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Starship sinks knee-deep in cliches with 'aggressively annoying' album

By Chris McCubbin
Staff Reporter

Starship, "Knee Deep In The Hoopla," Grunt

Knee deep indeed...Starship (formerly Jefferson Starship, formerly Jefferson Airplane) has been sinking steadily for at least the last 10 years, and by now they're in the hoopla way over their heads.

Even by the steadily lowering standards of Starship this is a disappointing album. To be brief, this record has no redeeming features.

Record Review

"Knee Deep" begins with "We Built This City," a hit single that has my nomination for most irritating song of the year, maybe the decade.

"We Built This City" was written by Bernie Taupin, the man who wrote most of Elton John's biggest hits. Taupin also contributed the album's last song, the hilariously titled "Love Rusts (When it rains on romance)," a weepy and interminable ballad. It's easy to see why Taupin didn't give these two turkeys to Elton.

The album is produced by Peter Wolf (former lead singer with J. Geils) and Jeremy Smith. Peter and Ina Wolf also wrote one of the album's songs, "Sara," which is a cut above the rest of the album. Instead of being aggressively annoying, "Sara" is merely forgettable.

"Knee Deep's" unquestionable low point, however, is "Rock Myself To Sleep," a pathetic attempt at heavy metal. This tune is a veritable "Plan Nine From Outer Space" among rock songs. I invite my friends in to hear this one when we need a good chuckle. Kevin Dubrow of Quiet Riot contributes backing vocals.

The album's five remaining tracks run the gamut from awful to insipid.

Musically, "Knee Deep In The Hoopla" provides a wide variety of polished, impeccably performed, familiar musical cliches, which is probably why the album and single are selling so well.

However, the album is a dull, depressing and wretched effort from the rotting corpse of a once-fine band.

G.P.A. 0.5

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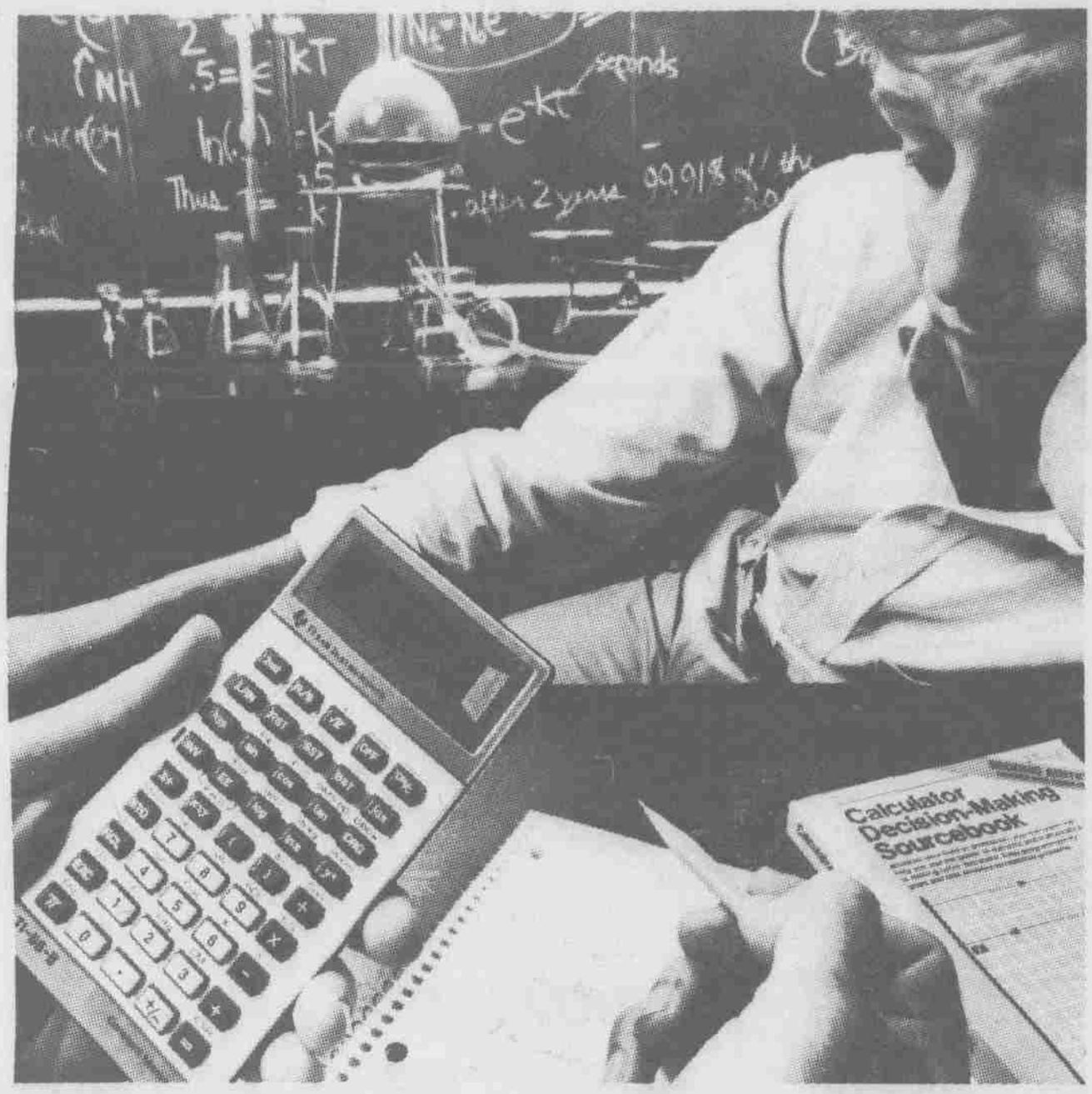

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