A close-up of Elvis impersonator, Billy Can. He wore a blue outfit with the trademark belt, necklace and dark glasses. There was a short delay at the beginning but Can apologized and went on to play for close to two hours. All the great hits were played including 'Heartbreak Hotel', 'Jailhouse Rock', 'Hounddog', 'Blue Suede Shoes', 'Teddy Bear', 'Don't be Cruel', 'All Shook Up', 'Return to Sender', 'Love Me Tender', 'It's Alright Mamma' and 'My Way'.

Children see too many murders

John E. Strawbridge, Ph.D.

(NC) — There is no question that television shows us a lot of violence. Cartoons, adventure shows, police dramas, and even the evening news portray people shooting, hitting and bombing. The statistics concerning television violence are staggering.

For example, by the end of high school, most children have spent twice as much time watching television as they have in school and, in the process, have seen 18,000 murders and 300,000 commercials.

What does all this violence do to young viewers? Research on this question has been conducted for over 20 years. Interestingly, the quality of this research has been improved by the actions of the big television networks. Early on in the controversy, the networks hired their own critics to pick holes in the research that was showing a link between television violence and aggression.

Researchers took advantage of these critics' comments and designed better and better studies. The vast majority of these studies has shown that a great many children are affected in one way or another by viewing such TV fare.

One of the important ways in which young children learn is through observation and imitation. It is an efficient way for children to learn things for which direct instruction is not provided in our culture. It used to be that children mainly imitated their parents because they were the ones around them the most and, as well, parents were viewed by children as powerful and important.

But television has expanded the range of possibilities. Some children directly imitate acts of violence seen on television. Some do so in a somewhat restrained "fantasy play" manner, as we all have seen when children play "superheroes." However, there are others who imitate exactly.

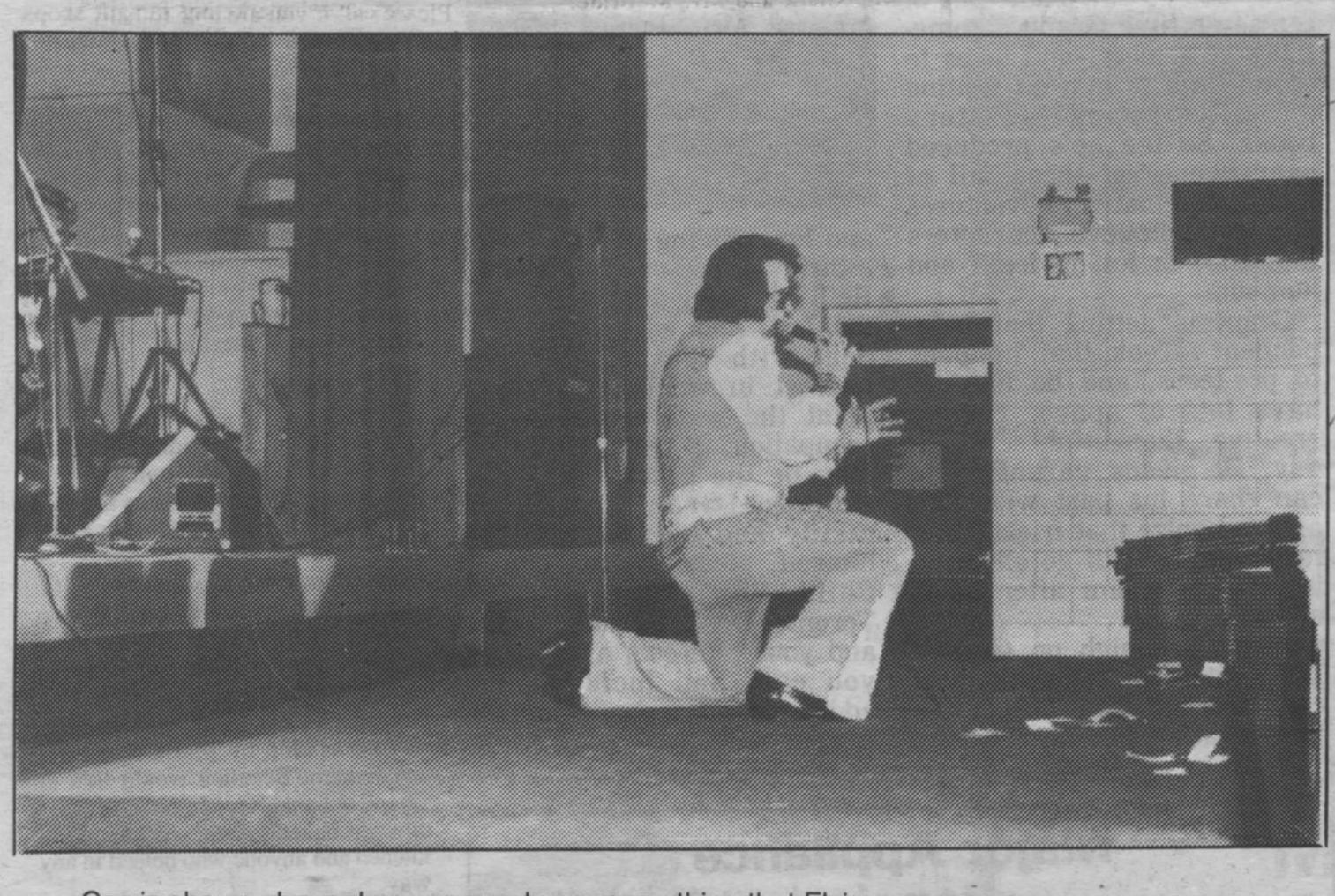
In Boston, a TV station aired a movie called "Fuzz," depicting a group of youths dousing a derelict with gasoline and setting him on fire for "kicks." Shortly afterwards, a woman was burned to death in that city under almost identical circumstances. Three weeks later, the same movie was shown on a Miami TV station. Four children (12- and 13year-olds) who saw this movie covered three alcoholics with lighter fluid and set them on fire.

Fortunately, only a small number of children react with direct imitation. More frequently, televised violence appears to increase other kinds of aggressive behavior. For example, children who watched television programs with acts of

shooting and stabbing displayed more hitting and punching in a playground setting compared with children who were shown equally exciting, but non-violent, programs.

Still another way in which televised violence affects children is by changing their expectations about violence. Children who view a lot of television violence begin to see the world as more dangerous than it really is. They are also more likely to accept violence as a solution to problems.

Indiscriminate television viewing by children, with no control exercised by parents, almost certainly means that those children will be viewing a lot of violence. Parents sometimes say, "At least I know my children are safe when they are home watching television." Are they?



Can is shown above down on one knee, something that Elvis used to do often. Can impersonated Elvis excellently and included many trademark moves that made Elvis famous. Song requests slips can be seen scattered on the stage in front of Can. One woman from the audience even wiped the sweat from Can's forehead.

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