Hollywood Beat

By DAVID GIAMMARCO

When filming commenced November 27th 1990 in Los Angeles on "Naked gun 2 1/2: The Smell Of Fear", star Leslie Nielsen says he and writer/director David Zucker had very well-defined and intrinsic objectives for the sequel.

"To get it finished," Nielsen deadpans.

Then, in a rare and highly emotional foray into self-revelation, Nielsen pauses and offers a teary-eyed confession about this cinematic follow up. "It's just as dumb and stupid as the first one," he adds.

And we don't expect any less when it comes to "ZAZ" - David Zucker/Jim Abrahms /Jerry Zucker - the team that brought us the hysterical derangement of

Leslie Neilsen keeps them laughing in

"Airplane!", "Top Secret!", "The Naked Gun" and of course "Police Squad!", the critically acclaimed but short lived tv show which launched the "Naked Gun" films.

"Many people have since wondered why "Police Squad" was originally yanked off the air after only four episodes were televised," David Zucker explains. "And some people - okay, only Jerry, Jim and me - have a theory that Nielsen box families somehow became convinced that Leslie Nielsen was related to the Nielsen ratings people. So they felt it would be a conflict of interest to write in their diaries that they had actually watched the show."

How could we have been so

oblivious to the obvious?

Nielsen feverishly insists that, like "Naked Gun,", "Naked Gun 2 1/2" does indeed have a plot and will "rough up anyone who differs." The sequel assures audiences that Leslie Nielsen IS Lt. Frank Drebin and picks up with the inept but extremely earnest police lieutenant being honored by President Bush for shooting his 1,000th drug dealer. While at the White House, Drebin catches wind of a new National Energy Policy conceived by a Dr. Albert Meinheimer. Never one to let sleeping dogs lie, Drebin uncovers a fiendish plot to replace Meinheimer with an evil double who'll preach incessantly about the virtues of coal, oil and nuclear

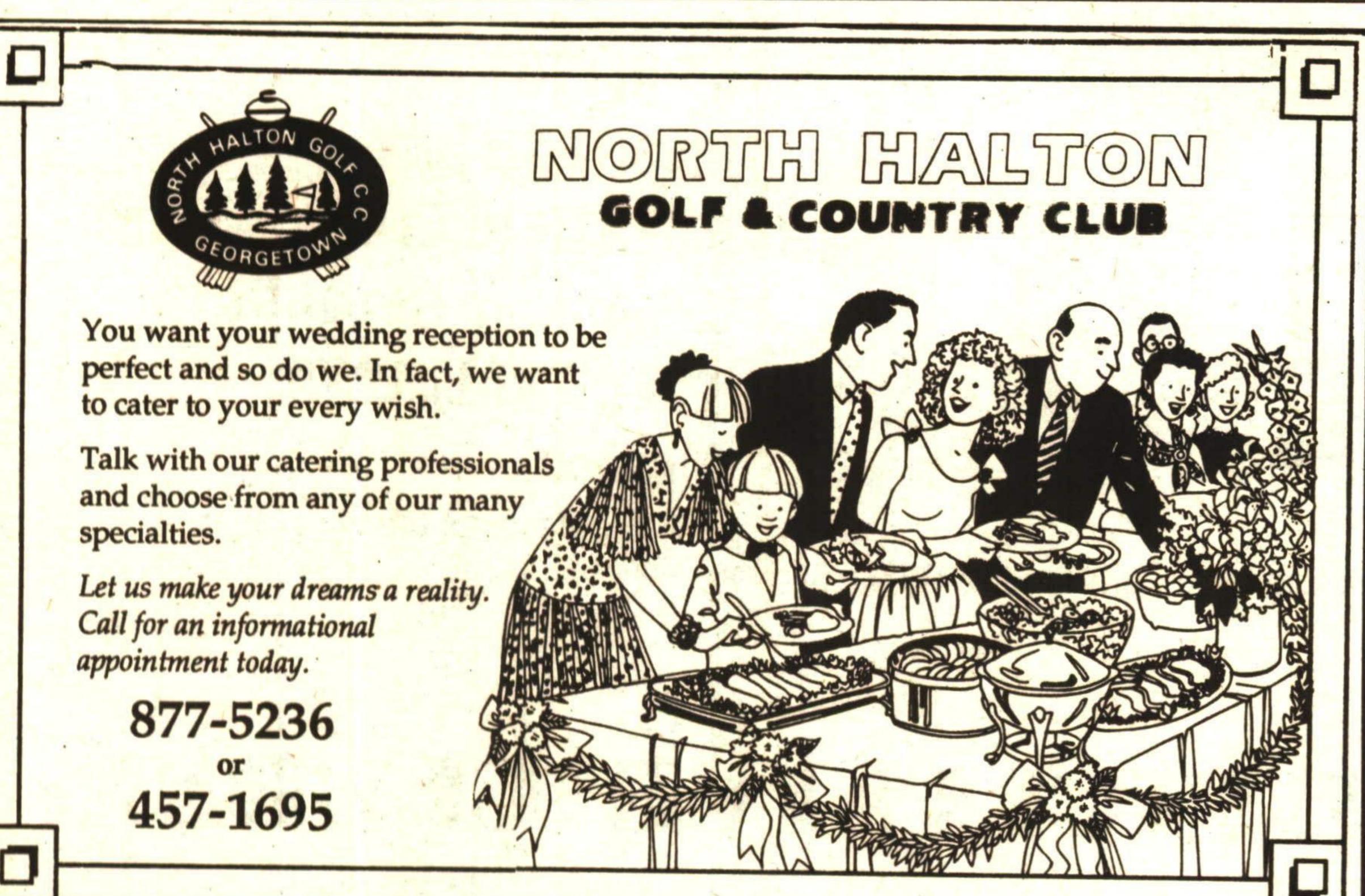
power. The culprits: the heads of the North American oil, coal and nuclear industries... and White House chief of staff John Sununu...and Bob Goulet.

Okay, maybe in retrospect plot development was too much pressure for them.

Zucker, whose been a longtime supporter of environmental causes, was hit with the idea for "Naked Gun 2 1/2" after visiting a solar power plant in the Mojave Desert. His concerns ballooned into a full-fledged script that incorporated a number of environmental issues close to his heart. "Much of the production of "Naked Gun 2 1/2" will be environmentally conscious," Zucker proudly proclaims. "We'll be recycling a lot of jokes."

Though the film has all the signs of a sequel and reunites cast members Priscilla Presley, George Kennedy and O.J. Simpson, Nielsen doesn't see it that way. "I don't look at this as a sequel. A sequel is something that becomes marketable - like a "Rambo" or a "Rocky". This is a continuation of "Police Squad". And I've always felt that there should not only be a number III, but also a IV, V and VI. I think that's how Paramount looks at it too.

"We want to make it very clear that this movie isn't really a sequel at all," says producer Robert K. Weiss, whose association with ZAZ dates back to the early '70's and their Los Angeles





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