

On the Tracks -
Old and New

By James Seda

Group: Commadores
Album: 'Heroes'



This album is a solid follow-up to their double platinum smash - 'Midnight Magic.'

'Heroes' is the Commodores' tenth release since signing with Berry Gordy's Motown Records in 1974, and although it's not their strongest recording to date, it continues to show the Commodores' talented, multi-faceted approach to music.

The best cuts featured are: 'Got To Be Together,' a fine uptempo dance tune; 'Old Fashioned Love,' the first single to be released from the album and

it's receiving strong AM and FM airplay; 'Heroes,' a fine ballad, with strong lyrical meaning, is the title track; 'Jesus is Love,' a hand-clapping, well-written song, featuring Lionel Ritchie's unique vocals.

This album, produced by the Commodores and veteran Commodore producer/arranger James Carmicheal, does not feature the strong ballads that have been previous successes such as 'Three Times a Lady,' 'Still,' and 'Sail On.' However, all considered, it is still a good musical effort.

Middle Age Crazy: Comedy or what?

Campus Digest News Service

Sometime, somewhere during the opening credits of MIDDLE AGE CRAZY you get the idea that this isn't gonna be the wild and crazy comedy you thought you were getting from the television and newspaper ads. Maybe it's the collaboration of Burt Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager that tips you off, or maybe that the movie is based on a Sonny Throckmorton song (based nothing, this movie's screenplay comes straight from the lyrics). Whatever it is that lets you know something's different, the fact remains that MIDDLE AGE CRAZY is a sensitive, serious movie at heart.

Bobby Lee Burnett (Bruce Dern) finds himself turning 40 with a successful business (building taco stands around Houston), a sexually aggressive wife (Ann-Margret) and a penchant for day-dreaming. So here we have an "Oldsmobile" man with a "Porsche" mentality and what you get is middle age crazy.

It seems as though Bobby Lee Burnett is THE GRADUATE's Benjamin twenty years later. You get the same lost feeling from Burnett as he seeks to avoid being "daddy" to everybody from his family to his friends. It's only in his daydreams that Burnett seems to enjoy life, and he finds himself dreaming more as the reality of his fortieth birthday sinks in. The television ads use one of those dreams

to push the movie, where Burnett is addressing a high school graduation class. And the scene is funny as he lets the class in on a secret...if they really want to know what the future is, just look up in the bleachers at their parents, that's it. The problem with the ad campaign is you get the impression the whole movie revolves around one middle aged man flaunting society and its rules. In a way this is the case, but not to the wild extent of this man's dreams.

There is no doubt that MIDDLE AGE CRAZY has its funny, crazy moments, but don't get too used to laughing because the serious moments are going to catch you where it hurts. Materialism, infidelity, shallowness and a host of other human weaknesses are paraded across the screen, complete with the kind of rowdy language that you know Dallas' J.R. uses all the time but not on camera.

Bruce Dern proves an able non-hero, again much the same way Dustin Hoffman did years ago. And it is good to see Dern expand his horizons in such a difficult film to label. MIDDLE AGE CRAZY probably won't attract much attention around Oscar time, but it's well worth watching for the college crowd to get perhaps a glimpse of the future. Bruce Dern may well be the cinema guide in the 80's to that future.

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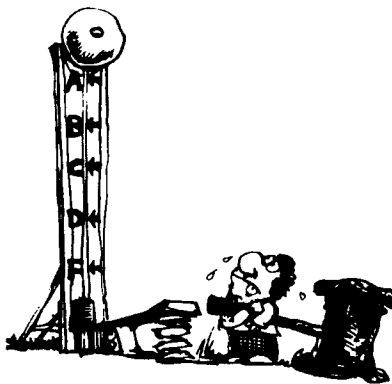
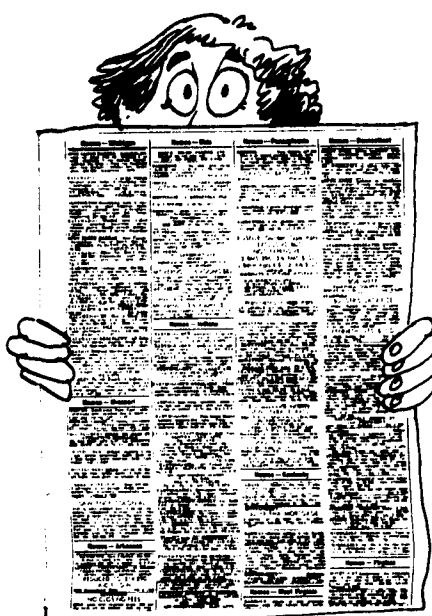
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