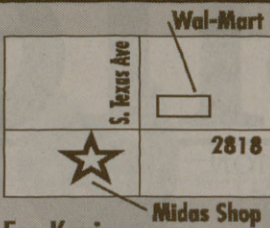


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THE BATTALION

Wednesday, October 24, 2001

Country singer Kenny Chesney visits Aggieland Thursday

By LIZETTE RESENDEZ
THE BATTALION

Kenny Chesney said he is looking to deliver a high-energy performance to a high-energy crowd Thursday night.

"This isn't a show where people come in and sit down and listen to the music," he said.

Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m., the first show of Chesney's tour will begin with special guests Sara Evans and Gary Allen.

Chesney first played in College Station at Hurricane Harry's in 1996 to a very enthusiastic crowd. This Thursday, he will meet his fans at a much bigger venue — Reed Arena.

Chesney said he hopes his fans know he is just one of the guys.

"I want them to know I'm just a regular guy," Chesney said. "When I put on my hat and go on stage, I become an artist."

Chesney, a Tennessee native, counts George Strait, the Eagles and Lynard Skynard as some of his influences.

Chesney got his start as a songwriter. However, now that he has risen to fame, he no longer has time to compose songs as he would like. He must rely on other songwriters and his gift for picking great songs.

Chesney said the hardest part of making albums is choosing which songs are just right. "I think my least favorite part, and it's the most important part, of making an album is choosing the songs," Chesney said.

Chesney and his band record more than 100 tracks and must choose only 12. The tracks chosen for the album go to "never, never" Chesney said.

"I think we've been able to get our hands on some really great songs," Chesney said.

Apparently so. Chesney has had more than 10 of his songs become Billboard Top Singles including "Fall in Love," "Me and You," "She's Got It All" and "What I Need to Do." His latest song, "I Don't Happen Twice" already hit No. 1.

Chesney said his favorite part of making a CD is watching a demo become a song on an album and, eventually a hit.

While Chesney seems to have been on a steady rise to fame since 1996, many fans remember the "police horse incident" in 2000 between sets at the Strait Music Festival.

Chesney's close friend Tim McGraw was arrested in Buffalo, NY, after a scuffle with police when Chesney rode off with a policeman's horse. After a two-hour deliberation, McGraw and Chesney were acquitted in May 2001.

"It was something that got blown way out of proportion," Chesney said. "I'm just glad a judge saw that we didn't do anything wrong." Chesney said despite his success, he is able to keep in touch with his family and friends, including McGraw.

"I still have a lot of friends back home that keep in touch with Chesney," he said. "(Success) hasn't affected my family that much. People attending the show can expect to hear many songs from his latest, sixth release, Chesney's Greatest Hits, along with a few older songs listeners may not have realized Chesney sang, including "All I Need to Know," "Chance" and "When I Close My Eyes."

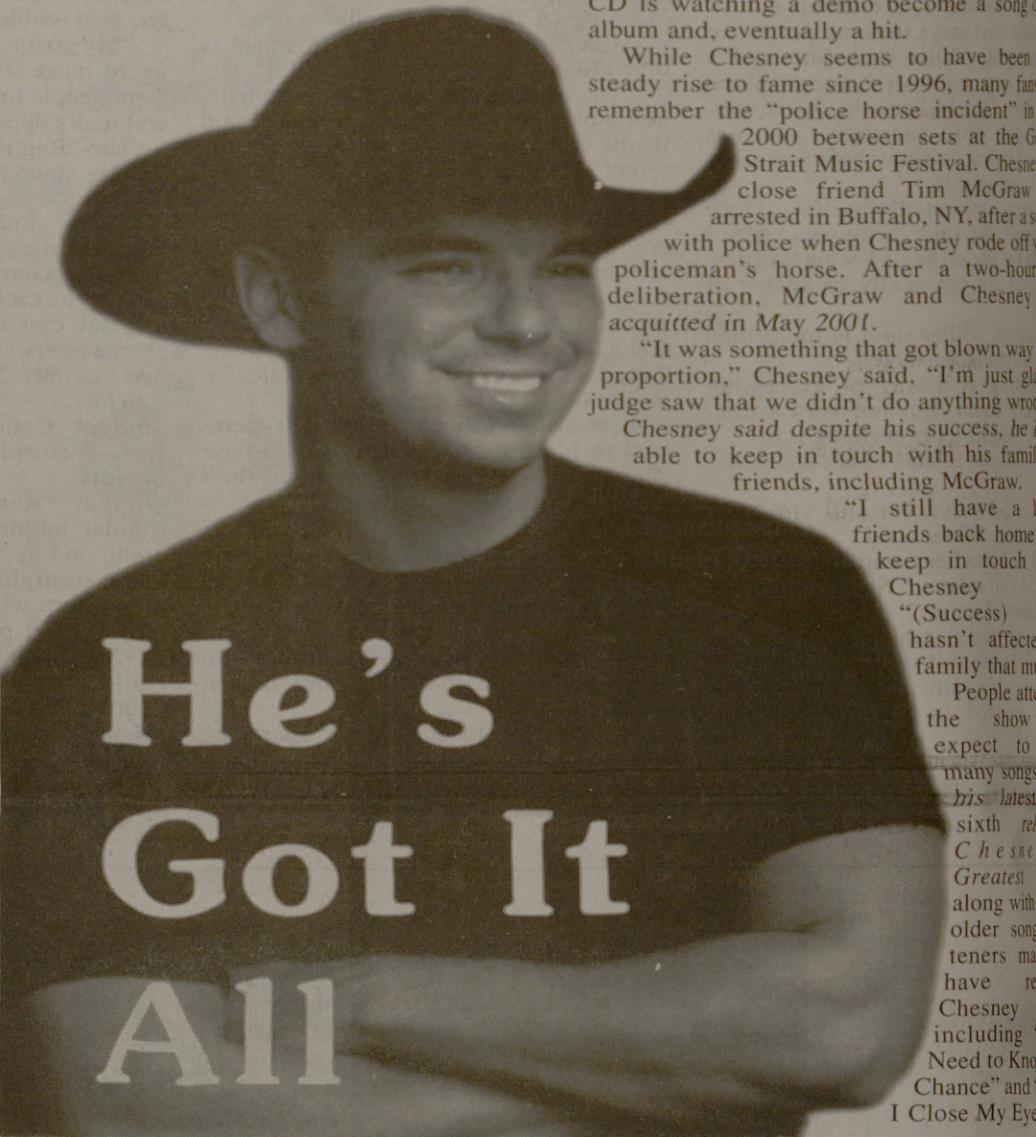


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