

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERR

TV CRITICS who dare to criticize great men like Liberace or Elvis Presley must be ready for an avalanche of denunciations by outraged fans. Now Ben Gross, for example, took a sly dig at Elvis and got this in the mail: "I am a genuine witch doctor and voodoo man, practiced in all mystic rites and incantations. Be on notice that I have put a fatal curse on you and all other detractors of Elvis, the incarnation of the ancient god of love. I have stuck pink into a wax image of your hideous figure and you will not only die like a dog with your eyes popping from their sockets, but you will never make any money!"



Gross does sadly that one of the genuine witch doctor's predictions has already come true. He hasn't made any money!

Interesting definition of a Nighrow is the late woodunit conductor, Edgar Wallace: "A nighrow is a man who has found something more interesting than women."

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The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Albert R.—Wendy is too young to date.

Ina R.—Social experience will do her good.

Albert R.—I wonder how old a child ought to be before she starts to date. Our eldest girl, Wendy, is not quite 12 and she wants to go out, and my wife encourages her.

I feel the women in our community including my wife, are making trouble for themselves and the kids by allowing this kind of thing. They seem to think it's very cute if a little girl and boy ought to be playing children's games go out together.

Even the smaller kids—children of 7 and 8—are asked about their girls friends and boys friends. They talk about who they are going to marry when they grow up. Everybody stands around and laughs. I can't see anything funny in it and I don't want my daughter dating until she is 14.

Ina R.—My parents didn't let me or my sister date until we were 16—and I don't see what we gained by it. We were terribly shy and awkward because we just weren't used to dating and it caused us plenty of misery.

The Council—It is true that things are "very much speeded up today," but it is a question whether this is much benefit to the children. Regular dating for a little girl of 12 certainly seems far too premature.

On the other hand, boys and girls of that age have always gone to parties and social gatherings without having it become a big issue, simply because it was not given the rather awesome title of "date." A date today suggests a kind of coming out party to be followed with a line of social activities that might well be reserved for the later teens. Lipstick seems to be the badge that stamps a bona fide date.

We share Albert's discomfort about the encouragement of thoughts of dating and marriage in children who would do more real developing if their interest were brought to bear on other matters.

If boys and girls could work and play together naturally at sports, hobbies and club activities, without overtones of a relationship that would come in later adolescence, they might develop into fuller human beings before they start thinking about settling down with one partner.

We fail to see any great damage as a result of a young girl or boy feeling shy or awkward on the first dates. Younger children may avoid this stage because they fail to take the situation in its full implications.

By the time they are 15 or 16 they are such experienced daters the social situation holds no terrors for them, but surely they have lost an important part of their lives—a part of childhood and an interesting, if uncomfortable adolescence.

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At Your Druggist

Ed Sullivan's Filmed Visit To Brussels Fair Said Relatively Painless

By WILLIAM EWALD
United Press International
New York — (UPI) — I must admit at the start that I've had it up to here with Ed Sullivan's Brussels Fair, but Ed Sullivan's filmed Sunday night on CBS-TV was relatively painless.

There were, of course, the usual shots of pavilions, people walking, people staring, and the stadium, a structure which has always struck me as a kind of abacus with swollen glands. And too, Sullivan somehow managed to find and film a balancing act, a novelty act, an animal act and a musical group called the Nitwits, which described them, I would say, precisely.

Bardot Interviewed
But Sullivan did come through with more exciting footage—a filmed interview with Brigitte Bardot, for example. It must be admitted that Miss Bardot didn't have much to say, but then, who cares about her brain anyway?

Best of all though was a session with a Ukrainian dance group to which Sullivan wisely devoted a major portion of his hour.

The troupe was cornball, but in the best sense. The dancers threw themselves into their work with a wonderful elan, a tremendous expenditure of energy and a fair amount of precision. They reminded me of a bunch of Pepper Martins dashing around the bases for the old St. Louis Cardinals.

Along with all this, Sullivan trotted out filmed talks with William Holden and Sophia Loren, a dash of Jacques Tati and Maurice Chevalier, and a scattering of other offerings that affected my digestion in varying ways.

This may seem like an awful lot of entertainment to crowd into one hour and it was. But as the man said, you ain't seen nothing yet.

10th Anniversary
Next week, Sullivan celebrates his 10th anniversary on TV and he will jam in kinescopes from the best of his old shows that will feature, among others, Marlon Brando, Jackie Gleason, Victor Borge, Charles Laughton, Lucille Ball, Desi Arnaz, Bing Crosby, Phil Silvers, Jack Benny, Perry Como, Johnny Ray, Grace Kelly and someone with the improbable name of Elvil Presley.

I think Sullivan will be pretty much justified in referring to this one as—"A rrrreally big show."

Tonight's TV highlights: "Studio One" (CBS-TV), "The Left-Hand Welcome," drama about a young singer who visits his home town. With Tommy Sands and Elaine Stritch.

Graham Crusade In San Francisco Held Successful

San Francisco — (UPI) — Billy Graham could take pride today—if he allows himself that luxury—in the success of his San Francisco crusade.

He came here seven weeks ago, pointing to San Francisco's abnormally high suicide, divorce and alcoholism rates as evidence that this city needed saving—badly.

His figures showed he made a good start. Now it was up to local pastors to begin follow up work on those who made "Decisions for Christ."

Total attendance for the seven weeks was 898,525. This was only 33,000 fewer than the first seven weeks of his New York crusade.

But Graham and his team could take satisfaction in the fact that the number of converts was 12,373, nearly 2,000 more than in New York.

"Get Into Church"
Graham wound up his crusade here Sunday with a ringing appeal to a crowd of 18,300 "carry the spirit of revival back to your churches."

"Get into the church," he urged. "If you wait a week or two, Satan will take advantage of you."

Every seat in the huge Cow Palace was filled nearly a half hour before the final service began at 8 p.m. Many sat or stood in the aisles. Cow Palace officials estimated there were 2,000 persons more than the number of seats available.

TRUMAN BLAZES
Vance, Brannan — (UPI) — Former President Truman, on vacation here, Sunday refused to enter the controversy surrounding Presidential Assistant Sherman Adams. Judge Samuel Rosenman, who accompanied the former Chief Executive here and is acting as his spokesman with the press, said Truman had "no comment whatsoever" on the affair.

New Orleans normally the world's chief banana port.

1426 Graduate at Oregon University

Eugene — (UPI) — Degrees were conferred upon 1426 graduates of the University of Oregon at commencement exercises Sunday.

The graduates were told by Dr. O. Meredith Wilson, university president, that they should not be so concerned with the inflationary world in which they live that they will lose sight of real prosperity. The real issue, he said, is not gain in money income but how much of a good life a week's work will buy.

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