

# California Governor takes centre stage in T.O.

The *National Post's* Melissa Leong followed California's Governor on his first day in Toronto. Apparently he was also an actor at some point.

**4:45 p.m.** Arnold Schwarzenegger's private Gulfstream Jet pulls into the Three Bay Hangar in Mississauga.

**5:00** At the Delta Chelsea Hotel downtown, guests sip California Merlot and Chardonnay as they wait for Mr. Schwarzenegger at a reception for the unveiling of Team Canada's new uniforms for the Special Olympic.

**5:05** Guest David Moran, a spokesman for Coca-Cola, which is a Special Olympics sponsor, ignores the wine and tips back a Coke.

**5:39** Vic Rauter of TSN gets a call on his cellphone while addressing the event attendees from a podium. "It's Vic Rauter. Have you arrived?" He flips his phone shut and speaks into the microphone: "They're here. That's pretty cool. I got a call from the Governor."

**5:53** Mr. Schwarzenegger takes the stage. He shakes hands with Emily Boycott, the event's co-emcee and a rhythmic gymnast. They are almost the same height with Ms. Boycott standing on a footstool at the podium. (Earlier, Ms. Boycott says the only movie that she's seen of his is *Jingle All the Way*. And only half of it.)

**5:58** The Governor gives a shout-out to his mother-in-law, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who founded the Special Olympics in 1968. "You always want to be on the good side of your mother-in-law," he says.

**6:02** Mr. Schwarzenegger strips off his blazer, which is lined with the American and California flag. People start to shriek. He slips on the new Team Canada jacket. "Does it fit him?" a skeptical guest says audibly over the whoops. The Governor does not zip it up.

**6:09** Media briefing begins. Mr. Schwarzenegger answers four questions; he talks about hockey, the greatness of Canada, of Special Olympics and the importance of stem-cell research.

**6:11** Briefing ends. They weren't kidding about the "brief" part.

**6:25** A crowd waits for the Governor outside of the hotel. Ellen Topping, a 58-year-old addictions counselor from Guelph, stands at the rope. "I've watched some of his movies but he's not my favourite," she says seriously. "All I know is he goes by the name of Terminator. I've probably seen it but I wouldn't remember it."

**6:39** Mr. Schwarzenegger enters the LCBO on Queen's Quay.

**6:43** He toasts to the successful sales of California wines. "It's delicious." After another sip: "Very nice." Salesmanship!  
**7:03** Inside the Dominion grocery store in Liberty Village, the governor poses with a bowl of California walnuts and then a bowl of cherries.

**7:12** His cavalcade of dark-coloured SUVs pulls out of the parking lot and head to Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex for a reception dedicated to California innovation.

**7:14** A man leaving the store doubts the governor's reported height of 6-foot-2. "He's not that tall."

*National Post*



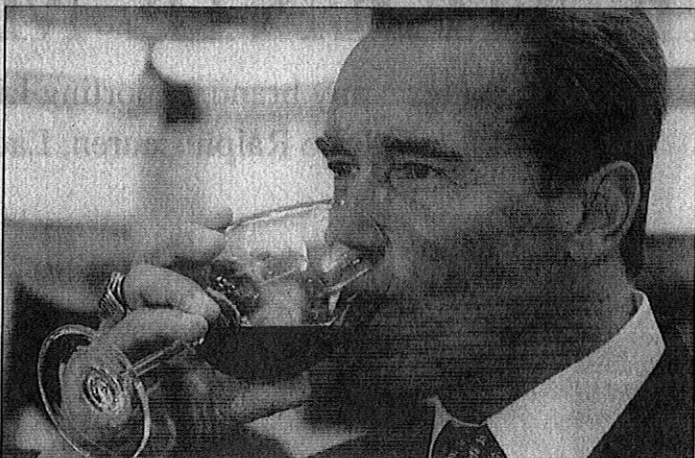
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**4:45 p.m.** With Premier Dalton McGuinty and school choir at Pearson.



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**6:02 p.m.** Getting a souvenir from Team Canada's Special Olympics squad.



J.P. MOCZULSKI / REUTER

**6:43 p.m.** Enjoying a glass of wine at the Queen's Quay LCBO.



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