

Editorial: Country Music

By Tracey Rawls

I was at a karaoke bar a few weeks ago, and someone sang "Elvira" by the Oak Ridge Boys. Boy, did that bring back memories.

Whenever my family went on a trip, my dad would play his country music tapes. My brother, sister and I were forced to listen to Willie Nelson, the Oak Ridge Boys and the Statler Brothers. (Of course we didn't mind listening to "Red-Necked Mother" because we could sing cuss words without getting in trouble.) We took trips quite often, so we knew all the words to every song Willie Nelson ever wrote. Actually, the first concert I went to was a Willie Nelson concert. The words to "On the Road Again" and "Whiskey River" still haunt me at night. And my dad still tries to force us to watch *Honeysuckle Rose* with him.

I swore that when I had my own car

and could listen to the music I liked, I would never listen to country music. Now I must eat my words.

A friend of mine has recently converted me to country music. I guess she did it the way my dad did — she forced me to listen to country whether I wanted to or not. How could I not fall in love with Vince Gill's baby blues, Alan Jackson's voice and Trisha Yearwood's lyrics?

The lyrics are what won me over to country music. (I can actually understand the words!) I find myself identifying with the singers. Country songs are no longer about pickup trucks, getting drunk, being in prison or driving in the rain. While many of our boyfriends have probably not climbed a water tower and written "Billy Bob loves Charlene" in John Deere green as Joe Diffy's song suggests, most of us

can identify with Boy Howdy's "She'd Give Anything (To Fall in Love)." All of us have "Friends in Low Places" like Garth Brooks, and some of us are "Trashy Women" by Confederate Railroad's standards.

Country music has caught on across the nation. I guess I am not the only one who has noticed how much country music has improved since Willie Nelson. Country music was featured in the Super Bowl half-time show for the first time this year. And more country singers are featured at the American Music Awards. Garth Brooks' concert tickets sell out as fast as Guns 'n Roses.

I am glad my taste in music has changed. I could not get through Tuesday nights without country music. Excuse me while I dust off my boots, I feel a "Honky Tonk Attitude" coming on.

Meredith College Celebration of Black Emphasis Month

Friday, Feb. 18

7:30 p.m.

and Sunday, Feb. 20

7:00 p.m.

Kresge

The Movie: What's Love
Got to Do With It? The

Tina Turner Story

Tuesday, Feb. 22

7:30 p.m.

Carswell

"Night of Culture"
featuring Step Show
performance by Alpha
Phi Alpha fraternity
from St. Augustine's
College

Meredith Herald

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Hey You!

Yes, You.

I bet you have been wondering, "How can I get published in Meredith's literary magazine, the *Acorn*?"

Well, wonder no more! You can polish up your pieces of prose and poetry and submit them for publication by the deadline on February 28, 1994. Leave your written submissions in the box marked "ACORN" in Joyner, or call the editor, Angela Toms (X7813) for more information.

YOU could be a published author!