

Daly hosts party to kick off campaign

by Karen Oberdorfer

Down the street from City Hall, at a tavern called the Temple Bar, revelers celebrated 19 months ago during the final tally of district election votes. "It

PHOTOS: CARL ANGEL



Chris Daly meets constituents.

was brilliant, the best party I ever worked," reminisced bartender Lorraine O'Connor, especially when everyone in the bar whooped it up as the TV

set that's anchored high on the wall displayed — vote by vote — Chris Daly's ascent to supervisor of District 6.

On July 17, Daly and his fans kicked off his re-election campaign with a party at the Temple Bar. They're looking forward to a repeat celebration in November.

In his first stump speech of the season, the "rookie" supervisor, as some detractors like to emphasize when describing Daly, stood under the TV set (it was showing a Giants game so Daly promised a "short" speech). He told about 150 well-wishers: "This job's a pain in the ass, to be honest with you." But, when he knows he's helping the people he represents, he said, it's all worth it.

Daly quoted California Treasurer Philip Angelides'

about the growing disparity between rich and poor. "Nowhere is this contradiction between the haves and have-nots greater than here in San Francisco and let me say, right here in District 6." The problem permeates "every item that crosses our desks (at City Hall)," Daly said.

He doesn't mean just the homeless, he said, though he did host a summit last year to brainstorm solutions. As a result of the summit, he authored a Charter amendment that may be on the November ballot.

Daly thanked Terence Hallinan, who made a brief appearance at the campaign kick-off, for alerting him to a legal loophole used by landlords, which was closed by the "Eviction Threats" legislation that Daly helped author. Some of the "meaner-spirited landlords" in the city, said Daly, often threatened tenants, especially ones who didn't speak English, scaring them into vacating so that they could re-rent at market rates.

"Honestly, the wealthiest entities in San Francisco have mounted a very serious, a very well thought out, a very well financed, and at times a pretty darn venomous campaign against me, and the things that I stand for, and I've certainly made it no secret that I've taken on the big money issues that they

care most about," Daly said to the crowd.

"Daly's a man of credibility, man of emotions ... he tells it like it is," said Joseph Blue, who ran for a supervisor against Daly in 2000, but said he wouldn't run against the man he now, after getting to know him, considers a friend.

District 6 resident Michael Payne said he supports Daly because he's "part of a movement standing up to the Brown machine."

Supporters came and went over the few hours that the party was rolling. Besides Hallinan, Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Aaron Peskin showed up, as did former Supervisor Harry Britt.

Service Employees International Union President Sal Rosselli, whose job-threatened Laguna Honda laundry workers' Daly has fought for, said he personally will do whatever he can to help Daly get re-elected even though the union has not officially endorsed Daly yet. "He cares about people in San Francisco that are less fortunate, that need the help of city government, and his actions in this latest budget fight to oppose the cuts that have affected San Francisco's most vulnerable people, is just one example of what he stands for." Eileen Hansen, District 8

hopeful who ran two years ago and supports and is supported by Daly, said together they would make a formidable team at City Hall — "I think we could work very well together. Chris is a fighter and an organizer. That's the background I come from; I've also worked inside City Hall and I understand how you get work done in the city."

She said Daly has gained valuable experience inside the political arena now, but his youth and reputation as a fighter and organizer are intact.



Daly gets a hug and a kiss from his fiancée, Sarah.

"He brings that perspective to the board which is really a unique perspective... When people criticize him for being too out there and too much a fighter, that's exactly the kind of person we need on the board."

Daly is confident he'll win. This first party netted him nearly \$7,500 in needed donations (from checks or money orders of \$10 to \$100 from individuals) to qualify by the Aug. 9 cutoff to receive public financing the



Daly addresses 150 supporters at his re-election campaign kickoff party at the Temple Bar.

District 6 supe faces 9 contenders

Chris Daly drew a short straw when he took office in January 2001, and so became one of five supervisors — from even districts 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 — forced to run for re-election just as they are getting comfy in office.

The five supes have dropped to three with announcements from Leland Yee (District 4) and Mark Leno (District 8) that they'll run instead for state Assembly jobs.

Daly was elected with 80.92% of the votes in District 6, a mandate to push his well-known liberal agenda. He has pushed so hard that some people think he's vulnerable.

Daly faces a field of nine competitors, some of them serious contenders. As of Aug. 9, the last day to qualify for the Nov. 5 election, 10 candidates, including Daly, were on the ballot.

They are James Leo Dunn, Roger Gordon, Arthur Jackson, Garrett Jenkins, Sean Kelly, Malinka Moye, Robert Power, Burke Strunsky and Michael Sweet.

Karen Oberdorfer's profiles of three of the candidates follow. Others will be featured in future issues.

JAMES DUNN: Sure-fire solution for the homeless



James Dunn — who ran for supervisor in 2000 — says he's an astrologer, poet, philosopher and well-versed in engineering principles. He is also, by the way, an Aries, born in Toledo, Ohio, at 4 p.m. (Info you will need if you want to do his astrological chart, as he did of all his rivals

in the last election.)

Dunn says he has a groundbreaking solution for District 6's most dire problem: Hire the homeless to build a tunnel from Ellis and Taylor to Chestnut Street. Construction would take three years, he says, with the workers actually living in the tunnel.

"I live at Turk and Hyde and at any time of day I see five, six, 10 homeless," he says. "We have to address the homeless problem by engaging the homeless," and paying them \$49 an hour to haul rock around and help the city's congestion woes.

"The shelters can be pure hell," he says, so bad that crime and infestation discourage people from coming in from the cold to access the services.

And what to do when the tunnel is finished? Tetrahedrons. Build permanent housing in the form of tetrahedrons, which will eventually dot the whole city, with the first prototype of these four-sided pyramids gracing District 6. Powered by solar cells, gilded by gardens, pools and balconies, these structures would appear airy with glass exteriors and tall stilts holding the first floors aloft over open central plazas. But they would be secured into the ground by earthquake-safe cast iron foundations.

Not only would these buildings of 576 studio apartments house many people, they also would include services such as employment training and mental health and substance abuse counseling. And, because of the pointed pyramid shape, the height would not rob the city's streets of sun, Dunn says. The city is spending about \$100 million on the homeless problem and getting nowhere, he says, "but give me \$12 million, a backhoe and cement," and headway will be made.

Tetrahedrons and tunnels might strike voters as a bit far-out, but, says Dunn, "no one else has a better solution."

ROGER GORDON: Put services in SROs

Roger Gordon, 35, considers himself as adaptable as a chameleon. Though usually dressed in a dark suit, he says he can walk into any corporate boardroom or struggling nonprofit and feel at home. Born in



Newsstand, which until last year anchored the corner for decades.

"As supervisor, my main goal in the first two years would be to significantly increase the resources available in SROs, such as social services like counseling and job training in both private and nonprofit SROs," says Gordon. It's not enough to merely house people, he says. "It's about rebuilding lives and stopping the cycle of homelessness."

"The Tenderloin has been run for too long by the nonprofits, which do great work, but they're only part of the neighborhood," says Gordon. There are communities — Vietnamese, Latino and Chinese — who need to "truly partner with other neighborhood organizations."

For two years Gordon has been executive director of Urban Solutions, a nonprofit he describes as dedicated to revitalizing neighborhoods through helping people get funding or credit "to start their own businesses, get off the treadmill of welfare and become self-employed." Gordon says his group helped a blind man qualify for an SBA loan to start a Braille-enabled lap-top distribution company. (We should name company or cut.)

He knows the trials of being a small business owner. Gordon has an MBA. He also ran a business called Net Cash, which enabled banks to open branches inside stores and in underserved areas where residents

Jamaica, at two he and his family moved to Flatbush, Brooklyn. There he gained insight into a newcomer's struggle to adapt in America.

On July 12, Gordon opened his campaign headquarters on Seventh Street at Stevenson in the old George's

Bob Labriola: Mayor of the Tenderloin

Make the Tenderloin an independent city with its own mayor

by Ed Bowers

The Tenderloin is my neighborhood. The people who occupy this tiny acre of Hell are the most illuminated, honest, wrathful, compassionate and transcendent creatures I have ever had the privilege to meet. Eye of the beholder, of course. Let most buyers beware, and keep out.

I am currently in trouble with some of the more sociopathic types, and could be killed any moment. There is no loyalty here, to speak of, because most

"Give them \$11-an-hour jobs, halfway houses, and if they don't like it, then help them get out of San Francisco."

people, romanticized by district attorneys and bad novelists, are less human than pigeons who feed their babies.

Bob Labriola is one of the beautiful Tenderloin monsters, a chameleon who protects himself by appearing to be an average man. He is my co-worker and he and I work only to survive. I want to be a writer independent of any job except what I love to do. But Bob desires to be the mayor of the Tenderloin.

His hangout is a Tenderloin bar, the Ha Ra Club on Geary between Hyde and Larkin. He has a lot in common with other people who want to be mayor but stand no chance in our so-called democracy, ruled less by compassion and wisdom than money and power.

Q: How long have you lived in the Tenderloin?

A: About seven years.

Q: Why'd you come here?

A: I got tired of Tucson.

Q: Why? The Tenderloin is considered the end of the road.

A: Tucson, Ariz., is the end of the road. It's hot and doesn't pay much.

Q: What changes have you seen in the Tenderloin since you arrived?

A: Oh, things have gotten worse. The city used to be a nice place to visit, and clean, and touristy. But the Tenderloin is garbage today.

Q: What contributed to that?

A: I don't think the mayor cares about what happens in the Tenderloin. It's just considered a tourist attraction. Outsiders wanna see the sleazy side of people living the sleazy kind of life, without having to be worried about their own lives.

Q: What do you do for a living?

A: I'm a security guard.

Q: Are you scared of the people who employ you?

A: No.

Q: Why?

A: Because there are a lot of people who employ guards.

Q: What is your take on San Francisco as a whole? Is it a closed corporation, open only to the rich, or is it still a center for creativity and freedom?

A: I think it's a closed situation. The rich have a lot to do with dictating the way things are going to be in San Francisco.

Q: A Sword of Damocles hangs over a large percentage of the people in this city who work, and it's called homelessness. Can you guarantee affordable housing if elected mayor?

A: In 1969, San Francisco was cleaner and nicer, and there were less homeless people. That's when rents were so cheap that anybody could afford to live here.

Q: It's over now. What would you do about it?

A: They don't pay you enough anywhere in the major cities to survive. I lived in Tucson, where everything is cheaper than here, but the wages are low. There is a homeless problem there too.

I've known a lot of homeless people. They have degrees, children, credentials, and they're trying, and they live in shelters and I'm told they're bad places.

Q: You're right. I've seen the inside of shelters, but the hotels are worse.

A: A lot of people die on the streets. When I said that to someone once, he said that I was making it up. But that was because he has a nice home on Russian Hill. The homeless that want to work, who are not mentally incapacitated, should be given city jobs. Fund their programs with traffic tickets.

Q: Could you elaborate on that?

A: I live in San Francisco. I don't get to do anything I love to do here because I can't afford it. But I work.

Q: I understand where you're coming from. It's a

tantalizing city, but satisfying only to those who have the money to pay for its delights. By the way, why did you choose to do this interview with me when you think that I'm insane?

A: No Ed! I know you're insane! But I love you anyway.

Q: I think I wouldn't vote for you Bob, because you believe in federal law, be it wrong or right, and I believe in freedom. I don't believe that drugs should be illegal just because some bullies in office say they should be. If people want to get high, let them choose their poison, and self-medicate for free. Most people wouldn't stick a needle in their arm, or risk heart attack or mental illness by smoking crack. And those who do, so be it.

A: But I'm a Federalist. Right or wrong, it's the law of the land.

"The average taxpayer should clean his own sidewalks."

Q: Would you get rich people to vote for you?

A: Our sidewalks, they're cracked. The best people I know are those who work here like Carl the bartender and Rick the smut dealer, and they're educated and religious people in their own way, and they pay for their crimes when they have to. They're good citizens, they pay their taxes. The rich people create a problem where the working classes are forced to pay to replace the sidewalks, as opposed to having to clean them every two weeks. You clean your bathroom, you clean the sidewalks. I'm a bachelor. I couldn't have my mother up to my room. I didn't clean the bathroom! I can't have her sit on the bowl. So clean your sidewalks, the second Sunday every month, the fourth Sunday every month, steam clean your sidewalks.

"The seat of the will is in the penis," said the 60-year-old Filipino co-worker sitting next to us working on his drinks.

"Spinoza said that."

A: I think I have good ideas. I'm a Federalist who believes in the law of the land, the American Dream, and am thoroughly studied on the Civil War, something this country never wants to see again.

Q: How can laws be in the best interests of the people when the reason for passing these laws is to protect the 2% of the population who own 90% of the wealth?

A: Clean your streets every two weeks. Is there any problem with that?

"Clean as a hound's tooth," said our Filipino co-worker.

Bob's answer to a question never asked: The Tenderloin should be a red light district. It's a City of Sin and that's why tourists come here, to this part of town. If it could make money for those here, and allow their survival in a civilized manner, it would be good for everyone.

My response to the question never asked: That's a good idea, Bob. I like that, though I could care less if the streets are clean. What about the eternal question of diversity in the city?

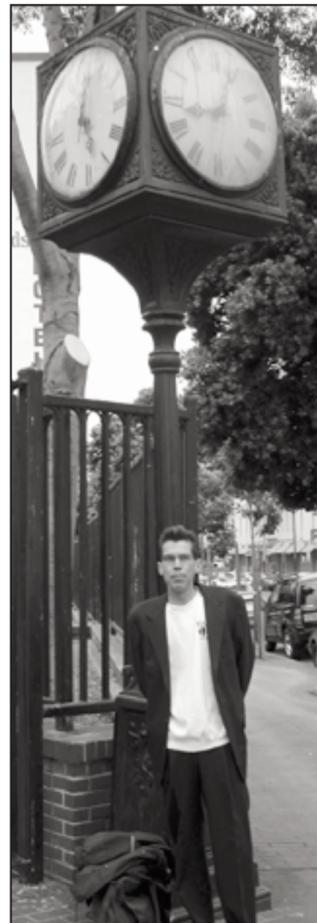
A: This is a country whose history has fought for the right to do what you want, say what you want, and believe what you want, and nobody can tell you any different. If you're an immigrant who loves this ideal, and learns the language, I welcome you here. I think that the Tenderloin, though, should be like the old Barbary Coast — anything goes and buyers beware. But the streets should be clean. Give the homeless good-paying jobs cleaning the streets. As for the rest, the mentally ill, invest in giving them some help.

This was my first interview, and it wasn't as easy as I thought it would be. Interviewing the working poor and the disenfranchised is like entering the body of a snake from which you escape into a glowing, warm-blue light like the kind Bob Labriola bought at one of the overpriced stores where we work that is guaranteed to last 15 years and fits on your key chain

like a comforter in a Goth bar that turns the lights out during a death rock concert.

Bob would make a good mayor. He stuck up for me, at his own risk, when I first got fired from my job. I was brought

PHOTO: CARL ANGEL



Bob Labriola: He who would be the mayor of the Tenderloin.

back, and whether or not I might think that bringing me back was a mistake, he'd make a good mayor of the Tenderloin. He is a working-class hero, a rare spirit who understands the working-class man.

Any interests you might have for making Bob Labriola the mayor of San Francisco may be addressed by calling 437-9319. He will not run unless he is supported.

You want to see your face when you pass out on clean streets? Vote for Bob Labriola. I'm serious. He's a good man, and I can convince him to stop trying to be so clean that he forgets that the lotus grows out of the swamp.

Forget the rest of San Francisco just as thoroughly as the rest of San Francisco has forgotten you. Redistrict the Tenderloin and allow it to secede from San Francisco so that its citizens can take care of themselves in their own way. There are geniuses down here. We

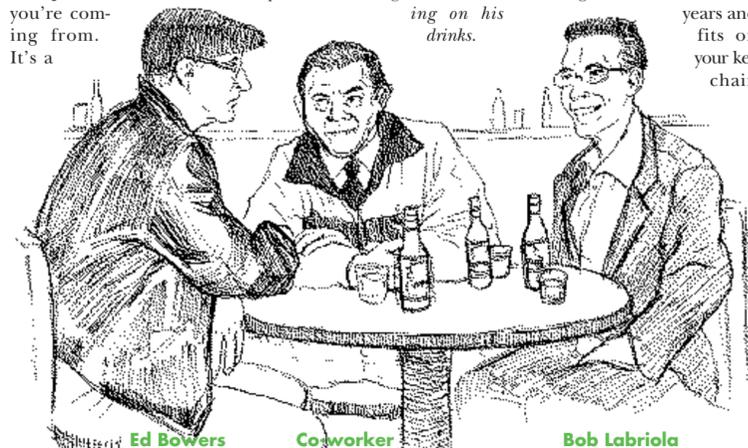


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