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Party Poopers?

Beach Considering Ordinance Eliminating Clubs from Certain Neighborhoods

BY MITCHELL HELICORN

Beach city commissioners proposed an ordinance last week that would eliminate dance halls and entertainment venues in designated neighborhoods, unless officials approve them with modified "quality of life" standards. In the current ordinance, clubs are allowed in areas of the city's commercial, median, historic, light industrial, and "performance oriented" zones. It also allows for a "quality of life" review. Beach city commissioners will vote on the ordinance at a public hearing on Tuesday, June 22, at 7 p.m. at the city hall.



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HEALTH AND BEAUTY

Park Master Plan Project Six Years Overdue, Cost Increases to \$1.4 Million

BY MITCHELL HELICORN

Last week, Miami Beach city officials approved an additional \$400,000 to fund a park master plan originally scheduled for completion in 2001. The project, which includes the North Beach Park and South Center project, is now scheduled to start in 2004. The project is being delayed by the city's inability to secure the design and construction of the park. The project is being delayed by the city's inability to secure the design and construction of the park. The project is being delayed by the city's inability to secure the design and construction of the park.

Health & Beauty

Mercedes Benz Fashion Week 2004: Report from L.A.

BY ESTHER NASH
Contributing Writer

It was definitely a blockbuster week thanks to all the celebs. I was only able to meet a couple, but for the most part they were very friendly.

Fashion week in L.A. is, in my opinion, nothing like it is in New York. There were celebs all over: to your right, to your left, and all around you. The glitterati arrived with their own private photographers, hair stylists and fan club entourage.

In N.Y.C., people wear a lot of black, making them appear more business-like and very sophisticated. In L.A., it is more laidback. Some guests were wearing just jeans and a t-shirt. They all looked fine, though—they oozed so much attitude that you hardly even noticed.

Los Angeles has a very definite style, and it is a studied look. You do not just wake up and look like a movie star. It is a rocker look, which seems

Put on your sunglasses and back in some front row fashion L.A. style:

The Michelle Mason Couture show was a turned experience, literally. Whenever you have a chance to view a fashion show in a tunnel it's bound to be pretty exciting and wild. At one point there was a fire and the fire truck had to pass through the tunnel. It was very scary, because the guests thought it was a part of the show. But it was just a total fluke. The collection itself featured a Metallic-futuristic style, strange in an exotic kind of way.

During designer Lloyd Klein's "Tribal Collection" show we saw cheetah and other animal skin-inspired prints being incorporated into high fashion for that sexy animal instincts kind of feel. The jewelry was over the top with crowns and chokers attached to the models' belts. The collection was very colorful but had at the same time conservative lines. The models ambled down the runway like jungle animals, making the observer feel as though they might attack at any moment. The music incorporated bongos and jungle sounds mixed with classical music (it really worked somehow). Not your ordinary fashion show, to say the least. It all screamed jungle safari. I just wanted to take a trip.

The title of Karamina's show, "Good Clothes Open All Doors," could not have said it better, with her stylish styles, prints and collection. "BFree" featured high fashion sweat gear—to be worn with high heels. So, if you like to dress up, this designer team is making it possible to wear sweats and still be fashionable. But the key is: wear stiletto heels! (In the front row at this event was SOB's own Tommy Pooch admiring his wife, who modeled in the show.)

Somora's designs were geared to the more sophisticated young woman who likes to wear colors and different patterns together. In my opinion, she designs for a very confident woman with a mind of her own. Petro Zilla was quite an unusual show: the designer rode out onto the runway on a bicycle. So colorful, nothing like the New York Bryant Park Olympus shows.

The Custo Barcelona event was exhilarating: the music was jumping and the crowd went wild screaming and clapping. It was mostly a display of body suits and cat suits for women—very tight with little skirts and boots. You definitely need to go to the gym to wear Custo Barcelona. No hiding any fat, no place to hide it. The fashions featured colorful geometric patterns and there was a strong Spanish influence, but, again, if you aren't super-fit, sorry, this is not the design house for you. During this show I met and interviewed Antonio Sabato Jr. Custo Barcelona is his favorite designer. Antonio definitely does not need to worry about hitting the gym. He is perfect. Fern Mallis looked and dressed beautifully, as always, but her style was more L.A. for this event. (Even dressed for L.A.) Fern wore vibrant colors and sequins, really a lovely look. She was at every show; front row and back stage, making sure that nothing went wrong.

Dean and Davis Factor were at Mercedes Benz as well, making sure there were no bumps in the road during L.A. Fashion Week. All in all, the "Big Picture" was all cruise control, convertible top down, sun shining and a nice breeze.

It is fantastic to have been a part of the L.A. fashion scene for a week; rubbing shoulders with celebrities and the West Coast version of the beautiful people. It was eye candy all around. The photographers were having a great time as well, but by the end everyone was pooped.



Designer Custo Barcelona (L) with model



Backstage at Lloyd Klein Show



Esther Nash with Antonio Sabato Jr., front row at the Custo Barcelona Show

relaxed, but actually is not. They may be wearing sneakers, jeans and a tee, but it is all designer casual wear.

In New York, fashion attendees spend more money on their clothes. In L.A., they spend more money on their jewelry. I have never seen so many people wearing so many diamonds. These L.A. fashionistas wear lots of diamond rings, necklaces, and earrings; the men enjoy wearing diamonds as well.

In Miami, I feel the fashion conscious wear more color and the Latin influence is evident in the style of dress, which is a reflection of the Miami way of life.

Smash Box Studios, Culver City, where the shows were held, was overflowing with paparazzi.

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