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# Emmajoe's striving to revitalize local music scene

Starting with the fact that it's named after two old-time radicals, **Emma Goldman** and **Joe Hill**, emmajoe's is an unusual place. Run by **Martin Wilginton** and **Bobby Nelson** (who isn't, by the way, **Willie's** sister), whose past history includes the **Split Rail** and the **Alamo Lounge**, it is a serious music listening club dedicated to the nurture and development of acoustic singer/songwriters.

Recently, emmajoe's has been having just a bit of financial trouble, since moving the operation from the **Alamo Hotel** to 3023 Guadalupe and then renovating a former topless joint to something more in line with the taste and politics of the owners.

The main thing, though, is to get people into the club, and, while they haven't been doing too badly on that score, they could do better, and I can see how emmajoe's can put some people off. For one thing, there is a strict rule there about talking, one which I find silly and somewhat oppressive. The owners want you to *listen*. There's nothing wrong with that, but I think they should give their customers the benefit of the doubt; that's presumably what people come there for. You can get beer anywhere, after all. If somebody gets rowdy, throw 'em out. If the folks at the next table are drowning out the act on stage, tell 'em to shut up. And any act that doesn't have the power to shush an audience with its music isn't getting across on more than one level.



**Music**  
Ed Ward

Thursday is **Martin's** 49th birthday, and there'll be a benefit party from 8 to 8 p.m., after which will come the regular show. Helping **Martin** celebrate will be **Butch Hancock**, **Jimmie Gilmore**, **Pat Mears**, **Bill Neely**, **David Rodriguez**, **Mandy Mericor**, **Townes van Zandt**, and maybe **Lucinda** if he can find her. Donations of \$5 to \$10 are requested. To my way of thinking, emmajoe's is the center of a very vital local scene. This is an excellent chance to help them out.

The Beat Goes On: Here's the part of the column where everybody stops reading: the current issue of *Playboy* has an article that contains strategies that work for both **Pac Man** and **Centipede**. And there they go: out to the newsstand. Video-game addicts will also be happy to hear that **Buckner & Garcia**, whose obnoxious "Pac Man Fever" record is one of the biggest-sellers in the country right now, will soon have an album made up of songs about video games, complete with the little tunes they play.

Thursday, see **Dark Mesa** at the **Waterloo Ice House**, **Dan Hackabee** at **Liberty Lunch**, the **Explosives** and the **Make** at **Club Foot**, **Craig Calvert** & the **Alter Egos** at **Steamboat 1874**, **Terrri English** and **Dou McDowell** at **Charlottesville Wine & Cheese**, slide guitar master **J.B. Hutts** and the

Another local angle: Did that black saxophonist in the **Kool Ultra Cigarettes** ad in Friday's paper look familiar? That's because he's **Ronald Brown**, a graduate of **Austin High** and **UT**, currently playing in **Natalie Cole's** band and with the orchestra of "Sophisticated Ladies," the smash-hit musical based on **Duke Ellington's** music. I know because his grandma, **Mrs. Bennie Hill**, called and said so.

One more item: the **Ozzy Osbourne/UFO** show at **Palmer Auditorium** has been canceled. Guess it was all the bat-blood.

On the Town: Of course, nobody in Austin has to bite bats' heads off to get attention: most all of the folks listed below can *play*. Like the **Standing Waves** and **Big Boys** at **Club Foot**, or **Hillbilly Jukebox** at the **Shorthorn Lounge** or **Cheezmo Schmatz** at **Copa's**, or the **LeRoI Brothers** at the **Continental Club**, or **Nasty Habits** at the **Back Room**, or **Dollar Short** at the **Austex**, or the **Cebars** at **A.J.'s**, or **David Rodriguez** and **Bobby Bridger** at emmajoe's, or the **Passenger Trio** at **Piggys**, or **Tom Knight** and **Emily Kaiz** at **Folkville**.

Friday, see **Dark Mesa** at the **Waterloo Ice House**, **Dan Hackabee** at **Liberty Lunch**, the **Explosives** and the **Make** at **Club Foot**, **Craig Calvert** & the **Alter Egos** at **Steamboat 1874**, **Terrri English** and **Dou McDowell** at **Charlottesville Wine & Cheese**, slide guitar master **J.B. Hutts** and the

**New Hawks** direct from **Chicago** at **A.J.'s**, **Jim Sanders** and **Kent Cole** & **Daniel McLeod** at **Folkville**, the **Tomas Ramirez Trio** at **Piggys**, **Diana Canis** and the **Southside Band** at the **Texas Tavern**, the **LeRoI Brothers** at **Spellman's**, **Alberto Gonzalez** and **Rank & File** at emmajoe's, **H.T. Young & Co.** (Tex **Thomas** to most of you folks) at the **Austex**, **Marla Ball** and **W.C. Clark** at the **Continental Club**, and the **Octave Deeters** at the **Back Room**.

Friday, you can see the **Rolling Stones** Really: they're showing "Gimme Shelter" at the **Texas Union**. Or you can see the **Rattlicats** at 4 p.m. at **Inner Sanctum**, go home, change, and go out again to see the **Sir Douglas Quintet** and **Brave Combo** at **A.J.'s**, or **D-Day** and **Rank & File** at **Club Foot**, or a reunion of **Frummox** at **Snaveley's**, or the **Nightcats** at **Liberty Lunch**, or **Purely Physical** at **New York Pizza**, or the up-and-coming **Ventilators** at the **Tex Lounge**, or **Tex Thomas** at the **Continental Club**, or **Dan & Dave** at the **Back Room**, or **Dollar Short** at the **Austex**, or **Butch Hancock** at twilight, **Mark Lake Daniels** and **Lucinda** later on at emmajoe's, or the **Rock-A-Dials** at **Spellman's**, or **Medina** at the **Texas Tavern**, or the **Rich Harney Quartet** at **Piggys**, or the **Solar Pigs** and **Bill Oliver** at **Folkville**.

As for me, I'm getting change for this dollar and heading off to the **Pac Man** machine. But keep the tips coming, because I'll be back here Saturday!

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