Worm dirt Tobacco may be the toughest of all monkeys to shake ... see Sam Kindrick pg. 5

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Fat boy in orange windbreaker was living nightmare

Scottie McLerran, a North San Antonio man who works for a moving company and attends classes at UT here, tells a sheriff's department horror story that will make the neck hair stand at attention.

McLerran recalls how he was dragged from the home he shares with his mother, accused of aggravated assault on a police officer, shackled and manacled, placed under a $100,000 bond, and held in jail for two miserable months before all charges were dropped following a grand jury no-bill.

Incredible? Maybe. Impossible? No way. The local sheriff's department is capable of the incredible and most anything is possible.

McLerran recalls that he was recuperating from a beating he had suffered from a neighborhood gang when a deputy sheriff he later learned was one Robert Rodriguez called at his home a 8:30 a.m. Jan 22nd of this year. McLerran later learned that Rodriguez was there to serve child support papers.

"It was an order to appear in court," McLerran said. "I was behind on my child support, but I didn't have a clue as to the reason for the deputy appearing at my door that morning."

McLerran said his mother had invited the deputy to wait inside since the weather was cold, and that his mother had informed him that a man was waiting to see him. According to McLerran, he was standing naked by his bed when "a fat stranger wearing and orange windbreaker" barged unannounced right into the bedroom.

Since he had been assaulted, McLerran said, he had purchased a .40-caliber pistol for protection.

"When my bedroom door flew open I reached for the gun," McLerran said. "I had been on medication for my head injuries, and I was still about half groggy. The stranger didn't knock or identify himself as a police officer, and I could see neither badge nor gun."

McLerran said he never actually pointed his pistol at the deputy.

"Standing there completely undressed, I grabbed my gun to protect myself, but never felt the need to raise it. I probably should have grabbed a towel to cover myself, but I was shocked that this stranger had barged into my bedroom."

McLerran said he ordered the stranger from the house, and realized after he had gone that there were court child support papers which were left on a book shelf.

Immediately after this incident, McLerran said he complained to the internal affairs division of the sheriff's department. He said he took his complaint in writing to the downtown offices and was told by a Sergeant Fernandez that an investigation would be made.

That very afternoon, McLerran said, he was eating a pizza with his mom when a half dozen sheriff's department officers converged on their home.

"I was handcuffed and told that I had been charged with aggravated assault on a police officer," McLerran said. "I was taken before a magistrate where bond was set at $100,000—higher than a murder charge, which meant if I was going to post bail it would cost me $10,000 to get out. And of course I didn't have that kind of money."

"I spent 30 days in jail before Dist. Judge Raymond Angelini reduced my bond to $15,000. So I put up the necessary $1,500 to get out, but then I learned that I could not be freed on bond without an electronic monitor, and that I would have to wait until a monitor became available."

McLerran said, "I talked to my brother on the phone during those last (continued on pg. 14)"
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4 • Action Magazine, May 1997
The surgeon general, I am told, has determined that nicotine is almost as addictive as heroin—a report I would have attempted to debunk prior to certain events and happenings of traumatic nature which have been transpiring within my body over the past month.

In plain English, I am attempting to quit dipping Copenhagen snuff, and I am finding this endeavor to be a nerve-jangling challenge of monumental proportions. Since Easter Sunday morning, when I awoke with a puddle of Copenhagen juice drying on both my beard and the pillow case, I have been in a state of pitiful and babbling cold-turkey withdrawal which is a sorry sight to behold.

I have never shot heroin or anything else, but I can personally testify that speed snorting and whiskey drinking are probably easier to quit than Copenhagen, a crude form of finely-chopped tobacco which has been boxed and distributed out of Tennessee since 1822.

Gums lacerated by glass
Recent investigations of the tobacco industry have revealed that the makers of Copenhagen have deposited fine fiber glass hairs in their product for years, a tactic designed to get the fiber glass particles into the blood stream through tiny gum lacerations caused by the fiber glass particles.

As disgusting as this fact may be, it had little influence on my Easter Sunday decision to try quitting. Nor did the ominous warning from a woman at the Bulverde grocery who informed me that her late husband had switched from cigarettes to Copenhagen only two years before his death from cancer of the esophagus.

My "bottom" with tobacco came when I awoke to find my face half-glued to a pillow case by a rapidly-drying "slick" of snuff drippings. In the bathroom mirror, I surveyed the result of a 4-year snuff habit which started as a "temporary" crutch to help me off cigarettes. The Copenhagen had dripped a black and crusty ring around my mouth, and there were flecks of the stuff across my front teeth. Little balls of Copenhagen were gathered in the corners of my mouth, and a rivulet of the amber spittle had run down through my beard to form a crusty blob on the point of my chin.

Oh, you good-looking devil
And I cried out: "Oh, you good-looking devil, how could you have ever allowed it to come to this?"

It has been some four years since I rattled heroically in this column about my quitting cigarettes. Now is the time for some amends for my dishonesty through omission. I omitted to note that I was using small amounts of the milder Skoal snuff as I pulled away from cigarettes.

For a real alcoholic to switch back and forth from whiskey to drugs, I have always maintained, is akin to changing seats on the Titanic. You will go down in the end. And for someone whose philosophy of life was that anything worth doing was worth over-doing, I can now see that the Titanic analogy is the same with tobacco for me. Switching from snuffing to smoking it will produce about the same results.

When I started graduating from Skoal to the stronger Copenhagen, I was counseled in the "art" of proper snuff dipping by Charlie Wood Sr., a longtime sage of the Bulverde area who is fairly knowledgeable about such matters.

"The real snuff-dippers," Charlie said, "are not these showoffs you see with big wads of snuff crammed between their teeth and under lip. These guys are the amateurs who go around spitting snuff juice every whichaway. You never see the real old snuff dipper ever spit. Or hardly ever."

Charlie explained: "The real Copenhagen dippers use only small pinches of the stuff at a time. They swallow the juice, and they probably swallow most of the snuff as well. One box of snuff will last one of these real dippers four or five days."

I never got quite this good, but at the end, I was keeping a wad of Copenhagen in my mouth almost 24 hours a day. I usually read myself to sleep, and I never read without the snuff in my mouth, so one my readily ascertain that the Easter Sunday scenario was not the first of its kind.

Copenhagen is the ultimate in tobacco strength. So with the fiber glass particles opening up my gums, you might say that I was main-lining nicotine for the better part of four years.

I knew of an old cedar chopper who spat Copenhagen juice at a can in the floorboard of his old International truck, and I do know that the tobacco juice literally ate the paint off my vehicle.

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Robert Earl Keen's song Copenhagen takes a humorous view of the sordid habit's filthiness. And laugh about it is about all we dippers can possibly do. There is just no way to defend the oral ingestion of worm dirt on a daily basis.

(continued on pg. 14)
There is a slogan on the Specht's Store sign near Bulverde which reads: “This is Texas.”

Well, folks, there is a country music band of the same name, and some of the musicians from the group This Is Texas have been around almost as long as the ancient store.

Ron Corbett, the “pup” of the three male musicians in the group, isn’t exactly a newcomer to the country music scene. Originally from Galveston, Corbett has worked shows from El Paso to Louisiana with country artists ranging from Justin Tubb to David Houston.

The lead vocalist and rambler of the band, Corbett is flanked by a pair of veterans who have been playing country music longer than some of the contemporary artists have been on this earth.

Lead guitarist is none other than David Champion, who owned the old Silver Saddle Club for more than 40 years, and who has played with the greats and the near-greats. “I started with Adolph...”
Hofner’s Pearl Wranglers,” Champion said.

On bass guitar is Frank McMeans, a former member of the old Texas Top Hands group, and a touring pro who has worked everywhere west of the Mississippi.

Corbett, who also writes original music, has also worked briefly with the legendary Adolph Hofner, so it is of little surprise to anyone when Adolph’s talented daughter Darlene drops by to guest perform with This Is Texas from time to time.

Darlene Hofner was singing and playing cajun fiddle last month as we caught the band’s act at Frank Mumme’s The Other Woman Lounge on Fair Avenue.

“My parents are going wild over this group,” Frank McMeans said. “They are really packing the house.”

Corbett said the group has been together about six months, although he has played with the other musicians from time to time throughout the years.

“We are doing traditional country with some western swing,” Corbett said. “We do everything from Bob Wills to Allen Jackson and Merle Haggard.”

Solid country originals by Corbett include tunes called Honky-Tonk Women and Honky-Honk Nights, and I’m Just A Dreamer.

“These are two we are now doing from the stage,” Corbett said. “But I am working on some other original material that we should have in the act real soon.”

Darlene Hofner, who started performing with her famous father when she was 10, said she loves to guest perform with Corbett and the other two old pros.

A graduate of Harlandale High School who lists Barbara Mandrell and Vikki Carr as two of her greatest influences, Darlene whipped through some cajun fiddle tunes and did her own rendition of the Willie Nelson tune Crazy which sold over a million records for the late Patsy Cline.

“I still appear with my father from time to time,” Darlene said. “He is still in good health and performing for special events.”

Darlene and Ron Corbett both play drums as well as fiddle and rhythm guitar, and they were trading out on the skins the night we caught the act.

Corbett, Champion, and McMeans have all worked with Adolph Hofner or sat in with his band, so Darlene is a familiar addition when she sits in with This Is Texas.

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The death of Chicago syndicated columnist Mike Royko last month was a painful blow to local readers who have followed the talented and sometimes outrageous writer from the windy city.

We have been a Royko fan for over 30 years, reading him first in the old Chicago Daily News and in later years through his syndicated column which appeared in the Express and News.

Royko's death marked the end of it for our tuning to the local paper's editorial section. We knew few earthly gods. And maybe not. Maybe it was an aneurysm that killed him and nothing more. But for us afflicted with the sickness of which John Barleycorn is a symptom, the real cause of death is seldom listed on the death certificate.

Night Club Ramblings

John Oaks, owner of the Hangin' Tree in Bracken, reports that a chili Cook-off auction last month raised a grand total of $1,773 for cancer patient Larry Daly and his family.

"I want to thank all of the people who donated Items for the auction and the people who purchased the items," said Big John. "The weather was cold and rainy but we still had a tremendous turnout. I also want to thank Debbie Sreen, Tom MacDonald and Gary Radlcke for handling the auction and raffles."

On the morning of the Cook-off, Oaks said he arrived under muggy skies to find one big biker already starting his fire and preparing his chill meat for the pot.

"I don't care what the weather does," the cook said. "I've got 20-pounds of chill meat here and I aim to cook it."

At that point, Big John said he knew the cook-off and fund-raiser would proceed, no matter how the weather turned out.

The St. Mary's Strip sort of resembles a war zone with clubs closed, closing, half open, and under varying states of repair and renovation.

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life. And his rather unrealistic dreams for a

certain old gambling town, which has flown
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The ultimate blow to Rucci's

dreams of headline-garner­

ing controversy never really

amounted to anything.

What might have been

combined all of Its contents into a

Rucci

Mini

Mini

Rucci's Crazy Horse

and he couldn't get a
decent-looking dancer (gay

or straight) to work for him. He
did hire one big fat mama

who was so ugly she would

have to sneak up on a mirror

just to brush her hair. And that

was about it for Scorz.

Meanwhile, Evo Mini has

finally chased Hecky and

Jectyl (Felix and Rob) out of

The Music Gallery (originally

the Playa Santa Maria), and

turned the business over to

longtime employee Bob Kell-

mann.

Bob, who has been helping

Evo Mini remodel and build

nightclubs over the past four

years, will call the place the

Drive-In Diner, and specialize in
diner fare food.

A familiar face on the

cub scene in San Antonio

forlornly empty after

the process of becoming a

piled all of Its contents into a

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Jokester is serious business for these guys

Jokester is no joke, but one of the better mainstream rock bands in the San Antonio area. And without a doubt one of the hardest working. Copy work pays the bills, but it is original rock material that keeps the juices flowing for this talented group of pros who came together in 1993 after work with such noted groups at Tite Fit, Detour, Single Bullet Theory and Painted Pony.

Credit Tom Roebuck, Vince Garcia, and Ed Anglin for the Jokester concept. They describe it as predominately radio rock that knows no sexual or ethnic boundaries and consists of catchy hooks and riffs accompanied by lyrical storylines. In plain English, we interpret this to mean that the band Jokester does not want hard rock identification. And it will have none if what we heard last month at the Pour House is a good sampling. The band was playing identifiable melodies with a high energy level that never waned, and the Poor House regulars were out there dancing until the end.

This is a guitar outfit—bass, rhythm, and lead. Everybody but drummer Roger Avalon and lead vocalist Tom Roebuck is wanging away on some sort of guitar. All members of the group add vocals, and all of them are involved in the writing and arranging of new material.

Ed Anglin the bass guitarist, and Vince Garcia, the lead guitar, were both with the group Detour before joining forces with Tom Roebuck to start Jokester in 1993. Roebuck was lead singer with Tite Fit. Jeff Land, rhythm guitarist and vocals, worked previously with Single Bullet Theory. And drummer Roger Avalon, the newest member of Jokester, was most recently with Painted Pony.

Brenda Boswell books the band regularly at both Pour House and Country On The Rocks. "They are a solid draw," Brenda said. "And they are really deserving of some recognition. They hold the crowds with some mainstream copy stuff, and they have good original material which our people accept and like."

Tom Roebuck said, "We hope to record some of our original music, and we want to gain exposure and airplay both locally and nationally. We are regarded by our peers as one of the best groups on the local scene, and with a lot of hard work, we hope to get better."

He said original num-(continued on next pg.)
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2ND JEFF CRISSLER 3RD JIM ISAACS
9TH MIKE KROPP 10TH SYLVIA
15TH & 16TH 2 MUSES 17TH AKA FREED
23RD MIKE KROPP 24TH BRADEN & JOHNSON
30TH MICHAEL DANIELS 31ST RON ROSE & CO.

NEW COVERED PATIO!

Great Jukebox
1,500 CD Selections
Darts Pool
Dominoes Horsehoes

TEXAS 46
MAY 1997
Fridays
2nd..........Cadillac Traxx
9th..............Eric Scott
16th ..........Thomas Michael Riley & Slim Roberts
23rd ......Wayne Martin & Dos Pickerz
30th..........Thomas Michael Riley

SATURDAYS
3rd..................Homefire
10th......Diane Shaw & Texas Scratch
17th & 31st....Thomas Michael Riley & Slim Roberts
24th....................Split Second

Hours: 11 a.m. till Midnight
Monday thru Friday
11 a.m. till 1 a.m. - Saturday
Noon till Midnight - Sunday
No Cover - Fridays 7:30 till 11:30
Saturday 8:30 till 12:30

Hwy 46
2 mi north
281 N.

14 miles
TEXAS 46

Hill Country Charity Golf Classic
Co-sponsored by Texas 46 & Buster's Bar & Grill
Sunday May 18th at
Rebecca Creek Golf Course
Proceeds to American Cancer Society & A.L.S. Foundation
Call (210) 885-4605 for Info

THE SHADY LADY
5560 FM 78 in Kirby 662-9791
May Entertainment
3rd Publio & The Valiants
9th - One Nite Stand
10th - Bimbo & Borderline
16th - Renegade Band
23rd - Matt Toon & Big Deals
24th - "Rick"

Back By Popular Demand
Steak Nite - Weds. at 6 p.m
8oz. Ribeye w/ All the Trimmings
$3.50 Bring Your Own & Cook It If You Like

Bloody Mary Sunday
Jam Sessions
2 p.m. w/ Sky
Free Food • Friends • Fun & Good Music

Every Tuesday $1 Drinks Daily Drink Specials

JOHNNY THOMAS ALL PRO C&W SINGING DJ SATURDAY MAY 31ST
PHONE: 828-CLUB (2582)
OPEN 10:30AM TO 2AM - MON. THRU SAT 12AM TO 12PM SUN.
HAPPY HOUR 10:30AM TO 7PM DAILY
A FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD ESTABLISHMENT

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COUNTRY ON THE ROCKS
BENEFIT AUCTION
Sunday May 11, 1997
Starts at 2 p.m.
Auction Items
Beds, Cars, etc.
Auctioned by "Killer"
Country Music
by Heart Break
Drink Specials • BBQ
Pony Rides w/ Pictures
Donations Accepted For Auction
at 13777 Judson Rd. at Lookout Rd.
Call 210-656-6463 For Info

ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO BRIGHTER DAYS HORSE REFUGE

Country on the Rocks
13777 Judson Road • 656-6463
Don't Miss The May 11th Benefit Auction
Fun • Food • Specials •
Donations for Auction Accepted at the Club Now!

MAY TUNES
9th Kindred Spirit
10th & 11th - Country Time w/ Broken Heart
16th - Jokester - Our Favorite
17th - Street Legal
23rd - Southern Rail
24th - Last Call
30th - Southern Cowpeas
31st - Toe Jam

Pour House
4750 Seguin Rd. • 661-8082
Tunes for May
2nd - Aliby
3rd - Toe Jam
9th - Texas Radio
10th & 31st - Kindred Spirit
16th - Southern Cowpeas
17th - Replay
23rd - Last Call
24th - Wreckage

We Cordially Invite You To Our Wednesday Jam with
Southern Cowpeas and/or Belairz
Drink Specials • Freebies for Pickers & Singers

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For 60s & 70s Soft Rock "REPLAY"
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