TEMPO

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Country music singer Naomi Judd and Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer A. Scott Berg chat at Wrigley Field on Friday.

Tribune photo by Bonnie Trafelet

A meeting of the minds

Hollywood A-listers, Nobel Prize winners, Mayor Daley and myriad other geniuses rub elbows at International Achievement Summit

By Ellen Warren | Tribune senior correspondent

here's not much in this life that will get Mayor Daley to cheerfully put on a Cubs cap.

But on a glorious afternoon, the city's most renowned White Sox fan seemed almost giddy to be wearing Cubby blue, sitting along the third-base line at Wrigley Field.

In fact, Daley wasn't there to watch a ballgame. The Cubs were playing in Anaheim.

The mayor was at Wrigley to listen to the unmistakable rumble of actor James Earl Jones who was perched atop the dugout, reading a poem about the Cubs written just for this occasion by Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction writer N. Scott Momaday.

A few rows behind Daley was George "Star Wars" Lucas. And, yes, that was multi-Grammy winner Naomi Judd wolfing down a hot dog. Oh, also on hand were a bunch of Nobel Prize winners, a few multimillionaires, some certified geniuses and people working on a cure for cancer, manned space flight, world peace and such.

But wait. There's more, so very much more.
The Friday visit to Wrigley Field was merely
one outing in a four-day extravaganza that
ended Sunday, an utterly unpublicized meeting

of a group that its chairman, Wayne Reynolds, calls "America's best kept secret."

This was the 43rd annual International Achievement Summit. It is a jaw-dropping collection of talent from virtually every area of human endeavor, including politics. This is where Daley comes in.

At the annual meeting in Dublin two years ago, Daley was one of 29 people named to the Academy of Achievement, which sponsors the summit. He was so wowed by the gathering that

a month or so later, at The Prime Rib restaurant in Washington, he launched his campaign to bring the meeting of big shots here.

That's the short version of how it came to pass that publishing phenom "Chicken Soup for the Soul" Jack Canfield was able to cross paths at the Peninsula Hotel here last week with Nobel Peace Prize-winner Shimon Peres. Canfield enthused to the grand old man of Israeli politics — who probably knows a thing or two about chicken soup — that he respected his striving to end the enmity between Jews and Palestinians.

The Peres-Canfield pairing was just one of scores of intriguing, unlikely encounters that make the academy members return to these annual gabfests (expenses are paid but that's it) hoping to chat with other all-stars.

Another reason that the gathering has such drawing power is the central reason for these summits: To put some 150 boldface-name achievers together with the next generation of

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family as in December's first edition, the duo are sent on a road trip from Florida back to Beverly Hills, the better to meet and condescend to folks who work for a living.

Given a hot pink truck and an Airstream trailer behind it, but no money or credit cards, they have to rely on what they possess of street smarts (quote: "What are britches?") and the purposely icky jobs the producers have set up for them.

This extended culture clash continues to have its amusing, and seemingly revealing, moments, as it did in the first edition. Hilton gets thrown, pretty violently, from a horse on a ranch they visit in Wednesday's first episode (7 p.m., WFLD-Ch. 32), and her reaction - an extreme pout, followed by an airlift to a hospital — tells you this is not a woman with whom you'd want to hike the Appalachian Trail.

But there's also a been-therewatched-that feeling to this, the second time around. Paris and Nicole, even if they are just being themselves, aren't exactly three-dimensional characters, and watching them use their blondness and tanness to mooch

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"THUMBS UP!"

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MARCUS ORLAND PARK

time, instead of living with one gas money wears as thin as the fabric of their tops.

Paris and Nicole, it seems, were fine for a one-series stand. But they're not the kind of girls you want to spend every week with. A second episode airs at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

■ "Joe Schmo 2": Spike TV had a surprise success with the first edition of its faux reality show, featuring one real guy and a bunch of actors. It is, in a sense, the holy grail of unscripted shows, the one that comments on the genre itself while still being hugely entertaining.

This time, producers were once again able to pull off the hoax, but now they're doing it to a man and a woman who think they're on a dating show called 'Last Chance for Love.'

Tim and Ingrid think they're competing against other singles (actors) to win the hearts of a bachelor and bachelorette (both actors). It works because we get to hear the backstage interviews with both the thespians about playing their roles and the real people about being on this show (9 p.m., Tuesday) and because the parody of dating shows is so sharp.

There's an ultra-smarmy host, a first eviction ceremony in which all the minorities are kicked off, and a voiceover that calls each one "the most shocking eviction ceremony yet."

You can't really feel sorry for these contestants after their work in the "lap dance for love" segment but especially after one of the actresses gives it away at the outset and they don't immediately catch on. How did you get this show, Ingrid asks, inadvertently using actor lingo. An actor, scheduled to be kicked off immediately, responds, "Through my agent. I just got my call yesterday."

But did she notice? There may

ACHIEVERS: A meeting of minds at

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international leaders. This year, 250 scary smart students from 43 countries were in Chicago to learn from their heroes.

"We had a fascinating discussion about whether people are born evil," said the multi-Grammy winning singer Judd as she tried to rub a dab of errant Wrigley Field mustard from the shirt of a new friend, New Zealand Rhodes Scholar Sean Gourley.

'I didn't know who she was," said Gourley, 25, a PhD candidate in physics at Oxford University. "We don't have country music in New Zealand."

Daley can boogie down

After a performance at the House of Blues Thursday night by blues legend B.B. King, one of this year's academy inductees, Judd stood on the stage with her hand draped on Mayor Daley's left shoulder and had this stunning revelation: "This guy can boogie down. Let me tell ya, the mayor of Chicago can dance."

Looking on was four-time Iditarod champion Susan Butcher who flew in from Alaska and Paul Nurse, Nobel laureate in medicine and president of New York's Rockefeller University.

Sir Paul, a charming Brit, who is also a knight, was inducted into the academy in Dublin in 2002 along with Daley, Henry Kissinger and Chuck Berry.

"I couldn't believe it. I was [in the men's room] and this guy in a red shirt came in and said, 'Hi,



Tribune photo by Bonnie Trafelet

N. Scott Momaday (left) shakes the hand of James Earl Jones after Jones read Momaday's poem about the Cubs.

Other academy members

Here's just an eclectic sam-pling from the list of those lio Gallo; Lester Crown; Dennis Hasnamed to the Academy of Achievement since the first International Achievement Summit in 1961:

Bob Hope; Gen. Douglas MacArthur; Helen Keller; August A. Busch Jr.; Dr. Denton A. Cooley; Mickey Mantle; Milton Friedman; Phil Esposito; Ray Charles.

Jack LaLanne; R. Buckminster Fuller; Erma Bombeck; Andrei D. Sakharov; Donald H. Rumsfeld; Frank Perdue; John Travolta; Robert W. Galvin; John H. Johnson.

James D. Watson; Walter Payton;

tert; Scott Turow; Dizzy Gillespie; Susan Lucci.

Dale Chihuly; Donna Karan; Martha Stewart; Gunther Gebel-Williams; Pleasant T. Rowland; Carol Shields; Dr. Oliver Sacks; Lauryn Hill; Maya Lin.

Tommy Hilfiger; Jeff MacNelly; Mike Wallace; Frank Gehry; Tommy Tune; Thomas Pritzker; Dolly Parton; Ronald Reagan; Cardinal Joseph Bernardin.

Jerry Reinsdorf; Patrick Ryan; Gene Siskel; Robert Trent Jones Jr.; Muhammad Ali; Samuel Zell.

- Ellen Warren

and three minutes later he's singing to us," he said of his first encounter with the legendary

Speaking of legendary enter-tainers, "I just met Julie Andrews, which was fantastic," said student Lauren Parker, who is working on a PhD in crystallography at Cambridge University.

Andrews also was an inductee this year and she sat in a back row through many of the lectures. These included such disparate talents as former President Bill Clinton, Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin and Academy Award-winning producer David Puttnam ("Chariots of Fire," "Midnight Express," "The Killing Fields").

"It's a group of people you'd

never think would be together," said John Horner, the Montana paleontologist whose work on dinosaurs was the model for the 'Jurassic Park" character Dr. Alan Grant. A teacher at Montana State University, he carries a replica of an allosaurus claw in his herringbone jacket pocket as a conversation starter.

We're all here because of the students. They're a real inspiration," Horner said. "I'd have never been in this group, I got kicked out of college."

"It's very eye-opening for the kids," George Lucas said, to learn that most of their heroes are "human beings just like them" who didn't know where life would take them when they got out of school. "Nobel laureates and basketball players are the only ones who don't fall into that category," Lucas said.

The future looks bright

Meeting the students, "you realize there's a wonderful future ahead for mankind," said Pulitzer winning biographer A. Scott Berg.

Momaday, 70, an American Indian who lives in New Mexico, says these meetings are "a little euphoric" because of all the interesting smart people he gets to talk to. "Some stranger sits down and it turns out to be a Nobel Prize winner. I'll be sitting next to a physicist and I can learn something. Chances are he doesn't know anything about poetry so I can throw in my two cents."

Momaday's two cents for this year's meeting included this lyrical rendering of the eternal agony of the Cubs fan: "Their suffering is acute — endemic, exquisite. For their loyalty is divine. Like Merlin they are imprisoned in rings of air, and the air is laden with the scents of peanuts and Cracker jack, hot dogs and beer. Oh, they are a blessed lot. Their pain is delicious. Their cause is bright, and futile. ...'

Momaday rhapsodized not just about all the intriguing people he was meeting, or hoping to meet - author John Updike, tenor Jose Carreras, paleoan-thropologist Meave Leakey among them.

"It was a thrill to be at Wrigley Field. Its history is magnificent and its tradition of losing is magnificent.... To see where the uniforms were hanging. I wish to hell I'd brought my camera."



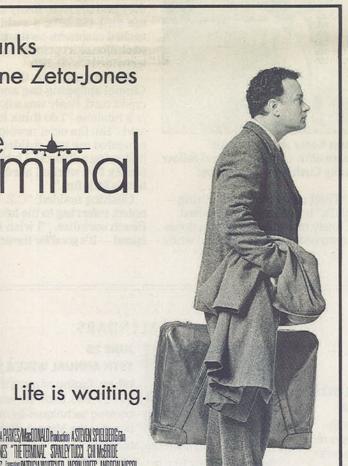


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