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers are performing Thursday in Daytona Beach.

NOEL HASTALIS



BesTrade

Software that comes with the CD Library lets you generate a database to keep track of and locate any disk stored in the device.

FYI: Petty concert

- **What:** Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers in concert
- **When:** Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
- **Where:** The Daytona Beach Ocean Center
- **Tickets:** \$49.75, available at the Ocean Center box office and at all Ticketmaster locations.
- **Information:** Call the Ocean Center at (800) 858-6444.



Laura Campos, 33, right, is a huge fan of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers and saw her first Petty show at age 4. Here she poses with a few items from her Tom Petty collection. The mother of two also has the band's logo tattooed on her backside.



DOUG FINGER/The Gainesville Sun

Mini-library for CDs, DVDs

The CD Library from BesTrade USA is a clever little device that not only stores CDs and DVDs in a convenient manner, but lets you find the exact disk you want as well.

The CD Library looks like a round 14-inch bowl. Inside is a motorized carousel with numbered slots. Each slot can hold a single CD or DVD.

If you lend out a disk, you can type in the name and contact info of the borrower. If the CD has cover art, you can use a scanner to scan the images in and use the image for quick search by icon.

Each CD Library can hold up to 150 disks; additional ones can nest on top of each other. The CD Library comes in a variety of colors. If you let BesTrade choose the color, each unit is \$119. If you want a specific color, it's \$139.

Check them out at www.bestradeusa.com/cdlibrary.

Kid defender

Actiontec's Kid Defender takes parental controls to the next level: the ability to monitor what your children are doing online instantly, at any time and from any place you have an Internet connection.

Kid Defender notifies the parents every time their children go online and then displays on your computer screen exactly what they are seeing on their screen. And if you have more than one computer or child you wish to monitor, pressing a key displays the screens of the different computers you are monitoring.

Check it out at www.kiddefender.com.

Soaring like an eagle

The best-selling album of all time? It isn't by the King of Pop or the Fab Four. Nor does this claim to fame belong to Elvis Presley, Pink Floyd, Madonna or Prince.

When it comes to sales of a single album, the Eagles soar above the competition.

Since its release in 1975, "Their Greatest Hits (1971-1975)" by the Eagles has sold some 28 million copies in the United States. That's about 2 million copies more than the runner-up, Michael Jackson's "Thriller," while "The Wall" by Pink Floyd is currently the third best-selling album at 23 million copies sold.

"Their Greatest Hits (1971-1975)" compiles eight of the Eagles' early Top 40 hits, including "Take It Easy," "Lyn' Eyes" and "Take It to the Limit," plus two fan favorites, "Desperado" and "Tequila Sunrise."

These were the songs that solidified the Eagles' superstar career after being formed in 1971 by Don Henley, Glenn Frey, Randy Meisner and Bernie Leadon.

These fans have a longstanding love for the music of Gainesville's very own rock 'n' roll star

By KEITH SALIBA
Special to The Sun

Josh Smith was stoked. A Gainesville native, the Marine had just spent six months battling his way across the forbidding lands between Kuwait and Baghdad, but all he could think about was what was waiting back home.

Family? Friends? A break from being shot at all the time?

Most definitely.

But it was a couple of thin cardboard strips that truly had Smith psyched about his July 3 homecoming.

Younger brother Jon, 19, had called with a bit of good news: Jon had just managed to win two tickets to see his big brother's favorite rock 'n' rollers, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, at Daytona Beach's Ocean Center concert later this week.

Josh, not yet born when Petty helped form the legendary group in 1975, couldn't have been more thrilled.

"He has such an original sound, I've always loved his music," says the 23-year-old, who last saw Gainesville's favorite son when the Heartbreakers played the

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DAVID ZENIZ/Special to The Sun

Josh Smith, 23, holds out the Tom Petty concert tickets that his brother Jon Smith, 19, won from 92.5 Wind FM. Jon decided that his second ticket to the Aug. 21 show in Daytona Beach should go to his older brother, who recently returned home after serving five months in Iraq with the U.S. military.

Drexel University starts student-run record label

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
The Associated Press

Philadelphia

Sony, Universal and Warner Bros. have nothing to worry about, but a university known more for churning out engineers than hit music is starting its own record label.

Drexel University's MAD Dragon Records expects to put out its first CD — a compilation of eight or nine bands — next year.

The student-run label will be an integral part of Drexel's fledgling music industry program, which in only three years has grown from eight students to more than 150.

Students will be in charge of

MAD Dragon Records expects to put out its first CD — a compilation of bands, jazz, R&B, punk and more — next year.

artist development, production, recording, marketing, contracts and distribution, while MAD Dragon musicians — also students — will get royalties from the sale of CDs and singles, public performances, and licensing and soundtrack deals.

Drexel officials say the label will help them compete with established top-tier music

programs while giving students real-world experience.

"They are going to run into the same roadblocks that everybody else does, but while in school they'll learn how to move around the roadblocks and succeed," said Marcy Rauer Wagman, an assistant professor who helps oversee the record label.

Wagman knows of what she speaks: She's an entertainment lawyer, former lead singer of a rock 'n' roll band called High Treason, and a successful songwriter and producer whose credits include Tommy Conwell's chart-topping hit "I'm Not Your Man."

A&R executive David Stamm

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The Associated Press

Dan Hule rehearses on his guitar as audio engineer Dan La Porta, left, listens at MAD Dragon recording studio at Drexel University.

DEAR ABBY

Teens aren't ready to be parents yet

Dear Abby: I am 14 and ready to have a baby. My boyfriend, "Matt," is 16 and says he is ready, too. You should see how sweet and considerate he is around children.

As soon as Matt gets his car fixed, we are leaving New Jersey and not looking back. Before we go, I'd like to know what you think, Abby. Do you think I am ready to have a baby and raise it?

A.M. in N.J.

Dear A.M.: Babies are a full-time job because they are completely dependent. You and Matt would be doing your future children a huge favor if you both complete your educations and become financially stable before embarking on this "project."

I have long urged women to be financially independent before having children. Matt may be a terrific young man, but what would happen to you and the baby if something were to happen to him? Before leaving New Jersey and not looking back, please read the next letter:

■■■

Dear Abby: I am 16 years old and have a 5-month-old daughter. I thought her father and I would be together forever, but I was wrong. I was in love with him for more than two years.

My problem is, I can't seem to find a boyfriend who is right for me. Some boys don't mind that I have a baby, but all they want to do is go out with their friends. After a long day of feeding, changing and taking care of my daughter, I want someone at home to comfort me. Is there anything wrong with that?

Lovesick in New York

Dear Lovesick: Of course not. It's understandable. Mothers need nurturing, too. Read on:

■■■

Dear Abby: I am 19 and more mature than many teenagers my age. I have to be, since I am more than eight months pregnant. The baby's father, "Rob," and I are engaged and have been since before we conceived. Rob is also 19, but not as mature as I am. He still wants to go out with his friends, which is fine



JEANNE PHILLIPS

because we are both young.

However, he doesn't understand that we must find free or inexpensive activities because our money needs to go toward baby things — clothes, blankets, diaper service, etc. I think Rob neglects me emotionally because he is scared of growing up. I think he may even be in denial that I am pregnant.

Abby, I have prayed about this and believe that Rob and I are meant to be together. I know he loves me, but sometimes I wonder if we met too soon in life.

Do you think we should take a short break from each other? I can't ask my family because they don't like Rob, and Rob's parents don't like me. Any suggestions?

E.W. in the Midwest

Dear E.W.: Before "taking a break" from your boyfriend, consult a lawyer regarding child support and custody issues. A short break could become a long one if the father of this child is deeply enough into denial. Please don't wait. You're already eight months along. Make that call today.

■■■

Dear Abby: Will you please settle a disagreement between my daughter and me? When is a child too old to be held? My 11-year-old grandson likes to sit on my lap when we watch television. He has been doing this since he was a baby.

My daughter says he is too old to be held. She says I baby him too much. What do you think?

Loving Grandma in Omaha

Dear Loving Grandma: If he shows signs of immaturity in other areas, it could be a problem. If not (and he's not too heavy), hold your grandson tight. The truth is, many of us would give anything to sit on a loving grandmother's lap again.

Dear Abby is a syndicated column published Saturday through Thursday. Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

PETTY FANS: 'He's still as feisty as ever'

Continued from 1D

O'Connell Center in 1993. "He's just natural, doesn't care what people think. It's just like, 'Here I am.'"

And it may be, indeed, this "true to your roots" style of rock 'n' roll that has helped Petty remain relevant in an age of gangsta rap and boy bands.

Year after year, generation after generation, Petty and company have continued to spin their unique blend of poignant story telling, accessible hooks and downright blistering rock anthems.

A string of multi-platinum-selling albums and a 2002 induction into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, Petty and his Heartbreakers have secured their place in rock's pantheon.

But, as always, it is in the words — and hearts — of fans where the true measure of an artist is found.

"Tom Petty's music is just better," says Jon Smith, who along with his brother were introduced to Petty's music by parents who had counted the venerable rocker as a schoolmate more than 30 years before.

"I could never really relate to the 'big pimpin' lifestyle," Jon says with a chuckle. "His lyrics are about real-life experiences that you can relate to."

Gainesville's Laura Campos decided to make Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers one of her real-life experiences when the 33-year-old mother of two had the band's logo tattooed on her backside.

And although her dream is to one day have Petty's signature added to her tattoo, Campos is far from a wild-eyed rock groupie. The way Campos sees things, a bit of tattoo parlor discomfort was well worth it for a band that has given her so much over the years.

"Something about the stuff they put together just touches me," says Campos, a veteran of no less than 10 Tom Petty concerts. "I like the fact that his songs are about something."

Indeed, from his seminal days as a long-haired bass player in such late-1960s Gainesville acts as The Epics and Mudcrutch, the passionate, sometimes fiery-tempered "man with the Gator grin" has always had his sights set squarely on music.

Possessed of a hard-driving work ethic and an innate creativity, Petty quickly established himself beside the best of the storied rockers to emerge from Hogtown's heady days.

Names such as Eagles alumni Don Felder and Bernie Leadon, along with past Mudcrutch and present Heartbreaker Mike Campbell, topped the list.

Bernie's brother, former Epics and Mudcrutch bandmate Tom Leadon, recalls the early days with Petty.

"Tom has always been very professional," says the soft-spoken 50-year-old, now a guitar instructor for the prestigious Jan Williams School of Music in Nashville, Tenn. "He didn't sit around and wait for things to happen. If we needed work, he'd go out and get it."

Not that it was all work and no play for Petty and the boys, says Leadon.

"Anybody from those times will tell you we had a lot of fun," he says with a laugh.



MICHAEL C. WEIMAR/The Gainesville Sun

Gainesville resident Monica Cooper lives in the home she grew up in northeast Gainesville. Tom Petty and countless others would practice in her childhood home, and even jot down phone numbers on the walls of her family's storage room.



Tom Petty's phone number is scribbled on the wall in the storage room of Monica Cooper's home.

Perhaps none more fun than the time Petty and company decided to put on a "mini-Woodstock" concert at a place known unofficially as Mudcrutch Farm, off 45th Avenue.

Searching for a new place to perform after disgruntled university officials had pulled the plug on the band's Sunday afternoon Reitz Union jam sessions, the members of Mudcrutch looked to a rural property that bandmates Campbell and Randall Marsh had been renting.

Two days of raucous music and partying later — which included an unexpected helping hand from the Gainesville Police Department — and the concert came off without a hitch.

That is, until angry neighbors called the property's owner the next day.

"There were wine bottles and trash scattered everywhere," recalls Leadon with a chuckle. "We hadn't had a chance to clean up. She evicted us on the spot."

Younger sister Monica Leadon Cooper remembers well the adventures at Mudcrutch Farm — and those of her childhood home when Petty, Felder and countless others would perform, hang out, even jot down phone numbers on the walls of her family's storage room.

"The same coolness they have now is the way they were back then," says Cooper, 48, who has since seen the Heartbreakers four times in concert. "The

music was exciting. They just really knew how to play rock and roll."

The same could be said of Petty's sense of right and wrong.

Whether it was backing down North Florida bullies who didn't approve of his long hair or fighting album price hikes advocated by his record label, the hometown rocker has never been afraid to stand up for what he believes in, no matter the cost.

Witness the firestorm created by his latest studio effort, 2002's "The Last DJ."

A scathing indictment of what he sees as today's mega-merger radio music industry, Petty's album has borne the brunt of receiving virtually no airplay from chagrined radio executives.

"I'm happy to see he's still as feisty as ever," says Tom Leadon, who maintains a friendship with Petty to this day. "He made some very good points on that record. When we were in Mudcrutch, we were able to get on the radio."

"But today, I think it would be hard for a local band to get any airplay because of these big conglomerates. It's just bad for music."

Bad blood and business disputes aside, it's a good bet that Petty will keep doing things his way for years to come.

And it's an even better bet that his fans will continue loving him for it.



Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers in 1980: From left, Stan Lynch, Mike Campbell, Ron Blair, Tom Petty and Benmont Tench.

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