

Kerrville find plays Austin conference

I'M AT MY DESK for several hours this evening, then off to San Francisco. It is Spring Break at Schreiner College. On this brief "vacation" I will also check in with Slim's, a club owned by Texan Boz Scaggs.

South by Southwest Music Conference produced a few highlights for a short, two-day stay. A late show at The Terrace (old Austin Opry House) ended with Timbuk 3 saying important things in their own unique style. Their new (relatively) bass player adds a rowdy Reggae rhythm. Pat and Barbara continue to harmonize. Barbara whips out a fiddle for one of the breaks. Pat wails back-ground on the harmonica. What a show! I thought I was just "waiting" for Michelle Shocked to come on.

And she did, with her brother, Max, Lisa Mednik on accordion and Allison Brown on banjo. Shocked's new album on Polygram, "Arkansas Traveller," is a perpendicular turn from the road she was travelling on "Captain Swing." She performed numerous cuts off the soon-to-be released album even while an enthusiastic audience member yelled for "East Texas Roads," a Shocked classic.

Kathleen Hudson



TEXAS HERITAGE MUSIC SERIES

Putting new words to traditional fiddle tunes has given Shocked an album that will thrill the purist, excite the newcomers and bring in the young.

Her performance Thursday night at The Terrace did the same. Two young men walked up to me at midnight, saying, "We drove from the Panhandle to hear Michelle Shocked. We didn't miss her, did we?" They didn't.

She called up "Dollar Bill," her dad. She did sing "East Texas Road" with another young man standing on the front row singing along with her. Her finale, "Strawberry Jam," was the same ending I saw in San Antonio a year ago. That was the only similarity in the shows. Now Shocked



Michelle Shocked was first recorded around the campfires at the Kerrville Folk Festival.

have followed the winding road with her — I always have.

James McMurtry performed twice at La Zona Rosa, Marcia Ball's homebase in Austin. His rendition of "Vague Directions," a single off his Columbia album "Candyland," soon to be released, revealed that James is not just repeating himself; he is growing. He will return to the Schreiner College Texas Music Coffeehouse on Monday night, March 30. Make plans to hear this free performance of a premier Texas songwriter. His uncle Charlie McMurtry has started writing short stories. All in the family.

Another highlight: John Trudell, called an "activist poet who provides a reality check" by Kris Kristofferson, hosted a session on roots music — Native American. His advice was "It's important that we find a way to remember that we're all from tribes, we're all from the earth. We're all artists. We can't stop the creative function... it's pollutions of the mind that keep us from seeing clearly. Society says not to respect ourselves. We must. There's room for all of us." Trudell's words speak to us all. Happy Trails.

Kathleen Hudson teaches English at Schreiner College and is executive director of the Texas Heritage Music Foundation.

Kerrville area live music

- CEDARBERRIEZ — Live entertainment, Sat night.
- COWBOY STEAK HOUSE in Boerne — Dean Cardia, tonight, Sat.
- COWGIRL CORRAL CAFE in Comfort — Supper and singing: casual jam and jaw, every Mon, 6 p.m.
- ECONO LODGE — Billy Proctor, through March 28.
- ELM WATER HOLE at the YO Ranch Hilton — Rocky Thompson and Lost Hat Band, tonight.

- Scott Randolph & White Lightning, Tues-Sat; Pickin' and grinning open mike every Mon night.
- J&D PARTNERS LOUNGE — Music, dancing Sat, 8 p.m.-midnight.
- LEON SPRINGS CAFE in Leon Springs — Paul Jeremiah and Steve James, tonight; David Rodriguez, Sat; Jam session every Thurs night; bluegrass every 2nd and 4th Sun aft.
- LOPEZ CLUB — Juan Ramos y Los Principes. Sat. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

is smiling, grinning and having fun. "I'M IN LOVE," she explained. "I can't believe the difference love makes in your life. I was as fragile as I appeared back then, confused. Now I want to share the love I feel."

The audience completed her performance by joining in — "If you want the best jam in the world, you gotta make your own." The message went far beyond advice for the kitchen.

She also delivered some "rambling" remarks at the opening of South by Southwest. I did not hear the address so that adjective belongs to someone else. I'm sure I would

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