

# DAILY BRIEFING

A QUICK GUIDE TO TODAY'S SUN-TIMES

## TELEVISION



## Flabby TV movie about Governor

“See Arnold Run” doesn’t do justice to Schwarzenegger’s political savvy — and actor Jurgen Prochnow (left) looks nothing like him. **PHIL ROSENTHAL’S REVIEW, PAGE 45**

## COLUMNISTS

LEWIS LAZARE

### SUPER BOWL BEER ADS GET NEW YORK TIMES’ BLESSING

Anheuser-Busch upends what had long been a strict rule of not allowing anyone in the media to see complete versions of its Super Bowl ads before they air. **Page 59**



ROGER EBERT

**A scribe’s slide**  
Literacy makes “A Love Song for Bobby Long” more than just a drunkard’s tale. **Weekend section**

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## DEBRA PICKETT



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## It takes a village, but what if the village isn’t enough?

Even if you don’t have an affinity for languages, there are certain Swahili words you pick up very quickly when traveling in east Africa.

Like *mzungu*.

Once enough kids have shouted it while staring and pointing at you, it does rather quickly dawn on you that it means, well, white person.

As you get outside the larger cities and tourist areas — a relatively easy, but fairly rare, thing for your standard, sunblock-wearing *mzungu* to do —

you will find yourself in the probably quite unfamiliar position of being strange and noticeable simply for the color of your skin. But, of course, you won’t let this bother you. Instead, you will make a point of smiling at everyone, of not looking too proud. You will think about what an amazing learning experience this is and promise yourself to absorb all its lessons.

You’ll be there, focused on your own virtue, even though you swore this wasn’t going to be about you.

And that’s when things will just begin to get complicated.

### Following the money

I went, with a small group of Chicagoans who had raised money for the charity Global Alliance for Africa, to see where their money had gone. We piled into a small white van, kind of a shoddy vehicle by our standards, but new enough to stand out, in a village on the outskirts of Arusha, Tanzania, as clearly a *mzungu* van.

Children stood by the side of the dirt road, sucking in the gritty red dust we kicked up as we went past. Some of them simply watched us with a studied fascination. Others waved at us — just to see what we would do. Mostly, though, they looked to see where we were going.

We headed for a tiny bungalow of a house, with a tin roof and cinder block walls. The place was the size of a Lincoln Park starter apartment, so, naturally, it housed several generations of one family: a mother, her grown daughter, and a small collection of younger children, including the mother’s last-born and the daughter’s first-born. The house belonged, actually, to the daughter. But her mother and youngest sibling had moved in after a series of catastrophes.

First, the mother’s husband had gotten sick and died.

Then, the husband’s family denied her right to inherit the home they’d shared or anything they owned together. And then, somehow, in the dispute, the local housing authority wound up with the house and the in-laws wound up with the property and she, the widow, wound up with nothing.

And, oh yes, you probably should have caught this part of the story, but it seemed so obvious, not even really worth mentioning — and, anyway, quite taboo. But of course the husband had died of AIDS, and maybe the widow and her little daughter might have it, too. No one knows for sure.

The point is, the oldest daughter took in the mother, who had once been, by local standards, a fairly prosperous member of the middle class but now was simply a burden.

But here the story takes a happy turn, if there is such a thing, because this is where some of that money comes in, where these Chicagoans were able to make something good happen. Because the widowed mother got a grant — roughly \$100 — to start a little business.

Now she goes into town and buys cloth from the wholesalers there and then carries it door-to-door, reselling it at a modest profit. The money she makes pays for food and clothes and the other basic expenses of this modest household. But she has to be careful to set enough of it aside to get back into town and buy more cloth. So there are some things she cannot buy.

She cannot buy medicine for sick relatives who ask. She cannot pay school fees for her smiling, bright-eyed little girl.

### The *mzungu* factor

Just try to imagine yourself there, in the narrow living room, sitting on the heavy, house-proud sofa that speaks of better times, listening to this story firsthand.

You know that the school fees in question are about \$30. You also know that, as you’ve been sitting there, the children who watched you walk in, the *mzungu* shouters, have now spread the word of your presence as far as they can run. And when you leave, the woman you have visited will have many more visitors, all assuming that you have given her money — because that is what *mzungus* show up here to do — and asking her to share the wealth.

You know the uncounted spending money you have in your multi-zippered travel wallet is enough to pay every expense this family will have over the next few months.

But you also know that when you walk out, there will be other stories, other needs, other proud, strong women who remain here while their men go to the city to find work and, in the long, strange sadness of their sometimes years-long absence, contract HIV/AIDS from “city wives” and then come home only to die.

So you sit there and everyone just looks at you, wanting to know, “How much are you going to give, *mzungu*?”

Now, try to imagine what you do next.

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## WEATHER



**Today:** Mostly sunny and frigid early, then becoming not as cold by the afternoon. Highs around 30, lows around 20. **Saturday:** Cloudy with a chance for flurries. Highs in the lower 30s, lows in the lower 20s. **Sunday:** Mostly cloudy with a chance for flurries. Highs in the lower 30s, lows in the lower 20s. **Monday:** Mostly cloudy with a chance for snow. Highs in the lower 30s, lows in the lower 20s.

◆ **Details on Page 42**

## LOTTERIES

For tickets dated  
Thursday, January 27 2005

### Illinois

Midday Pick 3—111  
Midday Pick 4—9178  
Evening Pick 3—197  
Evening Pick 4—0996  
Little Lotto—01 06 07 13 22  
Lotto Grand prize: \$13.5 million  
Mega Millions  
Grand prize: \$18 million

### Indiana

Midday Daily 3—140  
Midday Daily 4—2476  
Daily 3—387 Daily 4—3956  
Midday Lucky 5—05 07 19 20 21

Evening Lucky 5—01 02 04 29 34  
Lotto grand prize: \$4.5 million

### Michigan

Midday Daily 3—699  
Midday Daily 4—2007  
Evening Daily 3—093  
Evening Daily 4—1896  
Fantasy 5—09 11 16 29 35  
WinFall jackpot: \$2.8 million

### Wisconsin

Pick 3—012 Pick 4—6441  
Badger 5—05 08 16 22 25  
Super Cash—01 04 07 19 28 29  
Megabucks jackpot: \$1 million  
Powerball Jackpot: \$12 million