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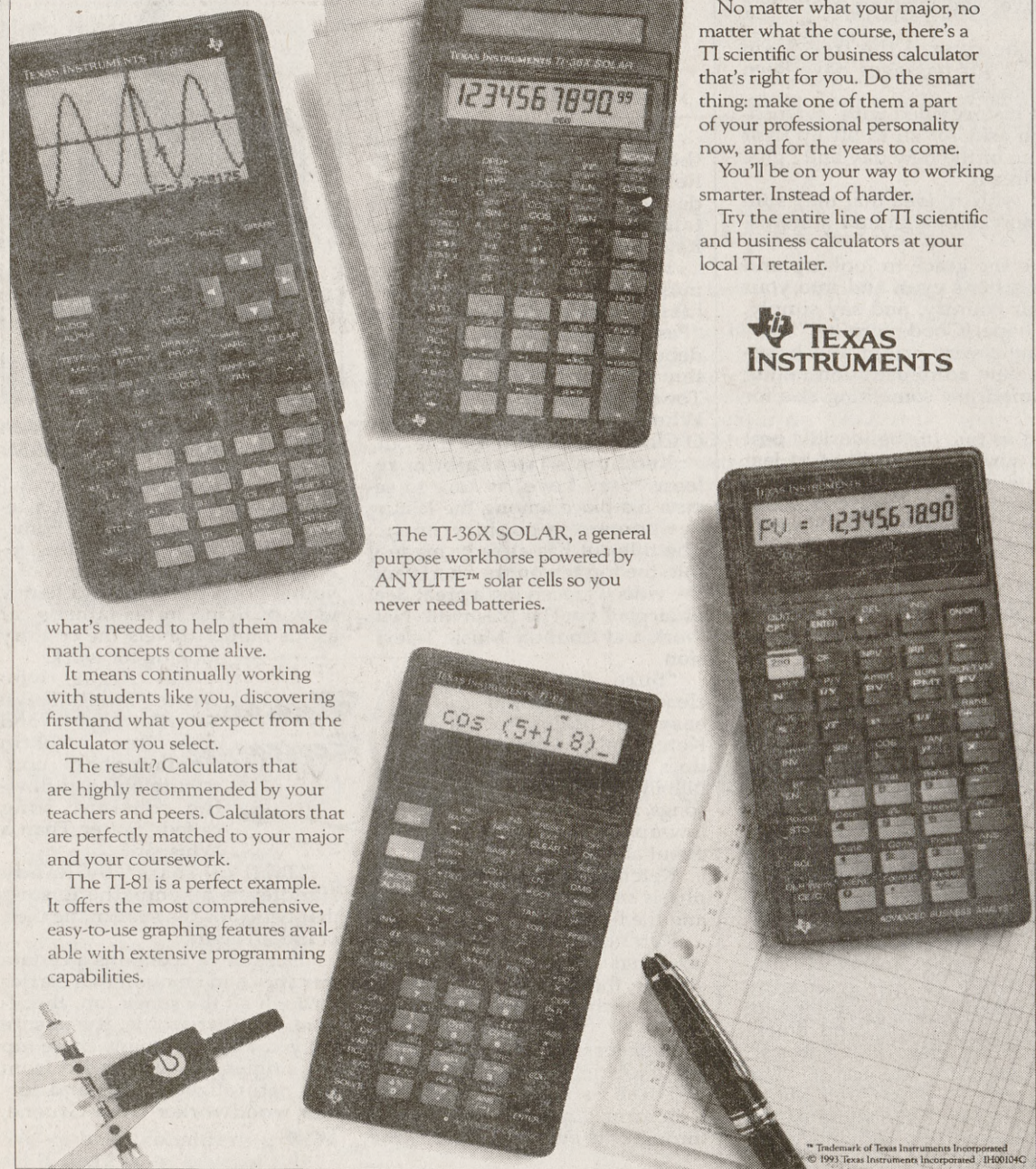
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# Country/blues rocker Joe Ely returns to Bryan-College Station

By MELISSA HOLUBEC

The Battalion

Joe Ely will return to Bryan-College Station on Friday night for the first time in several years.

The country rock and blues singer/songwriter performed five or six years ago with local musician Eric Johnson, said T.C. Nguyen, manager of the Stafford Opera House.

"This time he will perform solo, I think, but he may bring some friends down to play with him," Nguyen said.

Since his solo debut in 1977, Ely has toured with performers such as the Clash, the Rolling Stones and Tom Petty.

"This is a rare opportunity, to bring a musician as prestigious as this to the Opera House," Nguyen said. "We've been trying to bring him here for a long, long time. People tell me his acoustic act is really incredible."

Two songs on Ely's latest album, "Love and Danger," were written by fellow Texan Robert Earl Keen Jr.

Keen, a member of the Texas A&M Class of '80, contributed "The Road Goes On Forever" and "Whenever Kindness Fails."

In an interview for "Stereo Review," Ely traced his interest in a musical career back to the time his parents took their seven-year-old son to see Jerry Lee Lewis perform at a Pontiac dealership in their hometown, Amarillo.

"I'll never forget that vision of my childhood," Ely said. "You could hardly see across the street, and then here's this madman up there pounding on a piano... It



Veteran musician Joe Ely plays at Stafford Opera House on Friday.

was like a vision from hell.

"But it was so wonderful because it seemed like it fit, with the wind and the static electricity in the air," he said. "I always look back at that moment as the very beginning, the spark that made me consider doing this as my life."

Ely will perform Friday without his new band, which includes guitarist Ian Moore and Reese Wynans, formerly of Stevie Ray

Vaughn's group Double Trouble.

Nguyen said he hopes Ely will return to play again with the band, which formed after Ely finished his latest album and his guitarist left to join John Mellencamp's band.

Ely's past albums include "Honky Tonk Masquerade," "Down On The Drag," "Musta Notta Gotta Lotta," "Live at Liberty Lunch," and the critically acclaimed "Lord of the Highway."

## Around Town

Information is provided by the individual nightclubs and is subject to change.

### Stafford Opera House

106 S. Main, Bryan; 775-4082.  
**Thursday - Retarded Elf and Yuck.** Funk. \$5 cover for those under 21.  
**Friday - Joe Ely.** Texas rock.  
**Saturday - Gary Primich.** Blues. Advance tickets free.

### Squads Sports Bar & Grill

1315 S. College; 822-3537.  
**Saturday - Covenant.** Rock and roll. \$2 cover.

### Love Shack

318 N. Main, Bryan; 775-1578.  
**Sunday - Live Jam Session.** No cover.

### Koppie Bridge Bar and Grill

764-2933.  
**Saturday - Rockafellas.** Country rock.

### Kay's Cabaret

Post Oak Mall; 18 and over; 696-9191.  
**Thursday - Writers and Performers Showcase with Kyle Hutton.** \$1 cover.  
**Friday - Full Circle.** Rock and blues. \$2 cover.  
**Saturday - Direct Connection.** Rock and roll. \$2 cover.

### Two Pesos

303 University Dr; 846-4135.  
**Wednesday - Sneaky Pete.** Sing-along. Starts at 8 p.m. \$2 cover.

### Texas Hall of Fame

2309 S FM Rd 2818; 822-2222.  
**Thursday - Special F/X.** Country. \$4 cover, no cover with college ID.  
**Friday - Sterling Country.** Country. \$5 cover.  
**Saturday - Cheyenne.** Country. \$4 cover.

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 -Graham Fuller, INTERVIEW

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 • Committee meetings start next Monday, January 25 @ 7:00 p.m. in 212 MSC.  
 • Questions? Call the Student Programs Office (MSC 216) at 845-1515, or...  
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