

Your weekly entertainment guide

Aug. 19-25, 1989

**When you're hot, you're hot**  
Hudson and Franke still on roll after whirlwind Ireland tour/F9

**Don't beef about it**  
Convict Hill offers great steaks, salad bar at reasonable price/F12

**Fine vines ahead**  
Napa Valley growers excited about 1989 grape crop/F12

Section F  
Austin American-Statesman  
Saturday, August 19, 1989

# TIME OUT

## WEEKENDERS

### Children's Festival

By now the kids have seen every video in the house five times and know the cartoon reruns by heart. It's high time they saw some live entertainment — such as the kind you'll find today and Sunday at the Children's Festival in Barton Creek Square. There will be music, gymnastics, baton twirling, a short play, face painting and more from noon to 6 p.m. each day on the mall's center court. Also on hand will be child-safety experts from the business Child Safety Services. Barton Creek Square is at Loop 360 and McPac Boulevard (Loop 1) South.

### 'Lei on the Lake'

The Austin Jaycees are inviting you on a trip to Hawaii — or the next best thing, actually. Its third annual "Lei on the Lake" fund-raiser today may be as close as you can get this summer to those happy islands. Wear your brightest Hawaiian shirt and join the party from 2 to 7 p.m. The Pier restaurant on Lake Austin, where there will be live music, limbo and grass-skirt contests, water-skiing and a Hawaiian-chicken dinner. Admission is \$11 at the door and includes dinner and drinks. The Pier is at 1703-B River Hills Road.

### Mixed meows

How can you resist the cute kittens waiting at Highland Mall today for someone to take them home? The Williamson County Humane Society is conducting another of its Adoption Days, and the kittens will be there from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or until — so the Humane Society hopes — they are all gone. Cost of adoption, which includes initial shots, worming and spaying or neutering, is \$45.

### Siesta at Fiesta

If you're having withdrawal pangs from Austin Aqua Festival, Fiesta Georgetown might be just the thing. This event today and Sunday is a classic Texas party in-the-park with everything from canoe races to arts and crafts. The fun begins at 10 a.m. today in San Gabriel Park in the north end of town, and continues until midnight both nights with the big dance. The music tonight is by Ruben Ramos y la Texas Revolution. David Lee Garza plays Sunday. The fiesta is free; admission to the dances, which begin at 7 p.m., is \$8.

### New art exhibit

The Seventh Annual Juried Texas Black Artists' Exhibit is now on display at the Corcoran Museum, 1165 Angelina St. The show, which continues through Oct. 21, features 49 works by 18 Black artists from around the state. The museum is open noon to 6 p.m. today and is closed Sunday; admission is free.

### Upscale sale

Baked goods, antiques, furniture, vintage clothing and various new items will be on sale Sunday during an "Upscale Garage Sale" organized by Austin Dance Umbrella and Chariz Dance Company. The sale is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1501 W. Fifth St., in the parking lot of Austin Children's Museum.

### For bikes only

Celebrate one of the cleanest, safest forms of transportation Sunday at the Bike Fest from noon to 4 p.m. in Zilker Park. Watch a bicycle polo match and compete in the Bicycle Limbo, the Slow Bike Race or the Log Pull. Mountain hikes and 10-speeds are welcome. The Austin Police Department will provide back-to-school safety checks. The event is free and will be in the area near the Moonlight Tower that doubles as the tree at Christmas; registration is soon to 12:30 p.m.

—Clayton Stromberger

# EYES ON A PRIZE

Varied treasures awaiting buyers at collectors fair

Story by Kevin Phinney  
Photography by Taylor Johnson  
Austin American-Statesman Staff

Everything old is new again. This weekend — for the third time in a year — Austinites Bill Wallace and Tom Munnerlyn will sponsor the Austin Collectors' Exposition at Palmer Auditorium. Vendors at the exposition will present comics, movie posters, books, stamps, vintage toys, autographs and more.

"This show brings together a lot of the smaller shows that emphasize one element, like coins or post cards. This show pulls all of that together. Both Tom and I are collectors ourselves, so basically, we put on the show we wanted to see," Wallace said.

There really isn't any other event in Austin like this," he said. "We solicit dealers in historical items, old advertising and baseball cards. And it's as expensive as you want to get. There will be old post cards you can buy for a dime. I think And then there are things that will run into the thousands. We had an issue of Superman selling for \$12,000, for example."

Wallace's hobby is collecting toy dinosaurs; Munnerlyn has been doggedly searching out the works of his favorite fantasy authors. Both know what it's like to have a passion for artifacts of a bygone era. "That's one of the reasons we decided to do this," Munnerlyn said. "We've had a really good response the previous two times we've done this, once last



A mechanical Roy Rogers has lasso in hand, ready to rope some merchandise.



The Austin Collectors' Exposition will feature collectibles of all shapes and sizes, such as baseball cards, advertising-embellished items and post cards.

### AUSTIN COLLECTORS' EXPOSITION

When: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday  
Where: Palmer Auditorium  
Admission: \$2.50 adults, children under 12 free  
Information: 454-8882

October, and again in May. We had about 2,000 people show up. And there will be 120 dealers this time, so there will be a lot of variety."

Munnerlyn said this will be an ideal opportunity to stock up on Batman-related memorabilia, much of it pre-dating the current caped-crusher craze. "And we always have great movie posters and a number of autograph dealers. I guess if you were

looking for the growth area of collectibles, it would probably be in baby-boom era merchandise, anything from 1950-'70. And most of those items are still recent enough where they're not that expensive."

The exposition will feature everything from toy and real railroad items, to Nazi regalia and rock 'n' roll posters. And, according to Wallace, "there are as many different reasons for collecting these things as there are collectors. Some are in it for profit, others for nostalgia. I've seen people find something they've been wanting for years, and they've been practically reduced to tears. You know it's something special to them."

There are antique shows, Wallace said, and specialty shows. But this

## Van Zandt's clean, sober outlook puts emphasis on family

By Casey Monahan  
Special to the American-Statesman

A lot of Townes Van Zandt's friends haven't made it. Blaze Foley, B.W. Stevenson and John Vandiver are some friends and fellow Texas songwriters who have passed away, for a variety of reasons all rooted in hard living.

For Van Zandt, a 45-year-old native Texas songwriter who's lived in Nashville the past three years, growing older hasn't always been a graceful experience. Drugs, such as alcohol and marijuana, are often an inextricable part of the lives of those who create and play music, and he wasn't immune. Trapped into a job by talent, many don't get out alive if they are also trapped by addiction.

But Van Zandt is lucky. After numerous bouts with alcohol, he gave them all up, save for tobacco, 14 years ago. With a notorious reputation for extremely hard living that often resulted in poor performance, Van Zandt is firmly on the road to recovery.

"I have learned that there really are responsibilities, especially to your family," Van Zandt said recently over eggs at the Night Hawk. "It took me a long time to learn that. I can't think of anything — anything — wrong with

### TOWNES VAN ZANDT

Opening act: Jimmy LaFave  
Where: Cactus Cafe  
When: 9 tonight  
Tickets: \$5  
Information: 471-8226

my life right now. I have a beautiful family, friends and I am fortunate enough to have my health.

"It was real easy, knowing that I could play the guitar, that if everything came to worse, I could always make enough money to live on by playing guitar on Sixth Street or The Drag for nickels and dimes. Knowing that all along, it's really easy to blow everything off, and never take anything seriously. I did that for a long time. It was always 'when the f--- that's more than two decades.

Van Zandt was revered by many who considered him Texas' most gifted songwriter. But others wrote him off as a hopeless drunk. Accounts of him collapsing on stage were common. Once he didn't show up for a gig at the Cactus Cafe. Eventually he was discovered unconscious and nearly died on a boat after drinking too much vodka. When Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard were No. 1 in the nation with Van Zandt's song "Poncho and Lefty,"

Van Zandt was in Austin State Hospital drying out.

"A year and a half ago, it was getting close to the edge," he said. "People still loved me, but there is a certain point where you have to not only play and sing, but also

take care of your family, most importantly, and your friends and the whole planet Earth. I wasn't really connected.

"It's very different now. I am more productive writing, playing, singing and taking care of my son. But there are some things I don't do as well. I don't gamble as much. I am still up for it, but I don't instigate it anymore."

Van Zandt moved from Austin to Nashville three years ago, hoping to straighten out his life, record an album and live within the means of the business of country music. Still, it took some time before he was able to get sober and stay sober.

"I went to Nashville to record 'Out My Window,'" he said. "I had been there before, but the record had a lot to do with (my return), as well as just being around Music Row. I had to clear out (of Austin). Our house had become a Grand Central Station. I'd wake up in the morning and go out to the living room to see who was staying there. Another reason for a clean start) was that Will (the and wife Jeanne's 6-year-old son) was of the age where my family just became very important."

"I live on the edge of Nashville. It's the first time I've lived in a real neighborhood since Clark-

sville, and that was barely a neighborhood back in the mid-'70s — it was more like Tobacco Road or Cemetery Row. All the do-gooder hippies lived there, but there were a few dirty ones, like me, who lived there, too. Then the clean hippies moved in, and they decided the situation shouldn't be like that, that it should be nicer and cleaner. So I had to get rid of my gear and chickens."

Even though Van Zandt is now an established resident of Nashville, he still considers himself a part of Central Texas.

"I kind of figure that Austin is still my home," he said. "I have lived here a lot, and Jenna is from (Austin), and my son Will was born here. At the University of Texas' law school, there's 'Townes Hall.' That's my mother's serious side. Her maiden name is Townes, and her grandfather was a famous Texas lawyer. Then there's Van Zandt Country; that's my father's serious side. The Van Zandts and about three other families founded Fort Worth. I am definitely the first folk singer in the family. I figure (tearing up) has been kind of binding up in the family and it broke out with me."

"I left home at 19; there wasn't any trouble, but I just left. At that

See Van Zandt, F14