

Cuts coming — CCSF campus near Tenderloin losing classes

BY JEAN-PIERRE BITCHOKA

A STATE budget cut has City College's Alemany campus, on the fringe of the Tenderloin, facing the prospect of offering fewer classes for spring, summer and fall '09 sessions.

CCSF expects a \$3 million shortfall this year and \$8.3 million for 2008-09, Interim Chancellor Don Griffin told members of the neighborhood press, which would mean canceling 500 classes for upcoming semesters citywide, Griffin said. However, he added, the college would "find a way to cope with the shortfall. We are going to tap into our reserve to deal with this crisis."

City College is also planning to cut non-credit and credit summer classes by 15% for summers 2008 and '09, not replace faculty and classified workers who retire, and slash other programs, including vocational.

The Alemany campus, at Van Ness and Ellis, offers noncredit classes in ESL, business, computers and English to almost 3,000 students, of whom 40% live in the Tenderloin, a CCSF official estimates.

No sections will be canceled for the fall, but next year sections will be down 1% to 2%, Griffin said. "That will mean cutting 50 to 100 classes out of the 5,000 classes offered in spring and fall."

Summer 2009 will see the biggest cut in credit and noncredit classes. Only noncredit classes will be affected this summer.

Gary Tom, Alemany campus dean, said there is no decision yet how many classes at Alemany will be cut this summer. "We are still waiting on the final budget," he said.

"We are going to evenly spread the cuts," Griffin said. However, Alemany, Downtown and John Adams campuses will have more noncredit summer classes cut than other campuses.

Lilian Tran, Tenderloin resident and ESL student at the Alemany campus, reacting to the news about the cancellations, said: "We will have to travel farther to other campuses to take the classes we need. It is convenient and encouraging to be able to take classes right there in your neighborhood. Canceling classes will discourage many neighborhood residents to pursue an education." ■



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Michael Nulty (left) and brother **John Nulty** (right) with POP honoree **Paul Lovinger** get ready to cut the cake at the post office victory celebration.

Post office going full service

TL coalition gets Postal Service to bring back 101 Hyde St.

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

IF the Postal Service again listens to its patrons, it will send out postcards to everyone living in ZIP codes 94102, 94103 and 94109 and give them the news: 101 Hyde is converting to a full-service post office.

What had become a dangerous and almost useless shell of a building — with reduced hours and nothing more than 7,989 rental boxes, 40% of them rented — now will have all this: two windows where USPS staff will sell stamps, weigh parcels, handle rental boxes, serve general delivery patrons, accept applications for passports. It may even have a place to send out letters — the drop boxes were removed from the site early this year.

A coalition of neighborhood activists was the driving force behind the change. They collected 1,000 signatures on a petition and sent it and a letter to Postal Service District Manager Winifred Groux, cc'ing them to Rep. Nancy Pelosi and the U.S. postmaster. They got Supervisor Chris Daly involved as well as TL police Capt. Gary Jimenez, and spoke at a supervisors' Operations and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting after holding a noisy rally in front of the Golden Gate and Hyde facility.

May 14, USPS sent out a press release announcing the people's victory. "The community asked us to consider upgrading... to a full-fledged retail center and we listened," Groux was quoted as saying.

Two weeks later, a small gathering of winners in this

David vs. Goliath contest cut a cake to celebrate. Renovation of the building will begin in the next two months, and Rep. Pelosi's office wants to host a grand opening.

Somehow, the work's never quite done: POP (Post Office Patrons), a group of box holders that started advocating for better box services after the '89 quake closed many postal facilities, is surveying members, asking what else they want: mail boxes; stamp machine in the lobby; first-class mail sorted into boxes daily; longer lobby hours; Saturday retail services.

Michael Nulty, POP member and Alliance for a Better District 6 president, says they'll use the survey results as they continue negotiating with USPS. ■



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