

Tenderloin pleads for protection

Police captain urges supes to pass loitering law

BY TOM CARTER

THE New Tenderloin coalition — six months old and mad as hell about crime and crummy neighborhood conditions — brought its long list of complaints and pleas for solutions to a Board of Supervisors committee hearing Sept. 10.

The loudest voice turned out to be that of Tenderloin police Capt. Gary Jimenez. He was as worked up as anyone, maybe more than most. He suggested the supervisors study enacting an anti-loitering law, a veritable red flag for the ACLU.

TNT also brought a petition with more than 5,000 signatures that asks the supes' Public Safety Committee to treat the Tenderloin just like other neighborhoods. The group chafes under the perception that the Tenderloin intentionally gets short shrift from the city because of its tradition of poverty and crime.

Up to 40 speakers — residents young and old, nonprofits, business owners, activists, students, parents and university administrators

— described the dangers and chaos of daily living to the three-member committee and District 6 Supervisor Chris Daly, who sat in on the hearing he had arranged. The perils they recounted ranged from muggings and sidestepping human feces to reckless drivers and gang shootings.

These conditions, speaker after speaker emphasized, would not be permitted in Pacific Heights and the Marina.

Daly, who once lived in the Tenderloin, had requested the hearing in March when TNT was forming its steering committee.

The group drew praise from committee Chair Ross Mirkarimi for its accomplishments.

Working with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, TNT has gotten school zone signs upgraded, crosswalks repainted and speed limit signs added. The TNT Safe Haven campaign — anyone who feels threatened can duck inside a sympathetic business bearing an identifying sign — has 22 addresses, some unconfirmed. (See story on Pg. 2.)

Dina Hilliard, TL organizer for Safety Network and an eight-year resident who helped launch TNT, recapped its brief history for the supes. The group burst into force April 26 at a meeting attended by more than 125 angry activists. The 5,000-name petition was one idea

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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

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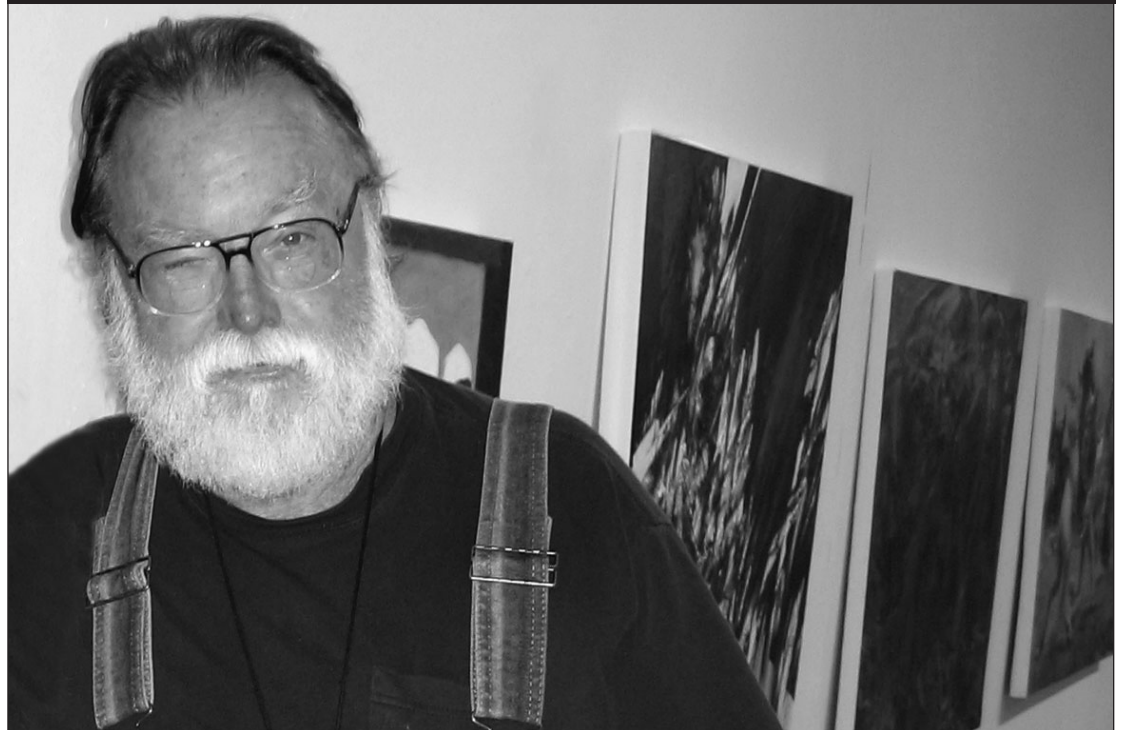


PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Jack Davis, at an exhibit in the north gallery of SomArts, which he headed for 20 years.

A giant passes

San Francisco loses Jack Davis, a huge patron of grassroots arts

BY TOM CARTER

JACK Davis, a big man who could command any stage but chose to stand even taller behind it, died on Sept. 23, leaving a hole in the heart of San Francisco's art scene.

Mr. Davis, the director of SomArts on Brannan Street for 20 years, had taken his 18-year-old son Arthur to U.C. San Diego in La Jolla and was driving back to the Bay Area. Mr. Davis veered off Interstate 5 north of Valencia and crashed into an embankment. No one else was in the car. The injured Mr. Davis was taken to Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital in Valencia where he died the next day of a heart attack, his relatives said. He was 66.

"Jack was a constant in the universe," Kary Schulman, director of San Francisco's Grants for the Arts, told the Chronicle. "I feel like the stars are starting to go out."

A celebration of Mr. Davis' life will be held Sunday, Nov. 18, at SomArts from 2 p.m. until sundown.

Word spread rapidly through the Bay Area art community, even to artists working abroad. The white-bearded former Shakespearean actor had incubated art projects for 40 years. He was a legendary father figure in his trademark coveralls who worked quietly behind the scenes as a stage manager, technician and administrator. But the humble, charismatic Mr. Davis was even more to his friends. One described him as a bodhisattva, a potential Buddha, a person motivated by compassion who seeks enlightenment for himself and others.

SomArts is one of the city's largest and most accessible stage and versatile gallery venues, one of four community cultural centers under contract to the San Francisco Arts Commission and is funded by the Hotel Tax Fund.

With his a sympathetic ear for starving artists and big ideas, Mr. Davis turned the

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PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Daughter Sarah Davis and artist Carlos Loarca share a memory at the SomArts soiree in September.