

RICHMOND NEWS

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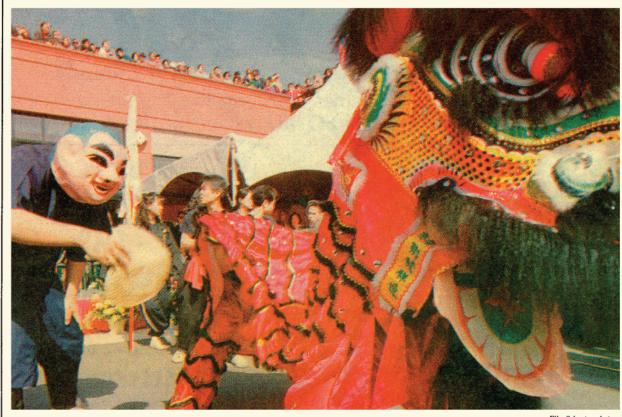
ESDAY EDITION

Health at home

Minister of Health Elizabeth Cull says the government is trying to bring health care closer to home.



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Lively lion

The Hon Hsing Athletic Association added a lot of energy to the opening of Parker Place with their Lion Dance. The event attracted hundreds of spectators, including a few movie stars from Hong Kong. See story on page 9.

Buddha lends his grace to Parker Place opening

By BILL LAM News Reporter

Using a mixture of uncooked rice, cinnabar powder and rum, a visiting professor from Berkeley, California blessed the four-faced Buddha at Richmond's newest shopping plaza Sunday.

While VIPs and a crowd of 600 watched, professor Lin Yun performed the ritual by walking around the statue, tossing handfuls of the mixture into the air and around the statue located on the south side of Parker Place, 4380 No. 3 Road.

"The rice is scattered to feed the roaming spirits so they'll go away satisfied without disturbing

the site," explained Crystal Chien- which have opened. The rest are lih Chu, professor Lin's special under construction. Phase two is assistant who took part in the ceremony along with other followers. By sprinkling the items, he plants seeds of prosperity so businesses and the community will prosper, she added.

Present at the grand opening in one of his rare public appearances was developer Thomas Fung, whose \$30 million Parker Place is an extension of his neighboring Aberdeen Centre and Fairchild Square complex on Hazelbridge Way.

Touted as the first-ever stratatitle enclosed shopping mall in western Canada, the centre consists of 105 stores, 70 per cent of

under way with room for another 50 stores that will be connected to the present site.

"We wondered how successful such an operation would be," mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt said.

Following the ceremony, visitors -- including Hong Kong movie stars -- paid their respects, offering incense to the Buddha.

Besides being gracious, the Buddha is said to possess such qualities as compassion, kindness, benevolence, and fairness.

"Those who make their wishes wholeheartedly can have their wishes come true," one of Lin's followers said.