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Jack of all countries

Ingram brings traditional sounds to The Tap

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

Although many pop-country stations embrace Jack Ingram's music and some consider him to follow the mainstream-country route, Ingram sticks to his guns and says the only type of music he sings is "real" country.

"I'm a country artist," Ingram said. "The way that it's being labeled as 'alternative' just blows my mind."

Kathi Whitley, Ingram's manager, said Ingram enjoys playing for the college crowds because they are the core group of his support.

"The college students are Ingram's bread and butter," Whitley said. "He's their biggest fan and the crowds are what keeps him going."

Ingram's career started while he was a student at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He said he grew up listening to the sounds of country legends ranging from Willie Nelson to Jerry Jeff Walker and picked up the guitar when he was 18.

Ingram learned how to play guitar in his spare time while he was going to school and started songwriting almost simultaneously.

Ingram's rise to fame began at a local night spot in Dallas known as Adair's.

"My brother and I used to go down there to hear music," Ingram said. "Once I had enough songs to do a set, I asked the owner if there was a night that they didn't have much business that I could try playing, and I wound up performing there every Tuesday for a year."

In 1996, after a series of successful self-made albums, Ingram signed with Rising Tide. After Rising Tide closed in 1998, Sony Records A&R



PHOTO COURTESY OF...

Jack Ingram, performing Saturday night at The Tap, is branching other entertainment forms and was recently seen in the movie...

producer Blake Chancey signed Ingram to his Sony/Lucky Dog label.

The last album produced by Ingram was *Living or Dying*, composed of a variety of musical motifs ranging from hard-edged songs to deep ballads.

"I love listening to music here. You never know quite which way things are going to turn, but in the end it always seems to kind of fit," Ingram said.

Ingram's other recent accomplishments include having the video from his song "Flutter" voted as one

of the Best Videos of the Country Music Television.

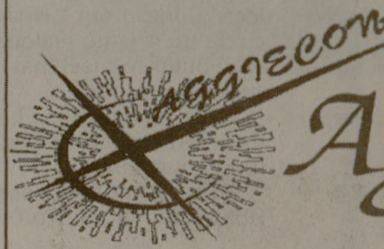
Ingram has also gained a reputation through films. He has roles in *Hope Floats* and took a role in an independent film *Abilene* which will be released this year.

Ingram and his band are only one of the most sought in the country. Part of their success could be attributed to Ingram's talent.

"Ten folks or 10,000, it's the same to me. I'm putting on a show these people have ever

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