

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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TEXAS ON HIS MIND

Pat Green to perform at Hurricane Harry's this weekend

By True Brown
THE BATTALION

Hurricane Harry's, said Green's concerts usually draw capacity crowds.

"We've sold them out every time we've had them in," he said. "They (Green's management) called us out of the blue for this weekend's shows, but we were happy to have him. We're expecting a great turnout."

Green's success has found him in a place where not many singers in the Texas music genre have been: being played nationwide on mainstream radio stations. He credits signing with Universal Records, which produced "Three Days," for promoting his music nationwide.

"On the independent level, we got to the point where I didn't have the dollars to go out and promote myself," he said. "Once we got involved with Universal Records in New York, the major labels just have so much money to go out and promote music wherever they see fit. Once they get that machine working, it makes it a lot easier to go out and tour new places."

But the transition to a national label hasn't come without a cost. Some of his longtime fans in Texas began labeling Green a "sellout" for leaving the independent scene for a New York label.

Jeff Bolner, a junior mechanical engineering major, said he preferred Green's music before he signed with Universal.

"I preferred the music back when he was still singing about living in Texas and hanging out at the bar," he said. "I don't like his new stuff because it has too much of the generic Nashville sound. I like the way it used to sound."

But Fans such as Lacey Love continue to support Green despite his

Nashville success. Love, a senior agricultural journalism major, went to a Green solo acoustic performance five years ago and has been a fan ever since. She has followed Green on his path to stardom and is going to his Saturday night concert at Harry's.

"I'd really hate to see him step away from Texas Country Music," she said. "I really think that he and Robert Earl Keen have helped out the Texas music scene. I'd hate to see him turn away from Texas."

But for Green, there's no turning away from the Lone Star State. He said he doesn't have any plans to abandon the style that got him where he is.

"I can completely understand when a fan of a type of music or a fan of a band takes on a sense of ownership in that band, and that's great," Green said. "But I don't feel like there's any person in this world who wouldn't want to take whatever career they're in to the highest level they can. If you don't want to do that, then you lack ambition, and that's not a fun way to go through life."

Although his band has become more prominent, Green said its music remains the same.

"In one respect I say that's tough if you don't like what I do," he said. "In the other respect, I just say to listen to the music, listen to what I'm saying, come out and watch the show. I believe we've stayed very true to what got us to where we are. I have nothing to be ashamed of when I put my music out there."

Advance tickets to Green's show can be purchased for \$18 at Harry's, Cavender's Boot City and Rother's Bookstores.



ALISSA HOLLIMAN • THE BATTALION

Texas songwriter Pat Green strums his guitar in front of a crowd of 8,000 at this year's Ag kickoff. Green will perform at Hurricane Harry's on April 12-13, 2003.

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The Texas Country Music scene has exploded in the last five years, and at the forefront of that scene is Waco native Pat Green. Green has ridden the shock wave of Texas music from playing in front of a few dozen fans in the mid-1990s to playing for thousands at sold-out venues across the country.

After touring nationwide and receiving Nashville recognition, Green and his band will be back in College Station April 12-13 for performances at Hurricane Harry's.

For Green and his band, playing in College Station is a homecoming for more than one reason.

"(College Station) is where most of my band came from," Green said.

"Almost all the guys in my band went to college (here) — guitar, drums and violin — all three went to school at A&M. It's where it all started for me really."

Green still remembers his first gig in College Station, at the since-closed Third Floor Cantina around 1996.

"I started playing up at Texas Tech, but the first city outside of the Lubbock area that I got a foot in the door was College Station, so it's always good to go back to where you have some strong beginnings," he said.

Green and his band have come a long way since playing at the Third Floor Cantina. His band has released six albums, five of which were independently produced. He also earned two Grammy nominations for his latest CD, "Three Days."

Jack McGregor, general manager at

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