



■ NATION/WORLD INSIDE SPORTS; CUE INSIDE COFFEE BREAK

Everybody gets 'Critics'

Literary show from San Mateo debuts nationally on PBS

CUE

WEATHER:

Sunny and cool
Highs: 50s
Lows: 20s

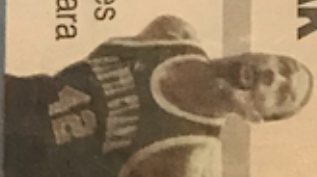
Details in



Quieter holiday crowd watches Stanford wrap up Santa Clara

SPORTS

Ho ho hum



San Mateo County Times

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23, 1998

'Authors' series debuts nationally on PBS

By Pamela Fisher
STAFF WRITER

LALIEE Bakhtiar-van Dillen, producer and host of the Bay Area literary show "Authors & Critics," may have hit the big time.

Opening its ninth season at 5:30 p.m. today on San Mateo's KCSM Channel 60, her show debuts nationally this season on the Public Broadcasting System.

Bakhtiar-van Dillen has strong feelings about the locally produced show reaching a national television audience.

"Authors & Critics' represents democracy and freedom of speech," says Bakhtiar-van Dillen, a descendant of Iran's Bakhtiar tribe, a nomadic desert tribe of about 500,000 living in 6,000-year-old tribal territories on the border between Iraq and Iran.

She has been deeply influenced by her ancestors' struggle for a political voice.

In 1990, she dined in Paris with her great uncle Shahpour Bakhtiar, who was prime min-

ister of Iran after the Shah was deposed in 1979. Shahpour continued to be an opposing political voice to the Iranian government after he resigned. It was the last time they would meet.

"He spoke of the agony of the human mind longing for democracy," she remembers somberly.

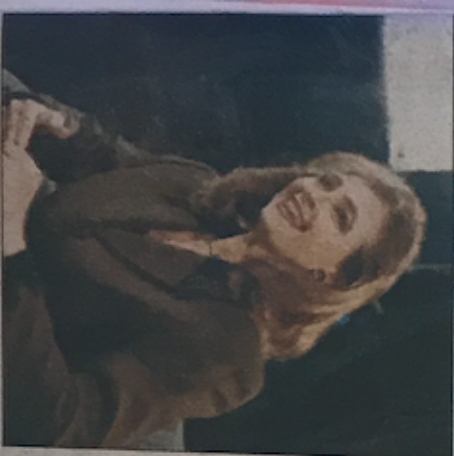
"Just before his assassination. 'What I love about being an American is the free press. We can share our stories of racial anguish openly,'" she says.

The programming on "Au-

thors & Critics" is geared for a wide literary audience and will profile diverse works. Po Bronson's novel of Silicon Valley intrigue, *Adeline Yen Mah's* tale of an unwanted Chinese daughter, Maxine Hong Kingston's Chinese cultural chronicles.

Each 30-minute program is composed of two interviews and a book review. Bakhtiar-van Dillen has gathered an eclectic cast of critics for the program, including Myriam Lescnik

Please see **Authors**, CUE-2



JUSTIN SULLIVAN
by Lailie Bakhtiar-van Dillen, be-
on PBS.