

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

ALPHAPALOOZA '98

Saturday - September 19, 1998
 Rudder Auditorium
 Texas A&M University
 7:36 PM
 \$15.00 pre-sale
 \$17.50 at the door

Concert *Chico* & After Party (G. ROLLIE WHITE) FREE WITH TICKET STUB

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DeBarge featuring live band

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Return to Aggieland

Singer/songwriter Roger Creager ready to kick off his first CD release tonight

BY TRAVIS IRBY
 The Battalion

Receiving one's Aggie ring is an important part of an A&M acolyte's life cycle. If the accomplishment occurs on the same night as the release of one's first CD, it can be considered a moment to remember.

Roger Creager will have one of those moments when he holds his CD-release party tonight at Shadow Canyon.

Creager will be wearing his Aggie ring when he takes the stage to introduce audiences to *Having Fun All Wrong*, his first album.

Creager said the seeds of song have been planted in him for a long time, but not always.

"When I started piano lessons in the second grade, I was more interested in baseball," he said.

With time, his interest in America's pastime faded, but in high school, Creager's dreams took to another field.

He played in a small band during this time, making as much noise as music.

"I was in a little garage band," Creager said. "We played music ranging from rock to country."

Creager entered Texas A&M and was a member of the Texas Aggie Band. During his stay at A&M he wrote his first song.

"I wrote a song in the summer between my sophomore and junior year," Creager said. "I never performed it, but with it I knew what I wanted to do."

Creager eventually dropped out of A&M and went on to graduate from Sam Houston State University, becoming an accountant in Houston.

When the motivation to make music took over, he decided it was time for a change.

In January 1997 Creager returned to College Station to pursue his agriculture leadership development degree from A&M and follow his penchant for performing.

He said his decision to forgo a profitable existence as an account-

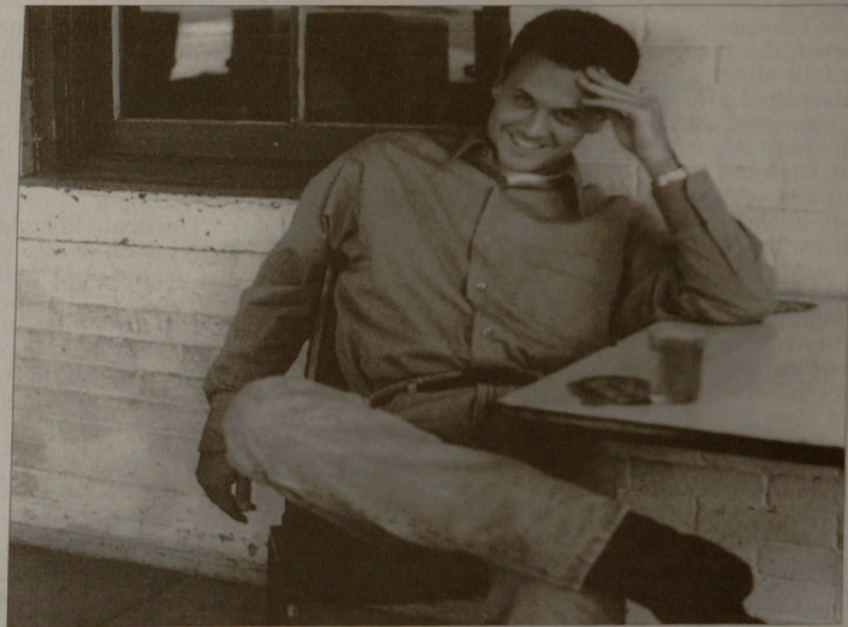


PHOTO COURTESY OF ROGER CREAGER

Roger Creager will celebrate the release of his first album, *Having Fun All Wrong*, at a CD-release party tonight at Shadow Canyon. Country singer Creager is a former member of the Texas Aggie Band.

Creager was met with a range of responses from friends and family.

"Some thought it was great; some thought it was crazy," Creager said. "I think both sides were right."

His experiences in the music business dispelled some of the illusions he had about the situation.

"People think [success] is the case of being in the right place at the right time," Creager said. "It's not — it's playing 14,000 nights and making just enough money to pay for gas."

To get his name out, Creager played at events like radio station KORA's Singer-Songwriter Night.

He credits the experience with helping to build his audience.

"Roy Munse, of KORA, helped me get a lot of gigs, ranging from commercial jingles to live events," he said.

Soon after Creager had jelled with his band, it was time to record an album. The result was *Having Fun All Wrong*, a collection of old and new tunes.

The album's title track refers to Creager's life during Summer 1996.

"It was a wild summer," he said. "The following October was when I started to think about music."

The other tracks are indicative of Creager's unique style of country music.

"I've had people say my music reminds them of Robert Earl Keen and George Strait, which is a great compliment," he said. "I think my biggest influences are Lyle Lovett and Jerry Jeff Walker, but I draw from many artists."

Creager said his music is different from the country music dominating the charts.

"My music is not as polished as most of today's music," he said. "It has more attitude and isn't as shiny. I wrote most of the songs, and they are more old-school."

When Creager takes the stage tonight at Shadow Canyon, his attitude will be more Aggie than anything else.

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