

HERE COMES THE HURRICANE SEASON ■ JERRY BROWN ■ TOURIST SURGERY

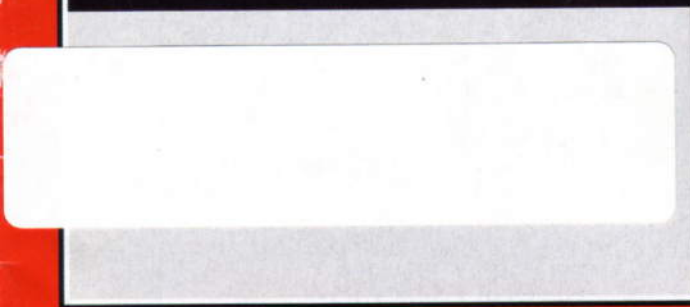
TIME



Radical Chicks

They criticized the war and were labeled unpatriotic. Now **THE DIXIE CHICKS** are back, betting their careers on a whole new style. Is America ready?

BY JOSH TYRANGIEL





After notoriously declaring that they were “ashamed” of President Bush, the Dixie Chicks lost legions of fans and airplay on country radio. Now they’re back with a smart new CD featuring an in-your-face single, *Not Ready to Make Nice*. Outspoken as ever, have they written their own ticket to pop culture’s scrap heap?

SLINGS AND ARROWS: From left: Maguire, Maines and Robison emerged from "the Incident" angry but unbowed





THE FIRST VOLLEY



SUZAN—ALL ACTION/RETNA

ROBERT RUIZ—THE TIMES/PA

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DIXIE CHICKS

At a concert, the Dixie Chicks tell an audience, "Just so you know, we're ashamed the President of the United States is from Texas"

RESPONSE A radio station proclaims Dixie Chicks Destruction Day, their songs are banned on country radio, and death threats are made

Natalie Maines is one of those people born middle finger first.

As a high school senior in Lubbock, Texas, she'd skip a class a day in an attempt to prove that because she never got caught and some Mexican students did, the system was racist. After Maines joined the Dixie Chicks, and the Dixie Chicks became the biggest-selling female

MUSIC

IN THE LINE OF FIRE

THEY'VE TAKEN THEIR HITS, AND NOW THE DIXIE CHICKS HIT BACK WITH WHAT MAY BE THE BEST ADULT POP CD OF THE YEAR. ER, WILL ANYONE BUY IT?

• By Josh Tyrangiel

group in music history—with suspiciously little cash to show for it—she and her bandmates told their record label, Sony, they were declaring themselves free agents. (In the high school that is Nashville, this is way worse than skipping class.) Now that she's truly notorious, having told a London audience in 2003, on the eve of the Iraq war, "Just so you know, we're ashamed the President of the United States is from Texas," Maines has one regret: the apology she offered George W. Bush at

