
From: paul krassner [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/12/2017 12:25:16 AM
To: DANNY GOLDBERG [REDACTED]; Sam/Walli Leff [REDACTED]; Michael Simmons [REDACTED]
Subject: I don't know if they'll publish this:
Importance: High

From: paul krassner <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re:"Comedian made an art....," Obituariwa, Feb. 10
Date: February 11, 2017 at 12:56:37 PM PST
To: letters@latimes.com

The obituary of unique comedian Irwin Corey stated, "Over a career that spanned more than 70 years, Corey performed in vaudeville, radio, television, films, Broadway, nightclubs and Las Vegas showrooms."

In 1983, I was fortunate to be booked as the opening act for Corey in a four-day run at the Julia Morgan Theater in Berkeley. He revealed his dark side in a room backstage, where we smoked a joint, and he told me how he used to read Nazi hate literature to get him in the mood to perform. And there was a certain sense of continuity on his deathbed. The night before he died, he said to a close friend, James Drougas, "Trump will be assassinated soon."

"Professor" Corey also had a humanitarian streak. In 1996, in my magazine, The Realist, I published a photo of him, from a video by his son Richard, presenting Fidel Castro a bag of California-grown pistachio nuts (Castro said, "California, hmmm, good climate there for nuts"), a book on the Rosenberg controversy, and a credit-card-size calculator (Castro said, "I'll have to use my little pinky to push the buttons"). Dave Channon reported that Corey was on a diplomatic mission to lift the embargo on health supplies to Cuba, and he visited a hospital that was providing sophisticated treatment for the survivors of Chernobyl. Cuban health care provided for more radiation victims than did the U.S."

Paul Krassner
Desert Hot Springs

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