

South Bay News

Mall Planned at Speedway Site

■ **Development:** A Torrance developer wants to convert the Ascot Park auto race track to a massive retail center.

By CLAY EVANS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A Torrance developer plans to convert the Ascot Park speedway in Harbor Gateway into a retail complex, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Joan Milke Flores disclosed Thursday in a speech to the Harbor City/Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce.

In a decidedly upbeat "state of the city" address, Flores also lauded the Los Angeles Police Department's Harbor Division for its innovative anti-gang efforts and said she supports establishing separate postal ZIP codes to help create an identity for the two Los Angeles communities.

Howard Mann of Torrance-based Andrex Development Co. confirmed that he is close to signing a 99-year lease on the Vermont Avenue property, which has been an auto race track since 1957. He said preliminary plans for a proposed commercial center are in the hands of city building officials.

"We are talking about 500,000 or 550,000 square feet of retail space," Mann said. "Large-volume retail discount centers are the kinds of tenants that would be appropriate."

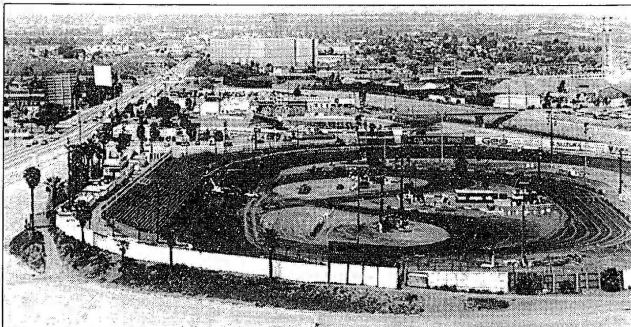
Mann has developed several

business and office complexes around the South Bay in recent years, including the 50-acre Andrex Point business park at the intersection of the Harbor and San Diego freeways not far from the raceway. Last fall, he bucked convention when he opened the upscale Paradise restaurant in that complex.

In her speech, Flores called Mann's proposed development a "dynamic change" and said: "The center will allow both residents and business workers of the gateway to shop in their own neighborhood."

Richard and Lillian Ziegler, owners of the 36-acre Ascot property just south of Artesia Boulevard, said Thursday that Mann has

Please see HARBOR, B4



HARRY CHASS / Los Angeles Times

A 500,000-square-foot shopping area is proposed for the Ascot Park speedway in Harbor Gateway.

Gay, Lesbian Day Is Held at Loyola Marymount

By GEORGE HATCH
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A student group at Loyola Marymount University on Thursday staged the Jesuit school's first lesbian and gay awareness day—a major test for university policy toward the group, the Alliance of Gays and Lesbians.

The awareness day came two months after the alliance failed to win official university recognition. The events included readings by gay and lesbian poets, a panel discussion on homophobia and an information fair on Alumni Mall.

The administration refused in February to give the alliance formal club status, but pledged to allow the group to use the university's "facilities, services and staff." University authorities gave their consent to the awareness day and played a role in its planning.

Student reaction ranged from praise to disapproval. Passing the information tables on Alumni Mall Thursday, students displayed a variety of opinions on how far the university should go in accommodating gays and lesbians.

Tim White, a junior majoring in marketing, said the student organizers have a right to hold campus events—but should not be granted their request for official university recognition.

"I don't believe it's morally right," White said as he strode along the mall. "It's a Catholic university, and that's a big reason people have chosen this school. . . . There are certain things the school shouldn't allow."

William Brown, a senior majoring in history, had a different view. Stopping at the information tables on his way across campus, Brown said: "There are a lot of gays on campus. I think the awareness and recognition that they contribute something should be here."

Some had no opinion. Said a chemistry major who declined to be quoted by name: "It sounds apathetic, but I really don't think about it. I'm concerned about trying to survive my courses, and get myself through college, and hopefully pay for it all in the end."

The most visible of Thursday's scheduled events was the information fair, which featured literature-laden tables sponsored by 11 groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, the Orange County Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and the Los Angeles chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

The presence of off-campus groups at the information fair sparked disagreement between alliance president James Munselle and school authorities. Lane Bove, the university's vice president for student affairs, said the school consented to the awareness day on that condition that outside groups be barred from setting up information tables on the mall.

"I'm always looking at how to achieve a goal with the least amount of disruption possible," Bove said in an interview.

Munselle said Bove told him the condition was necessary to avoid "stepping on conservative toes." He said he decided to call the groups onto campus anyway because school authorities failed to write him a letter he requested explaining their position.

Bove said the university would continue cooperating with the alliance, but she appeared annoyed by the move. "James and I will cer-

Please see GAY, B6

Career Day Helps Girls Shed Job Stereotypes

By JANET RAE-DUPREE
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Lucie Mundy, 18, used to dream about finding the perfect husband to take care of her while she raised their children. Now, as she plans her teaching career, she has no intention of relying on a man.

Christine Kim, 16, wants to be a psychiatrist or social worker. She says marriage will have to wait until after she turns 29.

Laura Collins, 17, plans to study either civil engineering or physical therapy at UCLA.

Although she would like to marry someday, she first plans to achieve her own financial security.

While Torrance school officials are pleased that these three young women are making plans for an independent future, they fear that too many of their female peers are not.

On Tuesday, officials staged the district's seventh Career Day

for High School Girls, featuring women workers from a jetliner mechanic and a spacecraft inspector to an advertising executive and a talent agent.

"The main thing we're trying to tell them is, when you're planning on what you're going to do with the rest of your life, don't count on Prince Charming," said Dee Whipple, a volunteer from the American Assn. of University Women, who has been involved in each of the career days.

"The other thing we're trying to tell them is, you don't have to be a secretary. You don't have to be a hairdresser," Whipple said.

The conference, funded in part by a "sex equity grant" from the State Department of Education, focused on women speakers who work in male-dominated fields.

"This gives the girls the idea that they can do not just what people have told them they can do, but what they decide they want to do," said school board President Owen Griffith. "In the health services field, they typically think of being nurses. We want them to realize that they can be doctors, too."

The message appeared to get across to at least some of the 300 teen-age girls.

Asked which of the speakers' Please see CAREERS, B6



Advertising executive Colleen McCloud shows students her gift from broadcast magnate Ted Turner.



BRIAN VANDER BRUG / Los Angeles Times
Katie Pandolfo, left, Sarah Stephens, Jenny Sargent at speech.



BRIAN VANDER BRUG / Los Angeles Times
Some of 300 female students at career day learn about traditionally male-dominated fields.

Hawthorne Police Prostitution Sting Produces 45 Arrests

■ **Crime:** Shopkeeper complaints about illicit activities along Imperial Highway near the airport prompted the crackdown.

By KIM KOWSKY
TIMES STAFF WRITER

In the latest of a series of sting operations designed to curtail prostitution and related crime along a blighted stretch of Imperial Highway, Hawthorne police on Wednesday arrested 45 men on suspicion of soliciting women for sex.

The area, which borders Los Angeles International Airport and is less than a mile from the Great Western Forum and Hollywood Park, has been a haven of prostitution and drug deals for several years, police said.

Wednesday's sting, which used four female police officers as de-

coys, was the third major undercover operation of its kind since January and resulted in a record number of arrests, police said.

"It's definitely a 365-day-a-year problem," Hawthorne Police Sgt. John Beering said Thursday. "[The stings] won't eliminate prostitution, but [they] might start sending out the message that Hawthorne is not the place to be."

The men were lured into a hotel room off Hawthorne Boulevard between noon and 9:30 p.m. by four female officers posing as prostitutes. The four were wired with hidden microphones. Two of the officers were on loan from the El Segundo and Gardena police departments because Hawthorne has a shortage of female officers trained in undercover tactics, Beering said.

As men drove up to the undercover officers to make an offer, a video camera hidden in a van across the street recorded the exchange. The cameras followed the

Please see STING, B6

Rohrabacher Vastly Outpends Democratic Challengers in Race

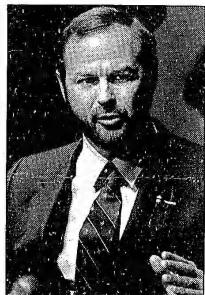
By GEORGE HATCH
TIMES STAFF WRITER

As a pair of low-budget Democratic candidates fight for the right to challenge him in the Nov. 6 election, U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Lomita) has been quickly raising and spending campaign cash at a rate of more than \$15,000 a month.

In a statement filed with the Federal Elections Commission this week, Rohrabacher reported \$54,131 in contributions and \$50,607 in expenditures for the first three months of the year. His cash on hand as of March 31 amounted to \$95,053.

By contrast, the two Democrats scheduled to compete in the June 5 primary—computer newsletter publisher Jim Cavuoto of Torrance and political science instructor Guy Kimbrough of Huntington Beach, said they have accumulated less than \$5,000 each.

Neither of the Democrats filed quarterly campaign finance statements, which are required for federal candidates only if their fund raising or spending has surpassed \$5,000.



Los Angeles Times

U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher

But both men predicted they would cross that threshold this week. Kimbrough said he would raise \$15,000 during the primary campaign and, assuming he wins his party's nomination, \$135,000 for

Please see SPEND, B5

3 Unions Await Vote Results in Inglewood School District

By MARC LACEY
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Three unions that have been waging a bitter battle for almost a year to represent non-teaching employees in Inglewood's schools will find out the employees' choice next week when state labor officials tally ballots that have been impounded for months.

The controversy began last May when the Inglewood Teachers Assn. filed a decertification petition with the Public Employment Relations Board to take over representation of classified employees from

the current union, the California School Employees Assn.

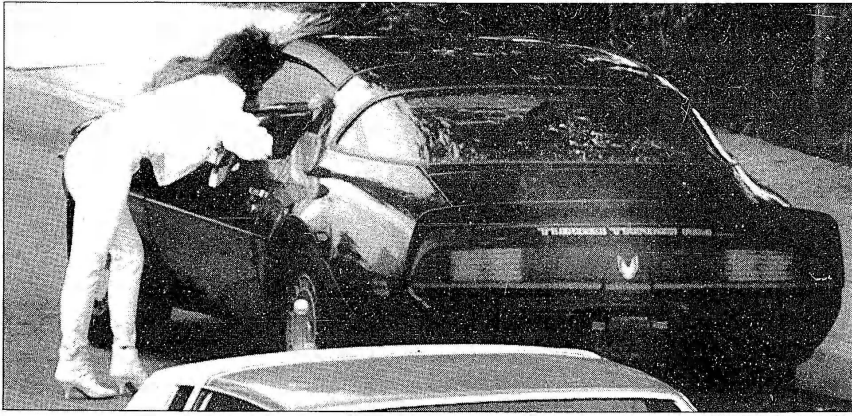
A week later, California Professional Education Employees, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO known as CalPro, also filed decertification papers with state labor officials.

CSEA, which has represented the approximately 500 classified employees in Inglewood for more than three decades, appealed both decertification attempts on the grounds that they contained irregularities that made them illegal. The classified employees include aides, peace officers, truck drivers,

Please see UNIONS, B5

STING: 45 Arrested in Prostitution Crackdown

Continued from B3 suspects to the hotel room where a group of officers waited to arrest them. In each case, the suspect approached the undercover officer first, Beerling said. "These guys have plenty of opportunity to back out of the deal," Beerling said. "We wait until they come to the hotel room and are sincere [about] following through with the act before we arrest them." The men ranged in age from 18 to 71, and about half of them live or work in Hawthorne. About a dozen men listed neighboring companies, such as Hughes, TRW and Northrop as their places of employment, Beerling said. Many were on their lunch breaks when they were arrested, he said. "Only one of the men even mentioned safe sex and none had condoms in their possession," Beerling added. All but two were married. Police expect the city attorney's office to file charges against the men by Friday. Upon conviction, first-time offenders face a year of probation, a \$600 fine and mandatory testing for the AIDS virus, he said. Police said two other men were



Undercover police officer speaks with a motorist on Imperial Highway near Hawthorne Boulevard during sting operation.

arrested on suspicion of robbery after they snatched a necklace off a man walking to work at a nearby restaurant. A woman also was arrested on suspicion of prostitution after she allegedly approached a male undercover police officer who was attached to the sting operation. Complaints from shopkeepers along Imperial Highway—especially since the Century Freeway

has been under construction—prompted the department to focus time and money on ridding the area of prostitution, Hawthorne Police Chief Stephen Port said. "We've done [prostitution stings] on and off over the years, but I've asked the officers to plan to impact prostitution in a variety of ways during each working month," Port said. Ralph Heredia, who has owned R & L Liquor on Imperial Highway

for the past 18 years, said he has complained several times about the drug dealers and prostitutes who frequent the street corner nearby. But, Heredia said, he has only recently noticed a change for the better. "It was terrible. You couldn't even walk in the street. Everyone was afraid to even park their car in the lot," Heredia, 57, said. "Not because of the prostitutes, but because of the people hanging

around them. But since they picked up the prostitutes, it seems like everything went back to normal." Johnny Jo, 33, owner of Snappy Food Market a block away, blamed the small motels that cater to prostitutes for the area's problems. "I don't think they [city officials] should issue little hotel and motel licenses anymore," Jo said. "The hotels that do business with prostitutes—that's the problem."

CAREERS: Learning About Job Opportunities

Continued from B3 jobs appealed to her most, 16-year-old Suzanne Kelly raised her voice to a cheer. "The mechanic," she said, raising her fists over her head and shaking her long, blond hair exuberantly. "Seeing a woman in charge of 18 men and supervising everything they do proves that this woman's lib thing is working. . . . There are so many options open

now. Instead of me working under some man, I can be working over some man." Many have long been used to the idea that they can do whatever they set their minds to do. Collins, who will graduate from North High School this June and then attend UCLA on a basketball scholarship, laughed when told that school officials worry that girls her age are waiting for a

knight in shining armor to come along and sweep them off their feet. "I want to get married someday, but I want to make my own money," Collins said. But many girls said their friends are counting on being housewives. "You ask them, 'What are you going to do after high school?' and they say, 'Go to college,'" said Kim, the 16-year-old who plans to

postpone marriage. "Then you ask them, 'What about after college?' and they say, 'Oh, I'm going to get married and have four kids,' and they mean it!" Kim and her friends said they find themselves fighting stereotypes set up by the media. "I told my dad I didn't want to get married until I'm 29 or so, and he nearly died," she said. "He said, 'What? No one will want you. You'll be too old!'"

GAY

Continued from B3 tainly have a conversation about today and how we go about planning things." Tensions between the alliance and the administration have been high since Feb. 15, when university President James Loughran turned down the group's request for official school recognition. Loughran issued an unsigned statement saying the university "cannot endorse or condone . . . a sexually active homosexual lifestyle." He agreed to allow the alliance to meet on campus and use the school's facilities, services and staff, however, and he urged the university community to "support those among us who happen to be homosexual."

But the conciliatory moves did not satisfy the alliance. A week after Loughran's announcement, 50 students picketed his office, chanting: "Two, four, six, eight, God does not discriminate." Visiting the information fair Thursday, Jeanne Curry, a Loyola Marymount philosophy professor, said events such as awareness day will not compensate for the alliance's lack of official recognition. "I don't think the university is going far enough to help these kids. I wish they would recognize them," Curry said. "The university is keeping a distance from these students, and that contributes to the isolation that they experience everywhere in society, including on campus."

SOUTH BAY DIGEST / LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Third Suspect Arrested in Drug Sting

A third suspect has been arrested in connection with a state investigation into drug dealing at Besties, a popular Hermosa Beach pub, an Alcoholic Beverage Control drug agent said Thursday. Dan Lee Manning, a 33-year-old patron at the Hermosa Avenue bar, was arrested Wednesday outside his Hermosa Beach home, said ABC Investigator Phil Henry. The self-employed plumber was charged with selling cocaine at the bar to an undercover agent last summer, Henry said. Manning's arrest is the most recent in a series stemming from a months-long undercover investigation at Besties and a number of other bars in the South Bay, Henry said. Last week, authorities arrested the bar-tender, Mark Winstorburgh, and an occasional maintenance man and regular patron of the bar, Rogelio Gutierrez Reyes. At least two more warrants are outstanding, Henry said.

He would not say whether arrests would be forthcoming from other bars targeted in the sting. Besties owner Robert McAlinden has denied any knowledge of drug dealing in his establishment. A member of the city's Restaurant and Tavern Owners Assn.—formed last year to counteract bad publicity after a police crackdown on underage drinking—McAlinden said that in the past few months he has done everything from hiring off-duty police as doormen to ordering closed-circuit video cameras to help discourage improprieties. "I can't believe this is happening," he said. "We're a nice, family bar."

El Segundo Awards Contract on Library

The El Segundo City Council on Tuesday awarded a \$3-million contract for work that will more than double the size of the public library at 111 W. Mariposa Ave. The work, by P.W. Construction Inc., includes renovation of the existing 13,600-square-foot library, construction of a 15,600-square-foot addition and landscaping of the library grounds. According to officials, the project will expand the size of the reference area, the children's library and the library book stacks. A community meeting room will also be provided. Work is to begin in June and will take 18 months to complete.

Plans for expanding the library date back to 1983, when a study concluded that the existing facility was overcrowded.

Friendship Festival Set for Weekend

Food and crafts booths, live entertainment, games, a series of Earth Day events and a five-kilometer race will be the highlights of the fourth annual Torrance

Friendship Festival, to take place in the city's old downtown district this weekend.

The 5K Fun Run will begin on Saturday at 8 a.m. at the east end of El Prado Park at Cravens Avenue and El Prado in Torrance. Festival booths will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Sponsored by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Torrance Assn., the Friendship Festival last year drew 20,000 visitors to the downtown area.

This year's event, the first time the festival has been expanded to two days, will include an elephant ride, animal petting zoo and a special exhibit of classic cars.

School District Makes Budget Cuts

Budget cuts at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District began in earnest this week as the Board of Education Wednesday lopped \$446,000 from the district's 1990-91 spending plan. School officials say the district may have to trim as much as \$1.5 million to \$2 million from the upcoming fiscal year's budget because of declining enrollment and the possibility that the district's share of state tax money will be smaller than anticipated.

In cutting \$446,000 from the 1990-91 budget Wednesday, the school board decided, among other things, to lay off six employees ranging from a \$76,000-a-year administrator to a \$25,000-per-year custodian. The board also slashed \$42,000 in library and textbook purchases. The board called on high school principals to identify an additional \$1 million in proposed cuts that it will consider in a meeting May 8, according to board spokeswoman Nancy Mahr.

Broken Pipe Spills Oily Brine Into Harbor

A pipe on an Exxon water injection well in Wilmington broke Thursday, pouring oily brine into a storm sewer that empties into the Los Angeles Harbor. Fire boats laid floating booms at Berth 142 to contain the oily film near the dock.

Patrick O'Donnell, a hazardous materials specialist with the Los Angeles County Health Department, said about 1,000 gallons spilled in half an hour before the release was controlled.

The well, located near the intersection of P Street and Wilmington Boulevard, is used to pump water deep underground to prevent soil subsidence caused by oil extraction, and to increase the yield of nearby oil wells.

Mario Rubio, 19, who lives next door to the injection well, said the pipe broke about 10:20 a.m. Thursday and showered the house with brine. "It happened like an eruption," he said. O'Donnell said that the responsible parties will pay for any cleanup.

Jack Smith is never at a loss for words . . . or any other subject.

VIEW of the '90s

The new faster-format Times

Advertisement for South Bay Times Classified Ads. Includes phone numbers (213) 791-2200 and (213) 772-8090, office hours (8:30 to 5:00 Mon-Fri), and a list of services offered such as Business Opport. 4100, Jobs Offered 8500, and various car listings for BMW, Mazda, Chevrolet, Mercedes Benz, Chrysler, Ford, Honda, Acura, Jaguar, and Toyota. Also includes a 'Businesses and Investments' section and a '22nd St. Landing' restaurant advertisement.

Board Selects Rohrer to Head Redondo School District

By SHAWN HUBLER TIMES STAFF WRITER

Beverly Rohrer, deputy superintendent of the Redondo Beach elementary school district, has been named successor to retiring Supt. Nick Parras, who will leave his post in July.

Rohrer, the first woman to head the Redondo Beach City School District, has been a teacher and administrator in the South Bay for three decades. In 1960, after her graduation from USC, she joined the faculty at her alma mater, Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, where she was a teacher, counselor, activities director and finally dean of students.

In 1983, she joined the Redondo Beach school district as assistant superintendent for administrative services. She was promoted in 1986 to deputy superintendent.

Rohrer was appointed Tuesday night by the city's school trustees, after a search of several months. The vote was 3-2, with board members Val Dombrowski and Bart Swanson dissenting. They later explained that, although the board majority wanted to appoint a superintendent from inside the district's administration, several candidates had more experience than Rohrer.

Rohrer, who lives in Manhattan Beach with her husband, Don, and two sons, said she is "excited and happy" to be taking over the 4,000-pupil, kindergarten-through-eighth-grade district.

She also lauded retiring superintendent Parras for his "strong leadership" during the past seven years.

Among her priorities, she said, will be a continued emphasis on basic education and an expansion of computer education and other curricula stressing technological literacy.

Parras will retire July 31 after a 38-year career that began when he joined the staff of the then-near Hillcrest School. After serving as assistant principal at Hillcrest and Washington schools, Parras became principal of Madison School for two years, until 1958. In the following 24 years, he served as an assistant business manager, deputy superintendent and acting superintendent before being named superintendent in 1983.

Still unresolved, however, is the longstanding effort by some trustees and parents to create a unified, Redondo Beach-only school system, severing the city's high school from the county's Unified School District, and creating a single kindergarten-through-12th-grade school system.

"I think this community deserves to have its own educational identity," said Rohrer, who supports unification. However, she said, she has no vote on the issue as all seats will be years away.