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Three good reasons to go to the movies

Box office review by your humble pop-corn corner ... *Father of the Bride* is terrific! The remake of the Spencer Tracy classic gets just as brilliant a performance in the lead from Steve Martin, who is almost in a league by himself these days. The cast is in top form

and **Martin Short** has a great turn as the wedding coordinator. You'll laugh and cry a little, too, and fathers and daughters should see it together. If you don't like *Father of the Bride*, you are a Scrooge. ... **Barbra Streisand** proves again in *The Prince of Tides* that she is one of the most formidable film talents we have ever produced in the USA. Her latest (acting and directing) is based on the fine novel of the same name by **Pat Conroy**. In lesser hands than hers, and star **Nick Nolte's**, this could have been borderline soap opera. But instead it becomes a riveting look at relationships North and South.

Making a case for Stone's 'JFK'

Oliver Stone might have cut a half-hour out of *JFK* (the domestic scenes maybe), but all in all this is a top-notch thriller that raises more questions than it answers, but the questions are worth asking. The performances are letter-perfect and this is being written by someone who knew some of the characters depicted, including **Jim Garrison**, very, very well. See *JFK*.

Tidbits ... Just so the gossip columnists have it right, **Mary Alice Williams** wanted to return to CNN but the network decided not to make a firm offer. Money was not the question. Trust me on



LARRY KING'S PEOPLE

News & Views

this one. ... The Greater Miami Heart Association's 25th annual ball is set for Feb. 1 at the Omni International Hotel. Your humble chronicler is honored guest. Or as **Don Rickles** likes to say, "Larry before you we didn't know there was a heart attack."

Best goalie in the National Hockey League right now? Give me **Kirk McLean** of the surprising Vancouver Canucks and I'll spot you a goal, my friend.

Different at the top? When **Sam Skinner** spent this past Christmas in the White House working with the president on Mr. Bush's television speech about the changes in Moscow, it was the first time in his life that Sam was not in Chicago on the holiday. The new chief of staff told me he likes the job but missed that Christmas in the Windy City.

'Birdie' in Tune with today

Tommy Tune tells me he loves doing *Bye Bye Birdie*, winding up a successful stand at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. "It's strangely not dated," he says. "Even though it opened in 1959, audiences still want that part of Americana brought back to them."

I once asked the late **Nat King Cole** about performers and critics: "Critics sit on the sideline," he said. "They watch the fox hunt and tell us who caught the fox and who didn't and who chased well and who didn't. We go to the hunt. I never met a critic who went to the hunt."

Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Atlanta, San Francisco, San Diego and Houston of the NL West will be baseball's best and toughest division this year. ... NBA not-so-long



STREISAND: Saves 'Tides' from becoming soap opera



By Denis Poroy, USA TODAY
TUNE: He says audiences are nostalgic for 'Birdie' era.

shot? Try the Cleveland Cavaliers, who on any given night are as good as any and better than most. In **Mark Price**, they have a great point guard who is giving them 32 minutes per game despite coming back from a knee injury.

I once asked **Charles Osgood** why he likes radio better than television. "Easy," he responded. "Radio is the more visual of them."

Finally, my Super Bowl pick: Washington, 34; Buffalo, 17.

The **Larry King Show** is heard nightly on 385 radio stations via the Mutual Radio Network. **Larry King Live** can be seen nightly on CNN.