

'Race' continues to amaze viewers

Time flies when you span the globe on a regular basis. We're now up to the ninth installment of "The Amazing Race" (9 p.m., CBS). Tonight's two-hour season premiere takes would-be millionaires from Denver, Colo., to the skyscrapers in Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Kevin McDonough

Along the way we're introduced to the participating couples, including a pair of love-struck, self-proclaimed nerds who emerge as my early favorites.

It's only fitting that "Race" begins its new season just after the conclusion of the Winter Olympics. Like that quadrennial exercise, "Race" features breathtaking scenery, drama and cinematography so consistently intimate and audacious that it's almost easy to overlook.

But "Race" has not been overlooked by its peers in the TV business. It is the only show to win an Emmy for best reality series, an award it has received for the past three years.

The show also has won the Producers Guild of America Award for nonfiction television, as well as the 2005 Family Friendly Award.

I had a chance to chat with "Race" executive producer, director and co-creator Bertram Van Munster on the phone last week.

Van Munster oversees 11 camera crews on "The Amazing Race." He's proud of his show and hopes that it reflects his decades of experience shooting commercials, documentaries, war footage and other reality series (including eight seasons of "Cops").

Mulder and Scully fans must remember the famous "Cops"/"X-Files" hybrid episode. Van Munster had a hand in that.

Born in Holland, Van Munster has been operating a camera in foreign climes since the 1968 Summer Olympic Games in Mexico City.

He has two major goals for "The Amazing Race."

"I hope we set a standard," he said.

But, more importantly, Van Munster hopes the show makes people less scared to go out into the world. He criticized the news media for creating a climate of fear and for convincing Americans that the world is a dangerous and unfriendly place.

"This is absolutely not true. We get treated everywhere we go, including Arab countries, really well."

"Law & Order: SVU" (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14) returns to its schedule, featuring a familiar face in her first dramatic TV role in more than a decade.

Susan Saint James ("Kate & Allie," "McMillan and Wife") guest stars as defense attorney

Monica Bradshaw alongside "Spin City" alumni Barry Bostwick and Michael Boatman, representing a trio of prep-school students suspected of murder.

Other highlights

- The top-10 female voices compete on "American Idol" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-G).

- Rory remains at the top of her game on "Gilmore Girls" (8 p.m., WB, TV-PG).

- "Nova" (8 p.m., PBS) glances back on dramatic efforts to discover the Northwest Passage, a long-sought link between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

- The hidden-camera show "Hi Jinks" (9:30 p.m., Nickelodeon) returns for a second season.

- A brief honeymoon on "Boston Legal" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

Cult choice

A professional wiretapper (Gene Hackman) feels a moment of remorse and becomes consumed with paranoia in director Francis Ford Coppola's excellent 1974 drama "The Conversation" (8 p.m., TCM).

Series notes

An ambulance explodes under suspicious circumstances on "NCIS" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG, V)

... Howie Mandel hosts "Deal or No Deal" (8 p.m., NBC) ... On two episodes of "According to Jim" (ABC, TV-PG), blackmail (8 p.m.), one for the books (9 p.m.)

On back-to-back episodes of "Scrubs" (NBC, TV-14), a perfect pest (9 p.m.), fine-feathered filth (9:30 p.m.) ... John returns to save his boys on "Supernatural" (9 p.m., WB, TV-14, L, V) ... Lactation desperation on "Girlfriends" (9 p.m., UPN, TV-PG).

Late night

Barbara Walters and Tyler James Williams appear on "Late Show with David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Julie Scardina and Zola on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) ... Stacy Keibler and Three 6 Mafia appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (12:05 a.m., ABC).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

TUESDAY EVENING

FEBRUARY 28, 2006

	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
WTTV	Friends (CC)	Every-Raymond	Gilmore Girls (N) (CC)		Supernatural "Shadow" (N) (CC)	Sex and the City	Will & Grace	Sex and the City	Will & Grace	
WRTV	The Insider (N)	Be a Millionaire	According-Jim	Rodney (N)	According-Jim	George Lopez	Boston Legal "... There's Fire!"	News (CC)	Nightline (11:35)	
WISH	Inside Edition	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Family Secret" (N) (CC)		The Amazing Race 9 "Here We Go, Baby, Off to Win a Million Dollars"		News (CC)	Late Show		
WTHR	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Deal or No Deal (N) (CC)		Scrubs (N) (CC)	Scrubs (N) (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	News (CC)	Tonight Show	
WFYI	Business Rpt.	Across Indiana	Nova Explorer's ships vanish during an expedition. (N) (CC)				Secrets of the Dead (CC)	Tavis Smiley (N)	Fools-Horses	
WNDY	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	America's Next Top Model (CC)		Girlfriends (CC)	Half & Half (CC)	News	Access H'wood	South Park	South Park
WTIU	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Nova Explorer's ships vanish during an expedition. (N) (CC)				Independent Lens "The Loss of Nameless Things"		Charlie Rose (N)	
WHMB	The 700 Club (CC)		Harvest (CC)		High School Basketball Teams to Be Announced.		High School Basketball Teams to Be Announced.			
WCLJ	Dr. Carl Baugh	Against Odds	Behind Scenes	Joyce Meyer	John Hagee	Bill Gaither	Praise the Lord (CC)			
WXIN	The Simpsons	Seinfeld (CC)	American Idol	Female contestants compete. (N)	War at Home		News (CC)	Geraldo Large	Seinfeld (11:05)	Drew Carey
WIPX	Balderdash	Family Feud	Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye (CC)		Early Edition "Luck of the Irish"		Doc "Wedding Bell Blues" (CC)		It's a Miracle	Paid Program
WTBU	Ron Phillips	John Hagee	Rod Parsley	Joni Lamb	Celebration		Joel Osteen (CC)		This Is Your Day	Believer's Voice
A&E	Cold Case Files (CC)		San Francisco Vice (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Murderball (PG-13) (05) *** Documentary. (CC)			
AMC	Smokey and the Bandit (6) ***		The Untouchables (R) (87) ****	Kevin Costner, Robert De Niro. Crime Drama. (CC)			In the Heat of the Night (NR) (87) ****			
AP	The Most Extreme Big cats. (CC)		Wild Rio (N)		The Most Extreme "Wild Parties"		Animals Behaving Badly (CC)		Wild Rio (N)	
BET	106 & Park	BET.com Count	Juice (R) (92) ** Omar Epps, Jermaine Hopkins. Crime Drama.				Comicview		In Living Color	In Living Color
BRAVO	The West Wing (CC)		Inside the Actors Studio "Dave Chappelle" Dave Chappelle. (CC)				Queer Eye for the Straight Guy		Project Runway "Reunion" (CC)	
CNBC	On the Money		Cover to Cover Host Liz Claman.		Mad Money		The Big Idea With Donny Deutsch		Cover to Cover Host Liz Claman.	
CMT	Dukes of Hazzard		Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	20 Sexiest Women		20 Sexiest Men	
CNN	The Situation Room		Paula Zahn Now (CC)		Larry King Live (CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)			
COM	Com.-Presents	Reno 911! (CC)	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Chappelle's	South Park	Distraction (N)	South Park	Daily Show	Colbert Report
DISC	Dirty Jobs	Marble quarry. (CC)	MythBusters "Paper Crossbow"		Dirty Jobs "Chimney Sweeper"		Stunt Junkies	Survivorman	Deadliest Catch	"High Hopes"
EI	EI News (N)	EI News	Anna Nicole Smith: The EI True Hollywood Story				Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Saturday Night Live (CC)	
ESPN	College Basketball LSU at South Carolina. (CC)		College Basketball Illinois at Minnesota. (CC)						SportsCenter (CC)	
ESPN2	Interruption	College Basketball St. Joseph's at Xavier. (CC)			NBA Coast-to-Coast (CC)				Quite Frankly With Smith	
FAM	Smallville "Run" (CC)		Never Been Kissed (PG-13) (99) ** Drew Barrymore, Michael Vartan. Comedy. (CC)				Whose Line?		The 700 Club (CC)	
FNC	Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		Hannity & Colmes (CC)		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
FOOD	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Emeril Live "Emeril's Delmonico"		Kitchen Gadgets of the Future		\$40-a-Day	\$40-a-Day	Iron Chef "Lamb"	
FOXMOV	The Mephisto Waltz (6) (R) (71) **		Frankenstein Unbound (R) (90) *** John Hurt.		Death Hunt (R) (81) ** Charles Bronson, Andrew Stevens. Adventure. (CC)		Monsignor **			
FOXSM	Knockouts	Midwest Sports	Chris Myers	Poker -- Learn	Best Damn Sports Show Period		Knockouts	Sports Report	Sports Report	Best-Sports
FX	The Core (PG-13) (03) ** Aaron Eckhart. Earth's dead core must spin again or humanity will perish.						The Shield "Kavanaugh" (N) (CC)		The Shield "Kavanaugh" (11:07)	
HALL	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		Walker, Texas Ranger "End Run"		Family Plan (05) * Tori Spelling, Jordan Bridges. Comedy. (CC)		M*A*S*H "Pilot"		M*A*S*H (CC)	
HGTV	Curb Appeal	House Hunters	Designed to Sell/Design Remix		Decorating Cnt	Mission: Orgnz	House Hunters	Buy Me	Parents House	Designer Finals
HIST	Modern Marvels "Bulletproof"		Risk Takers/History Makers (N)		Shootout! Capturing killers in Iraq.		Modern Marvels (N) (CC)		UFO Files Kapustin Yar. (CC)	
LIFE	Love Thy Neighbor (NR) (05) Alexandra Paul. Suspense. (CC)				Thy Neighbor's Wife (R) (00) * Kari Wuhrer. Suspense. (CC)				Will & Grace	Will & Grace
MSNBC	Hardball (CC)		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Rita Cosby Live & Direct		Scarborough Country		The Situation With Tucker Carlson	
MTV	Direct Effect		R. Wrld Chal.	R. Wrld Chal.	R. Wrld Chal.	Casting Couch	The Real World "Key West" (N)		True Life	
NICK	Oddparents	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	All Grown Up	Full House (CC)	Hi-Jinks (N)	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Cosby Show
OXY	Point of No Return (6:30) (R) (93) ** Bridget Fonda. Drama.				The Deep End (R) (01) *** Tilda Swinton, Jonathan Tucker. Suspense.				The Ellen DeGeneres Show (CC)	
SCIFI	Army of Darkness (R) (92) ** Bruce Campbell. Horror. (CC)				Alien Apocalypse (NR) (05) Bruce Campbell. Science Fiction. (CC)				Man With the Screaming Brain (05)	
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		King of Vegas "House of Cards"		World's Most Amazing Videos	
TBS	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Seinfeld (10:10)	Seinfeld (10:40)	Little Nicky (11:10) (PG-13) (00) **	
TCM	I Never Sang for My Father (6) (70)		The Conversation (PG) (74) **** Gene Hackman. Suspense.				American Graffiti (PG) (73) ****		Richard Dreyfuss, Paul Le Mat. (CC)	
TLC	Rides "Hollywood Hotrods" (CC)		Overhaulin' Dream convertible.		Overhaulin' (N)		Miami Ink (N)		Miami Ink	
TNT	Law & Order "Locomotion"		Law & Order "Ain't No Love"		Law & Order "The Collar"		The Closer "The Butler Did It"		Cold Case "The Plan" (CC)	
TOON	Foster's Home	Robot Boy	Grim Advent.	Codename: Kid	Ed, Edd n Eddy	Grim Advent.	One Piece (CC)	Dragon Ball Z	Futurama (CC)	Family Guy
TVL	Good Times	Good Times	Little House on the Prairie (CC)		Andy Griffith	Sanford & Son	Good Times	Good Times	Happening!	Cheers (CC)
USA	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)		Training Day (R) (01) *** Denzel Washington, Scott Glenn. Crime Drama. (CC)				Law Order: CI	
VH1	Best of Web Junk		Fabulous Life Of...		The Wedding Singer (PG-13) (98) *** Adam Sandler, Christine Taylor.				The Flavor of Love	
WE	Dharma & Greg	Original Sin (R) (01) * Antonio Banderas, Angelina Jolie, Thomas Jane. Drama.					Secret Lives of Women (CC)		Secret Lives of Women (CC)	
WGN	America's Funniest Home Videos		Da Vinci's Inquest "Ugly Quick"		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		WGN News at Nine (CC)		Sex and the City	Becker (CC)
DISN	Phil of the Future (CC)	That's So Raven (CC)	High School Musical (06) ** Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale. Musical Comedy. Students conspire against two teenage singers. (CC)		American Drgn		Sister, Sister		The Suite Life of Zack & Cody	That's So Raven (CC)
ENC	Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen (6:30) (PG) (04) ** (CC)		West Side Story (NR) (61) **** Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, Russ Tamblyn. Musical. Tragedy clouds the romance of two young lovers. (CC)				Philadelphia (10:35) (PG-13) (93) *** Tom Hanks. Fired by his firm, lawyer with AIDS fights back. (CC)			
HBO	Love and Death on Long Island (6:15) (PG-13) (97) *** John Hurt.		Mrs. Harris (NR) (05) Annette Bening. Biography. Socialite Jean Harris kills her lover, Dr. Herman Tarnower.		Introducing Dorothy Dandridge (9:45) (R) (99) *** Halle Berry. Biography. The black actress is nominated for an Academy Award. (CC)		16 Blocks: HBO		First Look (CC)	
SHOW	The Cookout (PG-13) (04) * Ja Rule. An athlete's mother has a wild barbecue at his mansion. (CC)		Walking Tall (PG-13) (04) ** The Rock. A sheriff and a deputy try to rid their town of thugs. (CC)		Sleeper Cell "Intramural" The cell buys explosives. (CC)		The L Word "Latecomer" Moira wants to be called Max. (CC)			
MAX	Murder at 1600 (6:35) (R) (97) ** Wesley Snipes. The president's son is implicated in a secretary's death.		Ghost Ship (R) (02) * Julianna Margulies. Salvagers are trapped aboard a haunted oceanliner. (CC)		Constantine (R) (05) ** Keanu Reeves, Shia LaBeouf. Fantasy. A man who sees demons helps a cop probe her sister's death. (CC)					
TMC	The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill but Came Down a Mountain (95)		Super Size Me (PG-13) (04) *** A filmmaker eats food from McDonald's for 30 days. (CC)		Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London (9:45) (PG) (04) ** Frankie Muniz. A CIA agent must recover mind-control software. (CC)				8 Heads in a Duffel Bag **	
STARZ	Shall We Dance? (7:10) (PG-13) (04) ** Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon. A husband takes dancing lessons from a beautiful instructor. (CC)		Man of the House (PG-13) (05) ** Tommy Lee Jones, Christina Milian. Comedy. (CC)				Bad Santa (10:45) (R) (03) *** Billy Bob Thornton, Tony Cox, Brett Kelly. Comedy. (CC)			

ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

Jessica Simpson shares meal with governor

Jessica Simpson took a break from filming her latest movie to dine with Gov. Bill Richardson, his wife and others at the governor's mansion.



SIMPSON

Simpson, who is in Santa Fe filming "Employee of the Month," ate with the New Mexico governor last week.

The film is the fifth shot in New Mexico by Lions Gate Entertainment, an independent production and distribution studio.

"The governor feels very strongly about getting involved personally to promote New Mexico's film industry," Richardson spokesman Pahl Shipley said.

Richardson has rolled out the red carpet for other celebrities. Most recently, he dined at the mansion with Irish actor Liam Neeson.

TAIPEI, Taiwan

Gangsta rapper looks to veteran's example

Rapper 50 Cent says he regards Eminem as a role model to help him deal with stardom.

"I kind of look to Eminem to gauge how I should respond to success," the 29-year-old rapper said at a news conference. He was in Taipei for a concert.

"He's had even bigger success than I have in some areas," 50 Cent said. "He's been extremely helpful to me to kind of stay levelheaded."

50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, has been shot nine times and stabbed.

He starred in the 2005 semi-autobiographical film, "Get Rich or Die Tryin'."

His hits include "Outta Control," "Window Shopper" and "Hate It or Love It."

ANCHORAGE, Alaska

Actor's visit promotes movie in Alaska

John Leguizamo will arrive by dog sled at an ice-carving festival in Fairbanks to open a park with characters from the upcoming sequel to his film "Ice Age," officials said.

"How often does Fairbanks, Alaska, have a Hollywood star coming here, in wintertime?" said Dick Brickley, chairman of Ice Alaska, sponsor of the annual World Ice Art Championships kicking off today.

Leguizamo will arrive at an ice stage March 12, officials said Friday. The actor will help Gov. Frank Murkowski cut through an ice ribbon with blow torches.

BAKERSFIELD, Calif.

Road name honors successful rock band

A small stretch of road near Rabobank Arena in Bakersfield, Calif., was renamed to honor hometown Grammy-winning rock group Korn.

An access road to the arena — not an official city street — features a road sign with the name "Korn Row." The "R" in Korn is flipped backward, mimicking the rock group's logo.

Korn's song "Twisted Transistor" has been ranked in the top 10 on Billboard's mainstream rock listing.

Drew Lachey rules ballroom on 'Dancing' CALENDAR

By FRAZIER MOORE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

Drew Lachey leaped to victory on "Dancing with the Stars."

The former 98 Degrees pop singer out-hoofed pro wrestler Stacy Keibler, who many saw as the favored finalist, along with NFL great Jerry Rice, when ABC's ballroom hit wrapped its second season Sunday night, aired live from Los Angeles.

With his professional dancer-partner Cheryl Burke, Lachey wowed the audience with his number: a freestyle routine danced to "Hound Dog," whose big finish had him vaulting over his partner's shoulders.

"This jump is either gonna make us or kill us," Burke said beforehand.

The couple racked up a total score of 27 (out of a perfect 30) from the three-judge panel. Combined with their score from Thursday's pre-finales, this gave them a total of 87 out of 90.

"From week one, you came out on this floor like Wyatt Earp at the OK Corral," judge Len Goodman told Lachey.

But it was viewers, whose vote wielded half the weight, who clinched his win.

In somewhat of a bombshell midway through the two-hour finale, host Tom Bergeron had disclosed that viewer response eliminated the leggy, blond Keibler and her partner, Tony Dovolani, from the competition.



AP PHOTO

Former 98 Degrees pop star Drew Lachey holds up the mirrorball trophy, to the delight of dance partner Cheryl Burke, after they won the "Dancing with the Stars" TV competition Sunday.

They had held a strong second-place position among the judges with 86 points.

Then, in the program's final moments, Bergeron made the grand announcement: Lachey was the choice over Rice.

"Woooooooooooooooo!" yelled Lachey, who gratefully accepted the "Dancing with the Stars" mirror ball trophy (which he had earlier laughingly described as ugly).

"Gentleman Jerry" Rice was gracious in defeat.

Asked if he thought he would get this far, he replied, "No, to be honest with you." After congratulating the winners, he thanked his partner, Anna Trebunskaya, who "kept drilling me, week in and week out."

During the program, all seven of the previously rejected celebrities — ESPN sportscaster Kenny Mayne, actress Tatum O'Neal, news personality Giselle Fernandez, rap star Master P, actress Tia Carrere, tanned ladies' man George Hamilton and talk-show host Lisa Rinna — returned for a final dance with their partners.

The new "Dancing with the Stars" season began with its 10 competitors of sometimes dubious celebrity and clearly varying skill. Each was paired with a professional dancer for the show's grueling choreography and performance regimen.

Then, as the weeks passed, one couple after another was kicked off by joint decision of the judges and viewers.

Receiving a warm welcome from viewers (it ranks seventh in prime time for the season to date), "Dancing" first stepped out as a surprise hit for ABC.