

David Kersh rides the Wal-Mart country music tour

By RHONDA REINHART
Staff writer

It's 8:30 Thursday morning, and David Kersh's cellular phone is breaking up. He's somewhere in South Dakota, on his way to a show. The interview is postponed until later in the afternoon when Kersh is settled in a hotel room in Sioux Falls. But in a few short days, he'll be in Texas, and after that, it's on to Oklahoma. A tiring journey, yes, but the young country singer is used to it. Last year, Kersh played 243 dates and traveled all over the United States. He seems to handle the labor effortlessly, but he admits that being on the road is tough.

"There's a whole lot of work to it," he said. "If I didn't love my job, there's no way I would do this."

"Goodnight Sweetheart," the debut single that brought Kersh national recognition, contains the same air of road weariness. The opening lines, "Window seat/ 30,000 feet above the ground ... " prepare listeners for a heartfelt tune that echoes the exhausting result of being a long way from home.

A native of Humble, Texas, Kersh talks about his home state with excitement.

"It's so nice to play in Texas," he said. "No matter what direction we're coming from, when we cross that Texas border, it's like this huge sigh of relief takes place in the bus."

But Kersh shows no signs of taking a break from the road any time soon. In July, he joins the Brooks & Dunn/Reba McEntire tour, a career move that Kersh calls the answer to his prayers.

"It feels so wonderful," he said. "That's an absolute dream tour."

And although the travel can be tiresome, Kersh hopes his future will be filled with more big shows and records.

"I want to be around for a long time," he said. "I just want to continue putting out the best possible music I can. I'd like to have a career like George Strait's. He's the man."

Kersh's new album, *If I Never Stop Loving You*, has already made waves with its title track and "Wonderful Tonight," Kersh's cover of the 1978 Eric Clapton hit.

Although Kersh doesn't list Clapton as one of his influences, he calls him a phenomenal musician.

"Wonderful Tonight" is a great song," he said. "That song is 20 years old, and some people haven't been introduced to it. I wanted to be the one to reintroduce it."

Kersh said he is a music lover who was influenced by a lot of different kinds of music, including country and rock 'n' roll.

On Monday, May 11, Kersh will join RCA recording artist Sara Evans in Brenham for CMT Presents Wal-Mart Music Across America '98.

Evans is a country newcomer from Boonesboro, Missouri. She has received radio and television airplay with her debut single, "Three Chords And The Truth" and has opened for performers such as Willie Nelson, Tim McGraw and Clay Walker.

The Wal-Mart concert series provides free country entertainment in parking lots at various Wal-Mart stores across the country.

The concert series started in 1995 and has entertained more than 200,000 people over the past three years.

PLEASE SEE **KERSH** ON PAGE 4.

Left and right ends of the musical spectrum stretch on new Tori Amos album



MICHELLE VOSS
staff writer

With a smoldering sensuality only she can get away with, Tori Amos' new album, *from the choirgirl hotel*, smacks of sexuality, girls and God.

Packing up and moving into the realm of Bjork and Garbage, *choirgirl* is a surprising break from traditional Tori — traditional meaning bluesy ballads from a girl and her Bosendorf. While the album cannot be squeezed into a definitive genre, *choirgirl* is best described as a gothic-jazz-techno session that Tori probably banged out over a few weeks.

Choirgirl is, in its best moments, a sexually active album that makes you want to climb the walls, or at least crawl on your floor. As the beats, rhythms and intense emotions create an exotic, sultry jazz, Tori's original interpretation of her universe can't resist crowning her poet-prophetess of the 21st century.

Once again, she lures us into her nether world of pain and ecstasy, pouring her soul into our laps. This is her darkest album so far. "Spark," the first single released in the U.S., gives *choirgirl* a solid opening. The gutsy piano we're used to hearing from Tori is salvaged on this well-rounded piece.

Unfortunately, "Spark" is probably the only single from *choirgirl* that will bash its way into the consciousness of mainstream pop.

Most likely, the remainder of *choirgirl* is only appealing to Toriphiles, and might even turn away fans of her earlier work on *Little Earthquakes* and *Under the Pink*.

While *Boys for Pele* was a highly experimental journey into feminine consciousness, *choirgirl* is even more esoteric, a series of space-girl poems. We see less of Tori's personal pain and memories, and more of a deliberately pop-girl album.

PLEASE SEE **TORI** ON PAGE 4.

Storyville keeps on truckin' in its Dog Years



By RHONDA REINHART
Staff writer

musicians came out swinging. Now, after a two-year break between rounds, Storyville is back with *Dog Years*, a new album that packs the same punch as its predecessor.

With an equal mixture of up-tempo rock tunes and tender ballads, Storyville has produced a balanced album with knockout performances from each band member.

From the painful chords of "Who's Left Standing" to the radio friendly "Born Without You," *Dog Years* provides a sample for almost every musical taste. But even though Storyville's loud rock 'n' roll tunes possess an infectious energy, it is the raw emotion of the group's ballads that steal the show.

Lead vocalist Malford Milligan emits soulful sounds reminiscent of Sam Cooke and Otis Redding. When he sings, "I walked right through disaster / And came out full of laughter / I am free / I am free," on "There's a Light," listeners feel his pain and his triumph. He puts a new spin on the old ideas of lost love and shattered dreams and provides inspiration all at the same time. There's a light shining on Malford Milligan, and with his voice, he could brighten any room.

But that's not to say the rest of his bandmates are left in the dark. This group is dripp-

ing with talent, and each member belongs in the spotlight. Drummer Chris Layton and bassist Tommy Shannon share résumés with a long list of credentials, including a gig with Stevie Ray Vaughan. And guitarists David Holt and David Grissom have played with the likes of Joe Ely, the Mavericks and John Mellencamp. This is a group of musicians not short on experience or talent.

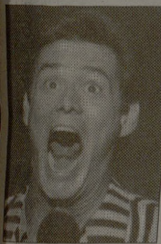
Storyville's musical know-how has garnered the band an action-packed summer. *Dog Years* hits stores July 14. And the group has been confirmed as one of the four acts on this summer's Blues Music Festival tour with B.B. King, The Neville Brothers and Dr. John. The 31-date tour starts August 7 in the Northwest. Check it out.

When Storyville jumped in the ring with its 1996 album, *A Piece Of Your Soul*, the group of talented

Sneak Peek

Comedian leaves jokes behind for new film

By JAMES FRANCIS
Aggielife editor



Carrey

This time around Jim Carrey is back with a new bag of tricks; a little something he likes to call "the dramatic role."

In *The Truman Show*, Carrey portrays an ordinary Mr. Rogers-type of fellow named Truman. He has the perfect wife, the perfect neighbors and the perfect job. But all of this seems to be a bit too perfect for Truman.

What Truman does not know is that his entire life has been a director's film project, from his birth to his adolescence to his life with his wife.

The director, played by Ed Harris broadcasts the show worldwide; it has the highest television ratings ever.

When Truman's desire to leave town takes

The Truman Show
Starring Jim Carrey and Ed Harris
Critique: A

control, he begins to stumble on little things that give away the director's secret, such as a stage light seemingly falling from the sky and landing directly in front of Truman.

Carrey takes on this dramatic role, not new from his appearance on the old Fox TV movie, "Doing Time on Maple Drive," head on.

The concept for the film is fresh and Carrey carries out his part with an endearing attitude. If you're tired of the same old Jim Carrey slapstick, *The Truman Show* will suite your taste.

The Truman Show opens June 5

Student pens book to help athletes further their careers

By MARIUM MOHIUDDIN
Staff writer

Four years of high school followed by four years of college. What comes next is on the minds of graduating seniors? Some have contemplated graduate school, marriage, a job, but is this what students had intended to do? When they were little, most had aspirations to see their faces on the big screen, fly to the moon or write a book and have their names in print.

There are so many different roads upon which students can travel. When looking back years from today, they may be on a path they never dreamed of traveling.

There are many students who can recall what they had dreamed and what they have become. These memories are probably becoming more alarming as graduation creeps closer. One thing to keep in mind is that graduates may not be where they wanted to be, but success can be found anywhere.

Jennifer Bohac is the assistant director of athletic career services and a former Aggie. Bohac graduated as an agriculture major but through the course of time, changing her career path has led her to sign a contract with Prentice Hall Publishers to write a book. This is not an ordinary book, but a textbook that will have thousands of demanding readers.

The textbook Bohac is currently conceptualiz-

ing ties in with her profession of helping student athletes prepare for their future either in sports or in the job market.

"The publishers wanted to write a textbook about this subject," she said. "They asked me because it is my job to help student athletes, and I teach a class covering this material. The class is out there for the whole student body, but I took two sections of the class and geared it for student athletes."

"The book is only one of a few in this country," she said. "It is going to other universities for their athletic departments, for workshops or for classes. Some universities do not have a program to help student athletes."

Bohac said her current profession and the class she teaches will help her collect useful information for the textbook.

"The goal of the class is setting up a job search plan," she said. "We do networking, how to dress for success, mock interviews and we go on field trips. We also bring in all kinds of former athletes, from football and baseball to swimming."

"We also talk about the idea of setting up a plan B," Bohac said. "Some athletes don't make it big. We present the other side of this profession for those who got injured or just did not get up to the big leagues."

Bohac said the class has been a success, helping athletes to realize and visualize their futures.

PLEASE SEE **BOHAC** ON PAGE 4.

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