

In L.A., just one Cosby case is active

Local investigations haven't led to charges but could still play a role in Pennsylvania.

By Victoria Kim and Richard Winton

One woman was a former Playboy playmate who says she met Bill Cosby in the Hollywood Hills. Another was a secretary at a Beverly Hills talent agency who says the actor invited her over to his home in the fancy part of town. A third, an aspiring comedy writer, says she was awestruck to see the inside of his bungalow on set at Universal Studios.

Of the dozens of women who have come forward accusing Bill Cosby of attacking them over the last five decades, many say the assaults took place in the Los Angeles area. During the peak of Cosby's career, he was a familiar face at the Playboy Mansion and on the Hollywood celebrity party circuit.

But even as the public accusations against Cosby reached a fever pitch over the last year, Los Angeles authorities have struggled to build a criminal case against him.

Legal experts say those hurdles remain even after Cosby this week faced his

[See Cosby, A8]

In China, many set sights on U.S. degree

By Frank Shyong

Three months before the *gaokao*, China's all-or-nothing college entrance exam that can determine whether students become cashiers or CEOs, Kenny Fu was having second thoughts.

His parents, small-business owners, wanted him to study in the U.S., but Fu's English was poor and he was afraid he wouldn't be able to make friends.

With the two-day, 10-hour exam looming, he hated the idea of a single test determining his path. The family scraped together money to move him to the United States in 2011.

After studying English for a year, he began to attend classes at Pasadena City College, where he volunteers part time and hopes to transfer to UCLA.

More than 124,000 Chinese undergraduates are studying in the United States, according to the Institute of International Education. Many are affluent, announcing their presence on campus with Lamborghinis, flashy clothes and the profligate spending that is the hallmark of the *fu*.

[See Chinese, A14]



Getty Images AsiaPac

FILMGOERS take pictures of Arnold Schwarzenegger and film director Alan Taylor at a first screening of Paramount's "Terminator: Genisys" in Shanghai. The action movie took in \$350 million overseas.

HOLLYWOOD'S GLOBAL APPEAL

Foreign markets are driving large gains in overall box-office receipts, which are expected to hit a record \$40 billion for 2015

By Ryan Faughnder

Paramount's "Terminator: Genisys" didn't get much love from U.S. moviegoers. But the Arnold Schwarzenegger film took in a princely \$350 million overseas, nearly four times its North American haul, turning a domestic flop into a global success.

It was a similar tale for Universal Pictures' "Everest" and 20th Century Fox's "Kingsman: The Secret Service," two films that did far better overseas than they did in the U.S. And increasingly, it's the international response that matters most to Hollywood.

As 2015 came to a close, global box-office receipts were expected to hit a record \$40 billion — a 10% increase over 2014.

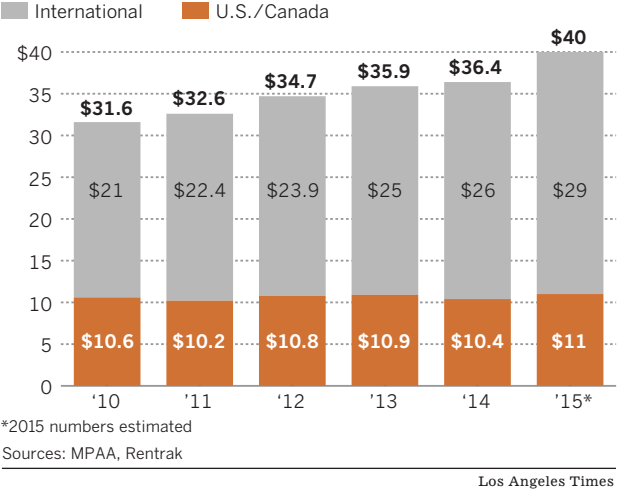
Most of that gain is coming from overseas, where a rising middle class with more disposable income to spend on entertainment is giving Hollywood a much-needed second wind. Nearly 73% of box-office revenue last year was generated outside the domestic market, up from 66% in 2010.

"There's no overstating the enormity and essential nature of the international box office, led by China," said Paul Dergara-

[See Sales, A4]

Rising global box office

International movie ticket sales accounted for about 73% of box office receipts in 2015, up from 66% in 2010.



COLUMN ONE

Caravan still leaves its book mark

Pages matter more than page views at the venerable store in downtown L.A.

By Thomas Curwen

A shuffling step carries Leonard Bernstein onto Grand Avenue. The pilasters and garlands of the PacMutual Building rise above him. Nearly 70, a balding man with a gray cattle-catcher mustache, he finds his keys and stoops to the lock in the threshold.

Two bells tied to a red ribbon jingle as the door swings open. He punches the alarm code, hits the lights and raises the amber screen that shields the



Don Bartletti Los Angeles Times

LEONARD BERNSTEIN is the second-generation owner of Caravan Book Store in Los Angeles. His parents opened the shop on May 15, 1954.

window display.

Late morning light brightens the casual clutter of books and sailing ships, trains and street signs, Civil War curios and Wonderland chess pieces.

Caravan Book Store is open. A raft in a downtown awash in rising rents and fast entertainment, it is a refuge where pages matter more than page views, Gutenberg more than Google.

Old and new, curious and rare, reads the sign above the street.

There is a musty tang in the air. Bernstein follows a narrow aisle between display tables and glass-fronted cabinets to his desk in the back of the shop.

His chair gives a familiar creak.

Caravan won't be found

[See Caravan, A12]

Rise of solar puts farms in bind

Agricultural waste disposal is becoming tougher as biomass energy plants close.

By Geoffrey Mohan

FRESNO — It should have been a good year for turning wood and waste into electrons.

A record-setting drought forced growers to bulldoze thousands of acres of trees, and hardly anyone in the Central Valley has permission to light bonfires anymore.

But more than trees have withered in California's sun. The state's biomass energy plants are folding in rapid succession, unable to compete with heavily subsidized solar farms, many of which have sprouted up amid the fields and orchards of the San Joaquin Valley.

Paul Parreira is painfully aware of the irony. The third-generation grower and almond processor is running out of dirt roads where he can spread ground-up almond shells, even as he expands a one-megawatt solar array on six acres of his family's property in Los Banos.

The waste-to-energy facilities where Parreira used to send about 50,000 tons of shells per year are vanishing. Six have closed in just two years, the latest in Delano, which shut down Thursday, after San Diego Gas & Electric ended its power purchase agreement. Twenty-five people were laid off, and 19 will remain to complete closure of the plant, said Dennis Serpa, fuels manager of the 50-megawatt plant, owned and operated by Covanta.

The Rio Bravo biomass facility south of Fresno is taking some of the fuel that would have gone to Delano. But short of a miracle, the 25-megawatt plant run by IHI Power Services Corp. will burn its last wood chips

[See Biomass, A15]



Nick Briggs PBS

Winding down on an up note

"Downton Abbey" returns with its final season of fairy-tale-like optimism — British confectionery at its best, writes critic Mary McNamara.

CALENDAR, E1

Weather: Sunny. L.A. Basin: 65/43. **B8**



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