

Just when you thought you'd heard all the lines



TOKEN MALE

JOHN HOWELL

"It's commode-huggin' time in the valley." "It takes me all night long to do what I used to do all night long." "I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy." Now, those are great lines from great songs!

I don't write songs, and only sing them after several beers. However, weekday afternoons I play a bunch of them on

Chicago's US99 radio (99.5 FM). Judging from the calls each day, most everybody has a favorite song; however, there are folks who just don't appreciate a good line. A guy named Oliver Herford said: "Songs are the medium for bawling in public about things too silly or too sacred to be uttered in ordinary speech."

Now, I don't know much

about old Oliver, but there's a man who probably never had much fun. I'm sure he never belted out a few chorus lines with the jukebox at the Lodge around 3 am. And with a name like Oliver, I would guess this guy would have thought Country Western music was stupid. But I've discovered that there are a lot of good times to be had with these songs, and you'll have a hard time finding funnier lines. Unlike other music, Country is driven almost completely by the lyrics, whether serious, funny, poignant, or corny. The music depends and revolves around real life situations, and the older I get the more the lyrics hit home. From the most traditional up to the present, each song is a story, and what

stories Country music can tell.

Over the past couple years, whenever I heard a great line or came across a phrase that would truly make a "cryin', lovin', or leavin'" song, I wrote it down. Well here's my list of some of the best ... so grab a guitar, learn a couple of simple chords, put on your jeans and boots, and start singing about life.

You think you're lonely? Check these out:

"I'd be better off in a pine box."

"My wife ran off with my best friend ... and I miss him."

"I gave her a ring and she gave me the finger."

"For better or worse, but not for long."

"What's the use in trying to get over you? I've still got you all over me."

"Since my phone still ain't ringin', I assume it still ain't you."

"I need somebody bad tonight, cause I lost somebody good."

"When I saw her starin' at the ceiling, I knew the handwriting was on the wall."

Ladies, here's some great pick-up lines from Country tunes. I really want to know ... would any of these work?

"Do you love as good as you look?"

"If I told you, you had a beautiful body, would you hold it against me?"

"I don't mind gettin' burned if I can just be near the glow."

"It's been a hard day today, I need an easy one tonight."

Since my lifestyle for the past few years has included a share of good times, some favorite lyrics in Country music are from classic drinking songs:

"She ain't much to see, but she looks good through the bottom of a glass."

"I'll be under the table when I get over you."

"Red necks, white socks, and Blue Ribbon Beer."

"Here's to the good time I must have had."

"My head hurts, my feet stink, and I don't love Jesus."

"You were the first thing that I thought of when I thought I drank you off my mind."

"I'm two beers away from a beautiful day, if I can just keep 'em down."

Of course, if you got drinking songs, you gotta have cheatin' songs ...

"I'd rather get picked up here than be put down at home."

"I'm ashamed to be here, but not ashamed enough to leave."

"I wouldn't have been so bad if it hadn't been so good."

"She was wanted by the police and had by the fire department."

"They called her American Express because she was good at any motel in town."

... and the all time greatest cheatin' song ...

"She said I snored louder than my brother."

Well, there you have it. Some of the best of the best ... as far as Country songs go. I leave it to you whether they're silly or sacred. My thanks to folks like Larry Sons and Chris Toots, who both have great collections of their own.

Hope you enjoyed them. If you've got an addition call me at US99. Thanks for your time and next time you've got to break off a relationship try this line ...

"Get your tongue out of my mouth cause I'm kissin' you goodbye!!"

—John Howell

John Howell is the afternoon on-air personality for US99 radio.