

4 stabbings — new gang rumblings stoke fears

BY TOM CARTER

NEWs of the stabbing of four Latinos by a lone young Asian on July 24 at Eddy and Hyde, though scarcely mentioned by major media, added another drop to the wellspring of fear in the Tenderloin.

The incident came just weeks after the numbing rampage at the Dalt hotel, where a deranged service veteran fatally gunned down three people then killed himself. Two weeks later, Dalt tenants were still leery of congregating in the lobby. "People are afraid," said one longtime resident.

"They know there are four or five others just like him ('Big John,' the shooter) who can go off at any time."

Compounding these crimes is rampant drug-dealing, the intimidating presence of roving, idling young men in groups, and a lot of rolling dice on the sidewalks where children walk to school. More and more, the question is being raised: How safe is the Tenderloin?

**"The
Cambodian
Crips are
trying to get
a foothold
in the
Tenderloin."**

David Shinn
SFPD CAPTAIN

In the stabbings, even without a fatality, the particulars smelled of dark, mean streets. At 1:40 a.m., near the New Princess Market, a young Asian man, 5-foot-5, about 130 pounds, attacked four Latino men with a knife from behind. The victims ranged in age from 20 to 35. All four suffered multiple stabs. They were treated at S.F. General and released. The assailant fled into the night. There were no witnesses.

The incident at the Dalt Residence on Turk, owned by TNDC, was different, "an anomaly," said Capt. David Shinn, Tenderloin Station commander. "Some of my officers, veterans, knew him (John Bavardo) well and had arrested him before. He just went off."

Shinn had just come from a two-hour SAFE (Safety Awareness For Everyone) meeting with the TNDC. As a direct result of the Dalt tragedy, police will conduct Violence in the Work Place seminars for SRO tenants, managers and clerks.

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PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

The July 24 stabbings took place near the New Princess Market on Hyde at Eddy.



**CONSUL
CLASH**
Vietnamese
feelings
still raw

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**BIPOLAR
BARED**

Manic-
depression
inside out

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CENTRAL CITY

EXIT

SAN FRANCISCO



PHOTO COLLAGE BY CARL ANGEL

Imposed on a photo of the St. Boniface stage are performers in "Mother: A Modern Buddhist Fairy Tale."

On fringe of Fringe

Spotlighting
2 new venues
in Tenderloin

BY WILL CRAIN

FOR a few days each year, Tenderloin streets bustle with theatergoers racing between venues to catch show after show. Some may feature established artists, others buzz-generating newcomers. Some shows may be the work of complete unknowns. A few may be great, some may need to go back to the workshop for revisions and some should probably be scrapped altogether.

But all shows are cheap — the maximum ticket price is \$8 — and they're all short — most are under 45 minutes — so if audiences don't like one show, they can head down the block to check out the next. "It's like Christmas," says Meredith Elred of the EXIT Theatre. "Every year, you don't know what you're going to get."

The San Francisco Fringe Festival enters its 12th year with a 12-day run from Sept. 3-14. The festival, headquartered at the EXIT Theatre on Eddy Street, spills out into other spaces around the neighborhood through its affiliated Bring Your Own Venue program. Unlike some other organizations in the glob-

al Fringe Fest circuit, the S.F. Fringe isn't juried. Performance groups sign up through a lottery system.

The BYOV program is even looser. The performers find their own space and take care of their own admissions. This year marks the premiere of two new venues in the Fringe Fest, both of which opened in recent months and both of which are potentially very important to the Tenderloin community.

ST. BONIFACE THEATER

Theatre St. Boniface, part of Boeddeker Hall, is on the ground floor of St. Boniface Church, built in 1908. For 30 years, the theater was used mostly for storage; it became part of the \$12 million church renovation that was completed last October.

It's still used mostly for community events and religious celebrations, as it was when the church first opened. But today, the 240-seat theater, with its faux-marble columns, tin ceiling and 19th century-style paintings of the three Muses flanking the stage, is the site of extreme variety: On a Sunday in July, the theater and the open area behind the permanent seats — which can accommodate another 100-plus chairs — was used for a baptismal party. The following week there was a Justice for Janitors rally and press conference about changes in health coverage.

The revival of the theater as a theater is due largely to the efforts of the Tenderloin Opera Company.

"I think it's a gorgeous space with oodles

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