Katherine Dawn
her grandfather
called her a
'diamond in the rough'
...see story pg. 6
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April 19th - West Wind - Country/Rock

Come Party With
Julie, Kim,
Sue & Laura
Mad bomber Person scares the hell out of me

By Jacques E. Strap
Action Magazine's Sports Analyst

Ch-ch-ch-ch...Chuck...Chuck p-p-p-Person. Chuck Person.

Just uttering the name can be an unnerving experience. Especially if you happen to be a Spurs fan who compares misses with makes and other such statistical reality.

Chuck Person, the vaunted "Rifleman" of Spurs fame and shame, may well be the most feared player in the National Basketball Association.

Some opponents no doubt fear the 3-point bomber on those unconscious nights when he makes shots from basketball outer space, seemingly pulling some of them right out of his rectum while lurching thisaway and thataway.

Many Spurs fans--especially those who haven't forgotten last year--are still haunted by visions of Person's disgraceful showing in the playoffs. And their greatest fear is that Bob Hill will put the intemperate gunner into more playoff games.

Person has won a few with last-minute hope-and-holler heroics, but the Spurs are doomed if they are pinning any playoff hopes on Person's long-range ballistics missiles. He will kill the team more often than he will save it, because his 3-point misses far outnumber his makes. Sure, Person has made seven threes in one game. But he is just as apt to miss seven in a row, and seven high bounding misses can often spell finish in a close encounter.

Chuck Person lacks basketball credibility. He is a fair to poor defender, a sometimes fair rebounder, no play maker, and one of those NBA phenoms who got where he is without learning the fundamentals of the game.

The mighty "Rifleman" couldn't make seven consecutive free throws if he were allowed to use a stepladder. In the playoffs last year, Person tossed up bricks and dying quail until fans were stupefied over the fact that Bob Hill didn't bench him and keep him there. And many of us were surprised that Popatop didn't trade this liability at season's end.

Sean Elliott is an excellent 3-point shooter, but Elliott has the sense, humility, and proper basketball instincts to know when the long balls will not fall. Then he moves in for 3-point jumpers and slashing drives to the basket, maneuvers unknown to Person.

The "Rifleman" will stand out there and throw up half-court bombs until he either starts making them or gets a call to the bench. And quite often, it's too late for the Spurs before either happens.

Although David Robinson has been known to resemble the Spurs Coyote in close playoff situations, he is a steady hand compared with Person. And Robinson probably knows what some of the more astute observers can see:

Ch-ch-ch-Chuck Person is an incomplete basketball player. And if allowed to stay in too many playoff games, he is sure to sink the Admiral's ship even before the Admiral can get around to pulling the plug.

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Blues Master Randy Garibay on page 13

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FREE BUFFET FOR THE LADIES THURSDAY 6 pm
I wonder how many suckers get hornswoggled by the ever-growing numbers of automobile lubrication joints in this city.

There are thousands, you may be assured, and the mountain of money the lube oil shops lift from their unsuspecting customers has got to be of Rushmore dimensions.

I'm not saying that all of the oil change and minor tuneup shops in San Antonio are gouge holes, although most of them probably are. What with fast, quick, jiffy, and other just-a-minute operations springing up on every other street corner, they've got to sock the public mighty hard in order to stay in business.

Screwed, blued & lubed

I speak from personal experience at the new Econo Luben' Tune, located at 2611 West Avenue.

Armed with an Econo Lube coupon I tore out of the daily Excuse and Nuisance, I stopped in for an oil and filter change for the advertised price of $9.98.

Econo Lube employees on that day were mostly kids who bustled from one car to another—draining, changing, and measuring, with serious mechanic-like expressions on their faces.

As promised in the advertisement, a couple of the Econo Lube wippersnappers changed the oil and the filter in my 1987 Toyota pickup truck. And then came the gaff.

One of the oil-changer youngsters approached with his Econo Lube invoice and work sheet which included the $9.98 oil and filter change, including $2 for labor and the sales tax of 77 cents, for a reasonable total of $12.75.

But the lube jockey was wearing one of those "this looks mighty serious, sir" expressions on his face, while peering intently at the work sheet. On the left side of the document, under the heading "Safety and Travel Inspection Sheet," the Econo Lube man had checked off recommended maintenance services for my truck, including cost of such fluid changes and sundry maintenance.

Differential service was checked, with a stated price of $19.95. Ditto for transmission service for my four-speed standard truck, with another cost of $19.95 added on. Radiator service was also checked on the list, with a fee for this service running $24.78.

Do I look like a watermelon picker?

I politely asked the young man a question.

"Do you believe that I came riding in here on a load of Luling watermelons?" I inquired.

While the kid contemplated the question, I asked him what was wrong with my differential and transmission, since I had only recently had the fluids changed in both.

"Are they low on fluids?" I pressed.

"Well, not exactly," was the lame reply.

"And what do you mean by exactly?" I pushed.

"Well," he stammered. "I figured the differential and transmission needed changing."

"And just what in hell do you think is wrong with my radiator?" I asked.

"Well, it's kinda dirty," came the sick reply.

"That's really strange," I said, pointing out that I had paid a Western Auto service department to flush the radiator and add new coolant less than a month prior to driving in for the oil change.

The boy looked as though he had just swallowed his popsickle with the stick still in it.

"I came in here for an oil change, son, and nothing else," I told the kid.

He handed me the bill for $12.75 and scurried away. Had I gone for the other recommended services, the total would have been $74.66, not including labor and tax. And when I paid the $12.75, the cashier scowled as though I were hijacking him.

There is no way of estimating how many elderly people and non-observant vehicle owners get bathed in clip operations such as this. The money swallowed for unneeded "services" such as my radiator must be of astronomical proportions.

It's robbery without a pistol

It's thievery without a pistol, but there is no law that would stick in "judgement" film-flams such as the aforementioned.

Maybe that moon-faced litter robber really believed that my newly-flushed radiator looked "kinda dirty."

The horde of young people who work in these lob shops reflect the avarice of their superiors. They are obviously programmed to locate and charge for non-existent vehicle problems, and I wouldn't be surprised if they are not paid a percentage for each unneeded service they manage to slide by an unsuspecting motorist.

The law can do nothing much about it, and I doubt there is any consumer protection agency that could offer relief for people who unwittingly give their money to con artists in grease monkey suits.

The late circus man P.T. Barnum put it well when he said, "There's a sucker born every minute and two born to take in him."

* * *
Dawn claims affinity with mystery of song

“If you have the blues—and after you’ve hurt enough and long enough—everything you sing sounds like the blues…”

This word comes from Katherine Dawn Davis (who calls herself Katherine Dawn), a pert and classy writer and song stylist who has stopped the hurting and resumed the singing in a musical odyssey which even Katherine has trouble defining.

“My music is alternative blues. I finally hurt enough to really sing the blues. But I have emerged from something negative into something much more positive. I want to sell songs. And if I have to sing ‘em to sell ‘em, then I’ll sing.”

Recalls Katherine Dawn: “I was so excited to be interviewed by you that night in Augie’s ‘High Texas Rider’ bus.”

Prior to her appearance with Spacek, we had requested a biographical sheet, but Katherine Dawn responded with an updated hand-written bio, explaining: “You requested a bio, having misplaced the one I sent you last year. I was given the advice by Big Bill Lister years ago that you are only as good as your latest.”

She says she started singing professionally at age 11, starting with gospel and running the gamut of country, classical and top-40 to the pop, rock and rhythm and blues she now cottons to.

In the 1970s, she was with Cypress and performed regularly on the Hill Country Opera in Comfort. The 1980s saw Dawn with the rock band Carousel. She worked with the Nolan Brothers from Seguin and the Doyle twins from San Antonio. She appeared with the groups Nightwork and The Bad Boys, and in 1989 she recorded a 45 single in Dallas at Summit Burnett Studios.

“I’ve started receiving small royalty checks from France,” Dawn said. “I think they used some of the music from that 45 recording in movies or something. It’s a real mystery to me.

The A-side of the record was a tune called Carrousel. The flip-side tune was It Doesn’t Matter To Me. Larry Nolan and the Doyle brothers were with her on the recording.

In 1990, Katherine returned to writing her

Katherine Dawn poses for the camera

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*6* Action Magazine, April 1996
original music, and recorded her cassette Katherine's Obsession. She is now starting to crop up all over the place with her soulful voice and interest-piquing lyrics.

She performs at colleges, coffee houses, private parties, and nightclubs. She still works days, but is preparing to record at Melody Ranch Tejas Records in San Antonio with hopes of returning fulltime to music.

The mature beauty with the powerful but expertly-controlled voice we witnessed at Billy Blues bore little resemblance to the 13-year-old cutie we first met back in the 1970s. Katherine Dawn opened with Bobby Gentry's Ode to Billy Joe, worked magic with her own version of Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain, and brought the crowd to its feet with a poignant original she calls One Sweet Lie.

Said Spacek: "Few people can work a solo act like she does. I could never do it, and I admire those who can."

Dawn says her grandpa called her a "diamond in the rough."

On February 17th, Dawn turned 34, and she said: "I have performed at churches, funerals, weddings, schools, dance halls, clubs, picnics and many a family living room. Music is both a gift and a curse. I am grateful to the Lord for the blessings and challenges music has enriched my life with, for our joy is surely our sorrow unmasked."

"In this business I have always felt at home and honored to be part of the great mystery of song. I have come full circle with my own accomplishments and am excited to begin a new adventure. I perform every gig now as if it might be my last."

She recalls an Augie Meyers admonishment that has stuck with her since childhood, Meyers said, "Keep rollin' your roll right, and don't get up til the sun goes down."

Katherine Dawn does her thing.

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Action Magazine, April 1996 • 7 •
Hola to all you April Fools! Don't expect to get anything accomplished in the S.A. business world this month. Between Fiesta, Easter, IRS, etc., the city basically grinds to a halt! Manana means next week!

Fiesta is one of the main causes of High Cholesterol among our Latin community. All those Mega-Dozens of Cascarones sold are of course eggs shells filled w/ confetti - what happens to the yolks, folks? We know they aren't tossed out, so for the next three months you can assure that the families of Cascarones vendors eat a lot of egg dishes. This combined w/ Frijoles is a major contributor to Air pollution in May & June.

O.J. Update:
Remember that 70s pop hit The Back Stabbers? Who sang it? The O-Jay's of course (no joke).
Why hasn't O.J. been hit w/ a "Deprivation of Civil Rights" charge like the cops in the Rodney King fiasco?
How about Magic Johnson, he was the greatest & a class act for standing up & admitting he was HIV positive. But his round ball comeback is Ego/Financially driven. He owns a big chunk of the team. The Lakers have come alive & are viable contenders now. A lot of NBA players will say they aren't afraid of any disease transmission on the court, but, you gotta know, in the back of their minds, when Magic charges for a slam dunk, that they consciously or unconsciously don't give it their full-on defensive effort.

Metro Murders:
Remember the guy that was shot in his N.E. side home w/ surveillance cameras, guard dogs, bars & a small arsenal (mid-March '96) It was a big mystery according to the Express/News. But a few days later the rest of the story came out. This guy had been nailed 6 years ago w/ 120lbs. of methamphetamine & he was eventually convicted of possession of less than 28 grams of crank. He got 8 years probation w/ deferred adjudication. He was two years short of completing his probation & having his record erased! One wonders what he had to do to "skate" as he did. I'm sure that one of the folks he "rolled on" probably got out of jail & dealt the Karmic Lead to the Head. Now the point of this rant is that it took our local news folks days to discover the background of the deceased.

The Warren Moon "Wife battering" trial was a joke! They had a domestic altercation where he got physical & I'm sure she wasn't just a passive participant. After the smoke cleared, she didn't want to press charges. But the local cops pressed them for her. With child molestation hyper-awareness, I'm afraid to hold someone's baby. Now if you wife slugs you in the face w/ a Tyson right hook & breaks her hand, you're going to jail, and you're labeled a "wife baterer". But my real point is did you ever hear what the Moon's argument was about? I only heard one brief mention in the media - seems that Warren was a little pissed @ her for 102-Gs in credit card charges! No excuse, but an interesting contributing factor.

In this column I'm supposed to be lampooning local idiots, but I've been getting a little international. Fear not, I will narrow my focus & point out the local "pendejos" in the upcoming months.

My daddy once told me that in the USA, anybody can become president, and Clinton proved it.
"Slick Willie" has lived up to his name. He looks nuttier this time. I love Limbaugh's nickname for him "The Hand Grenade w/ A Bad Haircut". Yep, Folks, the future looks nuttier. I love Clinton is the "Teflon President" no matter how much shit he steps in, nothing sticks! He also is a fabulous public speaker & campaigner. He will eat Dole alive in heads-up debates, but he's like a ferrari w/ a VW engine & with the odometer rolled back.

Clinton hasn't pulled any major screw-ups like Carter, but internationally the proverbial "excrement will come into contact w/ the overhead ventilating device" i.e. Shit hits the fan! And big-time trouble in Bosnia, China, Israel, Cuba, etc. will plop squarely on the head of the next Prez. Clinton is not capable of dealing w/ it. So vote for the candidate of your choice, but remember ABC - Anybody But Clinton.

The really scary loose cannon is Ross Perot. He looks nuttier this time. I love Limbaugh's nickname for him "The Hand Grenade w/ A Bad Haircut". Yep, Folks, the future ain't what it used to be! The fence must still be down @ the Funny Farm.

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KYYX Chili Cookoff
The KYYX Chili Cookoff last month at Floore's Country Store in Helotes was a success, despite the television weather buffers who did everything possible to kill the annual outdoor event.

We got to visit with old friends Darrell McCall and Johnny Rodriguez, plus a bunch more (see photos in Everybody is Somebody), as several thousand defied the dire and fraudulent predictions of rain, hail, and violent wind.

Darrell and Johnny both worked outdoors in good weather. The “meteorologists” of boob tube shame had even urged all citizens to stay in their houses. So no telling what the turnout would have been without the weather “experts.”

McCall, who gets better with age, has added to his act with wife Mona, a Canadian Indian who is now performing and recording some music with him. The McCalls, who now call Nashville home, have lived just a few hundred yards from Floore’s.

Basketball Greed
As we said from the outset, the doomed dome was a colossal mistake and probably Henry Cisnero’s last significant San Antonio erection.

And it would be another major mistake for the taxpayers to underwrite a multi-million-dollar arena playground for the San Antonio Spurs. We like basketball as much as the next guy, but the unbridled audacity of team ownership is more than a lot of people can swallow.

The experts estimate that player salaries league-wide will top $32 million per team per year by 2000. And the team owners want the working man to foot that bill. The ownership fools have painted themselves into this financial corner because--on the whole scheme of life—no two of those anatomical freaks in short britches are worth one fraction of what they are getting paid.

So let them take their Spurs and hit the road. It was fun before a second-string power forward got paid more than the president of the United States.

And, come to think of it, Bill Clinton is getting a hell of a lot more than he’s worth.

We always said that the ugly, ill-conceived, and over-priced Alamo Dome was better suited for Circus acts and Mexican rodeos anyway.

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Every Saturday - 8:30 Sign-Up
House Matches 1/2 The Pot

Munchies Every Friday
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• 10 • Action Magazine, April 1996
The Hagee Gaffe

A number of community leaders—both black and white—are still trying to determine what prompted preachers from the Cornerstone Church and white—arestill trying to determine what prompted the devastating event a "slave auction." The community leaders—both black and white—resent the idea of a "slave auction." It was a church fundraising gimmick, and the outrage was immediate and widespread.

TheSkeleton Derby

Once again, the event turned into a firestorm of outrage and indignation in the black community. And the preacher's attempt at both defense and apology on old hog jowls Ricci Ware's KTSA talk show did little to vindicate Hagee. Hagee insisted that he is neither a redneck racist or a hypocrite of the first order. And whether the man of God knows it or not, the answer to his gaffe may, indeed, be contained within the scriptures.

A religious fellow we know quotes Jesus Christ as saying something like, "Do no trouble those who will not awaken." Or, in more blunt language, there is not much that can be done about innate stupidity.

In a recent column blasting television reporters for their obnoxious arrogance and other glaring defects, Chicago Daily News syndicated columnist Mike Royko went further to say: "Anyone who has watched more than one minute of TV news knows that TV reporters are not known for politeness, consideration and civility. And they aren't heavy on brainpower, either."

The Skeleton Derby

Once again, the Express and News staged its 10K race through downtown streets. And, once again, the winners and most of the serious participants were fitful in appearance. These amateur and semi-pro distance freaks may have the strongest cardiovascular systems in the world, but they are anything but the pictures of health. With sunken cheeks, bulging eyeballs, pigeon breast chests, hoe handle arms, and kiddee legs the vast majority closely resembles refugees from Auschwitz or survivors of something like the Bataan Death March.

Right On, Royko

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PATIO IS NOW OPEN
No Minors Allowed
Puro Pinche Blues is the record but focus is a recovery business

Never one to mince words, old blues master Randy Garibay plans to call his upcoming album Puro Pinche Blues. In Spanish, the word puro means pure. And everyone knows about the blues. It's the Tex Mex slang word pinche which might raise a few eyebrows, since pinche has a naughty connotation which really doesn't have a standard English translation.

Laughtered Garibay: "I got the idea and blues music one night when I overheard a guy speaking Spanish as he left one of our clubs. He said, "Puro pinche blues!" You won't unravel the meaning from an English-Spanish dictionary, but anyone from the Tex Mex community quickly gets the message. Puro pinche blues means pure fuckin' blues any way you cut it, and that's exactly the message Garibay wants to get across.

"Like my other two albums, this one will contain mostly original material," Garibay said. "And it will be pure blues.

An accomplished guitarist with a beautiful voice, Garibay feels most of the younger blues musicians are missing something.

"The town is crawling with good young blues guitarists," Garibay said, "but the voices are missing. These kids learn every guitar lick Stevie Ray Vaughan had in his trick bag, but they are over looking a major factor in Vaughan's success. In addition to being a great guitarist, Stevie Ray had a singing voice."

While music has been Garibay's life, from the border to the Las Vegas Strip, he says the highlight of his career today is working with recovering alcoholics and drug addicts.

With 10 years of sobriety in the best known 12-step program, Garibay says, "It's time for us in recovery to stand up and put out the word, Stevie Ray Vaughan was carrying the message until the day of his death, and I'm carrying it today. You don't have to be fucked up in order to make good music. I work with recovering alcoholics and addicts every single day, and I try to lead by example."

Garibay says much requested original tunes such as Barbacoa Blues and Too Close To The Border are among his own compositions which will be on the album he plans to record by early August.

"I could always sing and play guitar," Garibay said, "but I never knew I could write good music until after I sobered up. I owe everything I have today including my very life to God and the recovery program which helped me get sober."

In a 1992 Action article we recounted Randy's many accomplishments, including that halcyon era of the 1960s when he worked with Frank Rodarte's Dell Kings who were later to be known as Los Blues and a lounge act which worked the Sahara Hotel in Vegas for a record-breaking 360 consecutive weeks.

"The band name was changed from Dell Kings to Los Blues at the insistence of the hotel management," Garibay recalled. "They wanted us to play with more of a Latin flavor, and I believe that was the beginning of the end for our group. We were a blues band first and foremost, and when we started losing our freedom of expression we started losing the Vegas scene."

While in Las Vegas, Garibay was the lead vocalist on an album titled Los Blues Volume I. His second album was recorded in San Antonio in 1989. Titled Brown Eyes, and constructed with a blue board player Sauce Gonzalez, it was released on the Alemán Records label.

The new one--Puro Pince Blues--will be recorded in San Antonio and released either on an independent label or on the Antone Records label of Austin. "I have been talking with Clifford Antone and I still play Antone's on Austin's Sixth Street on occasion," Garibay said. "We'll know pretty soon which direction it will take."

A son of immigrants from Mexico, Garibay said his love was for rhythm and blues music from the very beginning. He has worked with Sonny Ace and the Twisters, Charlie and The Jives, Doug Sahn, the Righteous Brothers, and he has rubbed shoulders with such Vegas luminaries as Sammy Davis Jr. and Don Rickles. On one occasion, Garibay recalls, Elvis Presley dropped in to catch one of the Dell Kings shows at the Sahara. And to this day, Bill Medley and Bobby Hatfield, the Righteous Brothers lead vocalists, drop in to visit Garibay when they are in the area.

"While with old pros Jack Barber, Al Gomez, Louie Bustos, and Kevin Hess, Garibay entertains Mondays and Tuesdays at Dick's Last Resort on the River Walk.

Of the recent local music awards sponsored by Current, the freebie new-weekly, Garibay laughs, "It's a popular poll. But they forget to name the really great musicians this area has spawned."

Garibay says he has had to play a lot of what he calls straightjacket gigs throughout the years. He says those are jobs where the club management thinks it knows better than the musicians what the public wants to hear.

"But those days are over for me," Randy said. "It's puro pinche blues from now on, and if they don't like it they can just stick it where the sun don't shine."
Scatter Shots cont...

Comal County Logic

Comal County Sheriff Jack Bremer was quoted on the front page of the Bulverde Community News as saying “There is no way we are only trying to make these matters for murder. Money, sex, and revenge.”

Bremer, who is in the April 9th Republican runoff with former DPS trooper Bob Holder, enlightened his constituents with this bit of information following a double murder and suicide which wiped out a Comal County family in the Spring Branch area.

With all due respect to the high sheriff, some of us can think of a few more motives for murder than money, sex, and revenge.

Some serial killers probably just get their jollies helping other people die. Compassion is probably a murder motive, although Dr. Jack Kevorkian would disagree. Unbridled mercy requires no motive. Some assassins kill for political reasons. And thousands of people all over the world are being murdered annually in the name of God. And we have always believed that some people commit murder out of pure meanness.

New Bartending School

The new Bartending School of San Antonio, located on Oaklawn just off Fredericksburg Road, started its first classes April 1st. Owned and operated by Mike Boulanger, a longtime San Antonio bartender who also serves as the school’s head instructor, the Bartending School of San Antonio offers a two-week course which is certified by the Texas Education Agency for a total cost of $325.

The school offers an authentic bar and barroom setting, plus a practice room which students may use at their leisure, and Boulanger points out that actual bar equipment such as soda guns and draft beer dispensers are available to students. Currently working bartender at Tiffany’s Cabaret on Wurzbach Road, Boulanger has also sung drinks at Broadway 50-50, Denim and Diamonds, Dixie Oyster Bar, Gunter Hotel, and Arthur’s on Broadway.

The school will operate Mondays through Fridays, with special weekend course available.

The Dickie-Dos

The Dickie-Dos (their bellies stick out further than their dickies do) are reminiscent of an old Spanish proverb which, roughly translated, says “a man with no stomach is no man at all.”

According to the Office of Survey Research of the University of Texas at Austin, 28% of Texas residents were overweight in 1994, compared with just 10% in 1989.

If you maintain normal body weight, many of the superfluous weight around you will comment on how “skinny” you look, and how much weight you must be losing. The truth is, as they grow progressively fatter, those around them seem to be shrinking in size. All of which further supports the adage: Denial ain’t a river in Egypt.

The dinner begins at noon, the auction at 5 p.m. And music will be provided by Midnight Highway.

Larry Oldham, owner of the Time Clock Bar & Grill, says he is planning to open Time Clock Bar #2 sometime this month. It will be located on 1604 at the location of the old Mark Nine.

Big John Oaks’ Hangin Tree on Bracken will be the scene for a special blowout in celebration of Hangin’ Tree manager Debbie Skeen’s birthday.

Debbie is a transplant from Pennsylvania who has managed for Oaks for 5 years, and Big John says he wouldn’t trade her for a seat on the Comal County Commissioners Court.

By special request, Carroll Giley will furnish the music. And the special request was Carroll’s, for he’s a big fan of Ms. Skeen just like the rest of the hanging tree mob.

Joe Ganey is recovering nicely after bypass surgery, while partner Galen Snider keeps their popular Rusty Nail Saloon on Blanco Road jumping with people and new features.

During April, the Boar’s Jam (hosted by Galen & Joe) will also include a country music talent contest with cash prizes. Galen and Snider will also open their outback patio during April.

Me & C.A., the popular nighthawk on Perin Belieu behind Jim’s, is now almost entirely a karaoke bar. The singing, clowning, and general cutup antics of the customers has outstripped the live music acts, but Stevie Ray Davis is still hosting his live blues jam sessions on Fridays.

If nothing else, City Councilmen Bobby Herrera provided ample mental maturation material for Express and News bleeding deacons Rick Casey and Roddy Sinson. What the hell did anyone expect from a horny, power-crazed, chicken-shit drunk like Councilman Herrera? Don’t blame him — blame the misinformation mental midgets who elected him in the first place.

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