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# McCartney album 'grab bag' of tunes

By BOB ASHFIELD  
Paul McCartney's first new material in two years, "Londontown," just was not worth the wait. After hearing his previously released single "Mull of Kintyre" and "Girl School" (neither of which are on the album), one could expect only bigger and better things, especially since "Girl School" was such an encouraging rocker.

"Londontown" is fair as current best-selling albums go but it does not compare with his two best albums, "Band on the Run" and "Venus and Mars." One reason may be that there are 14 songs on the album. It exists as a grab bag of jingles, hooks and catchy refrains. One should expect a little more from the most popular Beatle.

song on the album. The rest, as usual, to carry the ball. McCartney sings unbelieveably well on "Girlfriend" but it's well known he has done this before. As he exploits his pop sense, one could expect only bigger and better things, especially since "Girl School" was such an encouraging rocker.

This welcome rocker walks the tutti-frutti taste of the owner has in his mouth but shows McCartney in the medium: on the stage strong base and shouting his rock and roll.

Beginning the second "With a Little Luck," an easy and very well done pop song at which McCartney is also. Why he waited until the album to show it remains a tantalizing question.

"Famous Grouches" follows with a throwback to Beatle sense with a likewise Liverpool refrain. "Deliver Your Gear" shows McCartney embracing fresh-sounding folk-rock sensibilities more prominent on guitar. He sings "Name and Address" in a very well-executed ballad in a very well-executed ballad.

McCartney and Wings throw the casual listener off with more synthesizer in "Moose." This runs into "The Goose" with the inroads strumming acoustic guitar. McCartney accelerates to a frenzy in which McCartney screams terminable lyrics and then like a computer going haywire.

So after his greatest post-claim to international fame, peaked with his American McCartney exposes this collection of music that covers every rock and roll spectrum. His mistake — he is spreading too thin. With former lead singer Jimmy McCullough gone, Denny Laine not contributing much on the album, McCartney lacks the inspirational spark that made the grade on the other.

On the brink of losing a sound, McCartney would benefit well from a Beatle or preferably a team-up with one brand new. At this time, actions like "Morse Moose" spell SOS for a Beatle with his clipped.

### Review

McCartney uses keyboard and synthesizer whitewashing more than ever before. He often interjects guitar out of nowhere and then finishes with a flurry of overdubbed vocals. At times this sounds pretty good, other times terrible.

The title cut uses the synthesizer effectively as the ballad sheds urban overtones of the heart of England. It's a typical McCartney pop tune slowed down and orchestrated with a fierce guitar lead and pretty "Abbey Road" ending. "Cafe on the Left Bank" follows in upbeat "Band on the Run" style with pretty good guitar intertwined.

The bad news starts with McCartney's attempt to unveil another heartthrob ballad in "I'm Carrying." It would be a good opening theme for a soapbox serial, but that's all. Next, he launches into "Backwards Traveller," which alludes to time travel and has more "Band on the Run" overtones. However, it exists only as an introduction to "Cufflink," which dabbles with funky synthesizer.

"Children, children" and "Don't Let It Bring You Down" both sound like Top 40 songs. As on the former McCartney, it sounds like he's skipping through the woods with the Girl Scouts. The latter starts interestingly enough with steppe base and good electric lead but develops to nothing, just like almost every

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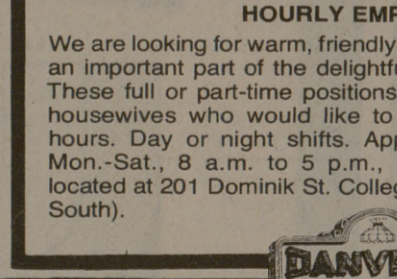
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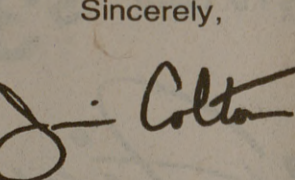
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**An Open Letter to my Fellow Texas Aggies:**

It is once more that time of year to select new student leadership for the TAMU Student Government. Even though this group affects our lives as students daily with its countless decisions, there are still those of you who are reading this letter who will not vote on Wednesday or Thursday. This is tragedy. Apathetic attitudes like this led to the "teasips" making a joke of their student government and eventually losing their voice in university policy by abolishing it. If this ever happens at Texas A&M, we will have lost something priceless.

With that in mind, I have entered the race for Vice President of Academic Affairs. This office deals with professor evaluations, add - drop, "O" drop counseling, and just about anything else that affects that final letter that goes on YOUR graduation report. As you can see, it is far from being a joke. My past experience includes a great deal of work with improvement of the academic life here at Aggeland. Now I am asking for your vote in order that I can continue working in your behalf, as Vice President of Academic Affairs. But whatever your final decision may be on the candidates, please VOTE.

Sincerely,



Jim "J.C." Colton  
Candidate for VP of Academic Affairs