

Ims entertains

By Janet Mazur

Overwhelming is the most appropriate term to describe the recent Coffee House appearance of solo guitarist, Jon Ims.

He does not merely perform, but rather, carries the audience on a patchwork journey, being that the lyrics of his original folk tunes encompass such a wide variety of topics; nearly every conceivable human situation! But most importantly, they convey their message in an effective, convincing manner, both musically and lyrically.

The titles of his songs were never nearly as memorable as the songs themselves, which dealt with unusual situations he at one time encountered, many of which would be effective if published as poetry. From a touching, very sad song about a broken home, to the jazzy, completely hilarious "New York State Beauty Pageant," a tribute to an ex-girl friend who becomes famous, his songs involved a wide variety of topics. Included also in his repertoire was a chilling number about a lone hitchhiker on a deserted road, a crazy old woman living in his childhood neighborhood (which actually revived memories of my own childhood), a fantasy based on his experiences after returning home from a gig thoroughly intoxicated, a humorous song implying sexual activity, which he later described as being "disgusting, but a part of my personality," and "Midnight Carousel," a ballad dealing with the harsh life of a Catskill Mountain laborer.

Most amazing was the fact that he performed non-stop for two-and-a-half hours; except, of course, between songs, when he amused the audience with brief stories which had "nothing to do with the song I'm about to perform, but I'll tell it anyway." He attributes his ability to perform at marathon rates to the fact that once he begins, he's so overcome by the mood (especially if the audience is as responsive as Friday's) he finds it difficult to stop.

"It cleansed my soul," he remarked of his performance. A college crowd is open and responsive, he contends, allowing him freedom in choosing his own selections, which usually are expressive, very personal messages. A bar room crowd, on the other hand, is the complete opposite, usually requesting the same familiar song ("Country

Roads," for example) over and over; a frustrating experience for the performer who can't reveal his true personality.

He stated that he dislikes and avoids writing about cliched topics, such as love gained and love lost, and prefers instead to write about unusual topics; things that most others would never think of. The most remembered tune of the evening certainly was unusual! It concerned his experiences at 3 a.m. on winter, in the Cleveland Bus Terminal, as he observed the little old clean-up man mopping the floor.

I hate to sound cliched, yet I can't avoid stating that he's an extremely versatile, talented performer. His light, satirical ballads were nothing short of hilarious, while his heavier material nearly moved me to tears. This is true also of his actual ability—he has a very strong, effective voice which always seems to dominate over more than adequate guitar work.

He did perform several unoriginal tunes, the most memorable of the being an acapella rendition of a Civil War ballad, in which his powerful voice was given the chance to shine through.

He concluded the night with another acapella impromptu song, in which he chanted to the audience as they clapped along, "thank you for letting me be myself." Thank you, Jon Ims, for letting us, the audience, listen to you!

No Coffee House will be held next week.



By Gay Catania
Entertainment Editor

Hey, it's Friday night; maybe even Saturday night...no one you know is having a party. You aren't in the mood for a movie...why not go out on the town and PARTY?

I'm sure this thought has crossed your mind more than once, but you really didn't know where to go. If you don't feel like getting out of your jeans and flannel workshirt, you could hit one of the taverns that are favorites of local college students.

If you're really in the mood for a "bar" I would suggest either the Friendly Tavern, 363 West 8th street, The Plymouth Tavern, 1109 State street, The Antler's, 162 West 4th street, Rick and Berry's, Pine Avenue and 38th street, or Herman's Cafe on 2802 Old French Road.

The Plymouth has been the preferred atmosphere for most young adults, and occasionally offers local talent as entertainment. Rick and Berry's just opened and seems to be doing a reasonable good business with college students. The Friendly hosts mostly Gannon students, but don't let that fool you; Friendly's is exactly what its name implies. I also hear Herman's has a pretty good pin ball machine.

There are also taverns with informal atmosphere that offer entertainment. Befwick Lord English Inn in the West Erie Plaza offers folk on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; and soft rock the remainder of the

week. Befwick's has an unusually pleasant interior, which allows one to be comfortable, but grubby at the same time.

A new spot of this order is Earthworks, located at 18th and State. Earthworks is even open and offering entertainment on Sunday nights. At Earthworks, you can usually find some super bands and folk musicians. The Shaggy Dog Tavern, located in the heart of Erie's "head" district (400 block of West 8th) usually provides a few "free lance" performers, running around and playing for tips; so entertainment at the Dog isn't a definite aspect. The Shaggy Dog still remains one of the favorite places for the younger age group.

Okay, so you're in jeans and work shirts all week. If you want to get a little "decked out" there's some excellent lounges that offer fine entertainment. In the case of these lounges, I suppose you just have to take a guess at which place has the best entertainment. These are not the types of places you go if you want to drink cheap; if you start lounge hopping, it seems the drinks keep getting more expensive as the evening gets longer. However, if you want the atmosphere that a lounge offers, you're going to have to be prepared to pay for it.

The Holiday Inns are always a good choice. Holiday Inn South, which is easily accessible to Behrend students (State Street exit off I-90), offers a super atmosphere, if you're lucky enough to get seated in their greenhouse. So far thier entertainment has been top-notch, and there's always room to boogie. The Holiday Inn Downtown, located at 18th and State Streets, doesn't fit the caliber of its South branch, but is usually okay for a quiet night out. Both Ramada Inn (Parade exit off I-90) and Spartan Inns (6467 Sterrettania Road—exit 5 off of I-90) are relaxing lounges and host regular entertainment.

I feel that lounges are a student's best bet, especially if you are under age. First of all, there's no cover charge. Also, they don't require ID for admission. You can always sip on a Seven-Up (who will ever know the difference?) and sit back and enjoy the show with no hassle.

Have you ever been to a real, "live" nightclub? Even Erie offers some delightful variations. Lombardo's, at 18th and Sassafras, features good dance bands. One of the most popular, and expensive night spots, is Gadsby's, found at 3619 McClelland Avenue. Don't expect to get into either club with jeans and an empty wallet. Gadsby's, especially, is noted for their excellent choice of entertainment. Big name bands are always featured, and it's "the" place to go for good boogie.

If you're just dying to take that

new student out, or get some spark into that same old thing, try impressing him-her with the "big time." Ciro's is exactly what you've been waiting for. Ciro's recently opened in the Millcreek Mall, and is constantly bringing in the best nightclub entertainment around. Not only will Ciro's entertainment delight you, but the atmosphere is supposed to be representative of a "true" nightclub. Ciro's is the one place I would recommend for that special evening or for a change of pace.

Erie does have some enjoyable night life; you just have to know where to go and what you want. Hopefully, this has given you some initiative to go out and do a little discovering and experiencing of your own. It can only save you from another boring evening.

Following is a list of entertainment currently featured at some of the taverns, lounges and clubs mentioned in this article. An (x) indicates what I feel is your best bet for a good time.

Taverns

(x) Earthworks—18th and State—Phillippe, Sunday nights.

Befwick's—West Erie Plaza (West 8th and Pittsburgh Ave.).

Lounges

Holiday Inn Downtown—18th and State—"New Younger Brothers Band", appearing Monday - Saturday, 10-2.

(x) Holiday Inn South—State Street exit off I-90—"Wave", appearing Monday - Saturday, 10-2.

Ramada Inn—Parade Street exit off I-90—"Preston Wewver and Ron Hollyman", appearing Monday - Saturday, 9:30-1:30.

Spartan Inns—(Wooden Horse Lounge)—6467 Sterrettania Road. Exit 5 off I-90—"The Cows", appearing Monday - Saturday, 9:30-1:30.

Night Clubs

(x) Gadsby's—3619 McClelland Avenue—"Spiral Staircase", appearing Monday - Saturday, 9:30-1:30.

Lombardo's—18th and Sassafras—"Vinnie Younger & Diane Baker", appearing Monday - Saturday.

Ciro's—Millcreek Mall—"Adams and Marsh", appearing nightly.

Party Hearty and Enjoy.



By Kevin Conway
Collegian Staff Writer

Pieces of the Sky
by Emmylou Harris

You'll find this record listed under "rock" in most record stores, but don't let that fool you—this is country and western at its height. There are songs written by Merle Haggard, Dolly Parton, and other country and western artists on this album, as well as a song by Lennon and McCartney. However, the best song on this album is probably Boulder to Birmingham which was co-written by Harris.

There are many guest artists on this album including Linda Ronstadt and Bernie Leadon. The basic band Harris uses includes many of the people in Elvis Presley's band, as well as Ben Keith on steel guitar. Keith also plays and records with both Judy Collins and Neil Young.

Emmylou Harris' vocal range is astounding, and this is witnessed by the variety of songs she has chosen to record. One minute you're listening to a tender love song, and the next you feel as if you've been transported to some honky-tonk barroom down in Nashville.

This is especially true of the last two songs. The first is the old Beatles' tune For No One. Both the arrangement and singing are

relaxing to the listener. But don't become too comfortable, for the next song, Queen of the Silver Dollar, is belted out by Harris in a style that would startle June Carter herself. Harris treats the Merle Haggard song, Bottle Let Me Down in the same way.

Even though this is her first album, Harris is not new in the world of music. She was "more than a friend of" Gram Parsons, and sang on two of his albums. Parsons was very influential on the style Harris uses. Parsons' affect on her music is certainly well exhibited in Harris' repertoire.

More recently, Harris was in the studio, singing back-up vocals for some Dylan recording sessions. These recordings apparently will be released sometime in the future.

Ms. Harris is currently working a country-wide nightclub circuit. If you get the chance to experience more than can be imagined on recording, take up the opportunity, and relax while you enjoy.

Pieces of the Sky is a good album, and you don't have to be a country and western fan (or a regular listener of WWGO) to enjoy this album.

P.S. to Mark: it's in Florida.

CLASSIFIEDS

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STUDENT TO obtain ads for Collegian. 10 per cent commission for each ad contracted. See Ron Strike, Collegian office, RUB main floor, Mon. 3rd and Thurs. 5th.

DEAD OR alive, guitarists for Sunday Mass—bring it and come early. RUB Seminar Room, 11 a.m.

NEEDED:

RIDE TO Palm Springs, Fla. around Thanksgiving time. Call 868-3440.

RIDE NEEDED daily to and from downtown. Will help with gas. Dean - Union Desk.

TUTORS: CONTACT student affairs office, RUB upstairs.

PETS:

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LESSONS:

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CLUBS:

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