

## EVENTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## POP STOP

COMPILED BY CATHERINE SHU

Top model **Lin Chih-lin** (林志玲) found herself in a pickle this week after *Next Magazine* found that she had not paid her National Health Insurance (NHI) dues in more than three years.

Lin had no plans, however, to launch a Taiwanese branch of America's anti-healthcare reform Tea Party Patriots. The *Liberty Times*, our sister newspaper, reported that the leggy beauty quickly paid the NT\$210,000 she owed. Department of Health Minister Yang Chih-liang (楊志良) sounded like he had had enough of the media ruckus when he told the press that "she's willing to admit that she made a careless oversight and she's already given us the money."

The magazine milked Lin's payment in arrears for all it was worth, devoting four pages to the topic in last week's issue. The article took a populist slant, writing that while this week's NHI fee hike could potentially affect 3 million Taiwanese citizens, the monthly fee is mere pocket change for Lin, who reportedly makes more than NT\$10 million per year. "A lot of wage earners are heartsick that their wallets will once again have to shed blood," the gossip rag moaned, before adding "if everyone acted like Lin Chih-lin, the financial black hole would become larger and larger."

Ironically, Lin was the target of flack five years ago for receiving "VIP treatment" at National Taiwan University Hospital after being thrown from a horse, even though she then paid only the minimum per month fee for NHI coverage. The ensuing ruckus led to several celebrities having their insurance fees raised by the Bureau of National Health Insurance, a provision nicknamed "the Lin Chih-lin clause" (林志玲條款).

Last week was a banner week for *Next* in terms of unnamed sources. An anonymous reader, who was also the Department of Health's source, brought Lin's financial delinquency to *Next's* attention. Another Deep Throat wannabe was the source of several text messages purportedly sent by actress **Annie Yi** (伊能靜) to her ex-husband **Harlem Yu** (庾澄慶), begging the singer-songwriter to take her back.

The duo's marital discord was much publicized in 2009 before their divorce was finally announced in March last year, as was their custody battle for their young son, known in the press as Little Harry (小哈利).



This is how much **Lin Chih-lin** paid for her national health insurance over the past three years until she was caught out this week.

PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

The eight text messages, some of which *Next* gleefully splashed on its cover, have Yi allegedly groveling to Yu. "I was truly wrong, I hope that one day you'll be able to forgive me," one pleads. *Next* admitted that when it tried to trace the texts to their original online source, it discovered that the Web site had been taken down. Nonetheless, the magazine made a bit of effort to prove the veracity of the messages.

Though the ex-couple have adamantly denied the possibility of a reconciliation, *Next* insisted that the texts are genuine because they used Yi's nickname for Yu: "Harry's old pa" (哈老爸). Some were supposedly sent while Yi was vacationing in New York City (Yi allegedly assured her ex that she "had no night life" and was traveling with female companions only), while another referred to Yu's recent trip abroad.

"I saw that you are going to Bangladesh," it read. "Be careful of your health and hygiene. Happy New Year!"

Rumors of a reunion started swirling in February, but Yi and Yu have yet to be seen in public together.

Hong Kong super hottie **Andy Lau** is happily married, but that hasn't stopped the media from hounding him. Lau and long-time girlfriend **Carol Chu** (朱麗倩) denied being wed until the press uncovered an online record proving the two had gotten hitched in Nevada nearly two years ago. Since his "secret" marriage was uncovered earlier this year, media attention on the pair has only intensified.

Lau arrived in Taiwan to promote his latest film, *Future X-Cops* (未來警察), but reporters focused their questions on Lau's home life and whether he intended to knock Chu up any time soon. One reporter asked if Lau felt any more carefree now that his marriage was out in the open. Lau sighed, "the pressure has just gotten worse."

## Theater

## The Palace of Eternal Youth (長生殿)

by the Shanghai Kun Opera Company (上海崑劇團) is a major operatic event that presents the work's entire 50 scenes, in what is being billed as the first time in more than 300 years that this has been achieved. *The Palace* was written by Hong Sheng (洪昇) during the Qing Dynasty and tells of the love story between the Tang Dynasty Xuanzong emperor (712-756) and his concubine, Lady Yang. The troupe began working on the original script in 2002 and premiered the complete version in Shanghai five years later.

- National Theater, Taipei City
- Tonight and Monday at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$3,500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

## The 2010 Traditional Performing Arts Festival (2010傳統表演藝術節)

comprises a rich lineup of *bangzi* opera (梆子), *nanguan* (南管) and *beiguan* (北管) music, Taiwanese glove puppetry and Taiwanese and Beijing opera. Highlights include performances by *bangzi* opera diva Wang Hai-ling (王海玲), *beiguan* maestro Chiu Huo-jung (邱火榮) and doyen of Taiwanese opera Liao Chung-chih (廖瓊枝). The festival starts tomorrow and runs through May 1.

- Events take place at venues in Yilan, Taipei and Kaohsiung
- For more information, go to [www.ncta.gov.tw/events/art2010](http://www.ncta.gov.tw/events/art2010)

Keep Shooting (一直社) brings its fifth production, **Endgame**, which was adapted from the one-act play of the same title by Samuel Beckett, to the stage. The play revolves around the protagonist Hamm, who is old and blind, and his servant Clov.

- Guling Street Avant-Garde Theatre (祐鎮街小劇場), 2, Ln 5, Guling St, Taipei City (台北市祐鎮街5巷2號)
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$450, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

## Theatre de la Sardine (沙丁魚克劇團)

mixes together pantomime and theater for its clown show, which was inspired by everyday-life situations. The show is family-friendly.

- Wenshan Theater (文山劇場), 32 Jingwen St, Taipei City (台北市景文街32號)
- Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$200, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

The National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院) tomorrow continues its **Saturday Night at the NPM** series of performances with Tzu Wan Jan Puppet Theater's (子宛掌拳中劇團) glove puppet show. For the series other performance schedules, visit [www.npm.gov.tw/events](http://www.npm.gov.tw/events)

- B1 lobby at National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院), 221 Zhishan Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市至善路二段221號)
- Tomorrow at 6pm
- Admission is free

## Classical music

## The Brothers Kevin — Beneath the Canopy (凱文兄弟玩音樂 — 打擊樂與長笛的當代音樂花園)

presents a novel classical pairing: flute and percussion. The program includes Tauno Marttinen's *Alfa*, David Gillingham's *Five Fantasies on Natural Origin*, Paul San Gregory's *Informal Discourse*, Philip Parker's *Beneath the Canopy* and Peter Klatzow's *Figures in a Landscape*, among other works.

- Tomorrow at 7:30pm
- Forum Auditorium (十方樂集音樂劇場演奏廳), 4, Ln 187, Minzu W Rd, Taipei City (台北市民族西路187巷4號)
- Tickets are NT\$350, available through ERA ticketing or online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw)

## Shanghai Symphony Orchestra Concert (上海交響樂團音樂會)

presents one of the first and most highly regarded of Asia's symphony orchestras under music director Yu Long (余隆) and featuring soprano Huang Ying (黃英), tenor Mo Hualun (莫華倫) and counter tenor Liao Changyong (廖昌永). The program will range from modern Chinese composers such as Qing Zhu (青主), whose work *I Live at One End of the Yangtze River* (我住長江頭) will be presented, to an operatic selection from Gounod and Bizet.

- Tuesday at 7:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$2,000, available through ERA ticketing or online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw)

## The Listener (橋蛋鬼大鬧星美尼)

is a children's concert by the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra (國立臺灣交響樂團) featuring the American Magic Circle Mime Company presenting a program that includes Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol*, themes from Britten's *A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, Bernstein's *Candide Overture* and other works that are likely to appeal to an audience that includes young children.

- Sunday at 2:30pm
- Yuanlin Performance Hall (員林演奏廳), 99, Ln 2, Chungcheng Rd, Yuanlin Township, Changhua County (彰化縣員林鎮中正路二巷99號)
- Tickets are NT\$300 and NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

## Contemporary

**Legacy Taipei**, located in a former warehouse at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), hosts top Taiwanese pop performers and international acts. Tonight's show with Norwegian indie folk-pop duo **Kings of Convenience** is sold out. No shows are scheduled for tomorrow. Taitung reggae rockers **Matzka and Di Hot** make their semi-regular appearance on Wednesday. On Thursday the venue hosts The Next Big Thing, a showcase of up-and-coming indie bands. This week features low-key duo **Zag Loops** (萊可洛環) and Hakka rock band **Zenkwn** (神棍樂團).

- Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914), Center Five Hall (中五館), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)
- Shows start at 8pm tonight, 8:30pm Wednesday, 8pm Thursday
- Tonight's show is sold out. NT\$400 on Wednesday and NT\$200 on Thursday. Prices include one drink. Tickets available through

ERA ticketing or online at [www.ticket.com.tw](http://www.ticket.com.tw) or [www.legacy.com.tw](http://www.legacy.com.tw) or at ibon kiosks at 7-Eleven stores

With Spring Scream taking place this weekend, no shows are scheduled tonight at **The Wall** (這牆). But on Sunday, fans of Taiwanese metal are in for a triple treat of **Nemesis** (天譴), **Mutaker**, which mixes electronica and black metal, and **Infernal Chaos**, the side band of Chthonic (閃靈) guitarist **Jesse Liu** (小票). On Wednesday it's punk band **Beright** and on Thursday electronica performers **Frande** and **Zhong Chi** (鍾在) of China take the stage.

- B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Tel: (02) 2930-0162. On the Net: [www.thewall.com.tw](http://www.thewall.com.tw)
- Music shows start at 8pm Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Entrance fee is NT\$500 (NT\$400 in advance) on Sunday, NT\$300 on Wednesday and Thursday. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting [www.thewall.com.tw](http://www.thewall.com.tw) or [tickets.books.com.tw](http://tickets.books.com.tw)

Tonight **Witch House** (女巫店) hosts **Iris Lin** a young up-and-coming pop singer whose music has a bossa nova flavor. Tomorrow indie rock veterans **The Peppermints** (薄荷葉) take the stage. On Thursday it's **Supergotan** (探戈四重奏), a group with an *erhu* (二胡) player that plays tango-influenced music.

- 7, Ln 56, Xinsheng S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市新生南路三段56巷7號). Tel: (02) 2362-5494. On the Net: [www.witchhouse.org](http://www.witchhouse.org)
- Performances start at 9:30pm. Restaurant/bar with queer/feminist bookstore and large collection of board games open 11am to midnight Sundays through Wednesdays; 11am to 1am Thursdays through Saturdays
- Entrance fee for music shows is NT\$300

## Riverside Cafe (河岸留言)

tonight hosts **Real Collective Jazz Quartet** (爵士四重奏). Fingerstyle guitarist pair **Woody Woody** performs tomorrow night. On Sunday it's Mando-pop singers **Kelvin Tan** (陳偉聯) and **Chiang Tao** (姜道). Monday is the venue's weekly open jam.

- B1, 2, Ln 244, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段244巷2號B1), next to Taipower Building (台電大樓). Tel: (02) 2368-7310. On the Net: [www.riverside.com.tw](http://www.riverside.com.tw)
- Shows start at 9:30pm tonight and 9pm all other nights. For a list of standard songs and ground rules for the open jam, visit the venue's Web site
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$350 Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday

Popular Taiwanese shredder **Marty Young** (楊沛森) appears tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓表演館). He shares the bill with veteran pop-rock band **Rock Oriental Express** (搖滾東方). Tomorrow night is a set of young indie bands **Teens Edge** (青春邊緣) and **Ground Zero** (放射空間), who open for **36 Roundhouse Kicks** (三十六迴旋踢). On Thursday it's garage rockers **Mary See the Future**.

- 177 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路177號). Tel: (02) 2370-8805. On the Net: [www.riverside.com.tw](http://www.riverside.com.tw)
- Shows start at 8:30pm tonight, 8pm tomorrow and 8:30pm Thursday
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight, NT\$350 tomorrow and NT\$200 Thursday. Tickets can be purchased online through [www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse](http://www.riverside.com.tw/livehouse) or [tickets.books.com.tw](http://tickets.books.com.tw)

Heavy metal bands **Epitaph** and **HardSmooth** (兜澀) play tonight at **Underworld** (地下紅會). Tomorrow noise band **Sunset Rollercoaster** (落日飛車) shares the bill with **Parallel Pyres**. On Wednesday it's **Tough Black Tea** (硬式紅茶) and **XOXO** (叉叉叉叉).

- B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1). Tel: (02) 2369-0103. On the Net: [www.upsaid.com/underworld](http://www.upsaid.com/underworld)
- Music shows run from 9:30pm to 11:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 9pm to 11pm on Wednesdays. Underworld is open daily from 9pm, closed on Mondays. Happy hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays before midnight
- Entrance on Fridays and Saturdays is NT\$300, which includes one drink; NT\$100 on Wednesdays. No admission fee on other nights or after music shows

## The Round Midnight Jazz Ensemble

appears tonight at **Sappho de Base**. Tomorrow it's **Blurred Lines**, which combines world beat, pop and jazz. On Tuesday the venue hosts **The Sound of Jazz Quartet**, which includes as a member the young and talented drummer **Doris Lin** (林文豐). On Wednesday Taipei-based jazz drummer **Ed Schaefer** performs with his group **TNT Jazz** hosts an open jam on Thursday.

- B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安和路一段102巷1號B1). Tel: (02) 2700-5411. On the Net: [www.sappho102.biz](http://www.sappho102.biz)
- Music shows begin at 10pm. Closed on Sundays and Mondays
- Entrance is NT\$100 tonight, tomorrow and Tuesday, free on other nights

Tonight **Roxy Roots** hosts an evening of blues rock with **Rocky and the Barfly** and jazz fusion group **Gina's Can** (吉那罐子樂團). **Black Mirror** plays rock tomorrow night. Expat acoustic duo **T-Bone and Yasu** hosts the venue's weekly open jam.

- 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路90號). Tel: (02) 2725-3932. On the Net: [www.roxy.com.tw](http://www.roxy.com.tw)
- Shows start at 10pm
- Entrance is NT\$300 on Fridays and Saturdays (NT\$200 credited toward food and drinks)

## EZ5 Live House

hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights for the week include beloved female singer **Tiger Huang** (黃小琥), who performs two sets every Monday, **Julia Peng** (彭佳慧), a major draw who appears every Tuesday, and male crooner **Shin Lung** (辛隆), who performs every Saturday.

- 211, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市安和路二段211號). Tel: (02) 2738-3995. On the Net: [www.ez5.com.tw](http://www.ez5.com.tw)
- Music shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am
- Entrance fee (includes two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer

**Taipei Swing** holds dance socials on Friday nights at **Capone's**, with live music from blues band **BoPoMoFo** (ㄅㄨㄛㄇㄛ). Dancers of all levels are welcome, and beginner lessons are offered while the band takes a break. Tomorrow it's Salsa night with live music from **Latin on Fire**.

- 312, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段312號)
- Live music from 9pm to 11:30pm on Fridays, 8pm to 11:30pm on Saturdays
- On Fridays there's a minimum order of one drink per person; dancers receive a free drink coupon. On Saturdays the minimum charge is NT\$300

## RESTAURANTS

BY IAN BARTHOLOMEW

## Sheng Yuan 盛園

**Address:** 1, Ln 25, Hangzhou S Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市杭州南路二段25巷1號)  
**Telephone:** (02) 2397-3522 **Average meal:** NT\$250 and up  
**Open:** 11:30am to 2:30pm and 4:30pm to 9:30pm **Details:** Chinese menu, cash only



Though Sheng Yuan's fare straddles the breadth of China, it does Zhejiang cuisine the most justice.

PHOTOS: IAN BARTHOLOMEW, TAIPEI TIMES

orange crab roe broth, which gradually thickened as it cooked over a paraffin flame into a gorgeous paste with a simple but intense flavor.

The Ningpo-style cooked fish belly (寧式紅燒肚桶, NT\$250), which uses the relatively cheap grass carp (草魚), a freshwater fish notable for its fine grained flesh and often muddy flavor, was balanced with a heavy soy and oil reduction that showed off, in an understated fashion, the skill of the chef in turning inexpensive ingredients into a sophisticated dish.

A selection of side dishes is also available, all of them well-prepared and presented, starting from NT\$30. The cold beef tendon in spicy dressing (NT\$50), in particular, deserves mention for its perky sauce, and tendon that is delicate without being gelatinous, and firm without being tough.

Service is fast and courteous, and the vibe is lively, with a constant flow of patrons moving through.

The whole menu is also available for takeaway.

What do Sid Vicious, Da Vinci's *The Last Supper* and Chinese furnishings have in common? Nothing, until now. **Roxy Kitchen** (or perhaps more accurately "Kitschen"), the recently opened restaurant operated by **Roxy 99** and **Roxy Jr.**, has taken these disparate elements — Chinese banquet tables surrounded by chestnut brown walls adorned with prints of caricatured rock stars — and reworked them to suit its aesthetic sense. And, oddly enough, it works.

Though a little disconcerting at first (I wondered what was going through the mind of the conservatively dressed elderly gentlemen who, while slurping back his soup, kept staring at a framed black-and-white print of Robert Plant performing in skin-tight pants), the setting's charms soon become apparent.

And yet, for all its campy appeal, **Roxy Kitchen** is still just another common, garden-variety Chinese restaurant. In its defense, it has been open only two weeks. But the dishes I tried from the menu, which ran the gamut from Taiwanese to Sichuan and Hakka food, tasted like similar dishes found at night markets. The prices, however, are far from night-market cheap.

The fried "spicy" bean curd and pork (NT\$280), though dressed up with dried chili, fresh scallion and garlic sprouts, was bland. More to the point, the only discernable flavor was that of the tofu.

Kungpao chicken is a sure way to determine the skills of the kitchen staff. **Roxy Kitchen's** version, though it possessed the requisite spicy kick, didn't warrant the NT\$160 price tag. And the flavor didn't make up for what it lacked

## Roxy Kitchen

**Address:** B1, 228, Jinshan S Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市金山南路二段228號B1)  
**Telephone:** (02) 3322-4530 **Average meal:** NT\$300  
**Open:** Sundays to Thursdays from 11am to 10pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 11am to 3am  
**Details:** Chinese and English menu, credit cards accepted, 10 percent service charge

in size. Drowned in a syrupy sweet sauce that stifled the usually crunchy peanuts and peppercorns, it was disappointment on a dish.

The green string beans with beef (NT\$280), like the rest of the meal, arrived well-presented by attentive and pleasant staff. But even before taking the first bite, a familiar smell wafted into my nostrils: xianshui (鹹酥雞), the popular night market snack that is deep-fried and mixed with garlic, basil and chili powder (depending on your preference). Digging in confirmed my initial impression. Absent was the delicate taste of the beans, or their compliment, the rich beef savor. The whole thing was lost in grease and chopped garlic.

It dawned on me while cogitating this review that many of the entrees play on a dried red chili, garlic and shallot theme. While there's nothing wrong with that, at **Roxy Kitchen**, however, it seems that these ingredients are liberally used to make up for a lack of creativity.

Looks like fine dining, tastes like night market fare.

PHOTO: NOAH BUCHAN, TAIPEI TIMES



Average meal: NT\$300

Address: B1, 228, Jinshan S Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市金山南路二段228號B1)  
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## TIDBITS

BY NOAH BUCHAN

I've tried to get a table on three separate occasions at **Evans Burger's** new location on Shida Road (師大路) — it recently moved from its colonial-style bungalow digs around the corner — but each time there was a half-hour wait (the last time was on a Sunday night at 9:30pm). After finally getting a seat on a Tuesday morning at 11:30am, when the place was already one-third full, the reason for its popularity soon became apparent.

**Evans Burger** has deployed an interior design concept rarely used in Taiwan: booths. Booths for parties of four (and comfortable too). Booths for six and even 10. Booths on the main floor, booths in the basement.

Separated by wooden barriers that rise about 1.5m off the terra-cotta floor, a height that ensures a modicum of intimacy, each booth has cushioned seats and is tastefully finished in walnut brown, a color that suits the exposed brick and honey-colored walls, which are adorned with Americana.

Another addition is a long bar with seven black stools, behind which is a limited selection of liquors. The cocktail menu will be available from May 1. **Stella Artois** is the only beer on tap. On Fridays and Saturdays the joint stays open until 2am.

The food menu is the same as at **Evans Burger's** previous location: burgers, sandwiches, fajitas and hot dogs — all good eats at affordable prices. All the restaurant needs to do now is expand its beer menu and start showing sports on the big screen television also located behind the bar.

Address: 1, Ln 86, Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路86巷1號). Tel: (02) 2365-5022. Open daily from 8:30am to 11pm, closes at 2am Fridays and Saturdays. **Evans Burger's** other location is at 27, Ln 13, Pucheng St, Taipei City (台北市浦城街13巷27號1F). Tel: (02) 2368-2225. Open daily from 11am to 11pm, opens at 9:30am Saturdays and Sundays.