

Getting his two bits in

Governor Davis reveals finalists for state's quarter



Governor Gray Davis submitted five designs depicting some of California's most famous symbols to the U.S. Mint on Monday for the state's commemorative quarter, due to be released in January 2005.

Davis presented the five finalists, selected from 8,000 submissions, before a group of children at **Inner-City Arts** school. The finalists included a collage depicting a Gold Rush miner, a redwood tree and a bear; a collage portraying Golden Gate Bridge, the Hollywood sign, two palm trees and two redwood trees; a scene of the sun peeking over ocean waves; a drawing of environmentalist John Muir walking in Yosemite Valley, and a drawing of a giant sequoia alongside the logo: "The Largest Living Thing on Earth."

"I believe each of these coins captures the heart and spirit of California," Davis told the children. "Each is a unique testament to this magnificent state." [...]

Davis asked the children, most of whom attend extracurricular **Inner-City Arts** school twice a week, to vote for their favorite design by a round of applause. "My ears tell me that you think the golden miner collage should be No. 1 and you think John Muir should be No. 2," he said. [...]

Asked why he chose the sequoia [...], Davis told a reporter: "It's a great source of pride I think to be host to the largest living thing on Earth and if you've ever seen the great sequoias or redwoods, your life will be changed forever."