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JOHN SMYNTEK'S

Cannes cheers Michael Moore's latest

May 20, 2007

"Sicko," **Michael Moore's** attack on the U.S. health care system, got a warm welcome Saturday at Cannes that marked the director's triumphant return to the film festival and a respite from the controversy his work has started at home.

More than 2,000 people applauded loudly after the film's first Cannes screening at the packed Grand Theatre Lumiere, the main festival auditorium.

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"I know the storm awaits me back in the United States," Moore said. The movie doesn't open until late June, but it has already been criticized by conservative U.S. politicians over scenes in which the filmmaker takes ailing 9/11 rescuers to Cuba for treatment.

Moore is a Cannes favorite. His last film, the documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11," won the festival's top prize, the Palme d'Or, in 2004. "Sicko" is screening out of competition -- Moore joked that he didn't want to appear like a "typical American" by greedily seeking another trophy.

Noory to host TV special

Mark your calendar for 11 p.m. June 13 on the Sci-Fi network. You could help prove the theory that video killed the radio star.

George Noory, the former Detroit and University of Detroit grad who hosts the enormously popular nationally syndicated

overnight radio show "Coast-to-Coast AM" (heard at 1 a.m. weeknights on CKLW-AM, 800), notes that a TV special he's hosting on the paranormal and the unknown gets an airing that night.

"If the ratings are successful," Noory notes, "it may become a series."

'Betty,' bikes, being girly

Rebecca Romijn, model turned TV star, is the cover subject of the June Marie Claire magazine. Her key utterances:

• **On accepting the role of transgendered Alexis on "Ugly Betty":** "It felt perfect for me. The only thing that made me nervous was that I have a couple friends who are transgender, and it's a really sensitive subject, obviously, so every choice that I make, I think about them. I would never, ever, ever want to insult or offend. But I want to make everybody aware that I am not the unofficial spokesperson for the transgender community."

• **On playing Alexis:** "I've had a lot of people ask, 'How does it feel to be a man?' My response is, I'm not playing a man. I'm playing a woman, and Alexis loves being a woman. And so do I! And she's very girly. And so am I! But she's also really lonely. That's where we're different."

• **On one of her favorite things to do with her fiancé, Jerry O'Connell:** A tandem bike "is honestly great couples therapy. There's all sorts of trust issues that are happening when you're the one in the back -- you can't steer, you can't brake and you can't see ahead of you; all you can do is pedal."

Pregnancy's mysteries

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(KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/Associated Press)

Director Michael Moore arrives for the screening of his film "Sicko" at the film festival in Cannes, France, on Saturday.



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Infanticipating **Nancy O'Dell**, cohost of TV's "Access Hollywood" (6:30 p.m. weekdays, WJBK-TV, Channel 2) spills in the May Pregnancy magazine on:

• **Her food cravings:** "I was craving baked beans at the beginning, big time. All of a sudden, if I didn't have baked beans I was going to go crazy. So we went to the store and bought 15 cans, and the craving lasted one day. So now I have 14 cans in my pantry."

• **Her changing body:** She was surprised "how many times you have to go up in your bra size. I used to complain that I wanted a little more and a little more. Now I'm like 'OK, they can stop now. They don't need to grow any more.' "

• **How being pregnant has affected her life:** "I've come full circle. ... Having a child is probably what makes me feel like 'OK, life is finally complete. I'm in exactly the right place.' "

BRIEFLY

Featured: At 6 tonight on "Somewhere in Time," simulcast on WMUZ-FM (103.5) and WRDT-AM (560), theater organist **Mark Herman**, 20, of Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Compiled from various news sources by **JOHN SMYNTEK** at 313-222-5169 and jsmyntek@freepress.com. Hear him Fridays at about 7:50 a.m. on **WJR-AM** (760 and wjr.com) on "The Paul W. Smith Program."

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