

## Arts & Entertainment

# KZUM 'Heyride' plays swing, honky tonk

By Mike Grant  
Staff Reporter

The next time you're fiddling around with your FM dial and a station gives you an uncontrollable urge to put on your 10-gallon hat and cowboy boots and do the Texas two-step, you'll know you've probably tuned into the KZUM Heyride.

KZUM is Lincoln's public access station.

John Schmitz has hosted the show for nearly six years, playing a rocking combination of western swing and honky tonk.

"A friend at KZUM knew that I was into this kind of music and convinced me to put a show together," Schmitz said.

Most of the music Schmitz plays is from a private collection of more than 200 albums.

Schmitz describes western swing as

"jazz played with country instruments."

It's a lively, raw sound with a beat that resembles rock 'n' roll and predates it by 20 years, he said.

Schmitz became interested in western swing after hearing the now-defunct Midwest Ramblers' renditions of Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys' songs.

Wills was the main innovator of western swing and was what Elvis Presley is to rock 'n' roll.

Schmitz said western riding has

shown an upsurge in interest in the past decade since groups like Commander Cody and Asleep at the Wheel have revived the music. Local groups like the New High Flyers and the Sandy Creek Band often play western swing, he said.

The other part of the show, honky tonk, owes much of its influence to its patron saint, Hank Williams, who revolutionized country music with a blend of country, pop and blues. Modern

country punk bands like Jason and the Scorchers owe much of their vitality to honky-tonkers like Williams.

"I don't watch a lot of MTV, but I think people are definitely looking for new music. Something different," Schmitz said. "That's how I would explain the interest in western swing and honky tonk."

The KZUM Heyride is broadcast every other Friday from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

## Welsch, Fell book funny but lacks 'Nebraskaness'

By John Rood  
Staff Reporter

This book has jokes. Nebraskans like jokes. This book has cartoons. Nebraskans like cartoons. And most of all, it's red and white. Nebraskans love red and white.

### Book Review

"You Know You're A Nebraskan..." is a collection of humorous "when" punchlines compiled by famed Lincoln residents Roger Welsch and Paul Fell.

Welsch is an author, folklorist, historian, humorist, lecturer, singer, musician, farmer and UNL professor (on a one-year leave) who is quite worthy of his self-proclaimed title, "Captain Nebraska."

But Welsch fans beware. His latest venture tries not to inform, but to amuse. And does so successfully.

Laughter is "an important part of the pioneer tradition," Welsch said. "We need to celebrate the ordinary things about our state — like the gorgeous wheat, not that stuff around the Niobrara River that some call scenery," he said. "I dress the way I do to celebrate this part of our culture. Most honest people wear overalls. I've met more dishonest people in suits."

Paul Fell, art director and editorial cartoonist for the Lincoln Journal, does a very good job illustrating each caption. For a native of Massachusetts, he draws some pretty mean bib overalls, seed corn hats and dumbfounded farmer expressions.

Regretfully, only a fraction of the jokes deal with specific Nebraska topics (Gov. Bob Kerrey, the Huskers and so on). Welsch and Fell could have taken out these few pages and released the book retitled in Kansas, Iowa, or any other rural-agricultural state. I



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Roger Welsch relaxes with a copy of his new book and his dog, Slumper.

wasn't offended by the stereotypical "hick" characterization and theme, just a little disappointed by the book's lack of original Nebraskaness.

Is it corny? Let's just say that Welsch

could make a comfortable living as a staff writer for "Hee Haw." And Fell could draw those little animals that dance around when Buck and Roy pick and grin.

I strongly encourage readers to follow the clever editorial cartooning of Fell in the Lincoln Journal, and to read the many great works of "Captain Nebraska."

And if you think Green Acres is the place to be, or know someone who does, go out and buy "You Know You're A Nebraskan..." Shucks, y'all might rightly enjoy it.

# SPIN probes musicians' inspirations

By Deb Pederson  
Senior Reporter

If you like reading about the hottest sounds and who's making them in a new wave package with a witty style, check out SPIN, the music magazine of Bob Guccione, Jr.

### Magazine Review

The first issue of SPIN came out in May and sold out the first two weeks on the streets, Guccione said in the June issue.

"That we printed 12 copies notwithstanding (seriously, we distributed 350,000), SPIN has been received as the breath of fresh air it promised to be, Guccione said. "There is no mystery to that. We simply approach music with all the love we have for it. All along, I said SPIN would share the excitement of discovery with our readers. And that's exactly what we do."

In a telephone interview from New York, SPIN marketing manager Diana Holtzberg said the magazine is a hit.

"We only print negative mail in our letters section, just for the fun of it, but we really have to scrounge to find the negative letters in the flood of fan mail

that we get," Holtzberg said.

Circulation has increased 50 percent in six months, she said.

"When we started, we guaranteed our advertisers a circulation of 100,000," she said. "Now we guarantee them a circulation of 150,000. We actually distributed 350,000 of our first issue and now we're distributing 410,000. And there's more positive forecasts."

Guccione expects a lot from his staff, Holtzberg said, but if the popularity of the magazine shows anything, it's that he's doing something right.

Holtzberg described the SPIN staff as "an unorthodox group of intelligent, crazy and wild people."

The writers range from 20 to 70 years old and have written for newspapers and magazines from the New York Times and the London Times to Village Voice.

And celebrities like David Lee Roth sometimes write for SPIN, she said.

The staff's adventuresome nature is the key to SPIN — from the Underground column by Andrea 'Enthal to perceptive in-depth interviews.

But this is no music version of "People" magazine. The interviews focus on the inspirations and motivations of musicians' work, capturing the essence of creating geniuses in action.

An example is punk poet Lydia Lunch's headlong clash with Pat Benatar in the September issue. Lunch's devil's advocate approach with Benatar brought out the sparkle and the vulnerability of both.

In the October issue, Edward Kiersh painted a tragic portrait of David Crosby's downfall because of drugs.

Kiersh closed the article with Neil Young's song "The Needle and the Damage Done," which Young performed at Live Aid: *I sing this song because I love the man/I know that some of you won't understand/Oh — the damage done/I've seen the needle and the damage done/I watched the needle take another man/A little part of it in every man.*

What makes this article unique is the timing — SPIN didn't wait for Crosby's death but showed his death in the making.

Besides personal insight, SPIN gives musical insight.

Works by Eurythmics, former Roxy Music members and Duran Duran members, to mention a few, are explored.

Andrea 'Enthal probes basements, garages and bars for off-track underground sounds ranging from the hardcore, like Moving Targets, to the psy-

chedelic, like Australian group Scientists.

And recent releases are reviewed in the SPIN/Records and Singles sections.

A word of warning — SPIN is not for the faint-hearted, conservative reader. It takes full advantage of First Amendment rights of freedom of the press with its "colorful" language. I personally could do with fewer four-letter words.

But SPIN does have humor and humaneness.

## Dylan Thomas classic to air Wednesday night

"Under Milk Wood," the classic play by Welsh poet and prose writer Dylan Thomas, comes alive on Nebraska ETV Network Wednesday at 8 p.m.

The evocative play — an impression of a spring day in the lives of the people of Llareggub, a fictitious Welsh fishing village situated under Milk Wood — has no plot, but has many characters who dream aloud, converse with each other and speak in choruses of alternating voices.

The cast of the 90-minute adaptation

My favorite part of the magazine, other than the in-depth profiles, is the TOPSPIN section, in which Guccione himself writes wonderfully witty and frank letters to his readers, as demonstrated earlier in this article. I admire a publisher who prints his faults and struggles along with his triumphs.

Discovery is the essence of SPIN's magic — discovery of current music, discovery of fresh journalistic ground and, perhaps, our rediscovery of music's role in our lives.

includes the late Richard Burton as the First Voice, Elizabeth Taylor as Rosie Probert, Peter O'Toole as Captain Cat and Glynis Johns as Mynarwy Price. Other cast members are Sian Phillips, Vivian Merchant, Angharad Rees and Victor Spinetti.

"Under Milk Wood" combines humor and pathos and is remarkable for its lyrical power and intricate patterns of sound and meaning. It is a kaleidoscope of human life, celebrating the glory of procreation, growth and death.