

ROBERT EARL KEEN JR. RETURNS

Aggie brings colorful songs, stories to B-CS

By TODD BLACKMON

Arts & Entertainment Editor of THE BATTALION

When I talked on the phone with Robert Earl Keen, Jr., he was in Nashville shooting his first video for his upcoming album, "Bigger Piece of Sky."

With his deep Southern twang revealing his Texas roots, Keen's colorful descriptions ranged from his new album to his upcoming performance in Bryan.

Keen's newest effort is expected to be released in February, and he says it departs slightly from his typically acoustic style of music.

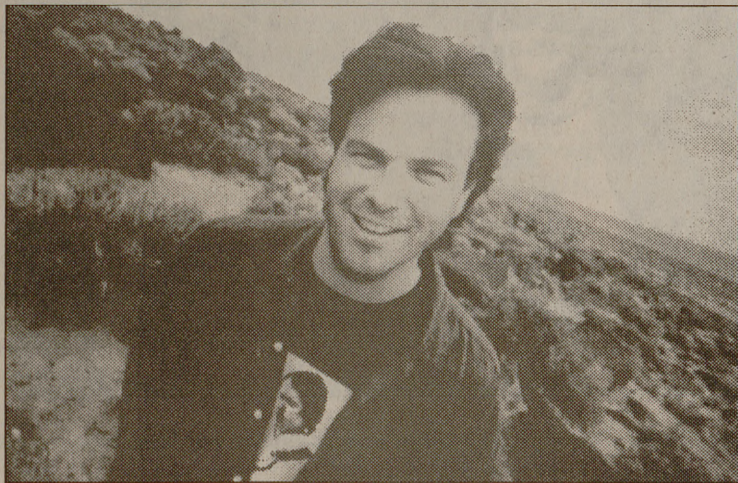
"You can expect a lot more current," Keen said. "You see, all my other things have been extremely acoustic. There's a lot more electric guitars and steel guitars."

"I never really did a record with a lot of steel guitar on it, and this one has a lot of steel guitar on it," he said. "I never really did a record with a lot of electric guitar on it, and this one has a lot of electric on it."

Keen said one of the differences between this album and his previous albums is the time he spent writing songs.

"One of my major concerns was spending enough time on the songs," he said. "Instead of spending four days, like I did on 'West Textures,' I spent a month on this record."

Keen, Class of '80, will per-



Robert Earl Keen Jr. performs at Stafford Opera House on Friday.

form at Stafford Opera House Friday night, and most of the songs from his new album will be included in the show.

Keen said he is looking forward to returning to Bryan-College Station.

"Being a student was a little scary," he said. "I was not a very good student, but I enjoyed being in College Station."

Keen said he receives a lot of fan mail from current Texas A&M students and has a large following at A&M.

"I get a lot of letters from people in College Station; you know, the Aggies in school," he said. "They talk about how they went away for the weekend, or how they went away to the country, or even how they just stayed in College Station."

"The thing I never realized when I was in school is the real heartfelt camaraderie as far as being an Aggie. You rarely run into an Aggie that doesn't have that nationalistic pride about be-

ing an Aggie."

Over the years Keen has slowly gained popularity for his narrative songwriting. With "The Live Album" (1988), and "West Textures" (1989), Keen has established himself as a songwriter telling colorful stories about everyday life.

"We have a pretty good reputation for putting on a pretty decent show," he said. "Also, my records seem to grow on people. They hear them first, you know, they may not be completely knocked out when they first them, but they always seem to grow on people who like them."

Keen said he enjoys listening to country music these days, and country music has definitely improved since the 80s, when country artists tried to sing rock, or anything else but country.

"I'm really happy country music has come full circle," he said. "I'm happy the twang is back in country. It's more

about life and not just certain aspects of life."

Keen, who now lives in Bandera, Texas, grew up in the Lone Star state and started performing bluegrass music while he was a student at A&M.

He was close friends with fellow student Lyle Lovett, with whom he often wrote songs. One song the two wrote together, "The Front Porch Song," is on Keen's "Live Album."

In the middle of the song, Keen narrates one of his and Lovett's escapades.

"We always looked forward to Sunday on the front porch, because, being across from the Presbyterians, we'd crawl out at about 11:30 Sunday morning in our underwear, amongst four or five hundred beer cans, strap on a banjo and a guitar, and wait for the Presbyterians," Keen says in the song. "We were waiting for them to get out of church, so we could sing them a little gospel music. Give them something to talk about on their way to Luby's."

One of the most common misconceptions about Keen's friendship with Lovett is that they were roommates while in college. Keen said Lovett actually lived down the street.

After Keen graduated, he spent five years performing in various clubs in Austin. He then moved to Nashville, where he soon grew frustrated with the country music scene and moved back to Texas.

"There is lousy Mexican food here (in Nashville)," Keen said. "I just prefer living in Texas. I'm just a home boy, you know. Anyone who listens to my music can tell that."

'Woza Albert!' addresses themes of racial prejudice

By JULIE POLSTON

Feature Writer of THE BATTALION

"Woza Albert!," a play providing insight to life in South Africa and life in general, will premiere Nov. 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. in 201 Memorial Student Center.

Set in South Africa, the play follows the life of two black manual laborers who re-enact a variety of situations dealing with their desire for freedom and the reactions of the South African government.

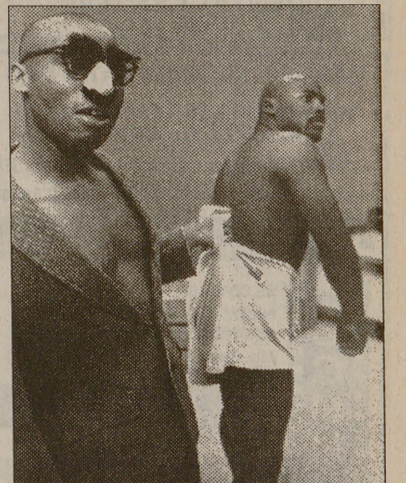
The play deals with the racial, social and political turmoil in South Africa, and addresses the themes of prejudice and discrimination in the United States today.

All performances will be followed by discussions of the play, apartheid and race relations in both countries.

"Woza Albert!," written by Percy Mtwa, Mbongeni Ngema and Barney Simon, is sponsored by the Texas A&M Department of Multicultural Services and the C.P. Time Players, with special funding from the Arts Council of Brazos Valley.

The play features Rapulana Seiphemo, a young professional actor who graduated from the Federated Union of Black Arts Academy.

Raised and educated in the



RICHARD S. JAMES/ The Battalion
Rapulana Seiphemo and Clinton Sam star in "Woza Albert!"

black township of Soweto, Seiphemo's first-hand knowledge of life under apartheid provides greater authenticity to the production.

Texas A&M theater arts professor Roger Schultz will direct the production. Schultz spent the summer 1991 in Johannesburg, South Africa where he worked with Mbongeni Ngema's Committed Artists preparing for the filming of "Sarafina!"

Tickets for the production are \$5, and are available at the Rudder Box Office or at the door.

Graduate student presents folk video

The music video "Buzzards of Steel" will debut at Texas A&M Friday at 8 p.m. in Rumours.

Presented and written by Myles Mustoe, a Texas A&M graduate student in geography, the video is a contemporary folk song.

The video was filmed in West Texas and deals with oil field workers and the boom-and-bust

nature of the oil business.

"Buzzards of Steel" was recently added to the Governor's Texas Film Commission Texas Music Office Library.

After the presentation, Mustoe will sing other folk songs about Texas.

Mustoe said although he is a teacher by trade, he enjoys playing folk music.

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Guys and girls currently Freshmen through Seniors in the 1992-1993 college year are invited to **audition** for the Post Oak Mall's **Fashion Advisory Board. POM-FAB** is a voluntary organization designed to give the brightest and best of Bryan/CollegeStation the opportunity to expand their horizons by acting as **fashion models**, spokespersons and host/hostess at Post Oak Mall events. Interested college students should meet the requirements listed on the application, complete the application and return it along with 2 recommendations and a **snapshot** to the mall office no later than November 30, 1992. Those candidates selected for the trial auditions will be notified on, or before Thurs., Dec. 3. **Trial auditions** will be held on Sat., Dec. 5 at 11am and will be judged on a personal interview, poise, personality and modeling form. Finals will be held on Sat., Dec., 12 at 1pm. Those candidates chosen to participate in the finals will model fashions from Post Oak Mall. **Winners** will be notified the day of the finals. One lucky girl or guy will be selected to serve as Mr. or Miss Post Oak Mall. **Mr. or Miss Post Oak Mall** will act as an ambassador at the Mall and during community events. A prize package valued at **\$500.00** will also be awarded.

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A bad attitude,
And a bad seat.

For the terrorists
on flight 163...
He's very bad news.

Wesley Snipes
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co-producer ROBERT J. ANDERSON executive producer JONATHAN SHEINBERG
story by STEWART RAFFILL and DAN GORDON
screenplay by DAVID LOUGHERY and DAN GORDON
produced by LEE RICH, DAN PAULSON and DYLAN SELLERS
directed by KEVIN HOOKS

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