

In Bag For Adlai?

Roscoe Drummond's report on 2B says Stevenson seems virtually assured of the Democratic presidential nomination.

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If you must hit, do it well

Wed., June 27, 1956

SECTION B

COLUMNS FORUM EDITORIALS CLASSIFIED

Pool Player At 5 P.M., Rock 'N' Roll Idol At 9



Elvis Brushes Up On His Cues At Pool Parlor . . .



Before Being Mobbed By Crowd At The End Of His Coliseum Show



Fans Said He Was 'Real Cool' . . . 'A Living Doll'

IT'S A MONEY-MAKER

Elvis Defends Low-Down Style

By KAYS GARY, Observer Staff Writer. Elvis Presley is a worried man. Some that is, for a man with four Cadillac and a \$40,000 weekly pay check. Critics are saying bad things about him. It has been especially rough during the past three weeks. And that is why he hunched his manager's orders to stay away from newsmen in Charlotte Tuesday night when he was in the seclusion of his hotel room. At 4:10 p.m. he couldn't stand it any longer and with "Cousin Junior," left the room. He walked quickly to a restaurant a few doors away for a barbecue, flirtation with a few women and a 30-minute round of pool next door. "Sure, I'll talk. Sit down. Most of you guys, though, been written bad things about me, man." His knees hunched while he sat. His hands drummed a tattoo on the table top. Eyes, under long lashes, darted from booth to booth, firing rapid winks at the girls who started at him. "Hi ya baby," he breathed. And she flopped back in the booth, looking like she'd been poxed. "This (John) Crosby guy, whenever he is. He says I'm obscene on the Berle show. Nasty. What does he know? "Do you see the show? This Debra Paget is on the same show. She wears a tight thing with feathers on the behind where they wiggle most. And I never saw anything like it. Sex? Man, she bumped and poxed out all over the place. I'm like Little Boy Blue. "And who do they say is obscene? Me? "It's because I make more money than Debra. Then critics don't like to see nobody win doing any kind of music, they don't know nothin' about it.

And he started to eat. The waitress brought his coffee. Elvis reached down and fingered the lace on her slip. "Aren't you the one?" "I'm the one, baby!" Presley says he does what he does because this is what is making money. And it is music that was around before he was born. "The colored folks been singing it and playing it just like I'm don't now, man, for more years than I know. "They played it like that in the shanties and in their juke joints and nobody paid it no mind 'til I got it up. "I got it from them. Down in Tupelo, Mississippi, I used to hear old Arthur Crudup bang his box the way I do now and I said if I ever got to the place I could feel all old Arthur felt. I'd be a music man like nobody ever saw. "Yep, some of the music is low-down. "But not like Crosby means. There is low-down people and high-up people but all of them get the kind of feeling this rock 'n' roll music tells about. "I haven't got to the place for investments. I put it in the bank man, because I don't know how long it will last. "When it's gone, I'll switch to something else. "I like to sing ballads the way Eddie Fisher does and the way Perry Como does. But the way I'm singing now is what makes the money. Would you change if you was me?" "Investments? "I haven't got to the place for investments. I put it in the bank man, because I don't know how long it will last. "How about the Cadillac? "Yeah, that's right. I got me four Cadillac. I keep two at home and two with me. One pink. One white. "He never reads his fan mail. "I got me nine secretaries in Madison, Tenn., to do that. If I meet somebody on the road I want to keep on knowing I give 'em my home address. "Little Rosie Tattis walked up to the booth and held out a trembling hand. "Look, I'm shaking all over," she uttered. "And the grown-up girls in the next booth and Elvis swapped long, searching looks. "Elvis fingered the collar of his shirt, opened half-way down his chest. "Some people like me. There's more people than critics." The people who like him, he said, include Eddie Fisher, Como, Liberace, Kate Smith, Bob Hope and Guy Lombardo. And there are more. Lots more. "When I sang hymns back home with Mom and Pop I stood still and I looked like you feel when you sing a hymn. When I sing this rock and roll, my eyes won't stay open and my legs won't stand still. "I don't care what they say, it ain't nasty."

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The Critics Stayed At Home, And Elvis Was The Greatest

By DON OBERDORFER, Observer Staff Writer. Seven thousand sweating, wailing fans mobbed a 21-year-old former Memphis truck driver at the Coliseum Tuesday night. Elvis Presley, a flip but unpretentious lad who is the idol of millions of rock 'n' rollers, caused a riot under the Big Dome. He escaped from the stage just as slaphastic gawkiness of a Harpo hundreds of teen-agers were closing in on the unavailing objection of squads of police. Presley's 20-minute show, preceded by more than an hour of preliminary attractions, was interrupted nearly 60 times by shrieks from his fans. After a long buildup Presley burst onto the stage staggering and flailing like a rioter caught in a beam of light. His songs were an unbelievable burlesque, combining the elements of a strip-teaser's bumps with the slaphastic gawkiness of a Harpo Marx. Mrs. A. W. Clout of Statesville started what turned into an avalanche when she rushed to the stage and held out her hand for Elvis to touch midway in the show. Several numbers later crowds of fans drifted toward the stage and before the 20 police could stop them, were mobbing the platform. Elvis danced his humpy boxer's feet into the corner and dove for the dressing room at the end of the number. The surge of the crowd against a cordon of police was too late to reach him. What is the appeal of this blue-eyed Tennessee who five hours before was playing pool and signing autographs in a downtown parlor? One big element, it is clear, is his lack of all pretensions. A recurrent theme among the adult minority interviewed at Tuesday night's show was expressed by Mrs. G. E. Anderson of Charlotte. "I didn't like Sinatra in his day but I like Elvis. He's country and I am too," she said. Nearly all the adults who expressed delight with Presley had 10 years before scorned the smooth Frankie boy. Neither Presley's mannerisms nor his singing nor his jokes are polished. Rather, they are actually awkward—and the crowd is with him the more for it. Fans referred to him as sexy ("He's a doll and I love to play with dolls"), quoth Bea Frick of Rockwell, but his sex is a gangling, loose-jointed jesting at sex. A second large factor in the Presley rage is no doubt faddism. The same words "living doll" and "cool cat"—issued from numerous lips in description. The faddism is all the more pronounced because of Elvis' almost universal criticism from the adult press. Mitch Miller, the record artist and executive, believes Elvis is a fad. The body was taken to Carothers Funeral Home.

Gaston Boy Goes Wading, Drowns

By LYLE EDWARDS. GASTONIA—An eight-year-old boy, returning home from a blackberry picking excursion, stepped into a stream to "cool off" Tuesday and was drowned. The accident occurred about 1 p.m. when Reuben Welch and two other youngsters, each about six years old, were talking along the banks of Long Creek. The three had just finished picking blackberries. Welch decided he wanted to "cool off" and began wading in the creek. The other two youngsters reported that he apparently stepped into a hole and went under. The youngsters ran back to their house for aid and returned with a 12-year-old boy, James McIntyre. McIntyre succeeded in pulling Reuben out. A floating crew arrived on

N. C. Court Rules Shooting Corpse Is Not Homicide

Morticians' Zoning Bid To Get Nod

City Council is expected to give Charlotte funeral homes residential zoning status today despite strong objections from City-County Planning Commission. Postponed from last week's meeting, a decision on the issue will be made when the governing board convenes this morning. Polled informally Tuesday, a Council majority said they had either made up their minds to approve the zoning change or were leaning in that direction. If Council gives morticians the right to operate in residential neighborhoods, it will override a strongly-worded recommendation from the Planning Commission. Planners filed a report last week, recommending that the request be denied. They said funeral home operations depress residential values and added that changing the zoning ordinance would open "about 100 of the residential areas of the city to funeral home activities." People living nearby, the commission report asserted, "would be confronted daily with the depressing sights of funeral home activities and would be subjected to the recurrent screaming of silver hearse ambulances departing from the funeral home on emergency calls." Five Charlotte morticians joined in the plea for the change from Business 1 to Residence 2 status. Absence of public opposition at an open hearing two weeks ago was considered a major factor in the council's apparent intention to okay the plan. Planning Commissioners had turned down the request when it first came before them several months ago. Through Attorney B. S. Whitely, morticians appealed the decision to a joint meeting of Council and the Commission. A compromise was in the works Tuesday afternoon which observers said would insure granting the change. Ordinarily, an amendment to the zoning ordinance would give funeral homes the blanket right to establish operations in R-2 neighborhoods. But a proposal is expected from one Council member to give the governing board authority to review funeral home requests for specific locations. In this case, observers said, Council could vote to restrict operations in neighborhoods where residents lodged a reasonable protest.

Woman's Sentence Reversed

RALEIGH—Mrs. Emma Simpson of Robeson county was cleared by the Supreme Court Tuesday of murdering her husband because, said the court, "it is not criminal homicide to shoot a dead body." The court also granted a new trial to Harley Duncan of Chatham County, who had been convicted of second degree murder. It found no error in the trial of O'Berry Stephens, given a 15-20 year sentence in Robeson County for slaying his wife. Mrs. Simpson, sentenced to 20-25 years for second degree murder, had been convicted previously of the slaying but had won a new trial. Her husband was killed following a brawl in their St. Pauls home the night of Feb. 22, 1955. He was shot twice by a .22 pistol. At her trial, Northrup McNair testified that during the ruckus he pulled his pistol when the Simpson assaulted her. He said he was hit by an ax in the dark and his gun fired. After he left the house, others testified they heard a second shot when he turned on the lights following the second shot. Mrs. Simpson was standing with the pistol in her hand and Simpson was on the floor dead. McNair had been charged in the case originally but charges against him were dismissed. In reversing the decision of the lower court which was presided over by Superior Court Judge Leo Carr, Associate Supreme Court Justice W. H. Bobbitt said: "We are constrained to hold that the evidence adduced by the state, which disclosed that the medical expert could not determine which of the two wounds caused death and in the absence of evidence as to when Duncan (the husband) died or as to when and under what circumstances he fell to the floor, leaves in the realm of conjecture the question as to whether the pistol fired the second time. Whatever it may be, it is not criminal homicide to shoot a dead body. Duncan was convicted of second degree murder in the death of J. M. Culbertson, 66, by beating him while Culbertson was plowing a field back in 1946. Duncan pleaded innocent and claimed he was insane from syphilis at the time. In granting Duncan a new trial, the Supreme Court said trial Judge Leo Carr committed prejudicial error in disallowing evidence showing that Duncan was insane in 1947, the year after the death of Culbertson. O'Berry Stephens was convicted of the manslaughter of his wife and sentenced to 15-20 years. His wife was killed in an explosion in her kitchen Aug. 20, 1955 and police found dynamite caps near the explosion site. In another opinion, the high court upheld a decision making the state pay \$3,000 for the shooting of a speeder by State Highway Patrolman Thomas C. Goodman. It agreed with previous findings that Goodman was negligent in pointing a cocked pistol at a carload of men he had overhauled after a high speed chase. List of Supreme Court opinions: Hayes v. Ricard, Wilson, reversed. Lewis v. Department of Motor Vehicles, Wilkes, affirmed. Sanford v. Oil Co., Lee, affirmed. Nance v. Fike, Montgomery, new trial. Wright v. Insurance Co. Randolph, affirmed. MacFarlane v. Wildlife Coman, Lee, affirmed. Nickles v. Bank, Guilford, affirmed. In re Holcomb, Columbus, new trial. Blavins v. France, Cumberland, affirmed. Shaver v. Shaver, Durham, reversed. Carpenter v. Carpenter, Durham, affirmed in part; reversed in part. Shaver v. Shaver, Durham, new trial. State v. Duncan, Chatham, new trial. State v. Stephens, Robeson, reversed. State v. Simpson, Robeson, reversed. Ruge v. Bright, Alameda, affirmed. Bradshaw v. Board of Education, Orange, affirmed.

Survey On Cancer Is Planned

Medical men meeting in Charlotte Monday night saw the beginning of the 10-county alternate cancer survey by early fall. The survey, financed by \$70,000 annually from the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute, will be watched by doctors all over the world. Medical representatives at the meeting Monday made plans to collect smears from women in the 10-county area of the Carolinas in the offices of their own doctors. Dr. W. Z. Bradford of Mecklenburg was elected president of the board of directors of the research project. He and eight other physicians appointed by the local medical societies of the 10 counties attended the meeting. The others and their counties are: North Carolina: Dr. Paul Kearns, Fredell and Alexander; Dr. Jesse Caldwell, Gaston; Dr. Lance Monroe, Cabarrus; Dr. R. C. Cloninger, Cleveland and Dr. A. J. Lapsley, Stanbury. South Carolina: Dr. John Arghart, Cherokee and Dr. R. L. Crawford, Lancaster.

Housewife Is Touched By Intruder

Mrs. John Berry of 706 E. Third St. woke up at 4 a. m. Tuesday when she felt a hand on her thigh. She screamed and waked her husband. A dark shape at the bedroom window ran away. Police found that a would-be burglar had taken a chair from the porch of the house and placed it under the window. In groping for a handhold to pull himself into the room he touched the housewife's leg. William J. Walters of Newton reported that the unlocked trunk of his car in the West Sixth Street parking lot was rifled of a \$124.75 cashier's check, and a typewriter and case valued at \$70. Harry J. Seibert of 1227 Canterbury Road lost a billfold containing \$2 and various identification cards at Myers Park Club. The billfold was in his pants pocket hanging on a chair in the locker room while he took a shower.

Morning Prayer

"Our Father, teach us the value of prayer and how to pray. Instill in us such love for Thee as will make us at all times desirous to be in touch with Thee by prayer, worship and service. Thine be the honor and glory now and evermore. In Christ's name we ask it. Amen." (The Upper Room)

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