

Townes and Country

Anybody who can write a song like *Poncho and Lefty* is okay in my book. Anybody who can write that and songs like *Snowing On Raton*, and dozens of others comes perilously close to qualifying for canonization; the Feast of St. Townes — kinda has a ring to it. Well, Townes Van Zandt is no saint, and you could argue that only a sinner could compose such insightful portraits of human frailty and desire. Van Zandt is, by turns, cynical, remorseful, sly, and sometimes at a loss. His songs reflect the contradictions of his nature, so small wonder they are so compelling. With Pat Mears, at 9 p.m. Saturday at the Texas Tavern. \$4 cover.