

Entertainment Briefs

MORGAN FREEMAN TO GET UCLA'S SPENCER TRACY AWARD

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Morgan Freeman will be honored with UCLA's Spencer Tracy Award, which recognizes outstanding screen performances and professional achievement. Jason Kaminsky, UCLA campus events commissioner, made the announcement Tuesday. An awards ceremony is scheduled for March 7. "It was said that Spencer Tracy's natural style set him apart from actors of his time and set performance standards for future generations," Kaminsky said. "We think that the same can be said for the acting of Mr. Freeman." Freeman won an Oscar for his role helping Clint Eastwood toughen up a woman boxer in "Million Dollar Baby" and has received Oscar nominations for roles in "Street Smart," "Driving Miss Daisy" and "The Shawshank Redemption." The Tracy Award ceremony will include a video retrospective of Freeman's career, including his newest film, "Lucky Number Slevin," which co-stars Ben Kingsley, Bruce Willis and Josh Hartnett. "Spencer Tracy is known by many as one of the finest actors in film history," Freeman said. "Receiving this award is truly an honor." Previous Tracy Award recipients include Jimmy Stewart, Michael Douglas, Denzel Washington, Tom Hanks and Anthony Hopkins.

TRACY MORGAN GETS PROBATION IN DUI CASE

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Former "Saturday Night Live" regular Tracy Morgan was given three years' probation after pleading no contest to drunken driving, authorities said Friday. The 37-year-old comedian was arrested shortly before 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 2 in Hollywood after police stopped him for speeding, city attorney's spokesman Frank Mateljan said. He had a blood-alcohol level of .13 percent, well above the legal limit of .08 percent, Mateljan said. On Feb. 17, he pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of drunken driving and was sentenced to 36 months' probation, fined \$390 and ordered to attend an alcohol education program, Mateljan said. He had initially pleaded not guilty to two misdemeanor charges on Jan. 13. Morgan was a "Saturday Night Live" cast member from 1996 to 2003, leaving the show to star in the short-lived "The Tracy Morgan Show."

'EVERYBODY HATES CHRIS' CAST TO APPEAR AT FESTIVAL

NEW YORK (AP) - Chris Rock and the cast of "Everybody Hates Chris" will appear on a panel at The Museum of Television & Radio's 23rd annual William S. Paley Television Festival. The event is slated for today at the Directors Guild Association Theatre in Los Angeles, Paramount Network Television announced Tuesday. The Paley festival is named for the founder of both the museum and CBS. The festival will screen an episode of the Rock-produced UPN series, which is based on the comedian's experiences attending a predominantly White middle school. Afterward, Rock will join the cast for a question-and-answer session with the audience.

WILL SMITH ENTICED BY BOLLYWOOD

NEW DELHI (AP) - Chicken tikka masala and Bollywood leading lady Aishwarya Rai top Will Smith's list of favorites in India. Smith, a best-actor Oscar nominee for 2001's "Ali," was in India this week to launch Sony Entertainment's English-language movie channel, Pix, and to be a guest on "Indian Idol," the country's version of "American Idol." It was the 37-year-old actor-rapper's first trip to the South Asian nation. His first impressions? "Just recently I got to know the number of films Bollywood makes a year — a whopping 800. And each with its share of song, music, dance and drama," he was quoted as saying in the *Hindustan Times*. "I am simply enticed to be part of it." Smith said he'd like to explore a possible collaboration between Hollywood and Bollywood, as India's film industry is known. But, of course, he's got preferences, including authentic chicken tikka masala, a grilled poultry dish flavored with Indian spices, and Rai, who starred in "Bride & Prejudice." "She has a powerful energy," Smith told reporters in Bombay, the home of India's Hindi-language film industry, on Thursday. "I'd love to work with her."

Howard, Keys land Image Awards

Special to Sentinel-Voice

It's a week before "Crash" has a chance to crash the Oscars, but in the meantime, the racially charged film can content itself with a couple of key prizes at the 37th Annual NAACP Image Awards.

Coming in with a leading six nominations, "Crash" was named Best Picture, beating out a field that included "Hitch," "Coach Carter," "Diary of a Mad Black Woman," and Terrence Howard's own "Hustle & Flow." Howard, whose "Hustle & Flow" lost out to "Coach Carter's" Samuel L. Jackson in the Best Actor race, made up for it, winning Supporting Actor honors for "Crash."

Howard doubled his pleasure, winning Best Actor in a TV Movie or Miniseries for HBO's "Lackawanna Blues."

The Image Awards pay tribute to positive portrayals of people of color in film, TV, music and literature, and are voted on by a committee of 300 industry professionals and NAACP leaders. The awards were handed out Saturday night in Pasadena.

Alicia Keys dominated the music side, winning prizes for Best Female Musical Artist, Best Song and Best Video for "Unbreakable."

Proving himself a double-threat, Jamie Foxx was named Best Male Musical Artist for his chart-topping, platinum-selling "Unpredictable" a year after winning two acting Image Awards to go along with his Oscar last year.

"It's good to be surrounded by Black folks," Foxx said, clutching his trophy. "Black folks are music."

Meanwhile, fresh off a trio of Grammy Awards earlier this month, Mariah Carey earned Best Album props for "The Emancipation of Mimi."

The "Bernie Mac Show" took home three awards — Outstanding Actor in a Comedy Series for his "Bernie Mac Show," Outstanding Supporting Actress for Camille Winbush and Outstanding Director for TV for Millicent Shelton.

"America, I heard your prayers, and you wanted me here," said Mac, one of the Original Kings of Comedy. "The Mac Man cometh and I'm bringing hell with me."

Chris Rock, meanwhile, scored in the Best Television



Actor Terrence Howard (L) poses with 'Crash' co-star Chris 'Ludacris' Bridges at the 37th annual NAACP Image Awards at the Shrine auditorium in Los Angeles on Saturday.

Series category for his semi-autobiographical sitcom, "Everybody Hates Chris."

"I want to thank all the White kids who beat [me]," the comic cracked. "I'm rich!"

Carlos Santana, who received the NAACP Hall of Fame Award, performed, as did New Orleans' Neville

Brothers, who took home the Chairman Award.

The ceremony paid tribute to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, as well as posthumously to two recently passed civil rights icons — Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King.

"I think [Coretta] is sitting up there with her husband

smiling as we continue to chase the dream," said "Young and the Restless" star Shemar Moore, who, along with costar Victoria Rowell, won Best Actor and Actress in a Daytime Drama.

The NAACP Image Awards, hosted by thespian Cuba Gooding Jr., airs Friday on Fox.

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