

# Granger comes home

AGGIELIFE

## Local singer plays Shadow Canyon while friends, fans pan

#### BY ANNE HOAR

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The Battalion

Granger Smith played to a welcoming crowd of friends at Shadow Canyon Saturday night.

The six-piece band The Night Shift opened for Smith and played a va-

riety of covers, from "Play That Funky Music" to "Sweet Home Alabama," that got the audience twostepping on the dance floor.

The audience crowded close to the stage, when Smith, in cowboy hat and boots, took the stage.

Smith received a lot of adoring looks from the girls and good-natured teasing from the guys, and the crowd sang along with Smith's original songs and cover tunes.

He played his original songs solo and the covers with the band, which he had just met that day.

The crowd had the makings of a reunion. Many people in the audience felt a connection to Smith, a member of the Class of '02, who is not currently a student, as he is now living in Nashville. Many people also seemed to know each other.

"My dream is playing at Shadow Canyon and people throwing beer at me from the balcony," Smith said. 'This is what it's all about.'

He smiled and waved to people in the crowd during the performance.

Smith invited a freshman from his former Corps outfit onstage to give a speech to motivate the crowd.

This is my one junior detail," Smith said.

Smith and his band played a lot of George Strait songs, including "Fireman" and "Amarillo By Morning."

Smith played songs from his first album, Waiting on Forever, including "Count the Stars" and "Monterrey." Smith also played "As It Is in Texas," which radio stations in College Station and Dallas are playing.

'The women here are better than anywhere else in the world," Smith said.

College Station was a special trip for Smith. "I came back here to see all my friends," Smith said. "College Station is the No. 1 town to play in Texas, and I'd rather be here than anywhere

else in the world.

Waiting On Forever

"Playing here is the best feeling. Nothing beats it." Smith said there are many things he misses about College Station 'I miss my buddies and my old band, the Number 7 band, a lot," Smith said.

> Smith said he enjoys his new perience in Nashville writing polic recording songs. fired cause

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"It doesn't seem like a job." Smith said. "I write songs even vesti and record the best ones. unive However, Smith said, hisso

writing keeps him from perform frequently. 'I've basically been in a but

doing studio work," he said." my first performance since the Smith said moving to Nash is the biggest change he has m

"I went from living here an ing in the Corps, basically con dependence," he said. "Now! got complete independence; li to pay my own bills. It's abig justment.

Smith currently has one CD progress, which he said is set released in the fall. Smith said his music is' tional country with a Texas fa

a lot of Granger. "Writing music is the ultin vent," he said.

Smith said women are the major inspiration for his songs. "It's a lot of life, but mainly girls," he said. "Losin' 'em, gettin and wishing you had 'em back

Smith said he plans to finish his degree at A&M.

"As soon as it calms down, I'll go back, but it probably won'the time soon," Smith said. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. was too good to pass up.'

His mother, Debbee Smith, said she supports her son's decision pursue his musical career.

"Granger's always been very focused and known what he want Debbee Smith said. "We encouraged him to go to school, and wea said that if a wonderful opportunity came up, we'd discuss it. We're excited and proud of him.

### Seinfeld perfoms for first time since 1998 hiatus

WEST ORANGE, N.J. (AP) — The star of a show about nothing is doing just that these days.

"I do nothing," Jerry Seinfeld told an audience at Rascal's comedy club Saturday. "A lot of people think doing nothing is really good. I tell you, you can get pretty crammed doing nothing.

Seinfeld, 46, has kept a relatively low profile since his immensely popular

series "Seinfeld" ended its prime-time run in May 1998. He turned up for four weekend shows at the club, where he appeared regularly before he became a star. The

#### **People In the News**

Web — "Why do they call it eBay? They should call it Garbay" - and his 1999 wedding - "If you want to have a great party, why invite all the oldest people you know

Pavarotti makes amends with fans after poor performance

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) - Opera star Luciano Pavarotti kept Alsopromise to fans who were disappointed by an earlier performance.

The legendary tenor returned to the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort on Saturday, performing a concert to make amends for the Nov. 11 show he struggled through while suffering from

#### **Kiss' drummer Criss m** welcome on farewell LOS ANGELES (AP) - Kiss drums

ter Criss says he still wants to rock i with the band, but its leaders don't want on the start of their farewell tour.

A statement posted on the band's We said Criss had left the group he helped but gave no reason.

On Saturday, Criss said Kiss lead Gene Simmons and guitarist Paul Stank short negotiations for him to perform tour. Criss will be replaced by Eric Sing played with the band from 1991 to 199

"It is unfortunate that Gene and Paul to terminate their association with met Japan and Australia tour dates. I am he and will truly miss performing," Criss sau







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tised outside the club. The club owner said he turned away 10,000 other ticket-seekers.

Seinfeld had new jokes, but the same style of humor

Some of the up-to-date jokes took on the

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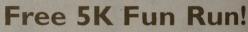
were allowed to return for free

A healthier Pavarotti, 65,

joined by soprano Cynthia Lawrence, performed for nearly 90 minutes, including four encores. The crowd of 5,000 responded with five standing ovations.

"We were in the middle of negotiati there was an offer taken off the table lawyer, Mike Celli, said Saturday. He would disclose details of the talks

Kiss is playing Japan and Australia month and reportedly plans to close the with a multi-night stand at New York's Ma Square Garden in April.



**Engineers Week Kick-off Event** Saturday, Feb. 17th, 8am **Research Park** 

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