

WestCoastNewsline

APRIL 14, 2006

EVENTS

Bollywood stars nite

■ **LONG BEACH ARENA, CALIF:** Bollywood stars John Abraham, Shahid Kapoor, Salman Khan, Esha Deol, Kareena Kapoor and others will perform at the Long Beach Arena on April 22. Ticket prices: \$39, \$59, \$69, \$79, and VIP and are available at all major Indian retail outlets. For details call Super Entertainment Inc at 310-829-2985.

Gurdas Mann sings

■ Punjabi singer Gurdas Mann will perform live at the historic Orpheum Theater on April 16. Tickets available at all major Indian retail outlets. For details contact Jaswinder Dhillon -760-217-0082 or Karamjit Grewal -909-821-3020.

Sarod recital

■ **IRVINE:** K. Sridhar will present a sarod recital in Irvine on April 16. He will be accompanied by Jyoti Prakash on the tabla. Sridhar is one of the very few artists who have mastered the Hindustani classical music with specialization in the Dhrupad-Dhamar style and Carnatic music. The concert will be held at the Ektaa Center, 2691 Richter Ave., Ste. 105, Irvine.

SAM RAO

Bay Area, Calif.

IN WHAT is turning out to be a major issue for people of all ethnicities across America, hundreds of high school students in the Bay Area and from across California protested the upcoming Immigration Bill—which tends to criminalize illegal immigrants, their children and even people who render them humanitarian and charitable assistance. Representing different ethnicities including Asians and Indian-Americans, the protestors rallied around asking for more humane treatment to all immigrants.

Several Bay Area schools reported student protests waving signs like “We are not criminals” etc. About 100 students from Fremont and neighboring Newark left classes and marched in solidarity to Kennedy High School (Fremont) for a rally on Caesar Chavez Day. The peaceful demonstrations with students of several area schools continued at a few other neighborhood campuses and at Fremont City hall as well.

In San Leandro, north of Fremont, populated by Latinos, much larger numbers of students staged a noisy walkout. Estimates of about 1,000 students were reported. Some students from nearby Irvington High School (Fremont) and Union City held on-campus demonstrations on April 3.

In Santa Clara County, the East Side Union High School District reported more than 200 students walk out April 3, while about 50 students from Hoover Middle School and Lincoln High School in the San Jose Unified School District marched to San Jose City Hall. More than 60 students from Los Altos High School left the campus at lunchtime and marched to City Hall in downtown Mountain View, shouting slogans. Even private schools reported brief protests.

Bay Area students raise voice against Immigration Bill



Meanwhile, school officials were worried about these “unexcused absences”, following California State Superintendent Jack O’Connell’s order that schools would lose state waivers which allow them to collect average daily attendance money for the absent students. This could mean the potential lost revenue of tens of thousands of dollars in average daily attendance money. Educators from San Jose claimed that for the unexcused absence of 250 students, the School District would lose about \$7,500 for one day.

In addition to the Bay Area protests, across the state several schools reported demonstrations. In San Diego, about 2,000 students took to the street, while in Bakersfield about 1,000 stu-

dents were reported and at least 3,000 students walked out of Las Vegas (Nevada) schools on March 31. Earlier in the week, about 30,000 students walked out of schools in Los Angeles—which was widely reported on television, possibly prompting several copy cat demonstrations in many schools across the Golden State.

Indian American high schoolers—Meghana Dhar (Harker), Amira Valliani (Harker) and Avni Bhakta (Homestead)—all expressed solidarity with the protesting students and referred to the larger issue of ‘targeting of immigrants’ rather than merely supporting illegal immigrants, as their reason for support to the protest against the upcoming legislation.

EYE ON THE EAST



Models display Huma Ali’s creations at the Muslim Wedding Fashion Show in Fremont, California last week.

Photo by Sam Rao

