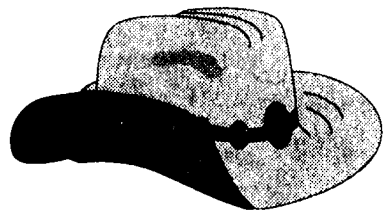


A little bit o' country



Dixie Chicks bust country music wide open

by Kristi S. Holliday
staff writer

Describing the Dixie Chicks as a country music band is like calling Magic Johnson just a basketball player, or Ross Perot just a millionaire. It doesn't come close to conveying the true essence of this dynamic trio. The group represents a refreshing blend of ability and powerful harmony, as well as great old country music.

The Dixie Chicks' mixture of bluegrass, straight country and pop shook up the contemporary country scene in the late 90's. The Dixie Chicks, taking their name from the Little Feat song "Dixie Chicken," were founded in 1989 when sisters Martie Seidel and Emily Erwin teamed up with Laura Lynch and Robin Lynn Macy

to play the street corners of Dallas. They performed at clubs and dance halls and released two bluegrass-oriented independent label albums and a Christmas single before Macy left the group. After a more contemporary sounding *Shouldn'ta Told You That*, Lynch was replaced by new lead vocalist Natalie Maines in 1995.

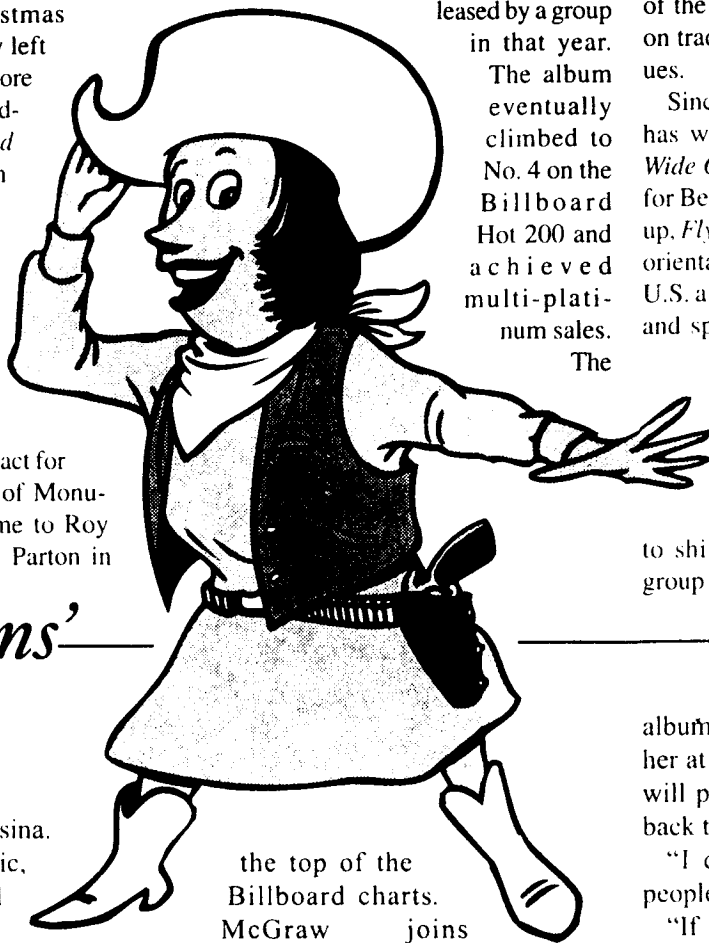
The new, highly energized Dixie Chicks were considered the perfect flagship act for the 1997 relaunch of Monument Records, home to Roy Orbison and Dolly Parton in

the 60s prior to its closure. Released in 1998, *Wide Open Spaces* immediately became the best-selling country album released by a group in that year.

The album eventually climbed to No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 200 and achieved multi-platinum sales. The

album's success was catapulted by the release of the singles "I Love You Better" and "There's Your Trouble" (a U.S. country No. 1), both examples of the group's spirited, original take on traditional Nashville musical values.

Since their start, this dynamic trio has won a vast amount of awards. *Wide Open Spaces* won the Grammy for Best Country Album. The follow-up, *Fly*, which introduced a more pop-orientated style, shot to the top of the U.S. album charts in September 1999 and spent many months on the top. Shining stars again in 2000, the group swept the Country Music Awards taking home Album, Entertainer, Music Video and Vocal Group of the year. Their time to shine is not over, however, the group has much more to come.



the top of the Billboard charts. McGraw joins Messina for a beautiful duet titled "Bring on the Rain." The album proves the country starlet has a heart full of passion for her music.

But what really makes Messina so likeable? It's her personality. She is down to earth with her fans. The fans know she is someone they can truly identify with. In a recent interview, she challenges her fans by saying that anyone who has the new

it," explained Messina.

"With pop music, there's a real void right now—you're either listening to hip-hop, AC, or rock. There's no pop anymore. No Journey. No Rush, no Pat Benatar or Eagles. You just can't find that anymore. But you're finding more of it in a country format," she explained.

With the release of her new album, *Burn*, Messina has once again succeeded in reaching her goals. With a little help from her friend Tim McGraw, *Burn* has climbed to

Jo Dee Messina 'burns' a path to success

by Ainslie Ulmer
public relations manager

Move over, Reba! There's a new "double-platinum redhead" in country music town. Jo Dee Messina is "Doin' Alright" as a multiple Female Vocalist of the year nominee. Messina rewrote country music history as she set and tied her own record for the longest run in the Top 30 for 35 weeks.

Messina's music is a lil' bit of country, mixed with a lil' "spunk." "I think I'm mostly country, but I really don't know how to describe

WrestleMania breaks Astrodome record, among other things

by Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

Records weren't the only thing broken at last weekend's sports entertainment spectacle *WrestleMania X-Seven*. The 67,925 fans who poured into Houston's Reliant Park, formerly the Astrodome, and the 100,000 tickets purchased for the activities preceding the event smashed the arena's previous mark for attendance.

But broken records didn't mean much to the Texas crowd when the historic night concluded Sunday night. Broken hearts and busted trust seemed more like it. What began as a biased crowd's cheers for their Texan hero Stone Cold Steve Austin and boos for his opponent The Rock, turned to shock and disbelief when the crowd witnessed Austin go heel (wrestling phrase for a bad guy).

In one of the most exciting main events in *WrestleMania* history, Austin and The Rock battled for sports entertainment's biggest prize. What was looking like another classic feud between the sport's two biggest stars turned a little bit confusing when hated owner Vince McMahon walked to the ring.

Both Austin and The Rock have had years of troubles with the power hungry owner. Their rivalries date back to 1997 when McMahon's idea of the WWF's model wrestler didn't quite fit Stone Cold's description. The bald-headed, beer-chuggin', bad mouthed, Southern "rattlesnake" hasn't let Vince off the hook...until now.

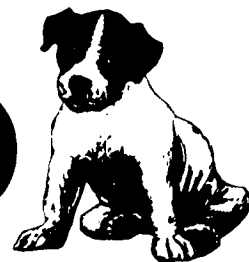
In a shocking move, Austin used McMahon to help himself win the championship. A confused crowd had everything spelled out for them when a handshake sealed the deal, and with it sealed together a storyline for the months or years to come.

Other memorable matches of night included Tables, Ladders, and Chairs II, a rematch from *SummerSlam 2000* between the Dudley Boyz, Hardy Boyz and Edge/Christian. Shane McMahon's high-flying victory over his father Vince and the gimmick battle royal with the return of some old wrestling personalities, announced by Bobby "The Brain" Heenan and "Mean" Gene Okerlund, also highlighted the event.

Overall, the event featured a broken window and door, some broken tables, ladders and chairs, and thousands of broken hearts. The only thing not broken was the continued tradition of *WrestleMania* and what the event means to the business of sports entertainment.

Sic' Em FIDO

by Deanna Symoski



83 Reasons Why My Childhood Rocked

It has occurred to me recently that in this era of mass commercialism and cheap thrills, we should all take a little time to remember the innocent pleasures of pop culture past. So here, in no particular order, are a few reasons why my childhood rocked.

1. The sit-and-spin, proving that educational toys are highly overrated
2. Hulk Hogan vs. Andre the Giant at *WrestleMania III*
3. The Solid Gold Dancers, precursors to the Fly Girls and any starlette to emerge from *The Mickey Mouse Club*
4. "Believe it or not, I'm walking on air! I never thought I could feel so free/Flying away on a wing and a prayer/Who could it be/Believe it or not, it's just me"
5. WHAM, because George Michael looked like my Derek doll
6. MTV, when they played videos
7. Candy Land and Chutes and Ladders
8. The Etch-a-Sketch, the real first computer
9. *Webster* and *Mr. Belvedere*
10. Luke Skywalker
11. Madonna, particularly for her *Like a Virgin* album
12. The Coreys—Haim and Feldman
13. The General Lee
14. Bon Jovi for having grandparents from Erie, and also for "Living on a Prayer"
15. Jelly accessories, including the shoes
16. Transformers and Go-bots, in that order
17. Hammer pants, a staple at every junior high dance
18. SKIDZ, a staple at every grade school skating party
19. The Swedish Chef, not to be confused with today's more passionate Iron Chef
20. Tiffany's guest appearance on *Growing Pains*
21. Billy Dee Williams as Lando Calrissian, we salute you!
22. Mork
23. Tight-rolling jeans
24. Kirk Cameron
25. *Punky Brewster*
26. Max Headroom
27. Garbage Pail Kids cards for not being *Pokemon* cards
28. The emergency brake on my Barbie Big Wheels—I lived on a hill
29. *Knight Rider*, for both KIT, the coolest car in the world (except for the General Lee, see # 13), and also for David Hasselhoff's hair
30. Danny, the ugliest member of New Kids on the Block
31. The beginning of rap
32. The beginning of hair bands
33. The beginning of grunge
34. The determination of rock and roll
35. Playing DJ with my record player and an assortment of LPs that included Mister Mister and The Bangles
36. Ricky Schroeder on *Silver Spoons*, not *NYPD Blue*
37. "Where's the Beef?"
38. *Thriller*
39. Life before dot.coms
40. Chicago's WGN-TV for Cubs games commented by Harry Caray on summer afternoons
41. Atari, especially for *Combat*
42. Adventurous marketing ploys such as New Coke and Crystal Pepsi
43. Popples
44. Ewoks
45. Mon Chi-Chi's
46. Lite-Brite, and the kid in my neighborhood who used to sort his pegs by color
47. E.T.
48. The busy signal, the loss of which has single-handedly increased the pace of life a thousand fold
49. Crimpers
50. WGN again, for The Bozo Show, followed by reruns of the Beverly Hillbillies and all those weird carpet commercials in between
51. Mulletts and rat tails
52. *Different Strokes*
53. *The Facts of Life*, the Mrs. Garrett years
54. The Rubik Cubes, boredom's greatest solution
55. Pop rocks and Hubba-Bubba
56. *The A-Team*, Fool!
57. "Time to make the donuts"
58. Shrinky Dinks, because once upon a time it was a good idea for kids to put plastic in the oven
59. *The Karate Kid*, just the first one
60. *Fraggles* and *Doozers*
61. Pocket Rockets, the cause of detentions everywhere
62. Umbros and Sambas
63. Free refills
64. *Pinwheel* and *Today's Special*
65. The Get Along Gang
66. Molly Ringwald, and to be fair, the rest of the Brat Pack
67. After School Specials
68. Sweet Pickles
69. *The USA Cartoon Express*, featuring *The Shirttails* and *The Grape Ape*
70. Jams
71. Slip and Slides, because once upon a time it was also a good idea to let kids run on wet plastic
72. Johnny No. 5 (not Mambo No. 5)
73. Kangaroos and Zips
74. The 3-D Animator, and all the kids who thought they were binoculars
75. *Rags to Riches*, the original movie and the series
76. *Dirty Dancing*
77. Stone washed everything
78. Biker shorts, and Spandex in general
79. He-Man, Ram-Man, Sheera, Battle Cat and Skeletor
80. Smurfs
81. *The Electric Company*, where Morgan Freeman got his start
82. Hypercolor
83. *The Ghostbusters* Soundtrack

New Releases

Movies	Video*	Music*	DVD*
<p><i>Along Came a Spider</i> <i>Blow</i> <i>Just Visiting</i> <i>Pokemon 3</i> <i>Texas Rangers</i></p>	<p><i>Return to Me</i> <i>Shanghai Noon</i></p>	<p>Ani DiFranco Spacehog Monster Magnet</p>	<p><i>Bounce</i> (2 Disc Set) <i>Men of Honor</i> (Special Edition)</p>

*Release Date: 4/10

Experience the *Wrath of God: Disasters in America* on the History Channel Tuesday at 9 p.m. The program showcases footage from some of the world's deadliest tsunamis.