The blues harp of Frankie Collins stirs fond memories
...see pg. 6

Chris Holzhaus releases CD
...see page 13
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There's a new 'man' in Mr. Robinson's yard

By Jacques E. Strap
Action Magazine
Sports Analyst

I've taken a liking to KSAT-TV weathercaster Steve Brown, and this has presented somewhat of a problem. When Brown concludes his weathercast, I have had trouble crossing the room and switching off the TV before sports idiot Gregg Popovich starts his breathless explosion of inanities.

All of our electronic media personalities are afflicted with egomania at varying levels of severity. But few have less going for them than Simmons, a leftover from old KBUC Radio who bears strong resemblance to a tree frog.

When interviewing a sports subject, Simmons always manages to talk more than the interviewee.

But enough of such twaddle. I'm back from the Lucky Eagle Casino with all intentions of sticking it out until the Spurs are blown out of the playoffs—probably in the first round.

I've been criticized, I know, for presenting a rather pessimistic view where our Spurs are concerned. And so people believe that I am a negative person. But such is not the case. There in nothing negative about my view that Gregg Popovich is a poor excuse for a coach, and that the Spurs will never win a championship with a team fashioned around David Robinson.

I have a positive attitude on these matters. I am positive that Popovich couldn't coach a high school winner. And I am just as positive that Robinson will never lead the team into the NBA throne room.

Even those slow of wit should realize by this point that rookie Tim Duncan is as good if not better than Duncan over the season, while the 6-11 rookie is the leader in rebounds. And I haven't forgotten the pre-season bullshit emanating from the mouths of Popovich and Robinson. I'm sure that Duncan hasn't forgotten it either.

"Pop" was running his mouth about Robinson taking the new young giant under his wing, while Robinson was explaining how he was going to "bring Tim along slowly," teaching him the intricacies of life in the NBA.

Yet Popovich persists in his backhanded slap at the rookie by repeatedly proclaiming that "David is the man."

Robinson is averaging a point or two more than Duncan over the season, while the 6-11 rookie is the leader in rebounds. And I haven't forgotten the pre-season bullshit emanating from the mouths of Popovich and Robinson. I'm sure that Duncan hasn't forgotten it either.

"Pop" was running his mouth about Robinson taking the new young giant under his wing, while Robinson was explaining how he was going to "bring Tim along slowly," teaching him the intricacies of life in the NBA.

Yeah, right, David. And dream on. You teaching the Virgin Islands phrenomenon how to play basketball is about as likely as Greg Simmons showing Frank Gifford some new tricks in the sports broadcasting racket.

Duncan is the superior product. He is younger, probably sturdier, and he is obviously more athletic than Robinson. He doesn't offer excuses after every loss, either.

With a real coach, the Spurs might have had a good crack at the big brass ring of the NBA this season. A Don Nelson or a Chuck Daly would have figured out a way to really utilize Robinson and Duncan in a winning tandem, where Popovich doesn't have a clue.

Greg Simmons and Bill Merriman could have coached the Spurs to a winning season this year with Duncan, Robinson, and Will Perdue all in the paint. But it would take a real coach to get the team through the better teams in the west come playoff time, and San Antonio is sadly lacking in this area.

Team owner Peter Holt had better wake up and look mean old Mister Reality dead on in the eye. Holt needs a coach and he needs Tim Duncan. When Duncan goes up for grabs after his third (continued on pg. 14)
APRIL HUNTER is an absolutely awesome original and a former Miss Nude Holland who has appeared on magazine covers and centerfolds ranging from Hustler to High Society. You don't want to miss this strawberry blonde bombshell. She is a gorgeous model and dancer with dynamic stage presence which leaves male audiences love-struck.

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The race to succeed Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez is an anti-climactic dud. Nobody—and that includes Gonzo's son Charlie—will be able to follow the old man's historied act. I was there during the early 1960s to watch it unfurl. In those days, I was drinking beer with the late Lennie Gonzalez, a nephew of Henry B.'s who was killed in a light airplane crash.

The kid newspaper reporter and the nephew managed to get in on as many Henry B. functions as possible. Lennie and I were mostly interested in drinking as much free beer and whiskey as was made available to us, but we watched the beginnings of a legendary phenomenon without a whole hell of a lot of real awareness. And that was probably the case with a lot of people.

Henry B. Gonzalez grew bigger than life over those 37 years he served as congressman of the 20th Congressional District. The 1960s political circus

In a wild and historic political showdown with the late John Goode Jr., a respected and well-heeled Republican of those days, Gonzalez emerged with a narrow victory of less than 100 votes, but not before a 3-ring political circus which saw the Democratic Party bring in both then Senator Lyndon Johnson and Mexican comedian Cantinflas in a last-ditch pull-out-the-stops effort to win the congressional seat for Gonzo.

A tireless and colorful campaigner who had won a seat on the city council by literally trudging door-to-door across the West Side, Gonzalez was in dire need of the LBJ organizational mind for his stretch run against Goode.

The palpable Gonzo charm

Gonzalez' charm has always been palpable. I will always remember the Gonzalez sense of humor, and everyone will remain forever aware of his honesty.

In the 1960s, the local Democrats were holding what they called "tamaladas" for Gonzalez. A "tamalada" was a vote-drumming campaign appearance which featured free beer and tamales.

Noting the sizable "tamalada" turnouts for Gonzalez, local Republicans began holding "tamaladas" for John Goode.

The Republican "tamaladas" drew good crowds, also, but from them was spawned the familiar West Side slogan which I always suspected Henry B. of coining.

It went like so:

"We drink Goode's beer, we eat Goode's tamales. Then we go to the polls and vote for Gonzalez."

In the early stages of that 1960s campaign, a Republican mouth piece made the mistake of saying that Gonzalez "didn't stand a Chinaman's chance. Just give me a Mexican's chance and I believe I can get elected."

When Ed Foreman, the congressman from Odessa, called Henry a communist, the San Antonio lawmaker took a swing at Foreman on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. And throughout his tenure in office, the congressman who is now in his 80s, was never shy about putting up his dukes when he felt the need.

In 37 years of public service, there has never been one hint of scandal or dishonesty tied to Henry B. Gonzalez' name. He never moved to the Dominion, and with wife Bertha, he still lives in his old family residence here. His suits were always purchased from San Antonio stores with modestly-priced goods, and he has always gone far out of his way to do personal favors for Hispanic and Anglo constituents alike.

In the recent Democratic primary, Henry B. had endorsed his son, former District Judge Charlie Gonzalez, who moves into an April runoff election with ex-City Councilwoman Maria Berriozabal. Charlie received 44 percent of the vote, while Maria garnered 22 percent.

Interest in the Democratic primary race was all but nil. In the 20th District, just 9.7 percent of eligible voters turned out. Charlie Gonzalez is a soft-spoken little guy who might make a good and honest representative of the people. But he wouldn't stand out in a closet full of funeral directors.

Maria leads a rabid pack

Berriozabal has a rabid pack of activist-type supporters who have followed her faithfully in her unflagging battles against such popular projects as Applewhite and the (continued on pg. 14)
Frank Collins and his Hollywood Blues Band are a blast from past

By Sam Kindrick

My encounter last month with Frank (Hollywood) Collins was a blast from the past and a new note of hope for one of the finest blues harp players ever to emerge from San Antonio's South Side.

We will never forget those wild and hard-to-curry days in the late 1970s when Collins was fronting his Texas Watermelon Band, the official musical arm of little Richard Holbrook's famed Professional Non-Workers Union, and a frequent nighttime feature at Holbrook's Fort Knox Saloon on Goliad Road.

Although Frank (usually referred to as Frankie) dropped from the music scene almost 20 years ago, he is back with a bang and a new group which is probably even better than his legendary Texas Watermelon Band.

It's now Frankie (Hollywood) Collins and his Hollywood Blues Band, a hard-driving gaggle of veteran musicians who deliver classic rhythm and blues around the Collins harmonica which moans with influences ranging from Magic Dick to Little Walter and Paul Butterfield.

"I now have a plumbing company that's doing really well," Collins said. "It's called Big Frank's Plumbing. But I guess I had to eventually get back into music. I just started jamming around with the Mike Ellis Band. I grew up with Mike. He encouraged me to get back into music, and here I am, back in the mix."

Frankie's Hollywood Blues Band was cooking on all burners and slamming the hammers down when I found them rocking the crowd at Shenanigans off Grissom Road.

Collins has recruited a gang of talented players who include Don Chapman on bass and vocals, Marty Robinson on rhythm guitar and vocals, Rick Lyles on percussion and vocals, and Brian Paxton on lead guitar.

Chapman and Robinson both played with All Sisk and Indigo Rose. They also played with guitarist Brian Paxton, who moved here from Phoenix and formed a local band called Phenix (the o being omitted). And drummer Lyles also played with the Phenix group.

Robinson also
worked on the East Coast with an alternative group called Nasty Axe. Collins says Robinson is a great musician who has about 20 original tunes which are "too hard" for the Hollywood Blues Band format.

"We are doing the good old rhythm and blues thing," Collins said. "We are doing Santana, Pink Floyd, Paul Butterfield, Little Walter, the Allmen, and all of the great ones I grew up with. And we are starting to do a few originals I wrote, including my song Harley Man Blues."

The group has worked Shenanigans, The Purple Cow in Bandera and the Pour House. Collins said he wanted his old South Side fans to know that he is back with the Hollywood Blues Band, not the "Holiday Blues Band" as was reported in the Express and News.

"That really pissed me off," Frankie said. "We have been working like hell to get the Hollywood Blues Band name out there, and here comes the paper calling us the Holiday Blues Band."

In the late 1970s, Frankie Collins and his Texas Watermelon Band worked the old Fort Knox, the Southside's Red Rooster, and the Ritz Music Hall in Corpus.

"We played the Ritz with Canned Heat," Collins recalled. "I don't know if the old joint is even there anymore."

I can recall the last great blast for the Professional Non-Workers Union, a monster party featuring live music by the Texas Watermelon Band, rotgut whiskey, and all the barbequed rabbit you could eat. When the law refused to allow this party anywhere within the confines of Bexar County, we hauled the festivities to the sand dunes of Mustang Island near Port Aransas and all but blew the sandhill cranes out of the sand dunes.

Collins introduced his pretty blonde wife Debbie, and exhibited a fancy coat she stitched for him which sported a gold lamé front and collar.

"I'm really lucky to have her, and I feel really fortunate to be alive and back into what I really love, blues music," Collins said. "I have really cleaned up my act since those crazy old days. Hell, we all have... or those of us who were lucky enough to live through it all."

Collins has an original harp tune titled V-8 Ford, but his Harley Man Blues really paints the life picture of a revitalized old blues hoss who is back with a new outlook and the same great harp music which has always been a tradition of San Antonio's South Side.

The song goes like this:

My Harley's broke down,
I'm out of gas,
I'm leaking oil,
Got to get on fast;
Got no money,
Ain't got a dime,
And I'm too old to do hard time...

Rick Lyles

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- Friday 17th - Wilburn Bros. - 8 till 12
- Wednesday 22nd - Richard Wolf - 7 till 11
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*8• Action Magazine, April 1998*
Igo Sets Record

Igo Mendoza, the motorcycle daredevil from San Antonio whose accomplishments of daredevilry make Evel Kneivel seem frail and pale by comparison, has recently attempted.

At a speed of 130 m.p.h., Mendoza shot 100 feet through the fire tunnel on February 1st at Alamo Dragway, and even before his shift had stopped smoking, Igo was setting up a world record distance jump for the near future at San Marcos. Action Magazine has been chronicling Mendoza's startling stunts since the mid-1980s and soon after Evel Kneivel made worldwide headlines with a near-fatal spill trying to jump the fountains at Caesar's Palace. That one, of course, was followed by the Kneivel hoax over the Snake River Canyon.

Evel was supposedly going to jump the canyon on a jet-powered motorcycle. But, instead, he jumped off the bike and parachuted to safety.

Mendoza, our soft-spoken friend who operates Mendoza's Garage on Buena Vista Street, has unofficially bested every world distance jump record, including Kneivel's world distance jump record, including Kneivel's longest jump, and by a whopping 50 feet.

Igo's longest jump was measured at 204 feet in Lubbock, Texas when the Mexican (he is now a U.S. citizen) jumping been soared over 25 custom tractor trailers. Prior to this, Kneivel's best effort was 144 feet, while champions Eddie Keith and Gary Wells recorded jumps of 160 feet and 155 feet respectively.

Mendoza said his 204-foot record held from 1982 until 1989 when it was slightly bested by an English jumper.

"I am working now with the San Marcos city officials for a distance record jump soon at Aquarena Springs," Mendoza said.

This jump will be 275 feet, and it will be officially entered into the Guinness Book of World Records.

If Mendoza says he can jump a motorcycle 275 feet, get ready to read it in the book of world records. The San Antonio daredevil does what he says he will do, and he has never been seriously injured on a jump.

"After the San Marcos jump," Igo said, "I'll try for two more world records, making four in 1998." Igo neither drinks alcohol or smokes tobacco. His body stays as fine as the time designated...
Skippy Kirsch, one of the real up-front and no-nonsense nightclub operators in San Antonio, has been going through an emotional wringer in her attempts to open the new Shady Lady on South W.W. White Road.

Ms. Kirsch, who co-owns the Carrousel Club on Perrin Beitel Road with Carl Gagliardi, has spent thousands completely renovating the building which was the old Lucky 13 and more recently the Circle B&B. Skippy had lost the Shady Lady lease in Kirby, and plans called for her new Shady Lady to hold a grand opening party on April 10th.

Ms. Kirsch had gone to many lengths to satisfy all TABC requirements, or so she thought. But as Action prepared to go to press, Skippy called to say that her opening had been delayed again.

The new Shady Lady was scheduled to open on property which once included Ruby and Buck with their old Lucky 13, and more recently some less-popular people who called the place Circle B&B.

Skippy is as straight as a string, and her new Shady Lady would (or will) be a real plus for the South W.W. White Road location.

Let's hope like hell the liquor board gives her a green light by the time the ink dries on this piece of information.

Congratulations to Luke and Tracy Boswell on their recent wedding. Luke is the son of Brenda Boswell, operator of both Country on the Rocks and Four House... And good for Ann and Henry Franco for booking a full schedule of live entertainment for the month of April at their Copper Dollar. The Copper Dollar kitchen is now open, and Ann is booking private parties at the big club on Thousand Oaks.

Robert and Julie Palmer have really out come themselves with the live bookings at Carlsbad Tavern for April. Leon Russell will rock the joint on Sunday, April 12th and you had best hustle if you want one of the 330 tickets. Seating will be limited, and we figure that Grandfather Boogie will pack the tavern to the rafters.

And Leon ain't even half the of it. Ray Wylie Hubbard will be the April 11th headliner, and others to appear throughout the month include the Smiths, the Tomans, Mason Ruffner, Rosie (the zydeco sweetheart) Ledet, Randy Garibay and Louanne Barton. Whoa!

A French film company is filming a documentary which includes the live music of both Flaco Jimenez and Neal Black. And on April 20th, the cameras will roll on both musicians as they work together at the Wings club, 410 N.E. Loop 410. Wanda Seele, proprietress of Wings, said there will be no cover and that the public is invited to the filming.

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6th - Rhythm Kings
10th - Smith Bros. • 11th Bandanna Blues Band
17th - Grooveline • 18th Sonny Boy Lee
20th - Neal Black & Flaco Jiminez will be filmed live by a French film company. No Cover & the Public is invited
24th - Jake Owen & New Blood
25th - Rhythm Kings

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Holzhaus says new CD, Bluzhill, Texas took a lifetime to finish

St. Pat's Day was the date. 1998. The Houston Street Ale House was the place.

Blues man Chris Holzhaus—the local king of the moaning guitar—celebrated release of his first CD, a whopper of a musical accomplishment titled Welcome to Bluzhill, Texas.

And a good time was had by all—everyone from People Magazine scribe Joseph Harms to Sammy Ayala of the fighting Ayala clan. And we must not overlook Mike Davis, president of the San Antonio Blues Society, or the busty Monica Lewinsky look-alike in the black beret, who will remain anonymous at this writing. The Houston Street Ale House is located in the old Pincus Co. building, and the last time I had set foot in the place was to buy a red polyester sport coat. Needles to say, that was some time ago.

I've been hanging out around Chris Holzhaus for about 20 years, and this record makes the statement in 11 solid cuts which those who didn't already know have suspected for some time.

Chris Holzhaus is even more than the walking, talking guitar. He's a writer with blues rolling out of his soul and his voice can more than carry the message.

"I guess I've got about 17 bootleg recordings bouncing around the country," Holzhaus laughed. "But this CD is the first real work that nobody is going to be able to file.

Holzhaus notes that he recorded a 45 titled Sally Sue Brown with Leftovers on the flip side a number of years ago.

"We did that one at Music Land in Austin with Speedy Sparks producing," Holzhaus said. "And I recorded around the state with this outfit and that outfit throughout the years, but never got recognition or payment for a lot of my stuff that I have since run across in music stores."

Welcome to Bluzhill, Texas includes four original Holzhaus tunes done in the rocking-blues with jazzy undertones style which is characteristic of the blues hoss who admits only to living at this time somewhere in the woods north of San Antonio and somewhat west of Austin. Chris, I suppose, is a little like me in some respects, for I, too, reside in an undesignated section of cedar brakes north of and somewhat west of Bulverde, and I'm not real crazy about having unin­vited guests. Eccentric, I suppose, could be the appropriate appellation, but when we were younger, a lot of people just called us crazy.

Delbert McClinton's Morgan City Fools is the last cut on the Holzhaus record, and Chris also delivers some Willie Dixon, Howlin Wolf, and Lloyd Jones along with the Elvis Presley classic One Night which was penned by Dave Bartholemew, Pearl King, and Anita Steinman.

I like Chris's blues rendition of One Night better than Presley's hit.

On several occasions, Holzhaus has toured with Delbert McClinton, and both of these blues masters hold each other in the highest regard. But it was the late blues legend Albert Collins who influenced Holzhaus the most, and Chris has a tune on the album titled Tribute to Albert.

"It's an instrumental I wrote and tried to play in Albert's style," Holzhaus said. "He was the greatest."

Holzhaus had some of the best musicians to be found in Texas on the record, which was done at Pedernales Studio in Bri­arcliff, the recording setup operated by Willie Nelson's nephew Fred Fletcher.

The backup guys included bass and horn man supreme Jon Blondell, the only human alive who was ever able to make a living in San Antonio with a jazz band; Sir Douglas Quintet bassist Jack Barber, who played on track 9, the Hank Ballard tune Annie Had a Baby which was specially arranged for this record by Holzhaus; Tommy Taylor on drums and George Raines playing drums on Annie Had a Baby; Reilly Osborne on organ and piano; Dr. John Mills, baritone and tenor sax; Gary Schleda on trumpet; and Donny Price percussionists.

The CD was produced by Holzhaus and J.M. Payne for Bluzhill Music Production. For information contact Bluzhill Worldwide, P.O. Box 104, Blanco, Texas 78606-1604.

At this writing, the new Holzhaus record was on sale at Hog Wild Record, CD Warehouse, and Landmark Records in San Antonio, and Chris indicated there may be additional record release parties in the near future.

Holzhaus offered special thanks to his girlfriend, Suzanne, and to Blondell and Taylor, the musicians who he said pushed hard for him to complete the CD.

"I feel that this CD has taken my whole life to make," Holzhaus said. "It's been hard most of the time. However, music to me is my cure for life's blue times and I'll continue on till its over and done, never regretting being an artist or the man that I am."
DEAR EDITOR:

She was just a little dancer from Houston. That's what I'm remembering as I sit in my office reading about the new ordinances designed to protect the public from the hideous excesses of topless club dancers. As always, there are politicians yelling that the distance between dancers and the paying public must be increased to reduce "violence and narcotica." And again, hidden from the public's view is the fact that there were more man-hours and protection were for one little girl who died in screaming agony with now one to hunt for the animal who did that to her. I wonder why none of the protesters the industry is so used to were at her funeral.

Why should I care, Scotty Gilmore Night Manager Tiffany's Cabaret San Antonio 210-614-3919

Sam Kindrick cont...

doomed dome. She is a dogged competitor and a person who came in second although she had been the congresswoman in the April runoff.

Henry B.'s endorsement of his son didn't sound like a "ringing endorsement." But what the hell was the congressman to do, endorse Armando Falcon, who came across on television with the charisma of a grubworm?

No, Henry endorsed his boy, something any father would do. And I don't know if that endorsement was a curse or a blessing, for its mighty hard to follow in the foot tracks of a legend.

And I harken back to the words of the late William Cowper, the greatest writer this world has ever known and a true character who was gunned down in a downtown Waco shootout shortly after the turn of the century.

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