

WARRIORS GO BIG

SPORTS: Mullin likes
'star quality' of Randolph



COASTAL COCKTAILS

WINE: Do mixed drinks differ
from the West to the East?



LAST ROBOT STANDING

DATEBOOK: 'WALL-E' finds
a friend, Pixar makes a classic



San Francisco Chronicle

★★★★★

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THE SIPPING NEWS

FILM: Merlot's revenge

In the post-"Sideways" years, Merlot lovers have barely been able to show their faces. But filmmaker Rudy McClain unveils his a strong cinematic rebuttal — "Merlove," a documentary defending the grape — to a sell-out crowd tonight at Copia in Napa. With footage shot primarily in Napa Valley and Bordeaux, McClain's tribute features such devoted Merlot lovers as Rubicon Estate's Larry Stone, vineyard owner Andy Beckstoffer and Jean-Claude Berrouet of Chateau Petrus. The invocation of Petrus is a reminder that one of the world's top wines is all Merlot. Also that the current Merlot dis was inspired by a schlubby wannabe novelist. A fictional one. More showings are due at Copia Sept. 5 and at St. Helena's Cameo Theater this summer. It's also due on DVD by early next year. More information and clips at merlove.com.

—J.B.

