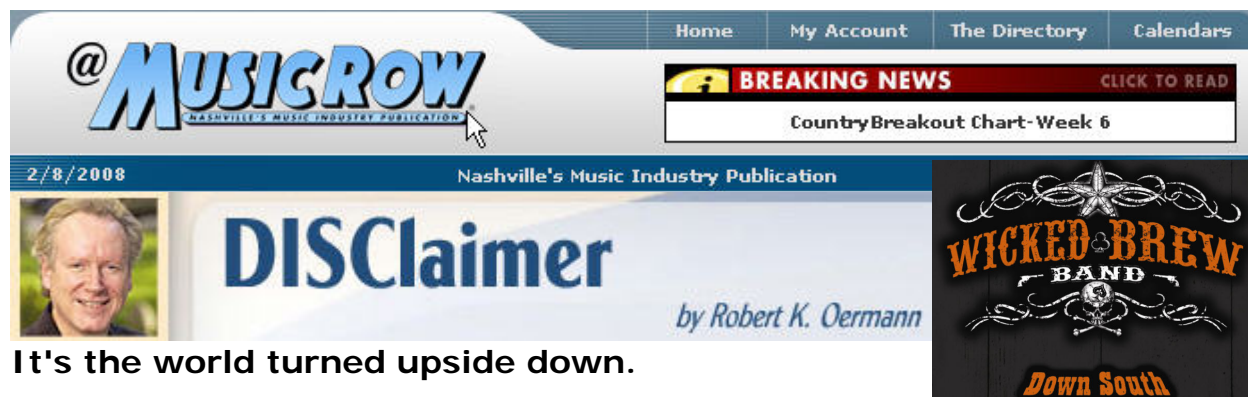


PRESS RELEASE (Feb. 8, 2008)



It's the world turned upside down.

You know that there's something strange in the air when Jewel makes a record that's more country than Jo Dee Messina. **And something feels definitely awry when one of country's biggest male superstars is trumped by female discs and Texas garage bands.**

But that's the situation we have this week. **Jewel wins Disc of the Day.** RCA newcomer Shawanda is right up there with her. Her song is just as strong, and her delivery of it is stellar. A well-deserved **DisDiscovery Award** goes to **Crystal Shawanda.**

For variety, give a listen to Waco's **Wicked Brew Band** and Amarillo's Hogg Maulies. They're always up to something good in the Lone Star state.

GEORGE STRAIT/I Saw God Today

Writer: Rodney Clawson/Monty Criswell/Wade Kirby; Producer: Tony Brown & George Strait; Publisher: big Red Toe/Extremely Loud/Big Loud Bucks/Steel Wheels/Blind Mule, BMI; MCA Nashville

-He wears maturity well: His voice sounds better than ever.

WICKED BREW/I'm Alright

Writer: Jared Lightfoot; Producer: Rick "Hog Branch" Watson & Jared Lightfoot; Publisher: Dirty Mick, ASCAP; Restless Soul (254-289-8103)

-Grungy, greasy fun with a burly vocal and a snarling track. He meets her in a bar, takes her to a motel and lets her tie him up. Best rhyme: "Might have been a bad idea-r, but my judgment was impaired by all the whiskey and the beer." She steals his wallet and his truck.

Robert K. Oermann, "the dean of Nashville's entertainment journalists," writes bi-weekly columns for Music Row magazine and has been published in more than 100 other national periodicals. His seven books to date include the award-winning *Finding Her Voice* and *A Century of Country*. He has penned liner notes for more than 90 albums and boxed-set productions. He has scripted and/or directed television specials and documentaries for CMT, CBS, the BBC, TBS, TNN and others. And he appears frequently on-camera as a commentator on VH-1, A&E, CMT and the BBC. He was a judge on the 2003 USA Network series *Nashville Star*. In 2004 he directed the DVD *Music Business 101*, wrote the PBS special celebrating the 50th anniversary of George Jones and was the music supervisor and script writer for the United Stations radio series *Honest Country*, narrated by Willie Nelson. He is the chairman of the country committee for the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles and serves on the Hall of Fame and awards committees for the CMA.