

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Sinatra: media is hindering health

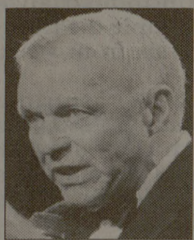
BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Frank Sinatra says he's feeling OK — but he'd be even better if the media would stop staking out his house.

Sinatra, recuperating at home after an eight-day hospital stay, called off the cameras and reporters camped outside his estate.

"My doctor recommended that I go home — and I suggest the same thing for the cameras camped out at the end of my driveway. Besides, Mike Tyson needed my room," Sinatra said, joking about the boxer who lost his heavyweight championship Saturday night to Evander Holyfield.

"Seriously, though, I'm feeling better and thank everyone for their concern. It's great to be home," he said in a statement. Sinatra, 80, walked into Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Nov. 1 for treatment of a painful pinched nerve, according to the hospital and his spokeswoman. Tumors quickly began circulating that he was seriously ill.

But Sinatra directed his people to remain mum on his condition, and he refused to say more after he went home Saturday.



Sinatra

Gibson shares his wisdom with kids

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Mel Gibson has some advice for young aspiring actors: It takes a brave heart to endure negative reviews.

"It's a strange, evolving process, the whole thing of acting, takes a little bit of a tough hide, and if you don't have one when you go in, you'll certainly have one the time you come out," Gibson said Tuesday. The Oscar-winning star and director of *Braveheart* spoke to students from Cambridge and Boston public schools at an acting seminar sponsored by Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

"You have to be prepared to take a lot of shots. You don't realize how many capabilities you're either talented and capable or you're not," Gibson said.

Gibson's latest film, *Ransom* is currently No. 1 at the box office, earning \$34.2 million in one of the best openings in movie history over Veterans Day weekend.

Slash out, band in record album

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Guns N' Roses are making a new album without their recently departed guitarist, Slash.

The band members are re-releasing material for their first album since 1993 as they seek a placement, a spokeswoman for Geffen Records said Tuesday.

The spokeswoman, who insisted on anonymity, also denied news reports that Slash was ousted from the group, calling his departure a "mutual decision."

Slash, who is going on a five-concert blues tour with a temporary group called "Slash's Blues Band," wants to form his own band, she said.

Babe star shows support for swine

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — James Cromwell, who got to know pigs by living with one in *Babe*, has asked North Carolina's governor to stop the building of a hog farm.

"No one has to be a vegetarian like me to be repulsed by the suffering these animals will endure, packed tightly indoors, never seeing sunlight or feeling cool mud beneath their feet," Cromwell wrote Gov. Jim Hunt on Tuesday. Cromwell, nominated for an Oscar for his role as the farmer in *Babe*, wants to stop plans for a livestock farm opponents say will house at least 20,000 swine in 23 buildings in northeastern North Carolina.

MOVIE REVIEW



Ransom

Starring: Mel Gibson, Rene Russo and Gary Sinise
Directed by: Ron Howard
Rated: R
Playing at: Hollywood 16

Happy days are here again, in more ways than one, for director Ron Howard and Mel Gibson in the kidnapping drama *Ransom*.

This past weekend, the film opened to an impressive intake of \$35 million, ranking itself in good company with other high-priced three-day openers.

In the film, Gibson portrays Tom Mullen, founder of Endeavor Airlines, whose son has been kidnapped by a group demanding a \$2 million ransom, but the intrigue of the film comes from an attempt to discover who constructed and planned the kidnapping.

Throughout the film, Mullen and his wife, Kate (Rene Russo), are put through an emotional roller coaster as they try to recover their son. For audience members with sympathetic hearts, there are a few

scenes guaranteed to bring tears.

The acting in *Ransom* leaves no room for improvement. Gibson and Russo deliver performances sure to make any audience believe their characters' son has truly been kidnapped.

Gibson is strong in his voice control, and his physical gestures depict a man whose only goal in life is to get his son back.

Russo can produce a tear-stricken face at the drop of a hat, but she does it so convincingly, one feels the need to comfort her in every scene.

As for the supporting cast members, from Gary Sinise to Delroy Lindo to the former New Kid on the Block, Donnie Wahlberg, the elements of fine-toned acting are ever-present.

The actors seemed to have researched their characters thoroughly enough as to where the people they portray become second nature to them.

On the other hand, no film is perfect. There are times when the storyline gets a bit slow and the audience must wade through a couple of unnecessary sub plots.

But in the total scope of the film, *Ransom* delivers



Gary Sinise co-stars in the new movie *Ransom*.



Mel Gibson and Rene Russo star as parents fighting for their son in the new thriller *Ransom*.

what an audience wants in a drama — action, emotion and a satisfying ending.

-James Francis

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