

DOPE project helps save 4 lives from overdoses

Putting Narcan on street credited with 3 of the OD rescues

BY TOM CARTER

A life-saving drug that defuses death-dealing overdoses has saved three lives since November, it was reported at the Tenderloin Police Station's January community meeting. And a fourth life was saved thanks to resuscitation techniques taught by the new program that is getting the beneficial drug to street people.

Narcan, a drug used in hospital emergency rooms and by paramedics, is being distributed by Health Department officials working with the Drug Overdose Prevention and Education (DOPE) project at workshops in the Tenderloin and South of Market.

"I have trained about 100 people since November and four lives have been saved so far," says project director Rachel McLean, who presented the report.

"People who live indoors are more likely to die (OD) than those outdoors."

Rachel McLean
PROJECT DIRECTOR

Three people were saved in hotels in separate instances when vigilant friends administered Narcan, a fourth when someone applied the mouth-to-mouth training learned in a DOPE workshop, she said. The project's half dozen part-time trainers described the rescues in their periodic activity reports.

"At the end of a training program, licensed providers ask people if they may have a reason to use it (Narcan), and if they do, we prescribe it," says Dr. Josh Bamberger, medical director of Urban Health and Housing for the city, which works with the project. "And, sure, there may have been more than three lives saved, but we have no way of knowing that. It is when they come in for a refill that we are able to collect the data and learn the circumstances (of what happened)."

The city's Health Department is the first government body in the country to make the drug available through an education program, but Baltimore and New York may be

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PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Narcan injections are saving the lives of addicts who overdose.

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NUDGING THE BUS

The 38-Geary line is due for upgrade

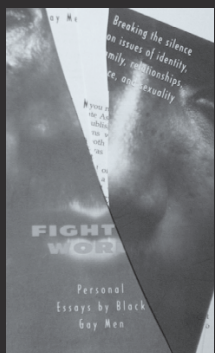
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BOEDDEKER PARK

Looks great, needs kids

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TURNING TABLES

Hateful vandalism defanged

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

INDIE MUSIC CENTRAL



PHOTO BY MARK ELLINGER

Dr. Alec Go-Go performs at Kimo's on Polk St.

The hot spot

4 Polk clubs all in a row —S.F.'s hottest music scene

BY WILL CRAIN

IT'S every music lover's dream: a neighborhood where you can meet friends for a drink in a dive bar; walk to another nightclub to see a really good local band rocking out on a small stage; then stroll a couple of blocks to a beautiful, historic major nightclub to catch a national act. Then catch yet another up-and-coming local act at a different nightclub just a stone's throw away.

Such neighborhoods can exist in large college towns like Austin, Texas, but it's hard to find one in a big, crowded city. Noise complaints, parking problems, crime and other urban ills tend to get in the way. And in San Francisco, where the dot-com boom and bust all but wiped out live music in small clubs, it seems impossible.

So don't tell anyone; we don't want to jinx it.

"I love the TL," says Conan Neutron of the East Bay band Replicator. "I definitely think that the Tenderloin is the heart of underground music in S.F. as I think of it."

With the Great American Music Hall as a sort of anchor, a scene has slowly come together in Polk Gulch. On almost any night, nationally known touring acts play at

the Great American on O'Farrell Street, and up-and-coming acts at the Hemlock on Polk Street. Further up the street, Kimo's has managed to keep up a nightly schedule of mostly local bands, despite a protracted battle over noise complaints. Nearby on Geary, the venerable Edinburgh Castle hosts music in its upstairs room a couple of times a week (Neutron has recently started booking a monthly noise rock night called Club Awesome in the Edinburgh), with theater and spoken word rounding out its schedule the rest of the week.

Yes, this list includes only four clubs, but that's better than you can say these days for San Francisco's traditional night spots, like North Beach and the Haight-Ashbury, or even for the Mission District and 11th Street (although some of these areas are starting to show signs of a live music renaissance). And, if you stretch the Tenderloin map a little farther up Polk Street to include the Red Devil Lounge, a well-appointed club that has recently added more daring original music to its cover band-packed schedule, you have the makings of a real Music Row in the heart of the city.

Toby Suckow, a DJ at college radio station KUSF and a publicist and booker at Bimbo's 365 Club in North Beach, credits the Hemlock, which started booking shows in 2001, with the phenomenon.

"It changed the scene for the better," she says. "They book live music almost every night of the week. It's a good place to go just to check out bands, the cover is always very reasonable. Also, the shows at the Great American Music Hall generally end early, so you can see a show there and then

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