

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Thursday, June 19, 2003

## CCR remembers local hospitality after wreck

### The Boys from Oklahoma claim College Station as second home

By Dallas Shipp  
THE BATTALION

For Cross Canadian Ragweed, playing in College Station is not just about the "big, rowdy crowd" that comes out to its show. After Ag Kickoff in 2001, the band developed a bond with the people in College Station, and makes sure to thank them every time the band comes back.

On Sept. 16, 2001, the guys were just finishing up when a police officer approached and told them that the mother and sister of drummer Randy Ragsdale were involved in a car accident on their way back to Dallas, between College Station and Madisonville.

Ragsdale's 9-year-old sister Mandi was killed at the scene and his mother was taken to the hospital in College Station with numerous broken bones.

When Randy arrived at the hospital, he didn't know what to do or say when he saw a mob of people there, offering whatever help they could.

"I was just speechless," Ragsdale said. "I was glad they were there. I couldn't believe that many people came and stayed that long and supported us, not as fans, just as friends."

Lead singer Cody Canada said he'll never forget the way they were treated during the tragic turn of events.

"Ever since that night, we've had a really special bond with College Station," Canada said. "People fed us,

brought us coffee and offered us their homes and their cars, whatever we needed. It would be really hard to forget something like that."

Ragsdale said he definitely has a strong connection to College Station.

"It's almost like a second home to me," he said. "While all that was going on, they made us feel as good as anyone could have made us feel at the time."

Fans in College Station weren't the only people that helped the band out that night. Fellow Texas Country recording artist Pat Green sent Ragsdale some money to help with the costs of his little sister's funeral and offered his bus and a driver to take the group back to Oklahoma for the services.

**"Ever since that night we've had a really special bond with College Station."**

— Cody Canada  
Cross Canadian Ragweed  
lead singer

"That really meant a lot to me," Ragsdale said. "I really didn't know (Green) that well — except for his music until then — and for him to lend a hand and say 'Sorry to hear what you're going through, what can I do to help?' was incredible."

The band put a chrome cross at the scene of the accident on Highway 21, and has thanked people at previous concerts in College Station for putting purple flowers at its base.

The group's latest album was named "Purple" in memory of Mandi Ragsdale, because it was her favorite color.

Senior biomedical sciences major Michelle Marino said she loves the album and can't wait to see the show Thursday night.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CROSS CANADIAN RAGWEED  
Cross Canadian Ragweed: Grady Cross, rhythm guitar; Cody Canada, lead vocals and lead guitar; Jeremy Plato, bass guitar and vocals; Randy Ragsdale, drums.

"Purple" is a great CD," she said. "Cody Canada is a great songwriter. I have traveled hours to see their shows, especially when it is a small one. I like to be in the action right by the stage, singing the songs and drinking a beer."

Ragsdale said that it's not just the memories that make College Station special.

"The people are always fun, it's always a big, rowdy crowd," Ragsdale said. "Past the camaraderie of everyone being cool, it's just a really fun town to

play. It's more energetic than most places; you know when you're playing in College Station."

This weekend the band will headline its first festival at Sandblast in Austin, hosted by Carlos 'N' Charlies on Lake Travis.

"We always talked about putting together our own (festival) show," Canada said. "We've done several of Pat (Green's) things and we really wanted to do something on our own and have something we could call ours."

In September, the band, along with 29 other artists from Oklahoma and Texas, will record a live tribute album in New Braunfels for the late Waylon Jennings, who died of diabetes last year.

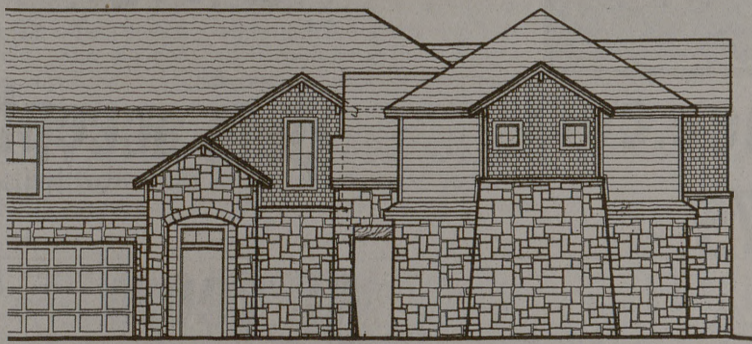
"When (Jennings) passed, we decided we wanted to put together a tribute album," Canada said. "(But) we were touring so much and our buddies were touring so much that Shannon decided we should do a double live album."

All CD sales and proceeds from the concert will go toward diabetes research.

## Villas at Westwood

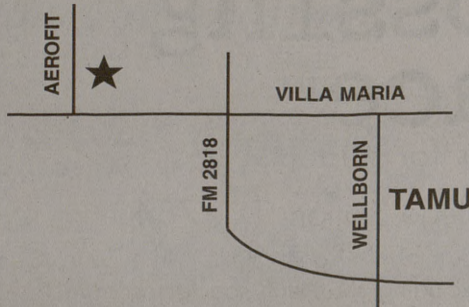
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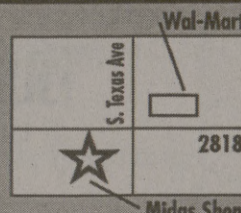
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