

FOR TWISTED MINDS AND BODIES

(An Interview with Chubby Checkers)
— Courtesy of CUP —

It was a memorable day when I met Chubby Checkers.

While others worried about one of the worst blizzards in Toronto's history, or worried whether John Glenn would make it, yours truly, fearless, intrepid reporter that I am, made like Sergeant Preston of the Yukon.

I munched across the frozen arctic wastes of Metro Toronto to meet the King of the Twist.

Chubby, Known to his old friends as Ernie Evans, still lives with his parents in their home in Philadelphia. Now 20, and a great success after three years in show business, Chubby still remembers the years from eight to 17 when he worked in a chicken market. Every time he has a new success "Mom tells me to pray," he said.

Chubby is either very religious, or he's hedging his bets. Around his neck he wears both a mezuzah (a Jewish religious symbol), and a St. Christopher medal.

I asked Chubby what he thought of those who call the twist immoral.

"There are always people who go with nothing. No matter what you give them, they won't like it. I keep telling people, once they start twisting, they won't want to stop."

"I don't really believe you can ban the twist," said Chubby in answer to another question. "How can one person or one small group of people stop

others from doing what they really want to do?"

How much longer does Chubby think the twist will last? "A long time, maybe 15 years." With a slight smile he admitted that he didn't think that he could stick with it for that long.

"I've already lost 40 pounds from twisting. I have three wardrobes at home. One is for when I'm weighing about 255, one for when I'm about 220, and one for when I'm about 200, as I am now."

And for those who think the twist is a back-breaker, Chubby says: "We are all too soft, we've got things too easy. That's why most of us, including me, are overweight."

As a person, Chubby talks and acts like the boy next door. That is, if the boy next door makes enough money that a trust company has to handle it. The little-boy naivete is a bit difficult to take after a while, but you still get the feeling that underneath there's a pretty good boy.

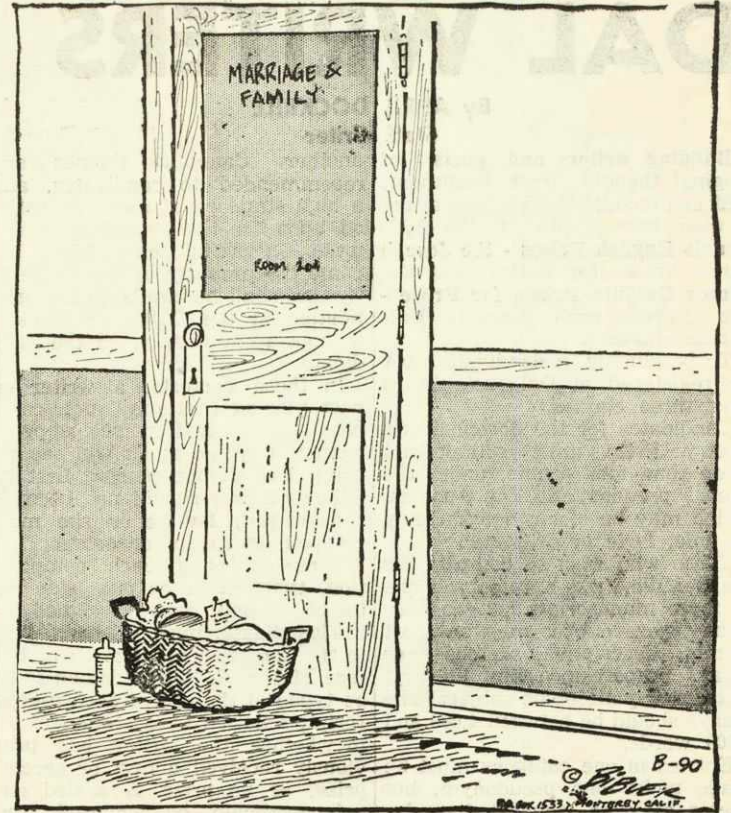
A good-looking kid with a wide smile and big brown bedroom eyes, dressed casually as he was, Chubby had the hotel staff (female) sighing wistfully.

His idol is Sammy Davis Jr., and he talks excitedly of meeting Frank Sinatra and Harry Belafonte.

The person he most wants to meet in this whole world is Jackie Kennedy. Why?

"I like her - she swings."

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS

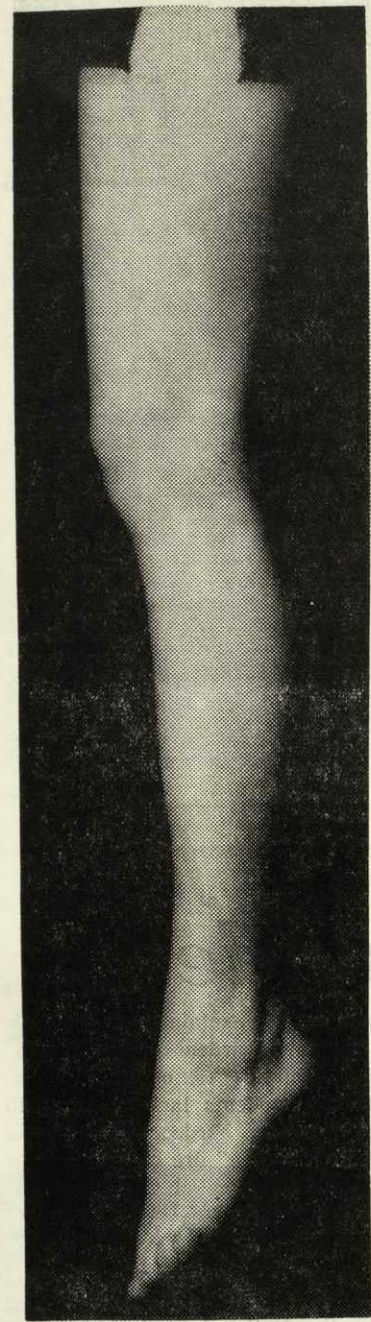


AH — WELL

The Three Sisters have cast their dice; the Supreme Soviet has met; The Lord! Banishment is the sentence. Abide ye by the word of the Kren! Banishment is the sentence; banishment, I say, till death do us part. We are the Hollow Men; we will go and join the souls of Lenin and Trotsky in exile, in the happy hunting-ground of those who live and die by revolution and coercion. Animals of the Empire, unite! 1984 dawns! Big Brother is at hand; Big Brother is watching you! Remember, freedom is slavery and ignorance is strength. Orwell, the prophet, spoke truth. But there is still time, Brother, there is still time.

O Brave New World, the mission has come; atheists of the campus beware! To the barricades; defend the cause of totalitarianism to the death, your death. Forward with Mein Kamf; defend Adolf Eichmann! Throw Christians and politicians to the lions... and laugh like hell...

Our society deems liberty, equality, fraternity, for some, just for some. Man is born free yet he is everywhere in chains. How true. The Tartars have come, have seen, have conquered. Peacemakers or powder-monkeys? Powder-monkeys, methinks, with a shade of the brothers Dulles or Joe McCarthy. Arise and to arms. The day of judgment is at hand. But remember, Brother, there is still time.



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