

State / National

14 counts of overprescribing

Elvis given damaging drugs

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Elvis Presley was a drug addict and received "staggering amounts" of drugs from Dr. George Nichopoulos, his physician for 11 years, a state prosecutor charged today.

"You are going to learn that Mr. Presley had a grave problem with these drugs," prosecutor Jewett Miller told a criminal court jury trying Nichopoulos on 14 counts of overprescribing drugs to the rock 'n' roll king and others.

Miller said Presley actually had few health problems. "His real problem ... was drug abuse and addiction," he said.

Even after the detoxification treatment, Miller said, Nichopoulos continued to prescribe "vast amounts" of stimulants, de-

pressants and painkillers for Presley.

"You are going to hear and you are going to learn that staggering amounts (of drugs) were prescribed in 1975," Miller said. "They were even greater in 1976 and in the last seven and one-half months of this man's life, the drugs were being prescribed in even greater quantities."

He told the jurors that medical experts would testify the prescribing habits and practices of Nichopoulos were not in line with accepted medical practice.

He is accused of overprescribing drugs for Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, himself and eight other patients "not in good faith to relieve pain and suffering and not to cure physical infirmity or disease."

Presley died at his Memphis mansion in 1977 at the age of 43, the day after officials charge he received a large batch of drugs from Nichopoulos. The results of an autopsy performed on Presley have never been released, but Shelby County Medical Examiner Dr. Jerry Francisco has insisted Presley died of heart problems.

If convicted, Nichopoulos faces a minimum of two years and a maximum of 10 years in prison on each count. He could also be fined up to \$20,000 on each count.

In remarks to prospective jurors Monday, James F. Neal, Nichopoulos' attorney, offered a glimpse of his defense.

The Army gave stimulants to soldiers in the 1950s and 1960s "to keep them awake" on duty, Neal

said to jury alternate Donald L. Gerad.

Although Neal did not touch directly on the subject in the courtroom, Presley served in the Army in Germany from 1958 to 1960.

"Suppose I was to have to tell you Elvis had a horrible drug problem — is that going to cause you to fail to be fair?" Neal asked.

"I suppose we would all say Elvis was a fine young man and entertainer, but the proof in this case will show he had terrible problems," Neal said. "He was a terribly sick person — physically and emotionally."

Miller and James Wilson, both assistant district attorney generals, have not discussed with reporters the evidence they intend to present against the physician.

Surgeons staple, stitch fat American stomachs

SAN FRANCISCO — A lifetime of overeating will force nearly 50,000 radically fat Americans to get their stomachs stapled or stitched down to the size of shot glasses, a panel of surgical specialists say.

Such drastic measures, they said, should be used only on people who doctors regard as suffering from a specific disease, morbid obesity — meaning they are so fat they are seriously ill and suffer increased risk of heart disease, circulatory problems and diabetes.

Such people weigh from 100 to 300 pounds too much and have failed repeatedly to slim down through dieting, the doc-

tors said during panel discussions Monday at the 67th annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons.

Various methods of reducing the stomach's volume from a normal 1.5 quarts to 1 fluid ounce — including a proposal to implant a balloon inside the abdomen to squeeze against the stomach — are lumped under the term gastric bypass.

A person with a gastric bypass must learn a new method of eating. Only a bite or two can be taken at a time, and it must be chewed to near liquid consistency.

The operation reduces the outlet of the much shrunken stomach into the lower intestine

to about the diameter of a ball-point pen, so that about 90 seconds must pass before there is room for more food.

Doctors have high hopes for gastric bypass, claiming about 85 percent of patients lose at least half their excess weight and appear to keep it off without serious complications.

However, the surgeons also say a method of isolating the small intestine from the digestive process is being abandoned because of a high failure rate and sometimes fatal complications including kidney and liver disease. That method, known as intestinal bypass, was popular five to 10 years ago.

Texas oil money flows to resort

BIG SKY, Mont. — A Texas oil company has purchased controlling interest in Big Sky, the southwestern Montana ski resort founded by the late network newscaster Chet Huntley.

Boyer-USA Resorts of Michigan will relinquish control of the resort Thursday to a five-member limited partnership dominated by Mid-Texas Oil and Gas Inc. of Eastland, spokesman Mike Davitch said Monday. Boyne will remain in the partnership but will not have control, Davitch said.

The other three partners are retired oilman-geologist John A. Barnett of Big Sky, William R. Dickson of Denver and Dick Mobius of Snowmass, Colo.

Davitch said Barnett will manage the 8,000-acre resort. It boasts 35 miles of downhill ski trails, an 18-hole golf course, four chairlifts, a gondola and the 214-unit Huntley Lodge.

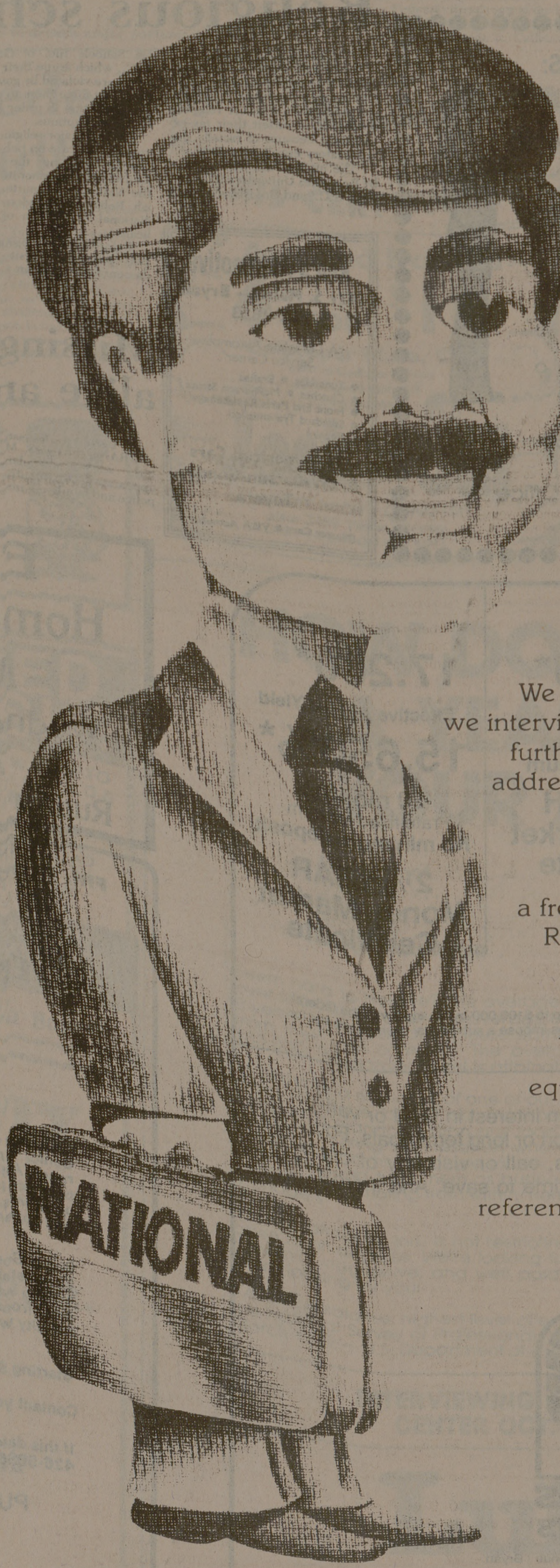
Barnett moved to Big Sky in

1980, Davitch said, after retiring as a geologist and industrialist who has had various ownership interests in oil companies, most recently a co-ownership of Seaboard Oil of Abilene. Barnett at one time also owned a geological mapping firm and the Los Alamos (N.M.) Chronicle, Davitch said.

No information would be disclosed about Dickson or Mobius, Davitch said.

Boyer-USA Resorts purchased Big Sky in 1977. Huntley, a native Montanan who retired from an NBC News anchor position to return to Montana, had built the resort in alliance with the Chrysler Corporation.

Big Sky sits in the Gallatin National Forest west of Yellowstone National Park, and Huntley encountered unexpected opposition from outdoors groups and delay from the U.S. Forest Service when he proposed the resort. He died before the project was finished.



Thank you, Aggies!

We were impressed by those of you we interviewed last week. If you have any further questions, just write us at the address below. If we didn't talk to you at all, please send us a resume.

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"... FOR THE LETTER KILLETH, BUT THE SPIRIT GIVETH LIFE"

(II Cor. 3:6)

The Holy Scriptures are the divinely inspired Word of God, and therefore to be fully believed, highly revered, and strictly obeyed. Since faith comes from hearing the Word of God, and "the just live by faith," we must ever remember that the basis of the Christian life is a constant meditation upon and simple acceptance of all that the Bible would say to us. But as Christ's work of redemption in the flesh was only preparatory to His future indwelling us by the Spirit, so the written doctrines of Scripture are only a means to all that inward teaching and powerful working of Christ's Spirit within us. As we must beware of neglecting the Word of God, so also we must beware of resting in the mere letter without expecting through the indwelling Holy Spirit a real and living experience of all that Scripture holds out to our faith. Nothing of divine love, life, or goodness can have birth or place in us but by inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. So they who imagine these virtues can be acquired by studying the letter of the gospels and epistles are under the same deception as the Jews that Christ said would not come to Him because they thought eternal life was in and by the Old Testament Scriptures alone...

In this fallen state of the Church today, Bible scholars are everywhere given over to the self-assuming workings of their own natural intellectual powers. Preachers and teachers come forth to play the orator with gospel mysteries as though the kingdom of God were a kingdom of words; and not as it is in reality the inward work of the Triune God in the soul and spirit of man...

Christ said to those who sought after the letter, "In them (the Scriptures) ye think ye have eternal life; but these are they which testify of me: and ye will not come to me that ye might have life." To come to the Scriptures and to know all the letter of them is of no avail unless through them we are led to the crucified Saviour to receive life from Him. Christ Himself, brought to life in us through the new birth, is our whole redemption, justification, and hope of glory. This is the one thing said and meant by Christ. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

William Law
(1686-1761)

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