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ZONE 6 - ATLANTIC AND OCEAN COUNTIES

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 1997

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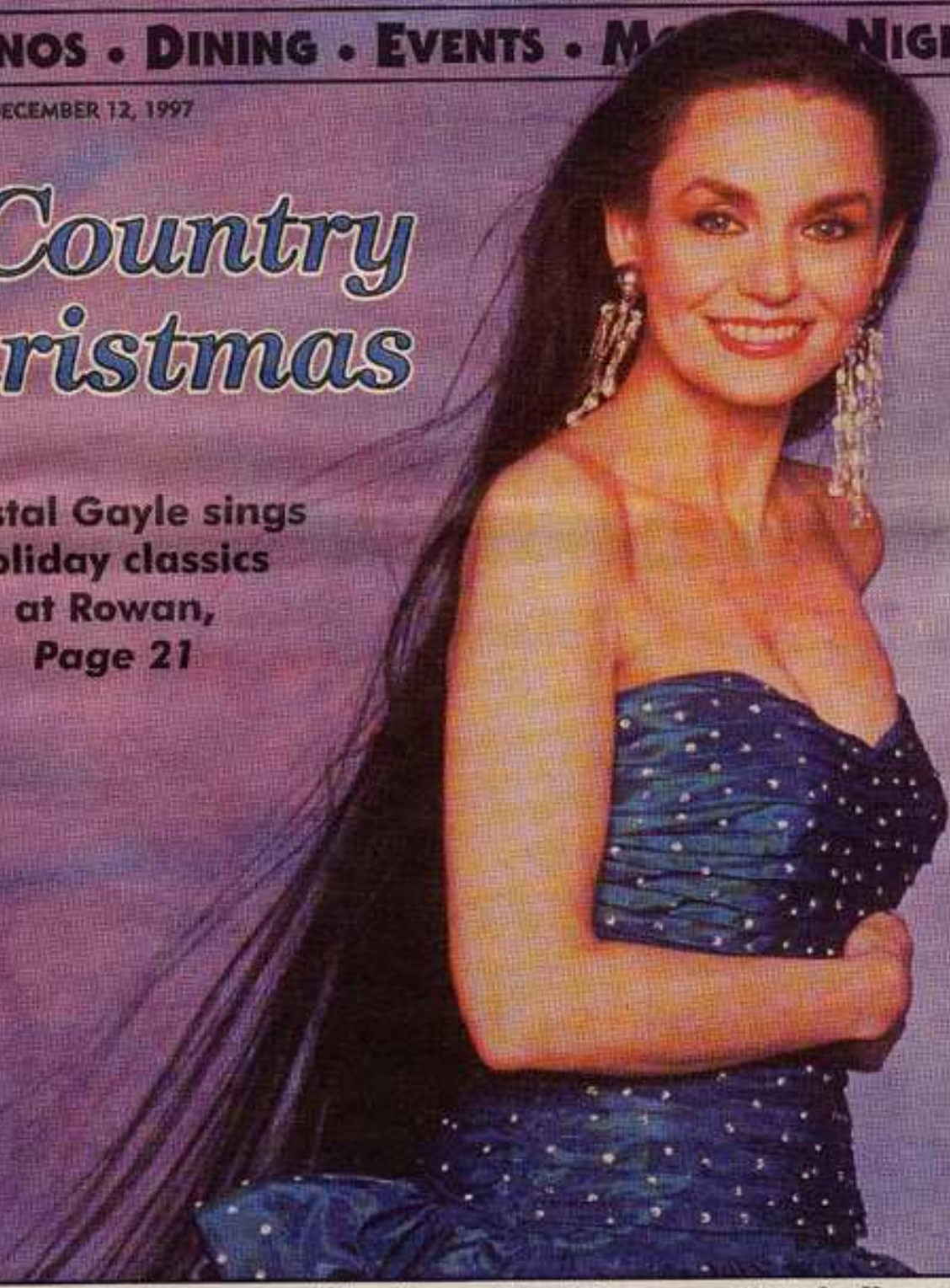
A Country Christmas

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Crystal Gayle spreads holiday joy at Rowan

Because singer Crystal Gayle likes the holiday season so much, it's surprising she had not done a Christmas tour before last year.

"I love Christmas. The holiday is a great time of year. It brings out a lot of goodness in people and I like to see that," says Gayle, who's bringing her Christmas tour to Rowan University in Glassboro on Saturday, Dec. 13. Gayle will perform two shows, at 7 and 9:30 p.m.

"Last year was our first Christmas tour and I really enjoyed it," Gayle says. "When they asked if I wanted to do it again, I said yes."

Gayle won't neglect her country hits, such as the Grammy-winning "Don't It Make Your Brown Eyes Blue." But she'll be mixing them with her favorite holiday songs, such as "O Holy Night" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

"I love to tour, it's part of the business," says Gayle, who performs more than 100 concerts a year in the United

States. Her touring has also taken her to such countries as Japan, England, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

She was also the first country singer to visit China, when she took part in Bob Hope's "Road to China" TV show in 1979.

"Once you do something you like, you just keep at it. It's what you do," she says. "Touring and music is just a part of me."

"Plus, I enjoy all the friends I've made along the way and all over the world," Gayle says.

"I've definitely seen places I wouldn't have seen if I wasn't touring."

Born in Kentucky in 1951, Gayle was brought up in Indiana after her family moved there in 1955. Her older sister, Loretta Lynn, was 19 and married when Gayle, the youngest of eight children, was born.

While growing up, Gayle listened to folk, pop, rock 'n' roll, Broadway show tunes, gospel and country. And as a

CRYSTAL GAYLE

WHERE: Wilson Concert Hall, Rowan University, Route 322, Glassboro

WHEN: 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

FOR DETAILS: Tickets are \$19.50 to \$27.50. For more information, call 256-4545.

small child, she would sing along with Leslie Gore, Brenda Lee and Patsy Cline on the radio.

"Singing is something I grew up with," Gayle says. "My mother said I sang before I walked. ... Singing is a special part of me."

Her sister Loretta obviously had a big influence on her.

When she was 16, Gayle became part of Lynn's road show. And in 1970, while still in high school, she signed her first recording contract with Decca Records.

Gayle's debut single, "I've Cried the Blue Right Out of My Eyes," was written by Lynn and reached the Top 25 on the country music charts.

"I love country," Gayle says. "I grew up singing all different styles. But country is my favorite."

In 1974, "The Wrong Road Again" became her first Top 10 hit. And in 1976, she had her first No. 1 hit, "I'll Get

Over You," which crossed over to the pop charts.

Gayle estimates she records about an album a year, including "A Crystal Christmas." Many of her albums, especially the earlier ones, have been gold sellers. "We Must Believe in Magic" (1977) and "When I Dream" (1979) albums also went platinum.

Gayle also has a multitude of awards, her first major one being the Most Promising Female Vocalist in 1976 from the Academy of Country Music. She was also named country music's Female Vocalist of the Year three times by the Academy, twice by the Country Music Association and three times by the American Music Awards.

She also won a Grammy for her performance of "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue" in 1977.

Gayle also has performed in many TV specials, including "A Crystal Christmas From Sweden."

When asked how she can stay so busy for so many years, Gayle simply laughs and says, "Vitamins."