

## Tsunami

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25 million tons of debris, including what was left on land.

Yender said that so far, no debris confirmed to be from the tsunamis has landed in the U.S., including large buoys suspected to be from Japanese oyster farms found in Alaska last year. The buoys would have had to travel faster than currents to get to Alaska at that time if they were set loose by the March 11 tsunamis.

Similar buoys have washed ashore in Alaska and the U.S. West Coast before the tsunami, she said.

Yender said there is little chance of any debris being contaminated by radiation. The debris came from a large swath of Japan's northeastern coast, not only near the tsunami-damaged nuclear power plant in Fukushima. Further, it was dragged out to sea with the tsunamis, not while the Fukushima plant experienced multiple melt-downs.

Nicholas Mallos, a conservation biologist and marine debris specialist for the Ocean Conservancy, said many of the objects in the debris were expected to be from Japan's

fishing industry. That could pose a risk for wildlife, such as endangered Hawaiian monk seals, if fishing gear washes up on coral reefs or beaches.

"The major question is how much of that material has

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sank since last year, and how much of that remains afloat or still in the water column," Mallos said.

Maximenko said the dispersion of the debris makes it more difficult to track but no less hazardous.

"In many cases it's not density that matters, it's total amount," he said. "For example, if there's a current flowing around Midway island, that island would collect debris like a trawl moving across the ocean. It will collect all the debris on its way."

Ultimately, Maximenko said, most of the remaining tsunami debris will join garbage floating in a gyre between Hawaii and California produced by swirling Pacific currents. Much of that trash in a wide area known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is bits of plastic, which slowly breaks down into smaller pieces but doesn't completely disappear. It was unclear whether large items like refrigerators will make it across the ocean because there has been little precedent for such an event.

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## OPENING THIS WEEK: For Movies Opening March 16

by Kam Williams  
For *The Skanner News*

### BIG BUDGET FILMS

**21 Jump Street** (R for violence, drug and alcohol abuse, coarse sexuality, crude humor and pervasive profanity) Comical adaptation of the Eighties TV series features a couple of disgraced cops (Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum) forced to work undercover at a high school to crack a teen narcotics ring. With Ice Cube, DeRay Davis and Brie Larson.



21 Jump Street

### INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

**Casa de Mi Padre** (R for profanity, sexuality, drug use and graphic violence)

Crime comedy about a couple of siblings (Will Ferrell and Diego Luna) who land in a turf war with a Mexican mobster (Gael Garcia Bernal) when they take desperate measures to save their father's ranch. With Efrén Ramirez, Genesis Rodriguez and Adrian Martinez. (In English and Spanish with subtitles)

**Delicacy** (Unrated) Romantic romp about a French widow (Audrey Tautou) who finds herself courted by a Swedish co-worker (Francois Damians) while still mourning the loss of her husband. Support cast fea-

tures Bruno Todeschini, Melanie Bernier and Pio Marmai. (In French and Swedish with subtitles)

**Detachment** (Unrated) Romance drama about a jaded substitute teacher (Adrien Brody) who becomes less blasé about life after getting emotionally involved with a colleague (Christina Hendricks), a teen prostitute (Sami Gayle), and a troubled student (Betty Kaye). With Lucy Liu, Marcia Gay Harden and Blythe Danner.

**The FP** (R for sexuality, nudity, pervasive profanity and brief drug use) Musical comedy about a couple of rival gangs vying for control of a local park who decide to settle their differences in a deadly dance competi-

tion. Cast includes Jason Trost, Art Hsu, Caitlyn Folley and Lee Valmassy.

**Free Men** (Unrated) WWII saga, set in German-occupied Paris, revolving around an Algerian immigrant (Tahar Rahim) who becomes inspired to join the Resistance after being befriended by a Jewish singer (Mahmud Shalaby). With Michael Lonsdale, Lubna Azabal and Farid Larbi. (In French with subtitles)



The FP

**Jeff, Who Lives at Home** (R for profanity, sexual references and drug use) Late bloomer comedy about a 30 year-old slacker (Jason Segel), still living in his parents' basement, who discovers his destiny while running an errand for his mother (Susan Sarandon). With Ed Helms, Judy Greer and Rae Dawn Chong.

**The Kid with a Bike** (Unrated) Bittersweet drama about an abandoned 12 year-old (Thomas Doret) who is rescued from a beggar's farm by a hairdresser (Cecile de France) performing a random act of kindness. With Jeremie Renier, Egon Di Mateo and Olivier Gourmet. (In French with subtitles)

**Natural Selection** (R for profanity, sexu-

ality, violence, drug use and brief graphic nudity) Baby-daddy dramedy about a barren housewife (Rachael Harris) who tries to fulfill her dying husband's (John Diehl) last wish by tracking down his long-lost, illegitimate son (Matt O'Leary). With Jon Gries, Billy Blair and Berna Roberts.

**Reuniting the Rubins** (PG for mature themes and mild epithets) Dysfunctional family comedy about an uptight attorney (Timothy Spall) who reluctantly postpones a vacation to reunite his estranged offspring at Passover for the sake of his ailing mother (Honor Blackman). Featuring Rhona Mitra, James Callis, Hugh O'Conor and Loo Brealey.



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