

Entertainment

McCartney wallows in the dirt "Flowers in the Dirt" fails to meet critic's expectations

by Gary L. Nolan
Collegian Staff Writer

As a new decade begins, many notables from decades past emerge once again to claim a piece of Rock and Roll's limelight. Among few new groups, the better known Rolling Stones, The Who, and The Grateful Dead claim the headlines. Most recently, ex-Beatle Paul McCartney has joined the ranks armed with his *Flowers in the Dirt* album and subsequent tour to support its release.

Flowers in the Dirt received great critical acclaim upon its release, somewhat due to the 47-year-old McCartney teaming up with songwriter/performer Elvis Costello. The two seem quite the unlikely pair, but chart success speaks for itself. The duo yielded two top forty hits together with "My Brave Face" off McCartney's album and "Veronica" from Costello's album *Spike*.

Although the album received rave reviews from the music critics, the commercial success of the release was rather disappointing for a mega-star such as Paul McCartney. It sold a mere 600,000 copies in the United States and only a million in Europe. McCartney's management attributes the low sales to a lack of radio airplay. One can find it very difficult to

blame radio stations due to the fact that very little of this of this release is fitting for radio airplay.

"My Brave Face" is a very catchy, made for radio song. It hence has become the only charting single from the album. This song, the best on the album, is entertaining, and in characteristic McCartney style, not very intellectual. It starts the album off on the right foot, but the rest of the release unfortunately falls far short of

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this.

Many more of the songs seem to sound like filler, songs only to fill the space so the album can cover the vinyl needed for release. Typical examples are "Rough Ride" and "Don't Be Careless Love". These two tracks exemplify the reason Paul McCartney's chart success has waned in the last few years. He is losing touch with his audience.

Another flaw in the album is

that so many tracks sound like rereads of Paul's Beatles and solo material. The latest single, "Pieces of Eight," sounds like a bad version of "Junior's Farm", a McCartney solo piece. Also, "Put it There" sounds like the Beatles' "Blackbird" meets Harry Chapin's "Cat in the Cradle" after a bottle of MD 20/20.

Although when one is an artist covering as diverse a ground as McCartney, one finds it difficult to find the road less traveled. That is the time to either quit, or seek help. It is fortunate that McCartney met up with Costello, who all but saves several songs on the release, especially the vocals in "You Want Her Too".

McCartney proves, however, that his voice is still as strong and feeling as it was when he recorded "Let it Be." Unfortunately, it seems that the material is just not up to the expectations created when an ex-Beatle enters the recording studio.

One hopes that McCartney's tour, his first since his marijuana bust in Japan in 1980, has more to offer than his studio release. By the reviews, and sold-out arenas of many ages, it seems it does. One can thank Paul for including many Beatles' songs in his repertoire to allure audiences away from his recent commercial disappointment.

Playboy unaffected by protests Magazine is actually helped by publicity

(CPS)--Presidents of colleges belonging to the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) agreed March 10 to send a letter to *Playboy* protesting the magazine's April pictorial on the "Girls of the ACC."

The April issue, which hit the stands Feb. 27, features photos of 36 women from each of the eight ACC schools in clothed, semi-nude and nude poses.

"It doesn't change anything," *Playboy* spokesman Bill Page said of the presidents' complaint.

Playboy has published 15 of the features in the past 13 years, Page said, and each time, protests have been part of it. "These things happen every time we do a campus pictorial."

And the extra press caused by controversy simply helps sell

more magazines. "The louder they protest, the more people know we're in town," Page said. "The magazine," he added, "always sells very well in the area of the schools we're covering."

The magazine is currently trolling campuses in New Mexico, Utah, Nevada and California for a feature on "Girls of the Big West."

At Utah State University, students are taking the whole issue pretty much in stride. Although both the student paper, *The Statesman*, and the Logan paper, *The Herald-Journal*, refused to run advertisements promoting the off-campus interviews, the two papers covered the event.

"It's caused quite a stir on campus," declared USU student

Steve Barth. "A lot of women I know are mad at the press for making it taboo," he continued. "They think they should have the decision as to whether it's degrading or not."

"As far as students are concerned," added a USU student senator who didn't want her name used, "they really don't care one way or the other."

Other campuses to be featured in the pictorial in schools of the "Big West" -- a conference that exists only in the minds of *Playboy*'s editors -- are New Mexico State and San Jose State universities, California State universities at Fresno, Fullerton and Long Beach, the universities of California at Santa Barbara and Irvine, and the University of the Pacific.

Liner Notes

GN'R to get new drummer

by Robb Frederick
Entertainment Editor

Former Pretenders drummer Martin Chambers will soon replace Steven Adler of Guns N' Roses, the musical periodical *Kerrang!* reported last week. The magazine has stated that Chambers will join the band at the beginning of their next tour. Until then, Adler's absence will be filled by Adam Maples, who kept the beat for the Sea Hags. No reasons are given for Adler's departure from the Gunners.

Vocalist Gloria Estefan has been transported to a New York hospital for surgery to correct injuries she sustained last week in an automobile accident. Estefan and her band Miami Sound Machine were traveling on a snowy Pennsylvania interstate when a truck collided with the touring bus. The singer suffered two fractured and dislocated vertebrae.

Comedian Richard Pryor is recovering in an Australian hospital after suffering two heart attacks in four days. Pryor was originally hospitalized after suffering an attack while skin diving. The second attack occurred while he was under observation. Pryor's last appearance on the big screen was in Eddie Murphy's *Harlem Nights*.

A film frenzy inspired by the steamy lambada dance has inspired seven different movies revolving around the dance craze. Two of these thought-provoking pictures have already been released, including *The Forbidden Dance*, which actually suggests that the lambada can save the rain forests. If film executives have any mercy, this forbidden dance will soon become a forbidden film topic.

Prince's new film *Graffiti Bridge* has brought about a reunion of the pioneering funk/rock group the Time. Members Morris Day, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis will join their former bandmates for an appearance on both the film and its double-album soundtrack. *Graffiti Bridge* also promises appearances by George Clinton

and soul diva Mavis Staples.

Heavyweight rocker Meat Loaf has agreed to star in a series of commercials for "Ultra Slim Fast" as soon as he completes the 60-lb. weight loss program that he began in January. Meat Loaf is currently working on a new album with Jim Steinman, the mastermind behind *Bat Out of Hell*. The project will be released early next year.

Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart has initiated a "tree" clause in his book contract with the Harper & Row publishing company. The clause calls for the publishers to plant one tree for each tree used in production of the 50,000 copies of his book, *Drumming at the Edge of Magic*. Hart devised the plan after learning that 1,000 trees would be sacrificed to publish the book.

This week's "Career Move Resulting in the Greatest Loss of Respect" award goes to the director of alumni affairs at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, who left his position to work as a manager for New Kids on the Block.

Consumer warning: here come the Simpsons. Fox TV has already issued merchandising rights to 65 individual licensees which should result in over 200 different products including towels, bikes, boots, wristwatches, and even chewing gum emblazoned with images from the hit cartoon show. Retailers predict the hype to surpass even last year's *Batman* frenzy.

After seeing Tom Cruise denied the Oscar for best actor, I have channeled my faith into the reliable Golden Raspberry Awards, which honor the year's worst cinema work. This year's unfortunate winners included William Shatner (*Star Trek V*) for worst actor and worst director, and Heather Locklear (*The Return of Swamp Thing*) for worst actress. Honorable mention went to Sylvester Stallone, who was named the decade's worst actor for each of the films he has appeared in.

You're smart enough to
read *The Collegian*...

But you still listen to
New Kids on the Block?

Coming Soon: *The Collegian* and April Fool's Day.
The possibilities are endless.