

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE



The ELVIS PRESLEY mania keeps reviving. After the ABC-TV miniseries "Elvis and Me," a scrutiny into the life of PRISCILLA BEAULIEU PRESLEY and a solipcistic, sexist, domineering personality who became the King of Roll and Roll, eyes were opened to the real ELVIS, the puffed up performing shell engineered by pills, his career under the aegis of clever COL. TOM PARKER. In the book "Elvis, What Happened?" with his Memphis Mafia loyalists RED WEST, SONNY WEST, DAVE HEBLER telling all to writer STEVE DUNLEAVY, there were many startling revelations. One that caught my eye in the light of last year's freeway shooting, was about ELVIS with his redneck macho love of guns. He may have been the first of the freeway gunners. As told by SONNY WEST: "We convinced ELVIS to go to San Francisco for a break. We took the big white Cadillac he has bought, and he was sitting with NANCY (NANCY SHARP from St. Louis, described as "a very pretty wardrobe girl" on one of his movies) in the back propped up with pillows. We're driving along the expressway and a car pulls up on the right side of us and there were a lot of young guys in it and they started giving us the finger. I don't think they saw

ELVIS. They were just doing it because we were driving a big fancy car. Anyway, ELVIS tells me to catch up with them and I do. Suddenly he pulls down the rear window and he pulls out this derringer and points it right at the driver's head. I looked at it in shock. I didn't think he was going to shoot the guy, but it was a helluva shock. Anyway, those guys just zoomed off the next ramp. ELVIS then said, 'That will teach that sonofabitch not to give anyone the finger because someone is driving a big car' "...This UPI lead paragraph underscores the above ELVIS' bubbleminded actions, datelined Santa Ana, Calif. -- "A motorist accused of attempted murder in a freeway shooting that left a man paralyzed last July intended only to fire a warning shot in front of the victim's car, his attorney said last Monday"...Otherwise ELVIS was a good kid, always loved his mother and after she died of hepatitis, transferred that terrible loneliness into a life of incredible highs and depths until his not too unexpected death on August 16, 1977.



I wonder how many Las Vegans saw that cute newspaper ad with art in the shape of a tombstone and this message: "RIP/DROP DEAD FLORIST/Don't forget your 'FRIENDS' on Valentines Day...send them a dozen Dead Roses or a Balloon Bouquet. 739-9330"...JAMEY GALLAGHER, dancer and choreographer, will teach two master classes at UNLV next Tuesday and Thursday in Alta Ham Fine Arts Building. Classes are open to advanced dancers

and reservations are required. Call UNLV's department of dance arts, 739-3827. The GALLAGHER classes are part of the Southwest Gas Distinguished Artists Series...UNLV's annual Juried Student Show is on display now in the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery through March 25 with more than 40 works featured. L.A. painter JAMES DOOLIN judged...Far from the arts, close to the material way of life, Sam's Town dispensed \$150,000 in cars and cash during the recent Celebrate '88 promo, hailing the finish of the resort's \$25 million construction phase...AARON ABBEY, dancer, songwriter, student of science at UNLV hit the January issue of Playboy with his story "An Ancient Affair," written when he was attending a writer's workshop in Park City, Utah in 1986. ABBEY also has a bachelor degree in music from Pomona College in Calif., and a master's of pro writing from USC...Back to a material thing, the Padlewheel hotel-casino, now priding itself as an adult entertainment center after putting up with all that kidstuff, has a new far-out electronic sign in the center of the hotel lobby, a mini-flasher that gives info about everything going on there, including their shows, BOB PASQUALE's "Heat is On," and NORBERT ALEMAN's "Hot Lips"...Let us return to the arts once more to flash our non-flashing board announcing auditions for the UNLV production of "The Boy Friend" a sendup of 1920s musical comedies, with interested musical thespas showing off their abilities Mar. 2, 7-10 p.m., and Mar. 3, 4-7 p.m. in Judy Bayley Theatre. Director CATHY HURST-HOFFMAN starts rehearsals Mar. 7 for produc-

* Benvenuti *



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