

# Country music is in a new age

By RICH SPICER  
GUEST WRITER

As an observer of popular music over the past several years, it has been interesting to note the recent turn around that has occurred in pop and country music.

Certainly, the popularity of country music has risen dramatically in the last few years, but what's really fascinating is the age of the people making the hits.

There once was a time when, as far as the eye could see, folks over 40 could not be found on the pop chart. Country music was known as the genre that treated its elders the kindest. Veterans such as Don Williams, Conway Twitty and Vern Gosdin, all in their 50's,

had their songs in the country Top 40.

Then, a barrage of young upstarts, led by Clint Black, began having big hits. After Black came Garth Brooks, Joe Diffie, Doug Stone and countless others. Within a span of a couple of years, country experienced an "out with the old, in with the new" phenomenon. Suddenly, big names from the 70's and 80's like Kenny Rogers, Barbara Mandrell and Crystal Gayle weren't having hits anymore.

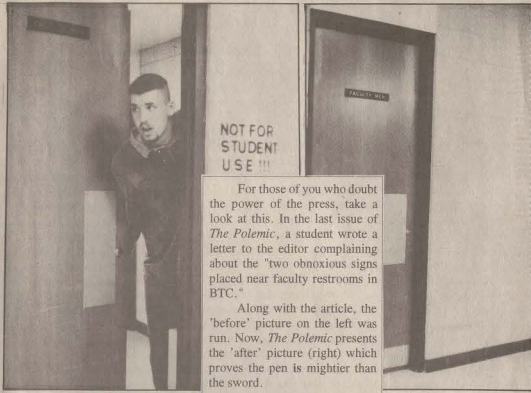
A recent check of Billboard Magazine's Top 40 country songs showed Alabama's Randy Owen, 44, and George Strait, 41, to be the only 40 plus singers.

Looking at the pop chart, it's shocking how many older artists are scoring big hits. Billy Joel (44), Elton John (46), and Rod Stewart (48), have never

been more popular than they are now. Other recent successes have been achieved by Steve Miller (50), David Crosby (52), Aaron Neville (52), Tina Turner (54), and Ray Charles (63).

While it's refreshing to see talents like Charles (whose first hits came in the 1950's) and the smooth-voiced Neville (who has revived his career thanks to Linda Ronstadt) again having chart success, it's also a shame that the country music industry seems to believe the only music that people want to hear is by newer artists. I think the day will come when the likes of Emmylou Harris and Trisha Yearwood will be side-by-side on the charts.

Now that pop music has discovered it's time that country music, again, starts to treat its elders with respect.



## This area band needs No Alibi

By JIM BALLMER  
STAFF WRITER

Every community has a certain musical trademark "sound." Georgia is known for its cross-road blues, Seattle birthed the grunge grind, Detroit owns the Nugent resonance, and northeast Michigan is driven to the simple, four-count, raw Bob Seger sound.

The three chord, gritty, rusty-stringed tones of Joe Walsh, Steve Miller, and (of course) Seger sit well with the local middle class, bar brawling citizen and has been synonymous with Alpena for years.

The best example of this sound is No Alibi, whom I recently saw at the Greenbush

Tavern. No Alibi has been playing its good-time country, rock, and blues for about six years. The current line-up has been together for three months.

The most striking feature of No Alibi is the vocal prowess of lead singer Cathy Cole. If the strength of her voice buds were suddenly relocated into her bicep, I wouldn't consider arm wrestling her.

On guitars are Pete VanVlerah and Joe Kowalski. VanVlerah ripped out some tormented solos that proved his uncanny six-string skill.

The rhythm section, comprised of bassist John Tree and drummer Pat Norkowski, kept a rock-steady tempo that didn't

waver.

I was taken aback by the enthusiasm I saw on the dance floor and realized I hadn't seen an appreciative audience for a local band of this size since the hey day of Mata Hari or Ratchet Tattoo.

Throughout the night, No Alibi kicked out songs by B.B. King, the Pretenders, Seger, and Stevie Ray Vaughn. Cole told me they also do "Under the Bridge" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Talk about stretching out your musical boundaries!

No Alibi currently plays exclusively at the Greenbush Tavern, so if you're the average Alpena citizen and dig the sounds of a no-frills, three chord jam, I suggest you check them out.

## Campus Giblets

By MELODY SHARP  
STAFF WRITER

Here comes Santa Claus! But only to those who are fortunate enough to make it happen. You could be one of those to see that it does. The Volunteer Center has the Christmas Wish List again this year. If you or your group would like to donate gifts for Christmas, there are requests for people of all ages. Information on items and sizes are available through the Volunteer Center, BTC Ext. 271/272. Donations must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 6. Make someone's Christmas a little brighter.

Speaking of Christmas, the Volunteer Center will be closed for the holidays at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10 and reopen on Tuesday, January 4, 1994, at 9 a.m. They will be recuperating from the many hours spent with the Christmas Wish List event.

Christmas may be closer than you think. The Jesse Besser Museum would like to invite you to a Christmas Gala. Nov. 30 is the date for the Founders Christmas Gala. Come enjoy champagne, hors d'oeuvres and tour the museum between 6-8 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 and

available from Founders board members or at the door.

Does decorating the Christmas tree have you bored to death? Do you need new ideas? Come and see the Trees of Christmas at the Jesse Besser Museum. This unique display of Christmas trees will be decorated representing countries from around the world. The display starts on Nov. 15 through Jan. 10. All those hunters' widows that need to find some entertainment for the kids, this would be something to see.

Leaves are falling, frost is in the air and on those sound orange things again. No, not a pumpkin, a basketball, silly. It's time for the ACC Lumberjack to take to the court for the season. Friday, Nov. 19 is the Thunder Bay Classic when ACC vs. Flint Jordan at 9 p.m. Then on Saturday Nov. 20, the Consolation Game and Championship Game will be played starting at 3 p.m. Schedules are available at VLH reception desk.

Here's a biggy betcha can't wait for. Final exam schedules



are available in Campus Services, 107 VLH.

Out with the old - in with the new. Our apologies for not announcing Lumberjack of the Month for October, which went to Linda Suneson, chairperson of the business department. Suneson has been with ACC since January 1990. Suneson has a husband, Scott, and a 6 year old son, Darrin. Hobbies include singing, golf and presently theatre. Suneson says, "I thought it was quite an honor to be chosen Lumberjack of the Month and I have enjoyed the parking spot."

November Lumberjack of the Month is Rob Roose, financial aid technician. Roose has been with ACC for three years. He enjoys hunting, fishing and most play things. "I was speechless, surprised, I wasn't expecting it," states Roose.

Student Senate has finally set a date for Family Day. December 4, at 11 a.m. families are to meet at EAC. Lunch will be with the golden arches and Knights will show the movie. Have a happy Family Day

## TOP TEN 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

By SCOTT REED  
STAFF WRITER

I think it's safe to say that all of us have missed at least one homework assignment. But this is 1993. All those excuses

like, "My dog ate it," are too old and just don't work any more—even if your dog did eat it. So, if ever you miss an assignment in the future, try one of these TOP TEN EXCUSES FOR TURNING IN YOUR

HOMEWORK LATE:

- #10: "It is getting approval of Queen Mother."
- #9: "I was too busy accepting a Humanitarian of the Year Award."
- #8: "I was confiscated by U.S. Army Intelligence."
- #7: "I had an unexpected briefing with the President."
- #6: "I wrote it in Sanskrit and it is now getting translated."
- #5: "I loaned it to a homeless person who needed it more than I."
- #4: "I got sucked into a time warp."
- #3: "My homework is done but I turned it into you in an alternate dimension."
- #2: "I couldn't do the assignment because I have the only blood type that matches that of the Pope, who needed an emergency transfusion."
- #1: And the number one best excuse for turning in your homework late... "My Godfather, Guido, said I don't have to do it and he'd also appreciate it if you'd forget all about it."



"Well, yes, I DID the homework assignment, but then, um, well, then I ate it."

**CHAOS**  
BY BRIAN SHUSTER

## Players bring new faces to the stage

By KENDRA JONES  
STAFF WRITER

The upcoming ACC Players drama presentation of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," brings fresh, inexperienced faces to the Thunder Bay Theater stage, Dec. 9.

Ten out of 30 students who auditioned and received parts in the play have little or no experience on stage. Nan Hall, director

of ACC Players, was asked how it is directing beginners. "Actually fun. It's exciting to watch growth and development from rehearsal to rehearsal, especially playing young people. It's good to see them go back and capture that feeling of youth."

Different feelings arise from lack of experience. Tami Rensberry, playing the part of Beth, the narrator, has mixed emotions. "I'm excited, but nervous too." This will be her first

acting experience on stage. Scott Reed, another new face, portrays Beth's younger brother Charlie. "I'm confident about my acting ability considering I've never been in a play before."

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" is the story of a group of young children getting ready for their annual Christmas play. The usual cast of children becomes interrupted by the neighborhood bullies, the Hermdams. The Hermdams throw all the rehearsals into an uproar, but the final show is the most unexpected event to take place.

The play will open Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and continue through that weekend. The cost of tickets for adults is \$5, ACC students, \$3, and children under twelve, \$2.

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