

## **Townes Van Zandt: No time to lose**

*And if you see my friends,  
Tell 'em I'm fine, ain't usin'  
nothin' . . .*

*Sorrow and solitude, these are  
the precious things*

*And the only words that are  
worth remembering.*

Anyone who cares about words should care about Texas songwriter Townes Van Zandt, who once penned these but forgot plenty of others in a pathetic performance Friday at the Tin Angel in Old City — leading folks to suspect he's usin' somethin'.

I guess it's no secret that Townes is one of my heroes. I mentioned him to you after a fine show at the same club in March — specifically, a wisecrack he'd made about Atlantic City.

This time, he was unable to finish "Pancho and Lefty," his best-known song. The place was sold out, in more than one sense. Many disappointed fans left early.

Townes is touring with old pal Guy Clark, another gifted Texas songwriter — who, by the way, turned in a sparkling performance accompanied by his son, Travis, on bass.

I sure hope Townes can get his act together — quickly.