

An Okie from Muskogee

Roger Creager and associates drop country music hurricane on Harry's

By ANNE HOAR
The Battalion

Blame it on the rain if you will, but the small, disinterested crowd cast a cloud on an excellent performance by Roger Creager at Hurricane Harry's Friday night.

Creager's music, in typical Texas-music style, covers themes like drinking, Momma and hanging out with buddies.

Creager performed enthusiastically, even though audience participation was lacking.

Joined by a six-piece band, he rocked through a long list of songs from Creager's albums *I Got the Guns* and *Having Fun All Wrong* and covered tunes from all genres of popular music.

"The Everclear Song," "I'm Proud to be an Okie from Muskogee" and "Moving On" got the crowd singing and moving on the dance floor. The audience yelled along and performed dance moves they learned in junior high during a cover of Vanilla Ice's early '90s hit, "Ice, Ice Baby."

Singing is a family affair for the Creagers. Roger Creager was joined on stage by his younger brother Randy Creager Friday night.

They performed "Let it Roll" and "Please Come to Boston" together.

Randy Creager said the brothers perform together at least twice a year.

"Mom makes us sing together at Christmas and other family functions," Randy Creager said. "I really enjoy being onstage with my brother."

Sibling rivalry encouraged Randy to begin a singing career of his own.

"Roger was in a talent show in his early 20s, and the whole family went to watch him," Randy Creager said. "When we got there, I decided to sign up. Roger got first place and I got third."

Both brothers are A&M grads. Randy Creager was a singing cadet and Roger Creager was in the Fightin' Texas Aggie band.

Roger Creager's father, William Creager, said he attends many of Roger's performances and contributes vocals on the song "Rancho Grande."

William Creager said he supports his sons and their musical careers.

"My responsibility to Roger was to encourage his education," William Creager said. "After that, I encouraged him to go ahead and do what he wanted. He's doing well, and I enjoy the music."

Roger Creager said he enjoys coming to College Station and performing in front of a friendly crowd in his adopted hometown.

"There's just something about coming home again," Roger Creager said. "I love Aggies. The performances are fun because I don't hold back."

Roger Creager said he was excited to perform at the Wormy Dog Saloon in Stillwater, Okla., Saturday night as part of the activities for the A&M-OSU football weekend.

Roger Creager said his favorite memory of being an Aggie was when he finally got his Aggie ring.

"It took a lot of time and dedication to do it," Roger Creager said.

The two brothers received their rings on the same day, even though Roger Creager is class of '93 and Randy is class of '98. Roger Creager had a show at Shadow Canyon that night, and Randy Creager said the two brothers dunked their rings onstage.

The opening acts, although enthusiastic, played to a sparse and somewhat disinterested crowd.

During Slyletter's performance, the group played to an audience that barely filled one-fourth of the upstairs dance floor. The band danced more than the audience did.

It was difficult for the crowd not to be distracted by ESPN on the big-screen televisions next to the stage. In fact, a large portion of the crowd was paying more attention to Sportscenter and Tiger Woods than the music.

The two-step music played between sets drew a fair amount of people to the dance floor.

Before Roger Creager took the stage, country comedian Doug Moreland attempted to entertain the audience.

With a Bud Light in his holster, Moreland combined mundane chords with vulgar, elementary prose in an attempt at humor. His Texas accent and mannerisms seemed forced and exaggerated. Maybe it was Moreland, maybe it was the person doubled-over laughing at him, but something about that set supported the theory that beer kills brain cells.

The Harry's sound system was not effective for the concert. The lack of sound made distinguishing bass and lyrics difficult.

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