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Bayside business: Boom or blunder?

Some officials wonder if Bayside district has seen better days

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Special to the Daily Press

It's a warm afternoon on the Third Street Promenade and a common scene is unfolding. A group of homeless have occupied the central benches between Arizona and Broadway. Bodies and litter are strewn about like confetti.

On her way to lunch, Kathleen Rawson, executive director the Bayside District

Corporation — a non-profit organization that brings together city officials and business owners — witnesses the mayhem and quickly picks up her cell phone to get a maintenance crew to clean up the mess.

Minutes later at the restaurant, Rawson presses the flesh with the owner, briefly continuing their conversation from earlier that afternoon about expanding the business' operation on the Promenade, hinting the deal could possibly avert yet another Starbucks' Café.

And throughout the week, Rawson will talk with reporters from publications and television stations in the Los Angeles area, trying to convey the message that despite recent concerns, the Promenade is still alive and kicking.

"It's really hard to summarize what I do," she says. "A lot of people don't understand what Bayside does, or even what I do for that matter."

Rawson wears three hats — maintenance supervisor, business manager and spokeswoman. Many city officials and downtown business owners will concede that she has come to embody the modern-day scope and mission of Bayside.

"The problem we have right now — I mean our original goals have been met beyond our wildest dreams — is now we have a street that has become so successful that it's a victim of its own success," said Santa Monica City Councilman Herb Katz and also a longtime Bayside member. "The main problem now is dealing with the overly inflated high rents that have resulted from it."

Bayside's historic mission, which is to bridge public and private concerns about downtown business in a non-partisan atmosphere, may be unraveling. Some say unrest between city officials, downtown landlords and business owners may soon boil over into lawsuits.

Landlords are gearing up for a battle



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Water spitting dinosaurs on the Promenade were created out of a public input process so residents could help shape the downtown shopping mall.



Andrew H. Fixmer/Special to the Daily Press
Kathleen Rawson wears many hats as Bayside's executive director.

against the city in an effort to protect their property rights.

Late last year, citing high rents as unfairly forcing out small, locally-owned businesses and restaurants along Third Street, the city council enacted an ordinance that temporarily forbids any space along the Promenade occupied by a restaurant to be leased by any other type of business.

Dozens of restaurants have been forced off the Promenade in recent years, with retail chain stores taking their place. City officials are worried that the Promenade is transforming into another suburban shopping mall. As a result, more regulations on

property owners are looming.

A task force is currently being formed to study the problem and make recommendations to the city council on possible solutions. The task force, much to the dismay of property owners, is comprised of all city officials except for one business representative, who has not yet been selected.

Critics say the city has gone too far by trampling on private ownership and constitutional rights, filling Bayside with political appointees and alienating business owners and landlords in the process. Essentially, the city is trying to regulate

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'Blow' director Demme had cocaine in his system

BY DAISY NGUYEN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Director Ted Demme had cocaine in his system when he collapsed and died from a heart attack on a basketball court last month, and the stimulant may have been a factor in his death, coroner's officials said Saturday.

Demme had thickened heart arteries, and died when a blood clot formed in a heart vessel. The small amount of

cocaine in his body could have been a factor in the fatal heart attack, said Los Angeles County Coroner's Lt. Erick Arbuthnot.

"We've ruled it an accidental death," Arbuthnot said.

Demme, 38, was a nephew of director Jonathan Demme and directed several films himself, including last year's drug drama "Blow."

He was also a television director and won an Emmy for co-producing the civil-rights TV movie "A Lesson

Before Dying" in 1999.

Demme was playing in a charity basketball game at Crossroads, a private school in Santa Monica, on Jan. 13 when he collapsed and died.

A week later he was remembered at the 59th Golden Globe Awards when actor Kevin Spacey asked the audience to toast him.

Demme is survived by his wife, Amanda Scheer-Demme, and the couple's two young children.



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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Although you might have the best intentions, efficiency could go to the wind. The problem surrounds your associates. Their friskiness doesn't allow you to get what you want done. Close your door and screen your calls. You might get something done as a result. Tonight: Hang out with your best friend.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Meetings and networking star on your to-do list. Even if they don't, swing priorities around. You will find others unusually social at the moment. Get together with friends and associates, allowing time to settle down into the extremely social nature of the moment. Tonight: Out and about.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Head into work with the knowledge that you might need to screen calls and close your door to get anything done! Research on the computer might prove to be distracting as well. You have the unique opportunity of testing your self-discipline. Tonight: Do errands on the way home.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Listen to feedback from someone who cares a lot about you. Your ability to communicate comes through in business dealings. Someone might be unusually playful. Work with the energy, maintaining an eye to what you need to accomplish. Tonight: Get physical.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your family might not intend to mix into your work, but somehow it happens. Don't worry about distraction; simply enjoy those close to you. You also might note a more social mood in your office. Opportunities come out of the blue. Good will thrives. Tonight: Mosey on home.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Though you often embody a good work ethic, you might be a little less demanding right now. Some cheer and good will could make all the difference in what goes on. Add your unique blend of humor to a social situation. Tonight: Out and about.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Deal with finances with a heavy dose of responsibility. Not everything happens the way you would like it to. Lighten up about what is going on. Let a child or loved one have the slack he or she needs. Let go of a need to control others. Tonight: Still no risks.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others delight in your presence. A certain close friend or loved one keeps calling and reaching out to you. You could find this person unusually distracting, though quite lovable. Don't get totally waylaid by someone. Do remember a key responsibility. Tonight: Smile and draw in what you want.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Silliness permeates even your best attempts at maintaining business as usual. You might need to pull away from others to get your work done. Certainly screen your calls with the knowledge that you can return them later. Even if you decline being social, you will feel better in the long run. Tonight: Do your thing.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Friends surround you, even at work. You, the workhorse of the zodiac, might decide to be playful and more fun. Even a business meeting might prove to be lots of fun, though you might have an agenda. Don't push right now. Tonight: Find a favorite pal.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Though it's business as usual, you might have a difficult time staying on target. You radiate, more full of fun and naughtiness than usual. Others join in on the convivial mood. Having a serious talk might be close to impossible. Tonight: In the limelight.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your imagination could be a travel film as you drift from one place to another, from one idea to another. Try to detach from intense feelings and gain a better perspective of an emotional matter impacting a relationship and/or finances. Tonight: Let your mind drift.



WEATHER

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Wednesday ...	Mostly Sunny	High—66°F	Low—45°F



QUOTE of the DAY

“The best way to get praise is to die.”

— Italian Proverb

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530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #200 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason . . .sack@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Angela Downen angela@smdp.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Steve Kenedy steve@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jennifer (JT) Tate jt@smdp.com

TEST SUBJECT

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

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LOCAL



Downtown's 'golden days' a thing of past and future

BAYSIDE, from page 1

Capitalism, property owners contend.

"The future of Bayside is whatever the hell the city lets it be, and I don't think the city will ever let it be what it is designed to do," said Ernest Kaplan, founding chairman of Bayside and a Promenade landlord who owns 1351 Third Street, the location of Bayside's office and the now closed Teasers restaurant. "This ain't gonna last as long as the Roman Empire. It needs a benevolent despot, someone to control things impartially, but the city will never let Bayside be that (entity)."

"This ain't gonna last as long as the Roman Empire. It needs a benevolent despot, someone to control things impartially, but the city will never let Bayside be that (entity)."

— ERNEST KAPLAN
Promenade landlord

Rawson, however, does not foresee Bayside taking on that role. To her, the organization is a support network for all downtown business — a conduit through which the city and local entrepreneurs can work together.

"We have an opportunity now to expand what's happening on the Promenade to the side streets. Finally, there is life on Second and Fourth streets too," said Rawson. "These changes need to be fostered. If we don't seize this now, people will get bored and they won't come back. And that's the worst thing we could do."

But people keep returning, regardless of the Promenade's lack of dining establishments. Even during the recent economic slowdown it is estimated that 20,000 people pass through downtown Santa Monica each day. A recent poll revealed that nearly 80 percent of residents visit downtown at least once a week. The downtown core has become one of the city's largest revenue sources, bringing in millions of dollars in sales and property taxes.

"It made me so mad when the LA Business Journal said Santa Monicans avoid the Promenade like San Franciscans avoid the wharf," Rawson said. "Our residents do come downtown, they do shop at home and they are proud of their city."

From rags to riches

More than 37 years ago, Third Street was like any other commercial district in America. Small local retailers and restaurants intermingled with nationwide chains like JC Penny and Sears.

But then the Pedestrian Mall Act of 1965 provided an incentive to close the street to automobile traffic and provided \$7.5 million to build six parking structures, expand sidewalks, and install planters and fountains.

However, consumers didn't embrace the concept. Often times planters prevented people from accessing storefronts and the

fountains became public baths for the city's homeless population.

"It was very seedy," said Rawson.

"It wasn't even safe during the day," Katz said.

The Pedestrian Mall Act of 1965 ended up a complete failure everywhere it was attempted. When Santa Monica Place opened around 1981, Third Street was in its economic death throws, and all the remaining life on the street was vacuumed up, along with any remaining successful stores.

What happened next varies depending on who's telling the story.

According to former councilman and mayor Denny Zane, his group, the Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, won a 5-2 majority on the city council with a campaign pledge to stabilize rents and revitalize Third Street, and the Santa Monica Pier. Essentially, he said, SMRR could force through any changes they wanted.

According to Katz and Kaplan, a truce was struck between politicians, business owners, and landlords to re-take control of their downtown.

In either version, around 1984, a two-year public input process on Third Street was begun so residents could help shape the city's commercial core. The Third Street Development Corporation, the precursor to Bayside, was created as a public-private partnership to oversee redevelopment of the area and to foster the long-term viability of the district.

To officials the idea was simple: Give the street a feeling of life and the rest will follow. Every concept was drawn directly from that principle. Outdoor dining was created to give the street a European ambiance. Street carts were added to blend indoor and outdoor shopping. Fountains were given spigots and shooting water displays. And most importantly, street musicians and artists were drawn in and heavily regulated.

"Street performers are an absolute necessity for the success of the Promenade," said Rawson. "The city has spent a lot of time and money developing a strict street performance ordinance."

The concept was groundbreaking because it was untested. At the time, business was regulated by government; not partners with it. Analysts and many business owners gave the project very low odds of success.

"The Promenade confounded all of the models of business around the world at the time," said Zane.

In 1986, the city moved forward with a \$13 million project to build more parking downtown and replace all the planters, fountains and benches with its present-day inception.

When the street opened two years later, throngs of people showed up for the opening and stayed throughout the coming years.

"The street was brand new but many of the shops had to catch up," said Rawson. "They still looked like small town America."

The public was invited to vote on art sculptures that would adorn the Promenade and conceptual drawings were placed in stores along the street for people to vote.

"We think a lot of kids voted because we ended up with dinosaurs as our theme," said Rawson. "It doesn't really fit with the city, but they have become an icon for us."

About the same time four movie theaters were planning to open mega-plexes in the far corners of the city. Seeing a chance to create more foot traffic on the Promenade,



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Street performers like this singing group, who entertained during Saturday's farmer's market, are the life blood of the Promenade and are vital to its success, officials say.

the city council nixed theater owners' plans and changed zoning laws so that movie theaters could only be built downtown.

"We knew they would be good generators and we knew we wanted them all spaced out to keep traffic from bunching up in one area," said Zane. "Movie theaters became the centerpiece and catalyst of revitalization."

"There have been so many more years of depressed times than boom times. People think that property owners are trying to turn a quick buck, but these are the people who have been through it all."

— KATHLEEN RAWSON
Bayside District Corp. executive director

Not long after, restaurants and cafes moved in to take advantage of the after-movie crowds. And after that, retailers

moved in to take advantage of the after-dinner crowds.

Revitalization to regulation

Once the people started coming in droves, the city council and Bayside wanted to prevent the Promenade from becoming dominated by either movie houses or restaurants — the two prevailing economic forces at the time.

By 1991, ordinances were created to cap the number of restaurant seats allowed in the city to 1,700 and it set specific percentages of restaurant concentration on each block. Both laws are still on the books today. However, until recently, city officials never thought to limit the number of retailers on each block.

"Slowly retailers who moved in found the space was one of the most profitable of any store in the chain," said Zane. "News began to spread and nationwide retailers began moving in not just to make money but to create a showcase store. At first it was about making money, but then it became almost like showing off."

As retailers vied for the limited space on Third Street, rents began to skyrocket and force small businesses and restaurants off the Promenade. That is now the problem the city and Bayside must address.

Nationwide retailers bought up many smaller stores, combining them into larger spaces. This trend compounded rent pressures by further limiting the number of store

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LOCAL

Landlords feeling the squeeze from city

BAYSIDE, from page 3

fronts, increasing demand even higher.

"When we limited movie theaters and restaurants, nobody even thought to address retailers," said Zane. "At that time, there was no real interest in moving onto the Promenade."

As restaurants moved off the main drag to cheaper spaces on the side streets, city officials saw their central theme of pedestrian foot traffic being threatened. If outdoor dining all but disappeared, would the after-movie crowds stick around, they asked.

"When we limited movie theaters and restaurants, nobody even thought to address retailers."

— DENNY ZANE

Former Santa Monica mayor

unlike the previous ordinances which were agreed to by both businesses and Santa Monica officials through the work of Bayside.

Now that Bayside has been corrupted, he says, there can be no agreement; only a directive from City Hall on how business can be conducted downtown.

"This latest ordinance is based on what the city wants," said Kaplan. "They came in and said 'do what we say or we'll make you do what we say' and sure enough when the landlords resisted they're trying to tie our hands."

Rawson understands landlord's frustrations toward the city council.

"There have been so many more years of depressed times than boom times. People think that property owners are trying to turn a quick buck, but these are the people who have been through it all," she said. "Yeah, the city invested \$13 million into fixing up the Promenade and making it what it is today, but by our estimates there has also been nearly \$500 million of private tenant improvements made as well."

Golden days to come?

Most officials agree that if the proper mix of retail, restaurants and entertainment on the Promenade is maintained it can't fail. What they couldn't agree upon were the exact dates of the "golden days," when the Promenade was as close to perfection as possible.

To Zane the best time was just before a large retail conglomerate bought up about eight properties along the street, he said.

"Around 1995, a handful of national chains moved in, replacing local retailers and restaurants," he said. "That's when the whole switch to corporate retail and largely catering to a tourist, instead of local, market occurred."

For Kaplan, the golden years were from 1984 when the idea was first being created until 1987 when he says the city council began politicizing Bayside.

"Looking back, those were the years of more progress than not," he said. "At the end of my reign I kept having to teach new appointees the history of how the Promenade came to be. Honestly, I think some of them woke up one morning with it and thought it had always existed."

Rawson, on the other hand, looks to the future. She admits the Promenade has had some good days, but she says the golden ones are still around the corner.

"If this place was empty I would say we need to go through a whole redo of the entire idea. I would say something really drastic has to be done," she said. "But it's not empty. People are still coming. All we are doing is taking out another insurance policy to make sure the mix stays the same and the Promenade remains successful."

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Federal work force looking to recruit more Hispanics

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Uncle Sam wants you — especially if you are Hispanic.

This group makes up 13 percent of the population and 11 percent of the private sector work force. But Hispanics account for just 7 percent of the federal payroll.

The government's top recruiters want that to change — to better reflect the country's shifting demographics and to reach out to the Latino population.

The growth in the Hispanic community during the 1990s exceeded all previous Census Bureau forecasts, and Hispanics now rival blacks as the nation's largest minority group.

During that decade, Hispanic immigration soared from the nation's urban centers to rural towns in the Midwest and South. Both Democrats and Republicans see winning the

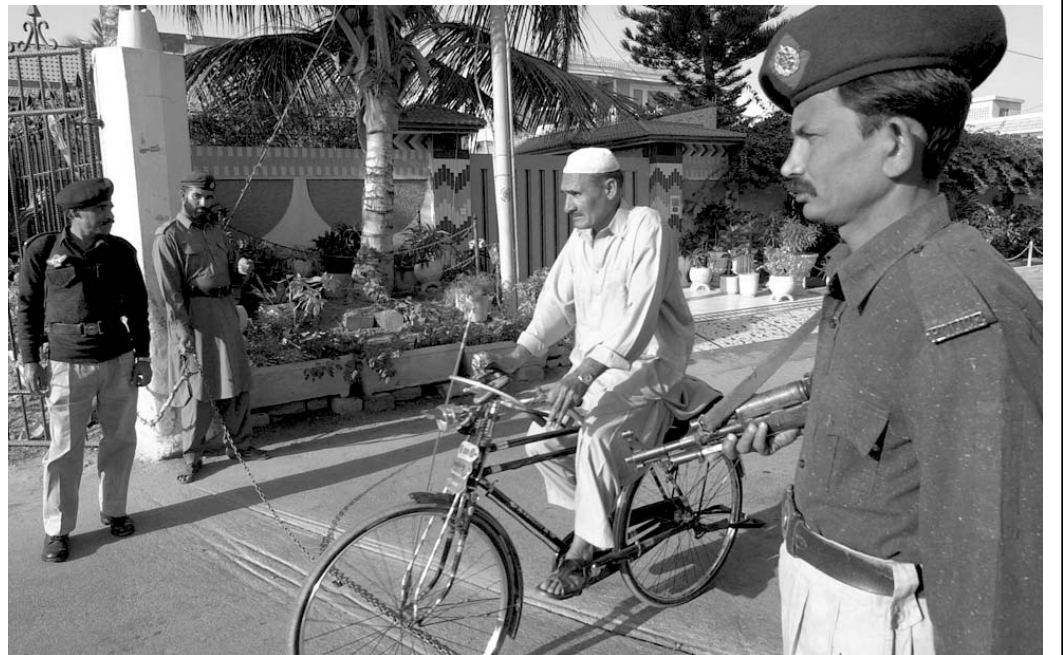
Latino vote as crucial for success in this year's midterm elections and in 2004.

So is politics a factor in stepping up recruiting of Hispanics?

"I can assure you that is not the case," said Kay Coles James, director of the Office of Personnel Management. "It's just good government."

"Whether it's for political reasons or other reasons, it needs to be done now," said Larry Gonzalez, executive director of the Washington office of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials. "The bottom line for our community is that they want to see folks (in government) who look like them."

The 2000 census showed that 31 percent of Americans consider themselves a minority, compared with about 20 percent two decades earlier. Race statistics before 2000, however, are not directly comparable because of a change in the way the Census Bureau collects such data.



Zia Mazhar/Associated Press

Police officers stand guard outside the residence of Daniel Pearl, reporter of the Wall Street Journal, in Karachi, Pakistan. Hundreds of Pakistani police searched cemeteries for evidence of the fate of kidnapped reporter, but had discovered nothing to back an e-mail claim that the American had been killed and his body dumped in a graveyard.

Illegal immigration during the 1990s played a big role in boosting the Hispanic population. A preliminary bureau estimate placed the number of undocumented Hispanic immigrants at more than 5 million, nearly 4 million from Mexico. The numbers include those in "quasi-legal" status, such as refugees or those seeking asylum.

U.S. citizenship is required for federal employment, which could be a barrier to administration recruiting goals.

"Unfortunately, there's no room for flexibility for hiring there," said Cecilia Munoz, vice president of the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic advocacy group. "That's a problem in all fields."

Maps of ground zero go on display in SoHo

BY JOHN JURGENSEN
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — When smoke still poured out of the remains of the World Trade Center, maps helped impose order on the chaos. High-tech imagery put the devastation into a perspective that photography and even the human eye could not capture.

Months later, ground zero has turned into an excavation site, and some of these maps and images have undergone a transformation as well. They are now works of art.

"Charting Ground Zero: Before and After," a show that opened Friday at the Woodward Gallery in SoHo, features the analytical tools that were as essential to the recovery effort as cranes, dump trucks and blowtorches.

Within days of the attack, planes equipped with sophisticated sensors were aloft, blanketing the area with laser pulses. The sensors marked the

exact location where each pulse touched down as well as the time it took to bounce back. Using this data, computers then calculated the elevation of every surface feature, creating a relief map of a landscape still engulfed in smoke and fire.

The 3-D images yielded by this technology, known as LIDAR, or light detection and ranging, helped planners navigate safe pathways onto the pile and firefighters orient themselves within its nightmarish topography.

They also provide some of the most striking images in the gallery's presentation. The neat geometry of the visual data — and the Life Saver hues that indicate elevation — stand in contrast to the stark, smoky reality of aerial photographs hanging nearby.

Other maps are simpler, more utilitarian. One map locates petroleum storage tanks on the skewed grid of lower Manhattan. Red indicates a rupture; yellow tanks are intact.

Some pieces were created without

a specific function in mind. For example, a black and white photograph of the standing twin towers overlaid with the colored LIDAR depiction of their ruins would not be out of place among other works of art. It's like a ghostly X-ray, a premonition.

"There are elements of beauty" in the maps, "but it's extraordinary destruction that you're looking at as well," Ahearn said before the show's opening on Friday. "I'd rather see it as a combination of art, science and education."

In the urgent aftermath of Sept. 11, the maps were instruments of analysis. They were tacked to the walls of command centers. They ran in newspaper pages around the world. They helped delineate the realities of the disaster, gave it dimensions.

Now, hanging in a gallery within walking distance of ground zero, the maps serve as instruments of reflection.

"Charting Ground Zero: Before and After" runs at the Woodward Gallery on Broome Street through Feb. 28.

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Lawsuit accuses Apple Computer of 'planned obsolescence'

By The Associated Press

CUPERTINO, Calif. — Apple Computer Inc. faces a lawsuit alleging it misled consumers and made low-quality software upgrades for older computers to "accelerate a deliberate policy of planned obsolescence."

According to the proposed class-action suit filed Wednesday in Superior Court in Los Angeles, the Cupertino-based company encouraged customers in 1998 and 1999 to buy their latest PowerPC G3 computers, while promising the units would be capable of running

Apple's next-generation operating system called OS X.

The company also said OS X would be "fully optimized" to run on those G3 models.

But Apple, which released Mac OS X last year, broke both promises, the lawsuit alleges.

"Computers have a short life span compared to other assets — that's for sure. But when a company makes claims to spur sales, they ought to live up to their claims," said Thomas Ferlauto on Friday. He is one of four named plaintiffs and a Los Angeles attorney in the case.

Apple declined to comment on the pending litigation.



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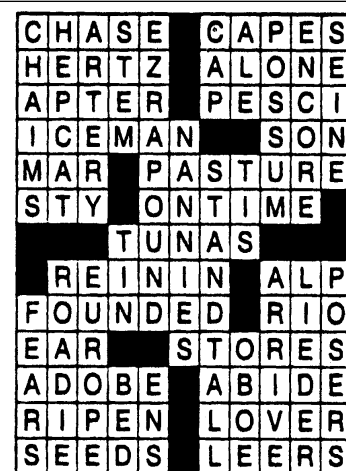


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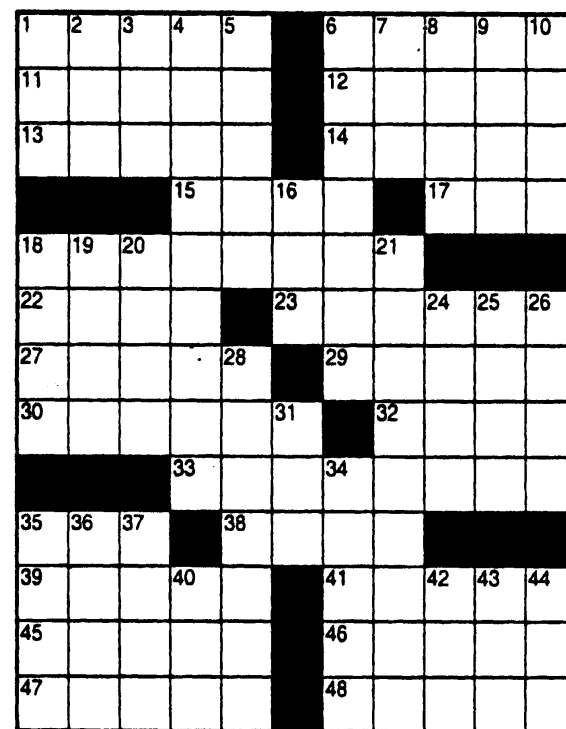
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 - Island dance
 - Hexes
 - Jeremy of "Reversal of Fortune"
 - Pig's nose
 - Alphabet unit
 - Granny
 - Ordinary
 - Life story, for short
 - Demonic
 - Jingle writer
 - Identified
 - Inclined
 - Scoundrel
 - Best Picture of 1955
 - Car type
- DOWN**
- Break
 - Had dinner
 - Small-time
 - "Frasier" pooch
 - Major collisions
 - Historic time
 - Cincinnati team
 - Patella's place
 - Transmitted
 - Music buys
 - Silvers of the screen
 - Tempt
 - Scads
 - Beatles song
 - Cargo amount
 - Moon goddess
 - Don't budge
 - High highway speed
 - Gun the engine
 - Skating sites
 - Ointment
 - Concept
 - Writer Khayyam
 - Tiny worker
 - Furious
 - Zsa Zsa's sister
 - Comfy room



Saturday's answer

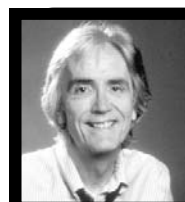
- Beatles song
- Cargo amount
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- High highway speed
- Gun the engine
- Skating sites
- Ointment
- Concept
- Writer Khayyam
- Tiny worker
- Furious
- Zsa Zsa's sister
- Comfy room



- DOWN**
- Donkey

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Pedophile loses legislature campaign

Right-to-Life Party candidate Richard Hobbs, 47, overwhelmingly lost his campaign for the legislature of Westchester County, N.Y., in November, probably because it got out that he was a twice-convicted pedophile; he told reporters that he didn't think the convictions were relevant to the campaign because "there are no children at the county legislature." And San Francisco election officials denied any misconduct in counting the November ballots on the initiative that would have authorized public seizure of PG&E electric utility lines (which lost by only a few hundred votes); among the alleged irregularities: ballot-box lids blown off, 240 uncounted ballots stuck in a machine, 400 blank ballots found at a pollworker's house, and 5,500 absentee ballots quixotically moved from a heavily guarded room to a lightly guarded one on election night.

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BACK PAGE

National Gallery shows first survey of Christo's sculpture

BY CARL HARTMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — How does a museum put on a show for an artist when one of his typical works included 2,050 panels of fabric? It was called "Running Fence" and stretched more than 24 miles across two California counties.

Answer: It takes imagination — and a lot of patience.

Thinking big and creating big are what distinguish the collaboration of Christo, the man who specializes in oversized art, and his wife of more than 40 years, Jeanne-Claude.

They're developing two new projects now: to hang seven miles of a silvery canopy over a rafters' river in Colorado; and to erect 11,000 steel frames over the walkways in New York's Central Park, with panels of saffron-colored nylon streaming from them.

What his projects look like can be seen in 61 Christo drawings, models, lithographs and early works, the first survey exhibit in the United States devoted to his sculpture. They were given to the National Gallery of Art by Herbert and Dorothy Vogel, who assembled the biggest collection of Christo works in the United States.

The exhibit opens at the gallery Sunday and remains until June 23.

Before he starts either of his new works, Christo will need to get permission from the government's Bureau of Land Management for Colorado; and from New York City's Parks Department for Central Park.

Getting needed permits for a Christo work often takes longer than building it. One of the couple's most recent was to drape 1,076,000 square feet of aluminum-coated

cloth over the Reichstag, Germany's parliament building in Berlin, which they began planning in 1971 and completed in 1995.

"The money comes from the sale of works — indoor works — that we own, created by the hand of Christo who works alone in his studio."

— JEANNE-CLAUDE
Christo's wife

"We were tortured through 25 years and six presidents of the Bundestag," Jeanne-Claude told a new conference this week. "It proves one thing: politicians go; art remains." The Bundestag, modern Germany's parliament, moved back into the pre-World War II Reichstag when the government moved back to Berlin from Bonn, former capital of West Germany, in 1999.

The Reichstag remained wrapped for two weeks in 1995, and 5 million people went to see it. The artists refused a request to extend the exhibition. Jeanne-Claude calculated they spent \$13 million on the project over the years and paid \$150,000 rent "to the German nation" for permission to do the job.

"We spend everything we have to build our projects" she said. "The money comes from the sale of works —

indoor works — that we own, created by the hand of Christo who works alone in his studio."

Jeanne-Claude said their outdoor works are collaborations, but indoor works are by Christo alone.

"I do not know how to draw," she explained but said she handles all the couple's dealings with accountants.

Born in Bulgaria, Christo — full name: Christo Vladimirov Javacheff — trained at the Sofia Fine Arts Academy, then in Vienna and in Paris. He and Jeanne-Claude de Guillebon, who was born in Morocco, were born on the same day, June 13, 1935. They met in Paris and now are citizens of the United States, living in a fifth-floor walk-up in downtown Manhattan.

The Reichstag package was the culmination of Christo's early career in wrapping things: statues, oil drums, even a small section of Australia's coastline. Mocking his own specialty, he once sent a fellow artist a package with a note inside to say that the addressee had destroyed a work of art in opening it.

In a reporters' tour of the Washington exhibit, Christo explained that he wrapped a lot of recent history in his Reichstag project: the great fire that gave Adolf Hitler an excuse for taking broad power in Germany; its bombardment and capture by the Soviets at the end of World War II; and its uncertain status in the postwar years on the border of the divided capital, visible from both West Berlin and the Communist-controlled eastern part of the city.

The Reichstag was restored before the Bundestag, united Germany's federal parliament, moved in.

Christo's full title for the wrapped Reichstag incorporates the inscription on the building's facade: "To the German People."

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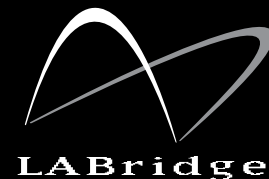
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