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## This Week

VOLUME 25  
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### The List

The 25 largest SBA lenders in the Los Angeles district. **20**

### Interview



Carlos Lopes, managing director of the Hotel Bel-Air, talks about security, air travel and running one of the world's top hotels. **18**

### Disney

The new concert hall, downtown's latest landmark, has drawn more than 100,000 visitors and boosted business nearby by as much as 30 percent. **3**

### Insurance

Despite reforms passed by the state Legislature, renewing workers' compensation coverage has become even more expensive. **3**

### LAX



A top airport official has quietly resigned at a time when the commission overseeing Los Angeles International is under growing scrutiny. **3**

### Ads

The major supermarket chains are reducing their advertising plans due to the long-running strike. **11**

### INSIDE

- Company Index 37
- Data Bank 30
- Econowatch 28
- L.A. Stories 4
- LABJ 200 26
- Mediawatch 16
- Newsmakers 19
- Real Estate 32
- Small Business 17
- Wall Street West 28

## L.A. Power Brokers Dig Deep for New Governor

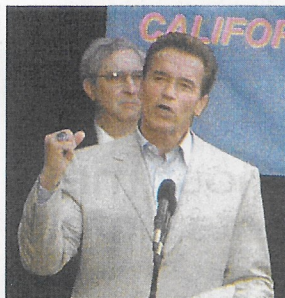
By HOWARD FINE  
Staff Reporter

Despite his pledge not to take money from special interests, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has reaped hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions from major L.A. developers and executives since he won the recall election on Oct. 7.

Among the biggest local contributors are City of Industry-based **Majestic Realty Co.**, the real estate develop-

er, real estate broker-turned investor Fred Sands, billionaire investor Otis Booth and **Yahoo Inc.** Chief Executive Terry Semel.

All told, Schwarzenegger has taken in about \$1.1 million since Oct. 7, according to records compiled by the Secretary of State's office. Some of the contributions were actually made in the days prior to the election, but didn't get processed until after the balloting. But most of the money came in after the recall.



Cash: Breaking his promise?

The cash is on top of the \$12 million Schwarzenegger took in during the

Please see DONATIONS page 10

## Safeway, Union Also in Generous Mood

By DAVID GREENBERG  
Staff Reporter

Both sides in the nearly three-month long supermarket strike and lockout have been making campaign contribu-

tions to state officials, including Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who they have deemed sympathetic to their respective views.

**Safeway Inc.**, which is leading the drive to cut health and pension benefits

of 70,000 **UFCW** workers, donated \$21,200 – the maximum amount allowed by law – to Californians For Schwarzenegger, the governor's campaign committee, according to campaign finance reports filed with the California Secretary of State.

That includes \$16,200 by the company itself on Nov. 14 and \$5,000 by Chief Executive Steven Burd on Oct. 10. Burd has been acknowledged as the architect of the supermarkets' hard-line strategy to extract numerous concessions.

Safeway also donated \$15,000 on Nov. 19 to the Total Recall Committee, which urged voters to recall former Gov. Gray Davis.

Meanwhile, the **United Food and Commercial Workers** have contributed thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to California Attorney General Bill Lockyer. He has appeared at several labor rallies and picket lines, and last week launched an investigation into possible California antitrust violations on the part of the three major grocery chains.

Lockyer received at least \$6,000 toward his Lockyer 2006 campaign fund in June and at least \$37,300 from the **UFCW** in 2002 and 2001, according to

Please see GROCERY page 10



Politics: Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Missouri, lends support to workers.

## Studio Screener Ban Triggering Race for Theater Space

By DARRELL SATZMAN  
Staff Reporter

Like a hot new restaurant where the phone is ringing off the hook, everyone wants a 7:30 reservation at the Clarity Screening Room in Beverly Hills – except this year, there just aren't enough days in the week.

"Our business has increased about 25 percent," said Russ Turner, head projectionist and booking manager at the 114-seat Clarity, which handles private screenings during the pre-awards season rush. "I'm doing screenings at 5 p.m., 2 p.m. and even at 11 a.m."

The story is much the same at other private screening rooms, as well as at guild theaters and local multiplexes – all of which are

seeing an increase in the showbiz crowd wanting to catch films being promoted as award prospects.

Thanks to the Motion Picture Association of America's decision to restrict the circulation of complimentary DVDs and videotapes, as well as a compressed awards season, there is near desperation on the part of publicists and marketing executives to get influential fannies into the seats.

The problem is there are not enough seats, good ones anyway, to go around.

"They've booked every screening room in town back-to-back," Michael Burns, co-chief executive of **Lions Gate Entertainment**, said of the largest film studios.

Please see AWARDS page 31



Booked: Russ Turner has been screening more films at Clarity.

## Pressure on Governor to Alter Nurse Ratio Rules

By LAURENCE DARMIENTO  
Staff Reporter

Pressure is building on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to delay or amend the state's landmark nurse staffing law, with his administration coming under hospital industry lobbying and even a petition from the Democrat-dominated L.A. County Board of Supervisors.

The law, set to go into effect on Jan. 1, requires hospitals to staff wards with specific nurse-to-patient ratios, but the industry contends that a nursing shortage has made it impossible for many hospitals to hire enough nurses to do so.

**Lott: We do not want the regulations to go into effect'**

Those complaints failed to sway the Davis administration, which established the specific ratios last year following the law's passage in 1999. But with the new governor stressing the importance of making the state more business friendly, there are new efforts to change the law as its implementation date approaches.

"We do not want the regulations to go into effect until they are changed," said Jim Lott, executive vice president of the Healthcare Association of Southern California, a trade group representing the region's hospital industry. "We are not necessarily advocating a delay. You can fix it in 24 hours – or you can delay it and fix it after."

The ratios require at least one nurse for every six patients in a hospital's med-

Please see NURSES page 36

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