

Here's to you, Mr. Robison

Texas country singer Charlie Robison will visit Aggieland this Tuesday

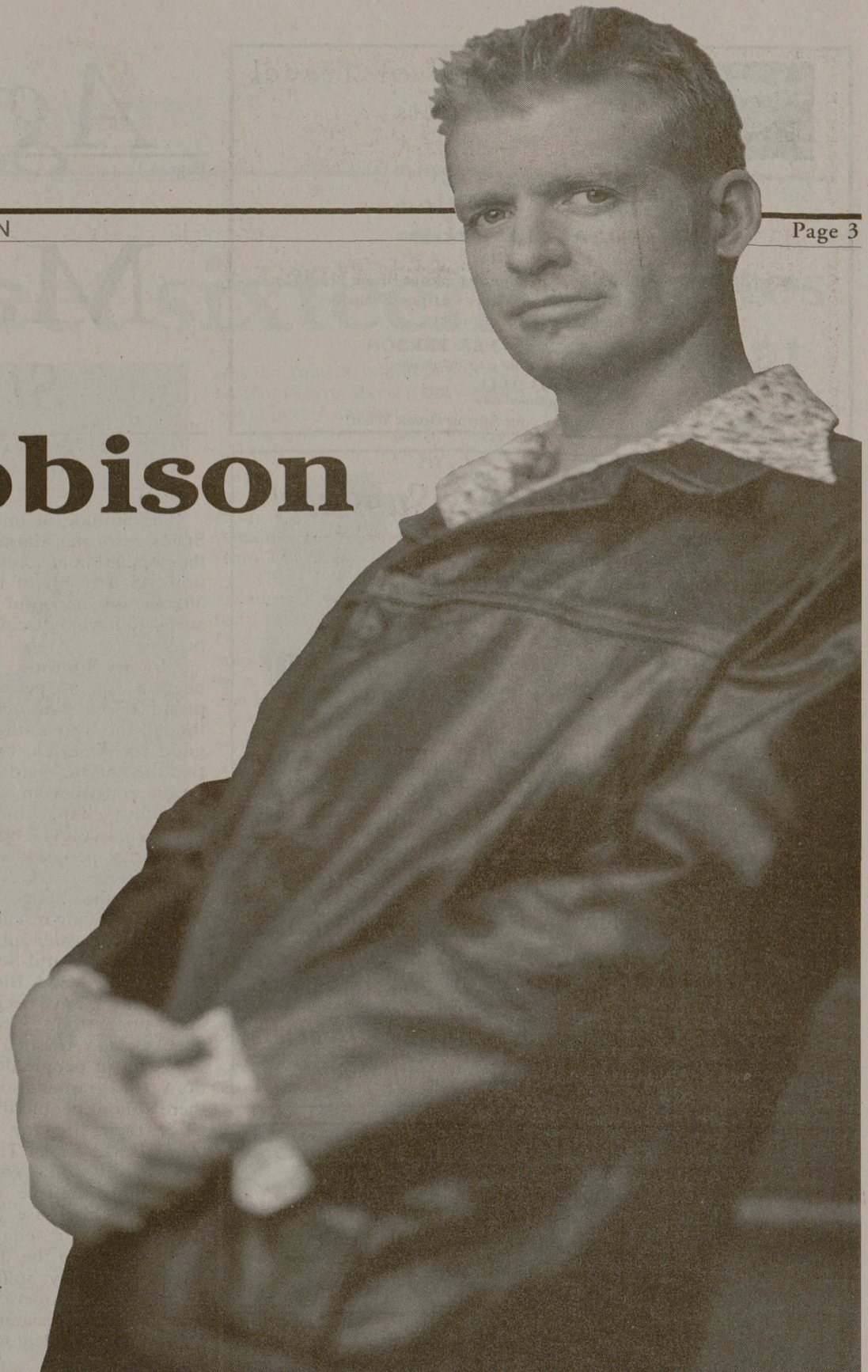


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By LIZETTE RESENDEZ
THE BATTALION

Charlie Robison has been following in original country music artists' footsteps, but first he had to pay his dues by performing at no-name bars and dance halls.

"We played in a place in San Antonio where they served food and drinks," Robison said. "So the P.A. would break into the music and say 'No. 24, your order's ready.'"

Robison has since earned gigs all over Texas, including Gruene Hall, and will play Tuesday at Hurricane Harry's where he will be recording songs for his upcoming live album. Robison includes College Station as one of his favorite places to play and said the crowd always gets rowdy.

"You get some weird [fans] out there, you can't believe they are that interested in what you do," Robison said. "But without them, you wouldn't be able to do what you're doing, so it all works out."

Robison said he often forgets he is a celebrity after visiting his ranch in his hometown of Bandera, Texas.

"I still consider myself a very normal person," Robison said.

"Working on the ranch, it's real easy to forget that you are a celebrity."

Most would find that hard to believe, considering he is married to Emily Robison of the Dixie Chicks.

Robison said that although he and Emily both have busy schedules, their marriage still thrives.

"It gets better every time," Robison said. "We're both understanding of how [our job] does take us away from one another, but things couldn't be better."

Robison said Emily frequently joins him during his tour, and the two will be performing in California in the next few days.

Robison also is still able to spend time with his younger brother, Bruce Robison. Charlie began performing at rodeos and dances at age 13 with his brother in their band, High Voltage.

Charlie and Bruce write songs and perform together. The two brothers wrote or co-wrote nine of the 12 songs on Robison's latest CD, *Step Right Up*.

"I don't like to co-write that much because I write pretty much from experience, but Bruce and I, coming from a small town, were friends and hung out together

since we were little kids," Robison said. "He's the only person I would like to write with, it's great to use another brain that's similar to yours."

Robison, who is on tour 20 days out of a month, said that when his current tour ends he will begin recording a record in January with his brother.

"This year has just been crazy," Robison said. "I've been away from home almost non-stop for almost seven months now."

However, Robison said he enjoys his job and hopes to stay true to his genre of country music.

"My goal in life is to be as good a husband and father as I can possibly be," Robison said. "After that, it's hopefully that my music stays true to the people who came before me. I'm trying to keep the tradition that Willie (Nelson), Steve Earle and Lyle (Lovett) started alive."

Robison, along with several other Texas country musicians, is in the process of putting together a benefit concert in front of the Alamo called "Texans for New York" to send relief funds to the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York.

Fifty artists are expected to perform including Pat Green, Charlie and Bruce Robison, Kelly Willis and the Dixie Chicks.

Timeless

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- Thursday, November 22nd—CLOSED
- Friday, November 23rd—OPEN 3pm-8pm
- Saturday, November 24th—OPEN Noon-9pm
- Sunday, November 25th—OPEN Noon-Midnight
- Monday, November 26th—Normal operating schedule resumes. Mon.-Fri., 6am-Midnight; Sat., 8am-Midnight; Sun., 10am-Midnight

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- Now Hiring Lifeguards!—Pick up an application in the Natatorium and return it now through November 28th at the skills check at 8pm in the Natatorium. Applicants must have current certification. For more information, please call Elizabeth at 862-4968.

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