

► People in the News

Rumors of Paz's death a fallacy

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Octavio Paz spoke on national television to deny rumors of his death, and he did it with panache. "The art of dying is the art of playing hide and seek," the ailing Mexi-

can poet said Tuesday night in a hoarse voice. "It is one of the most delicate and difficult games, so you have to know how to play it well."

The rumor was carried by a European news agency earlier that night and quickly retracted.

"It pains me that those who insist on killing me are in such a hurry," the 83-year-old Nobel laureate joked by telephone on Mexico's Televisa network.

Paz has been suffering from an undisclosed illness. He said he is feeling better but his disease was a "long and wretched" one.

Mexican newspapers carried front-page stories on the incident, including the capital daily La Jornada under the headline: "Learn to Smile."

"The Labyrinth of Solitude," a book-length essay probing his nation's soul, is probably his best-known work outside Mexico.

Possible tour in Streisand's future

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Will Barbra Streisand tour again? Anything's possible, her spokesman said Wednesday.

"There definitely is contemplation of a tour in 1998. What I've heard speculated is a few cities in Europe and possibly Australia," Dick

Guttman said when asked about reports that New York concerts were on the list.

"There is nothing planned in the U.S. right now," he said. "There is no question that there is interest. Anything's possible."

Streisand last toured in 1994 and her new album "High Ground," a collection of inspirational love songs dedicated to President Clinton's late mother, went on sale Tuesday.

CARROT

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Batt: College Station is a pretty conservative town. Shouldn't masses be afraid of full-blown Carrot Top assault?

CT: I would say, "yes." These days with all the political correctness, matter what you do in comedy, you're going to offend somebody. If he by came, he would offend someone.

When you go to comedy shows you totally have to be open minded. You have to go there just to laugh and not worry about too much.

Batt: The former Presidents are in town this week for the opening of the George Bush Presidential Library. If you were President, what would you do?

CT: I would close the George Bush Library. A library? On a college campus? It's useless. How about a bar?

Batt: If you could date any of the former First Ladies who would be?

CT: I almost want to say Hillary because she's a dirty old lady. The good thing about Hillary is that she wouldn't have to worry about her husband coming in and catching me because he'd be out, too.

“The good thing about Hillary [Clinton] is that I wouldn't have to worry about her husband coming in and catching me because he'd be out, too.”

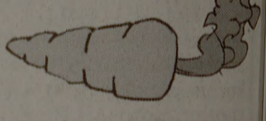
Carrot Top Comedian

Batt: Who would play you in the Carrot Top TV Movie?

CT: George Clooney — or Molly Ringwald. It would have to be someone really hot or really dorky.

Batt: What would you be doing if you weren't in comedy?

CT: I'd be a banker, what do you mean? No, I'd probably be back in school trying to cheat off that same guy. I'm so happy that I did find what I wanted to do. I didn't even find it early in life. I found it in when I was in college. I'm glad I found out what my niche was because I couldn't see myself doing anything else.



Batt: One last question. How would your mother describe you?

CT: As someone she doesn't know. No, I think she would describe me as tall, dark, handsome and funny like a damn bear.

WAKELAND

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"Our last record was on Giant Records," Sullivan said. "This is much happier now."

Nunez is confident the band will survive without Giant by their side.

"The best thing about this band is we think long term," Nunez said in a press release. "We always know everything we ever got we want to have to earn."

The break from Giant is not only a new experience for the band, Sullivan said their live shows are more focused, their songs are more intricate, and their sound is more acoustic.

"Before, our sound was a little heavier, but now it's more of an acoustic thing," Sullivan said. "It's a little more moody now, a little more groovy. Our old stuff was faster-paced, while this is more groove-oriented. It's something that people can dance to."

"We've been playing a lot of longer shows," Sullivan said. "We're doing a lot of our old stuff mixed with the new. The new record captures a lot of what we sound like live."

Sullivan said people enjoy the atmosphere of a Wakeland show.

"People just get a really good vibe when they come to see us," Sullivan said. "They just really seem to have a good time. There's no moshing around or any of that crazy stuff. It's more of a party vibe."

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