



Photo courtesy j.k. livin'

**UP-AND-COMING:** Reggae artist Mishka recently signed with record label j.k. livin'

# Reggae unites artists

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE  
Special to the Daily Press

Westsider Matthew McConaughey knew he wanted to sign reggae recording artist, Mishka as his first official artist on his new record label, j.k. livin' [as in "just keep ..."] the first time he heard him. The problem was finding the artist. McConaughey "searched for almost five years before [he] tracked Mishka down at the House of Blues." The two kindred spirits formed a friendship through their mutual passion for reggae music. Mishka, impressed with McConaughey's drive and admiration decided to sign with j.k. livin', because said Mishka, "Matthew has the enthusiasm to put

this record out."

Mishka's life experiences were formed while traveling and exploring the world via boat, having grown up in a seafaring lifestyle amidst the cerulean waters of the Caribbean.

"I always knew I wanted to do music," said Mishka, who brings "an engaging perspective on life" to his songs and lyrics.

Mishka plays Tuesday, Feb. 17, at The Roxy debuting songs from his album, "Above the Bones" as well as some favorites from "One Tree" and is joined by an all-star group of musicians including former Peter Tosh guitarist, Darryl Thompson. For info and tickets, visit [www.mishka.com](http://www.mishka.com)

[news@smdp.com](mailto:news@smdp.com)

# Education faces major funding cuts

FROM BUDGET PAGE 3

Democrats hold a majority in both the Assembly and Senate, but California, along with Arkansas and Rhode Island, is one of three states to require an unusually high two-thirds approval to pass annual spending plans, as well as increase taxes. Three GOP votes are needed in each house, as well as support from all Democrats.

In addition to \$8.6 billion in education cuts that will likely force schools to lay off teachers, Schwarzenegger and Republican lawmakers won a number of items they considered vital to rescuing the state from the current recession.

The proposal to be voted on includes up to \$400 million in tax credits for small businesses that make new hires over the next two years, lowers taxes by a projected \$690 million for corporations that operate in multiple states, and provides \$100 million in tax incentives for film production in California.

It removes environmental hurdles and allows the state to partner with more private businesses on transportation projects such as toll roads. The plan would also postpone air pollution regulations for some diesel-run equipment.

Assemblyman Jared Huffman, D-Santa Monica, said he intends to support the budget his party leaders helped negotiate but he wasn't pleased with all the Republican giveaways.

"I think there's a difference between supporting the core budget compromises and some of the extortion stuff from the minor-

ity party," Huffman said.

The Schwarzenegger administration threatened earlier this week to start the process to lay off up to 10,000 state workers if there was no deal by Friday. But McLearn said he would hold off for now, pending the outcome of this weekend's vote.

"We still have some flexibility about when we can send those (layoff notices) out for them to be effective in the next fiscal year, but that time is running short," he said.

Schwarzenegger and lawmakers planned to be in Sacramento on a particularly busy Saturday. Tens of thousands of spectators were expected to crowd downtown to watch Lance Armstrong and other pro cyclists compete in the Amgen Tour of California. The race ends with a lap around Capitol Park, and many of the streets around the Capitol were to be closed.

Both houses were scheduled to meet Saturday morning, but the vote was expected to last all day, and the package faced particular uncertainty in the Senate.

Maldonado, the moderate Republican, said he remained "noncommittal" along with Sen. Lou Correa, D-Anaheim, whose seat is in conservative Orange County.

"He's going through a hard time," Maldonado said of his former roommate Correa. "I don't think he's made his final decision."

A message couldn't be left for Correa on his cell phone Friday because his voice mail was full. A message left by The Associated Press at his office was also not returned.

## Clothes for Special Occasions



Patty's Place  
4 Kids

- Baptism
- Flower girl
- Baby shower gifts
- Boys suits
- First Communion

310-398-1626  
[www.pattysplace.net](http://www.pattysplace.net)

4521 Inglewood Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90230

California  
Recycles  
Recycle, Reuse, Reunite



Recycle old electronics  
For Cash

We pay the best rates for:

- Celll Phones
  - TVs
  - Computers
  - And much more
- Drop your items off at 1932 Cotner Ave. in West Los Angeles and mention this offer for cash

You can also shop for recycled office products and compostable tableware and utensils in our online store.  
[www.californiarecycles-store.com](http://www.californiarecycles-store.com)

310-478-3001 ext. 100

[www.californiarecycles.com](http://www.californiarecycles.com)

ODDS OF A CHILD PERFORMING AT CARNEGIE HALL: 1 in 73,000

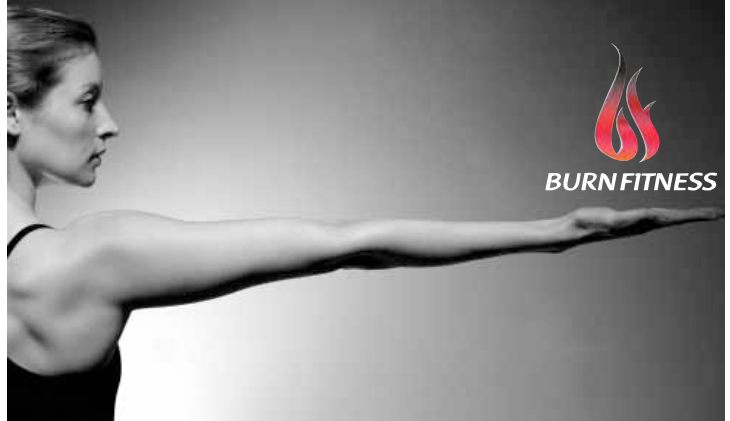
ODDS OF A CHILD BEING DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM: 1 in 166

Ad Council

To learn the signs of autism, visit [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)

AUTISM SPEAKS  
It's time to listen.

# LOOKING FOR A NEW GYM?



BURN FITNESS  
It's time to listen.

Come in TODAY and transfer your membership to Burn Fitness.

\*\*mention this ad and receive

The month of January **FREE**  
(new memberships only)

Included with membership

- Yoga, kickboxing, indoor cycling classes, specialty classes
- World class strength & cardiovascular equipment
- Free membership to exclusive [fatburn.com](http://fatburn.com) weight loss system!

Equinox: \$135  
Burn Fitness: \$79.99\*

Downtown Santa Monica. Free Parking

1315 3rd Street Promenade • 4th floor (above food court) • Santa Monica 310.394.1300  
[www.burnfit.com](http://www.burnfit.com)  
\*one year rate