

Post-Bulletin

IF IT MATTERS TO YOU, IT MATTERS TO US

Local News

Singer dazzles Austin crowd

4/7/2007 7:51:12 AM

By **Nathan Howard**

The Post-Bulletin

The train idling across from Bobee Jo's may as well have been the Kevin Sharp passenger train.

It was a cold Friday night, and country music singer Kevin Sharp broke the ice inside Bobee Jo's.

Sharp took the stage and told the crowd, "I've got a question."

"Are you aware Austin smells like a porta-potty? What is that smell?"

The audience hollered back, "Hormel."

"I used to work on a hog farm, and it didn't have this smell," replied Sharp, with a grin.

Women gathered on the dance floor elbow to elbow, cameras flashing.

Nichole Bradley gave Sharp a red rose. Others shook his hand.

Becky and sister Bonnie Erath had photos of Sharp and his CDs on their table and were singing along with the crowd to "If You Love Somebody."

One of Sharp's most popular songs, "Nobody Knows," packed the dance floor with couples, most of whom sang every word.

Minutes before taking the stage, Sharp sat in the basement of Bobee Jo's sipping a Coke and tapping his cowboy boots on the floor and his hands on his lap.

Sharp said his first paid position as a singer was at a funeral home, "which was kind of odd, but what better time to affect someone's life with music," he said.

As a boy, Sharp, now 36, sang in the church choir, then ventured into theater and opera while living in Sacramento.

"Anybody who really wants to do this for a living should learn as much as possible," Sharp said. "You need to explore and sing regardless of what kind of music it is. A lot of people don't want to pay their dues."

Sharp, a cancer survivor, has paid his dues and a visit to his Web site (www.kevinsharp.com) reveals his active role in fighting cancer.

His sole tattoo is the former "Make a Wish



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Kevin Sharp's song "Nobody Knows," which most everybody knew and sang, was No. 1 for four weeks in 1997; Friday night, it moved couples to the dance floor at Bobee Jo's in Austin.



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Country recording artist Kevin Sharp entertains packed Bobee Jo's on Austin's East Side Friday night. Sharp came to Austin to co-host the "Make 'Em & Break 'Er Hour" on the Austin radio station KAUS-FM

The sole tattoo is the former "Make a Wish

Foundation" logo, a wishbone, tattooed over his heart.

Born in northern California and raised in Idaho, Sharp now lives south of Nashville with his wife, Traci.

He came to town as part of KAUS-FM's "Make 'Em' & Break 'Em Hour." Bobee Jo's was the main sponsor. Friday night's show was a sold-out affair that seemed to please all who had tickets.

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