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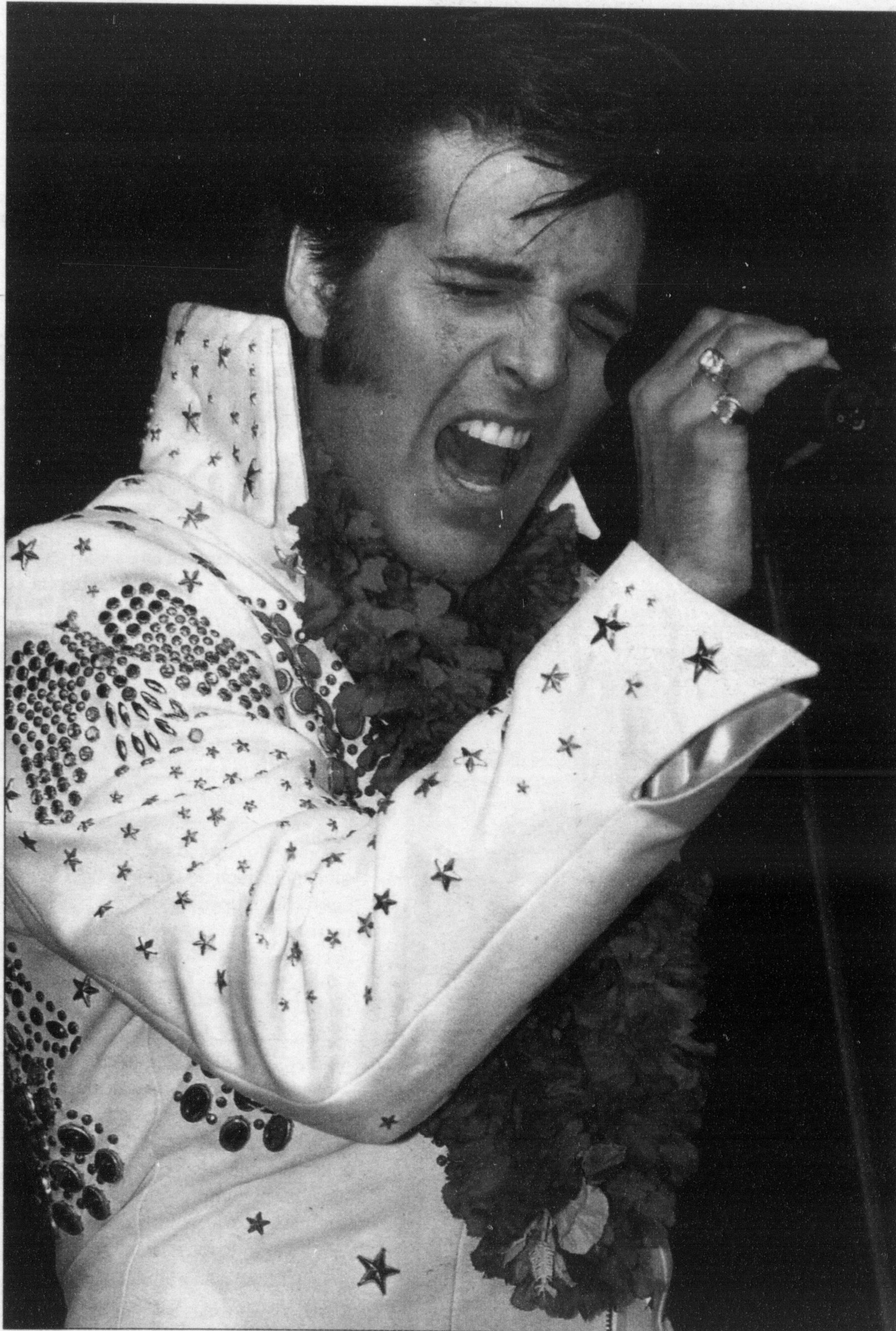
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**VIVA LAS VEGAS:** Elvis Presley tribute artist Stephen Kabakos of Milton performs Sunday as part of the Mohawk Summer Nights concert series at Mohawk Race Track. The evening featured performances reflecting Elvis' early days to the Vegas years. Kabakos will be on stage at the CNE next Tuesday accompanied by a 15-piece band in a show entitled 'The Way it Was'.

## Turner uncontested for Tory nomination

*Controversial MP was set at press time to be acclaimed to run in riding of Halton*

By **Melanie Hennessey**  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It looks like Halton MP Garth Turner will be the local Conservative candidate during the next federal election now that his potential contender has decided not to run.

The verdict puts to rest the controversy that swirled last week around the Defend Marriage Coalition — a group that has vowed to try to overthrow MPs who favour same-sex marriage — encouraging past nomination candidate D'Arcy Keene to contest Turner for the spot.

"I'm obviously relieved and grateful. The community saw through this carpetbagging challenge quickly," Turner said.

"Voters do not take kindly to having their MP thrown overboard between elections, and the message here was loud and clear."

**Not enough time: Keene**

Keene, whom Turner defeated during the last nomination contest, told The Champion that while he received a lot of support from the community, he felt there wasn't enough time to sign up the new members needed to challenge Turner at the September 11 nomination meeting.

"The notice given was way too short," he said, referring to the approximate one-week time frame allotted by the Conservatives for nomination candidates to state their intentions and for new members to sign up.

"I'm not sure why things were so

rushed."

A press release that says the Halton Conservative Association youth committee endorses Keene as the Conservative candidate was issued by committee chair Mark Johnson Friday.

"It's time for a change," Johnson said in the statement, going on to criticize Turner for comments he has made about spiritual groups and not always towing the party line.

"If he is that unhappy with us, there are several other parties available."

Turner said he thinks everyone is entitled to their own opinion and emphasized that Johnson, who's on the association's board of directors, doesn't speak for the 24 other members of the board.

The heated situation between Turner and the Defend Marriage Coalition began early last week when Turner alleged some of his supporters and a

• see **TURNER** on page A2

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