National Palace Museum staff get designer clothes Museum commissions she said, while pointing to the

Jay-Z will hold 9/11 benefit concert in N.Y., release 11th CD

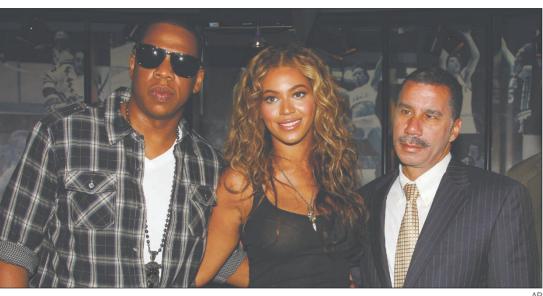
Jay-Z is planning for Sept. 11 is a step in the direction that his career — and life — is heading in, he said

The 39-year-old is set to release his 11th studio CD, "The Blueprint now in the forefront, not as the 3," the same day of the charity concert, which has been billed as "Answer the Call." The performance will be at New York's Madison Square Garden and air live on

A benefit concert that rapper a return to my roots, like those soul samples my mom and pop listened to, and now on this one we're becoming those guys we looked up to on all those records," he said.

> "It's my evolution and it's me performer who looked back ... but me taking the initiative being the one, and being the icon, or being the philanthropist," he said in an interview after a news conference

Jay-Z was joined by his wife, singer Beyonce Knowles; Gov. David Paterson; Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer. Jay-Z said he will donate all proceeds from the concert to the New York Police and Fire Widows' and Children's Benefit Fund. Tickets are being sold for US\$50, and the show is expected to raise US\$750,000 to US\$1 million.



In this photo provided by StarPix, Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter, left, his wife Beyonce and New York Governor David Patterson announce the "Answer The Call" charity concert at Madison Square Garden, Monday, Aug. 31.

designer Sophie Hong

to create new uniforms By RAINIE CHENG

AND DIMITRI BRUYAS

Despise all aspects of the corintangible values that it tries to instill in the wearer, some people just hate them with a passion.

uniform haters is simple: They dislike the quality of the materials used to make their uniform. They argue that the poor selection of fabric gives them a level of discomfort that makes their job far more difficult.

National Palace Museum's (NPM) as they got their new company clothing directly from noted designer Sophie Hong.

"I would like to wear this new uniform every day," store manager Li Wen-jing told The China Post on August 18, while walking through the NPM's gift shop in her stylish blue and beige outfit.

"There is nothing I love more than seeing those workers feeling at ease with my new [design], said Hong as she looked at the NPM's staff.

The noted designer believes that a great uniform should suit the worker's needs. It should allow people to move freely and increase their self-confidence, which eventually would increase their motivation on the job.

"I tried to add more energy by [combining] three vibrant colors beige, blue and light brown,"

uniforms' popped collar - one of the design features of her label. Other characteristics include comfortable cotton pants and vests cut in hand-dyed fabrics.

"This time, I worked toward a traditional Chinese clothing that porate uniform, including the mixes modern elements into a classical cut," she remarked.

Hong stresses how her design is consistent with the atmosphere The primary complaint among of a contemporary museum that features priceless Chinese arti-

> "My inspiration came from my various visits at the museum,' she elaborated.

Asked whether it was a challenge for a designer to create a Everyone complains of uni- uniform that could be worn for forms except the workers of the more than two years in a row, she explains that all her creations gift shop and restaurant, who are made of quality fabrics that have been lucky this summer can be combined at will season after season.

According to Ho Chun-huan, managing director of the museum shop and restaurants, Hong's experience in garments was a key factor in the selection of her design by the NPM.

"Our workers need some freedom of movement as they have to pack or replenish the inventory," she said.

"All these important details are included in Hong's creations," she added.

Also, Ho remarks that staff workers can now freely combine their uniform's pants and vest depending on their posting in the museum. As the landmark facilitv moves towards more emphasis on customers' services, she points out that the new designs could further help to make the

(Above) Designer Sophie Hong, second right, believes that a great uniform should suit the worker's needs. The noted designer stands among staff workers from the National Palace Museum's gift shop and restaurant who recently got their new company uniforms directly from

(Right) Hong stresses how her design is consistent with the atmosphere of a contemporary museum that features priceless Chinese artifacts. One characteristic of her design is comfortable vests cut in hand-dyed

younger and younger.

The NPM reportedly ordered more than 400 uniforms for its staff working in its gift shop and restaurant - each person received two uniforms for the springsummer season and two others for the fall-winter one.

Yet, Hong is also looking formuseum's target audiences get ward as she hopes that other

public institutions and schools

could also upgrade their uniforms in the future. She cited Singapore and Ma-

laysia airlines for hiring wellknown designers for creating their uniforms. "Now I want to use this as an opportunity to let more people understand my designing," she continued.

Former Miss California sues pageant officials over firing

Former Miss California USA Car-Monday for libel, slander and religious discrimination, accusing them of telling her to stop mentioning God even before her controversial remarks against gay marriage.

Prejean sued California pageant executive director Keith Lewis and actress and former Miss USA Shanna Moakler, who served as a codirector before resigning in protest

Prejean was fired in June by pageant officials who said she missed portunity to provide the basis for said in a statement that Prejean's Miss California USA and Lewis.

several scheduled appearances.

Her attorney, Chuck LiMandri, rie Prejean sued pageant officials said that wasn't true, and Prejean was ousted because of controversial remarks in April during the Miss USA pageant that marriage should be between a man and a woman.

> She was named first runner-up, and many believe she lost her shot at the Miss USA crown because of her answer. LiMandri said Prejean filed suit only after he sought detailed information on what events Prejean missed.

> "I wanted to give them every op-

those claims," LiMandri said.

He said he found no proof that lawsuit claims Lewis and Moakler at public events at least two months before she gave her anti-gay marriage answer.

The suit also claims Moakler and Lewis improperly revealed that Miss California USA had paid for Prejean's breast implants. Moakler's attorney, Mel Avanzado, Roger Neal, who handles press for

lawsuit was without merit.

"More importantly, as everyone Preiean missed events. "There were who watched or read her public no contract violations," he said. The statements is well aware, Ms. Prejean's unfortunate and bigoted both told Prejean not to mention statements are responsible for any God on her Miss USA application or public humiliation or damages to her reputation that she has claimed to have suffered," Avanzado wrote. "Ms. Moakler strenuously denies that she did anything wrong and looks forward to proving that in a

Prejean is also suing publicist

UK police to review Rolling Stones guitarist death in 1969

British police say they will review the 1969 death of Rolling Stones guitarist Brian Jones.

Sussex police said Monday in a statement that they have received documents from an investigative journalist that relate to Jones' death.

They say the papers "will be examined by the force, but it's too early to comment at this time as to what the outcome might be.'

Jones died in July 1969 at age 27. His body was found in the swimming pool at his 11-acre (4.5-hectare) Sussex estate. A coroner said Jones drowned

while under the influence of alcohol and drugs. But there has long been speculation about the nature of Jones' death.

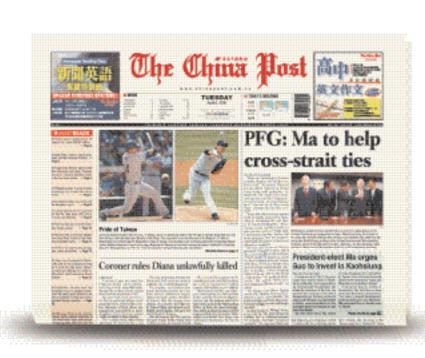
The Mail on Sunday said Scott Jones — who is not related to the musician — handed over 600 documents to Sussex police.



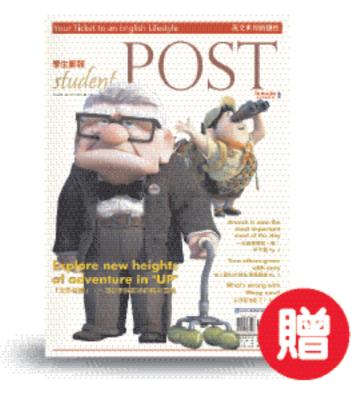
This is an undated file photo of the late Rolling Stone guitarist Brian Jones. British police say they will review the 1969 death of Rolling Stones guitarist Brian Jones.

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