

AROUND TOWN

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PHOTO: REUTERS

Countdown to kickoff

It's time to pick a bar (and a side if your national team didn't make the grade) and settle down to watch the 2010 FIFA World Cup action unfold as it happens

BY **DAVE CARROLL**
STAFF REPORTER

SOUTH AFRICA

These are the first World Cup finals to take place in Africa and host South Africa will be celebrating the opening ceremony and Bafana Bafana's first match against Mexico tonight at Alleycat's Pizza Huashan, 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號). Tel: (02) 2395-6006. The Liaison Office of South Africa will be on hand and is offering free pizza and beer to the first 50 fans who turn up wearing South Africa colors. The match will be shown on the big screen.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

Expect to find the Aussies and the Kiwis cheering on the Socceros and the All Whites at the Brass Monkey, 166 Fuxing N Rd, Taipei City (台北市復興北路166號), tel: (02) 2547-5050. All the games will be broadcast with English commentary, and the Monkey has teamed up with Adidas to offer a free draw. Prizes include shirts and World Cup Jabulani balls.

JAPAN

Word is that the boys from Japanese expat soccer team JFC will be congregating at On Tap, 49, Ln 308, Guangfu S Rd, Taipei City (台北市光復南路308巷49號), tel: (02) 2741-5365, to watch the Samurai Blue's progress over the next month. There's a 100-inch screen upstairs and a newly installed screen downstairs. A deposit of NT\$5,000 behind the bar will get you a season ticket and a guaranteed seat for all of your chosen team's matches. Weather permitting, On Tap will also be hosting a seven-a-side World Cup soccer tournament all day on Wednesday at Yingfeng Sports Park, next to Dajia Riverside Park, off Bingjiang Street (迎風河濱運動公園靠近濱江街) in Taipei.

UNITED STATES

There are plenty of Americans around, but not that many interested in the beautiful game. Those that are, however, may wish to amble along to the Barry Room, Taipei Artist Village (台北國際藝術村百里廳), 7 Beiping E Rd, Taipei City (台北市北平東路7號), where the games will be shown on a giant projector screen. For the US' three group games, Jack Daniels will be handing out a free shot every time the Stars and Stripes hit the back of the net. If you'd rather jog along to Tianmu, rumor has it some Americans will be making El Gallo, 42, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 7, Taipei City (台北市中山北路七段42號), tel: (02) 2874-1366, their base, at least for the opening match against England.

NIGERIA

Word on the street is that Super Eagles fans will congregate at Carnegies, 100, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市安和路二段100號), tel: (02) 2325-4433, with its huge 240-inch and 150-inch screens. The management will be providing a late-night menu for those 2:30am games and various bottled beers will be NT\$99 while the matches are in progress.

SWITZERLAND

Swiss fans will be found at the Swiss-owned FIFA-approved Tavern Premier 415, Xinyi Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市信義路四段415號), tel: (02) 8780-0892. Games involving both the Schweizer Nati and Germany will be broadcast in German in designated areas of the bar, while Japan's matches will be broadcast with Japanese commentary. The kitchen will remain open for all the games and smokers will be glad to know the garden

also has a big screen and seating for 80. The bar with the largest number of plasma screens and projectors in Taiwan, this place is likely to get busy, so it's best to book in advance.

GERMANY

Germans will be making Tianmu their base for their next assault on the title, with Wendel's, 5 Dexing W Rd, Taipei City (台北市德行西路5號), tel: (02) 2831-4592, their venue of choice for the group games. Wendel's has devised a special snack menu for game nights. Those who don't want to make the trek to Tianmu will be likely heading to either the Brass Monkey or the Tavern Premier.

FRANCE

No news on where the French will be heading to watch Les Bleus, but with their love of good cuisine, expect some to turn up at the Cafe at Far Eastern, Far Eastern Plaza Hotel, 6F, 210, Dunhua S Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路二段210號6F), tel: (02) 2738-8888. Executive chef David Ansted has created a South African buffet and there will be a lucky draw sponsored by South African Airways and the Master Football Association (MFA). Prizes include a return flight from Hong Kong to Johannesburg. For parents with kids who catch the soccer bug during the next few weeks, MFA will be running weekend coaching sessions around the city. For more information, call (02) 2592-2877.

ITALY

Investigations failed to uncover where those following reigning champions Italy will be heading for their group

matches, but we're sure a few will turn up at FIFA-approved Capones, 312, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市忠孝東路四段312號), tel: (02) 2773 3782. The restaurant will be showing all the games in high definition with English commentary and the kitchen will remain open for every match. For those with children who want a family-friendly atmosphere in which to watch the World Cup, Capone's is a safe bet.

NETHERLANDS

Annemarie Pot of Dutch-language social club VNT tells us many in the Dutch community will be donning their orange outfits and meeting up for the first game against Denmark on Monday in Tianmu at the Red Hut, 2, Ln 405, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 6, Taipei City (台北市中山北路六段405巷2號). The location for the second game against Japan has not yet been decided. It could be the Red Hut again or a jaunt to Malibu West, 9, Ln 25, Shuangcheng St, Taipei City (台北市雙城街25巷9號), tel: (02) 2592-8228.

ENGLAND

There will be England fans in every nook and cranny: it's not a case of where they'll be, but where won't they be. Expect On Tap, Brass Monkey, Tavern Premier, Carnegies and Capones all to be packed tomorrow night when England kick off against the US. Don't expect to just turn up and get a seat, even at 2:30am, so book in advance. My Place, 3-1, Ln 32, Shuangcheng St, Taipei City (台北市雙城街32巷3-1號), tel: (02) 2591-4269, will show all the games live and is offering bottles of Heineken for NT\$100 throughout the World Cup.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY DIANE BAKER, NEESSA WOLF AND THOMAS WALK

Taiwan's wild man of pop gets down to business

BY **ANDREW C.C. HUANG**
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

For more than two decades, prolific singer/songwriter/producer Bobby Chen (陳昇) has released one solo album per year, and since 1993 he's performed an annual year-end concert.

A writer with six books under his belt, Chen is known for his socially conscious pop odes and unique brand of ballads, such as *Leaving Sadness for Myself* (把悲傷留給自己), *Hating Love Songs* (恨情歌) and *Opium Rose* (鴉片玫瑰), which convey a melodramatic and melancholic sense of romance. He's also a member of New Treasure Island Band (新寶島康樂隊), which specializes in Hoklo (commonly known as Taiwanese), Hakka and Aboriginal songs. To date, the group has released eight albums.

Tonight Chen performs songs from his newest solo album, *Bobby Chen PS Yes, I Am in Taipei* (陳昇PS是的·我在台北), in addition to past hits, at a concert at Riverside Live House.

On the album, which goes on release today, Chen pays homage to the capital through folk-pop portraits of its residents.

"Two-thirds of the people who live in Taipei come from other places," said Chen in an interview last week. "Ideally, I would call the people in Edward Yang's (楊德昌) movies the real Taipei people. I myself have to call the city home because I have lived here for so long."

Born and bred in Changhua County, Chen moved to Taipei after graduating from vocational college. He worked odd jobs before entering the music industry as a lowly assistant, and gradually moved up the ladder, penning and producing numbers for stars such as Takeshi Kaneshiro (金城武) and Rene Liu (劉若英).

Unlike many of his Mando-pop peers, Chen is well-known for his hard-drinking antics.

Asked how he came up with his trademark style, Chen replied, "All romances are similar. A man loves a woman. A woman loves a man. In most cases, they can't get who they love."

Happily married for the past 26 years, does Chen draw on wedded bliss for inspiration? "I don't," he said. "I simply borrow ideas from other people. Or I use memories of an old romance. I'm not the sort of person who needs a romance in order to produce a new work of art."

And to what does he attribute his longevity? "The secret is not to think about it," he said. "I simply continue to do what I like. I am already planning my next project while finishing my current one. In the current record industry climate, you are already winning if you just continue doing what you do."



Bobby Chen keeps his mind on the job.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROCK RECORD

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Bobby Chen PS Yes, I Am in Taipei (陳昇PS是的·我在台北)
WHEN: Today at 8:30 pm
WHERE: Riverside Live House (西門紅樓展演館), 177 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路177號). Tel: (02) 2370-8805
ADMISSION: NT\$500
ON THE NET: bobbychen.bosnets.net and www.riverside.com.tw

Shooting season is over

BY **ALITA RICKARDS**
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The beautiful people used to go to parties hoping to be seen, but in our digital age they hope to be photographed as well, with the results splashed all over Facebook and Flickr.

The tag on many of those posts is that of photographer Steven Vigar, who seems to be snapping away at superhuman speeds at parties across the country. Yet the first event that he is organizing since moving from Tainan to Taipei is a camera-free one called No Photos!

"It's as if a person can have zero human interaction with all the unbelievably cool things happening out there, but still get most of the whole experience digitally," said Vigar, who studied photography at

Canada's Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. "It's tragic."

To spur partygoers into getting creative, cameras are banned. Instead, attendees are encouraged to pick up a sketch pad. The only photos will be the ones exhibited on the walls, along with other works of art.

Vigar is weary of Web sites on which users can see an event's attendees, "who's going, who's not, what to expect ... and then afterwards see all the party photos and comments," he said. "Everything [is] wrapped up nicely in a little ... party package."

Vigar and Gregory Russell formed production group Up Against the Wall Muther Fucker a year ago to throw alternative art parties, events and exhibitions.

Their most successful venture to

date was at Light Lounge in Taichung. At that party, called Get It, they gave partygoers markers and whiteboards on which to write comments and took photos of them holding the results.

Tomorrow's party begins with melodic post-rock from university favorites Sorry Youth, followed by indie synth rock by The Looking Glass and punk from Divebomb, which is making the trip from Tainan for the show. My Skin Against Your Skin rounds out the live acts, with DJ Marcus Aurelius manning the decks for the rest of the night.

Featured artists include American surrealist painter Derek Murphy, documentary and lifestyle photographer Garret Clarke, writer and blogger Matt Gibson, graffiti artist Brendan Dempster and fashion designer Jenna Pearce of Rice Society.

"I have actually had a few people mention that they'd feel weird about not seeing any post-party photos," said Vigar. "If a party takes place in a forest and there are no photographs to capture it, did it really happen?"

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: No Photos!
WHEN: Today from 10pm to 4am
WHERE: Roxy Roots, 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松仁路90號)
ADMISSION: NT\$300, NT\$200 of which can be used to purchase food or drink



My Skin Against Your Skin plays at No Photos! today.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GARRET CLARKE