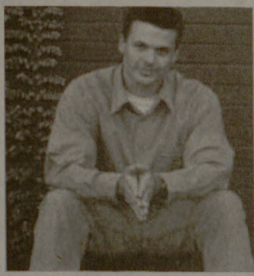


Kicking off for a good cause



Pat Green headlines ninth annual Ag Kickoff Saturday at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater, portion of proceeds go to American Red Cross

By KELLY PREISER
THE BATTALION

In the midst of heartbreaking chaos and grief, Americans are told to move on with their daily lives. While it is hard to think of anything else but the devastation of the last few days, there are ways Americans can unite, celebrate their pride and join each other for a good time.

This Saturday, Bryan-College Station residents will be offered an evening of fun, laughter and music with the "world's largest back-to-school party" — the Ag Kickoff. Since 1993, the Ag Kickoff has featured big-name stars to College Station ranging from Robert Earl Keen and Jerry Jeff Walker, to Vertical Horizon, Pushmonkey, Vanilla Ice and Run DMC.

This year's headliner is Texas-great Pat Green. Accompanying Green are Texas country singer Roger Creager, band Cross Canadian Ragweed, Dub Miller (singer of the Fightin' Texas Aggie song), Dean Seltzer, the Redneck Mothers and emcee-comedian Doug Moreland.

The Battalion's interview with Green took place Tuesday, a day America will never forget, just a few hours after the nation heard the news. Green said he was shaken up by the events and, like most Americans, was grieving for the lost lives and for the country's loss. He also was in shock from the horrifying events of that morning.

"I want to get my heart out to the people in New York," Green said. "It's hard for me to imagine a person who can justify doing something like this. And to such a strong country. America does so much for its people. It's just

hard to imagine. This will ultimately be a devastating experience for America."

The Red Cross will be present at the Ag Kickoff and will be collecting donations that will go straight to the disaster relief funds for New York and Washington, D.C. Also, Green will donate a large amount of the proceeds from Saturday's show to the Red Cross. That money also will go to the disaster relief funds.

Green said he has been on the road a lot lately and that, especially with everything going on, is really looking forward to just getting back to Texas and being with his family and friends.

Green joined the country music scene in 1995 with his debut CD *Dancehall Dreamer*. The popularity of *Dancehall Dreamer* led to an increased following and his second album, *George's Bar*. Green gained a lot of recognition with his third CD, *Here We Go*, which was recorded live at College Station's Shadow Canyon and at the legendary Gruene Hall. Green has continued to wow audiences with his fourth CD, *Carry On*.

Green said that when he first started playing music in front of audiences, his goal was to just make it through at least three songs "without messing up."

Now, with Texas-country fame riding on his shoulders, the scene is a little different, but Green remains modest.

"It's all a total surprise to me," he said. "I'm excited about making it, but I'm also as nervous as I've ever been. I'm just excited as hell that I get the opportunity to play shows like this for people who really love the music."

Green said that he and his band have always

enjoyed coming to A&M.

"We like to do it every year," he said. "We always have a good crowd; there are a lot of supporters of Texas music at A&M. Besides, half the members of my band are Aggies. Aggies were a part of the first group to really latch on to our music."

He said he thinks Aggies have something that most do not and something most do not understand.

"Y'all have something the rest of the country doesn't," Green said. "It's something most people will never come close to or understand. There's just this bond, this strong unity. It's incredible."

Six of eight of Green's band members attended A&M. Green himself was a Texas Tech University Red Raider. This, however, does not in any way affect his performances at other universities, he said.

"Yeah, sure, I took part in the rivalry thing in college. That was just a part of being there, and at football games and stuff," Green said. "But now I think I have a unified, state-wide support. The rivalry doesn't bother me at all. I think music brings people together. In general, it is a very unifying element."

Green said his role models as a musician include Willie Nelson and Jerry Jeff Walker and that his musical influences range from Robert Earl Keen to Dave Matthews and Counting Crows.

"My influences include rock as well as country," Green said.

Green said he really is looking forward to playing in College Station and has high hopes

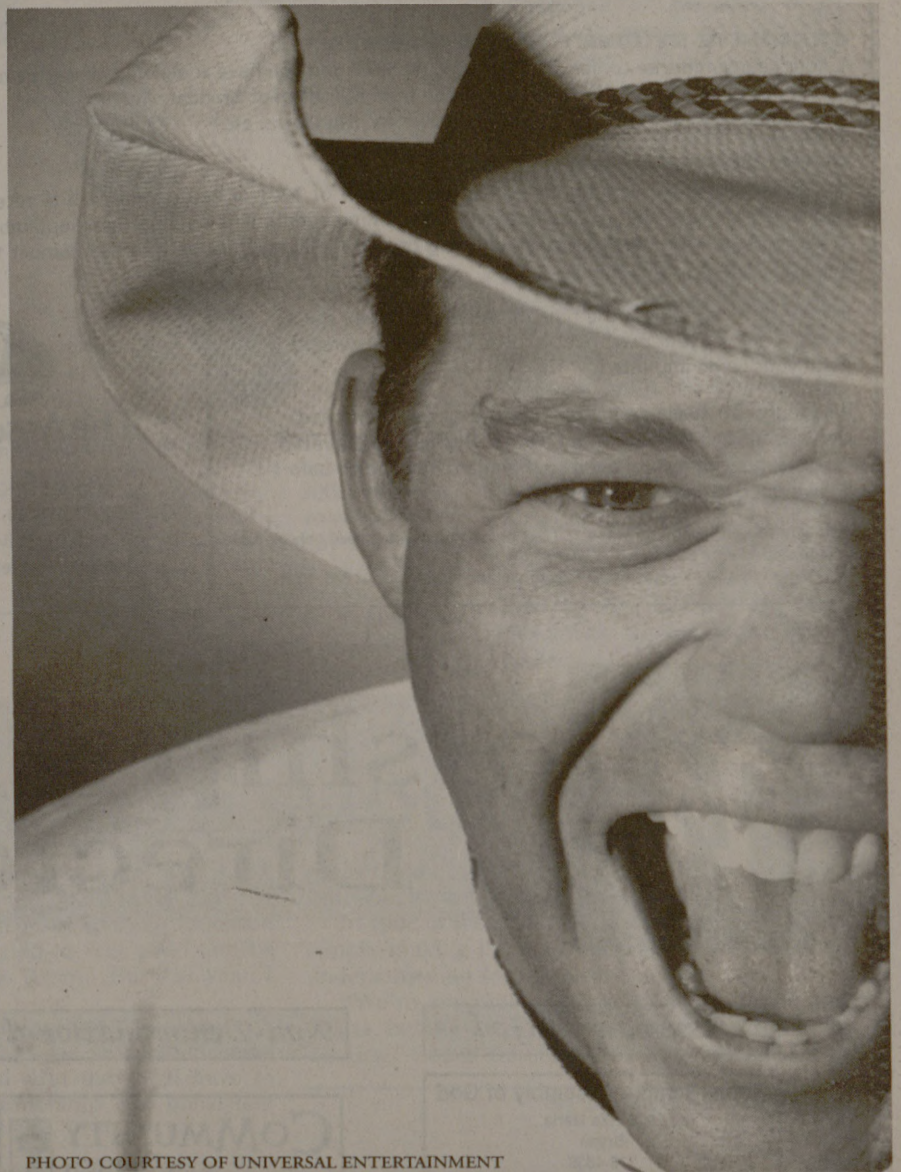


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for the future of the Ag Kickoff.

"I just would like to see it be the biggest college party in America," Green said. "I think it shows the size, strength and shape of A&M."

Green said he could not wait to perform at Saturday's Ag Kickoff. He did offer one piece of advice, though.

"Just don't jump in the moat. People get excited and crazy and think it will be fun to get in the water. People don't realize that it's only like two feet deep," he said, laughing.

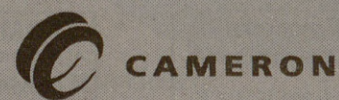
Audiences can join Green and guests at the 2001 Ag Kickoff beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater in College Station. For more information about the Ag Kickoff or to purchase tickets online, visit www.AgKickoff.com. Tickets also are available at Rother's Bookstore, Fitzwilly's and the Memorial Student Center Box Office.

There undoubtedly are a lot of people with heavy hearts and thoughts. However, as the title track of Green's new album says, people must *Carry On* and use the opportunity to enjoy some live music and comedy while directly helping those in need around the country.

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