MURDER: Tenderloin’s reputation undeserved

Neighborhood ranks No. 7 in homicides last year, over time

BY TOM CARTER

On the first day of this year at 3:20 p.m., 20-year-old Larry Lacy was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He was strung with another man on the sidewalk on the corner of Turk and Taylor streets in front of the 21 Club when somebody shot him to death.

Lacy lived in East Palo Alto and generally hung out in the Bayview district across town, police said. He was under a stay-away order from the court for selling dope, banning him from that part of the Tenderloin.

The shooter fled and, as with 80% of the homicides in San Francisco, no one was arrested.

“It should be noted that the victims ... was from the Hunters Point-SF area,” Capt. Joe Garrity wrote in his Jan. 21 community newsletter. “And the suspect was from Oakland. We continue to recognize that both the victims and suspects do not live or work in the Tenderloin area."

In his office in March, Garrity said, “That seems to be what’s taking place and the trend in street crime.” The TL has its crimes of passion on the street and its domestic violence inside homes, “which is unpredictable,” Garrity said.

The previous homicide in the Tenderloin police district was Friday, Aug. 19, 2010, just after midnight at O’Farrell and Jones streets, four blocks away.

Based on a 10-year police report, the Tenderloin averages 5.1 homicides a year, not the city’s leading district. Media reports, however, often attribute homicides to the Tenderloin because neighborhood perceptions described by the Planning Department include a few more blocks than in the police district. Two other homicides this year ascribed to the TL in media reports, one on Geary, one on Larkin, were

THE VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS DO NOT LIVE OR WORK IN THE TENDERLOIN.

Joe Garrity TL POLICE CAPTAIN

-YMCA series tells TL youth much about work-

BY TOM CARTER

Follow your passion, be articulate ... and don’t be in a hurry to get there. That was the main message panelists with successful careers gave to YMCA youngsters who met on three evenings in March to get advice about working for a living.

Having professionals open up to kids to get them thinking about their futures was the brainchild of Adam Maldonado, a new Central Shih-Yu-Lang YMCA board member and an Alameda County deputy D.A. “It’s to give them perspective,” Maldonado said of bringing in professionals.

The first three Wednesday evenings in March, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., four to five panelists drew on anecdotes from their personal path to their career to tell 15 to 30 teenagers and younger kids how to get there themselves. Some had changed careers a couple of times before they got it right. And all said they loved their jobs.

The two no-show panelists were a video game developer and movie star Danny Glover, scheduled for the March 9 “Creative Arts/Public Relations/Television” panel but he was bumped to possible later dates because of a conflict. Glover’s whereabouts were a mystery. Leah Garchik’s March 11 Chron column had him spotted at See’s Clement Street candy store, and a March 19 Washington Post story put him in Port au Prince, Haiti, arriving in a private jet with former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. It was uncertain if Glover would join the final panel, re-scheduled for April 6, and entitled “Civil Service/Lif savers.”

At each session, the panelists introduced themselves and summarized their back-grounds. Then the questions began. The first one, March 9, was a fastball from a teenager in the back: “As a youngster, what did you think you’d be as an adult?” Finding your niche can be a curvy road, the teens learned.

“People said I should be a lawyer,” said Akilah Bolden-Monifa, 53, a CBS spokes- woman for two Bay Area television and six radio stations. “So for 15 years I was a lawyer, and a professor, and I was a good one. But one day when I was 40 I looked in the newspaper at the things that interested me most and they all had to do with publicity.”

So Bolden-Monifa followed her bliss and hasn’t looked back, loving the stressful work and yet having fun and meeting the stars of CNN programs, such as “America’s Next Top Model” host Tyra Banks.

Faboula Kramsky, born and raised in the Tenderloin told TL youth much about work.
THE COLORFUL MURAL, planned for the Post Office at 101 Hyde St., goes before the city Arts Commission April 4 and, if approved, will be at least six weekday noon concerts during the summer, for which the Tenderloin CBD may help with funding.

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

The 2010 District 6 supervisorial election campaign cost the 14 candidates combined $1,152,555. Final disclosure documents filed with the Ethics Commission show.

Winner Jane Kim topped all candidates by raising $129,838 in private contributions and $90,817 in matching city funds. Runner-up Debra Walker got $149,819 from political action committee (PACs), and her campaign expenses totaled $309,180. (PAC money does not count toward city expenses.)

The trend readers, poll watchers and campaign watchers can expect to continue in 2011. A cursory review of how the candidates spent money turns up intriguing, even stark, contrasts:

For Meko, the fare at Ninth Street’s To La and South of Market’s Extreme Pizza Hut and beyond. For Meko, the upscale Farmer Brown to Folsom Street’s Mercury Lounge to Pizza Upscale.

For Kim, sustenance at Pedro’s Cantina on Market with $1,940 more in matching city funds, but his spending rate of $127 for each of his 498 votes was the costliest in District 6.

A cursory review of how the candidates spent money turns up intriguing, even stark, contrasts: systemic and design approval from the Post Office Artist Johanna Poethig will create the mural on Golden Gate Avenue. The theme shows hummingbirds and plants morphing into musical instruments. Poethig did the ceramic pillars and tile floors at Tenderloin Recreation Center, in the Tenderloin, while Matt Drake dropped more than half of his $318 total food expense for sustenance at Pedro’s Cantina on King Street. Kim ranged from TL’s upscale Farmer Brown to Folsom Street’s Mercury Lounge to Pizza Hut and beyond. For Meko, the fare at Ninth Street’s To La and South of Market’s Extreme Pizza eased the campaign rigors.

Not big bucks compared to what the consultants received. The trend readers, poll watchers and public relations spinners scored big. For the wisdom and guidance of Left Coast Communications, Kim paid $109,553.

Matt Drake provided $9,350 and was able to balance out at zero. $8,350 and was able to balance out at zero.

The trend readers, poll watchers and campaign watchers can expect to continue in 2011. For Meko, the fare at Ninth Street’s To La and South of Market’s Extreme Pizza eased the campaign rigors.

All of our rooms have a two-burner stove, refrigerator, single or full sized bed with a closet, with you in mind. The Knox and Bayanihan House are designed for compassionate residents and a caring staff, The Knox and Bayanihan House are designed to deliver colorful artisan-designed campaign brochures directly to voters’ homes.

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Central City Democrats

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Mon. April 25, 2011 @ 6PM
201 Turk Street, Community Room

~ Special Guest Speakers
~ Awards Ceremony
~ Board Elections

Special Recognition Awards:
Stephen Conley Champion Award
Recipient Marilyn Isbell
James Leo Dunn Memorial Award
Recipient Jamie Whitaker

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Commuter criminals involved in many killings, 2010 homicides

The number of killings in the city’s 10 police districts

Central 3
Southern 2
Bayview 14
Mission 6
Northern 4
Park 9
Richmond 1
Inglewood 8
Taraval 5
Tenderloin 3

out of bounds, though Tenderloin cops often respond first to these scenes.

Tenderloin figures pale next to Bayview, which last year had 34 homicides but arrests for only one. Five other districts had more homicides than the Tenderloin.

“Tenderloin is the biggest fear,” Gantry said, “is that somebody is going to a store, or to a nonprofit, or a kid walking on the street, will catch a bullet.”

There has been blood. Eric Lindsay, 52, was being pushed in a wheelchair by his fiancee on his way to buy a pizza at 7:45 p.m. Aug. 5, 2006, when he was suddenly in the middle of a botched drug transaction that turned violent in the 400 block of O’Farrell Street. He caught a bullet in the chest and died.

On April 18, 2007, after midnight on the crime-ridden 300 block of Ellis Street, Lena Allen, a 54-year-old, recent Sixth Street hotel resident, became another innocent victim of a gun battle. Police said Walter Simon, 32, of Richmond was on the block returning gunfire when his rounds killed Allen, Simon, who police said had a rap sheet for drug dealing and weapons possession in the Tenderloin, was in a wheelchair, himself a victim of a shooting.

And there are other violent situations that could have easily meant curbs for a bystander. The afternoon before Allen’s death, at 4:20, seven blocks away in what police called a gang execution, 16-year-old Kelvin Mencia of Oakland was chased to a donut shop at Golden Gate Avenue and Hyde Street, where a fight broke out. He was gunned down. Police arrested five suspects, four of them juveniles.

Tenderloin residents are still talking about the shooting two years ago near Grand Liquor Store where small crowds gathered out front day and night. On Feb. 25, 2009, at 10:20 p.m. a silver Mercedes-Benz SUV with temporary license plates was traveling west on Turk. As it approached Taylor Street, gunshot pockmarked the vehicle, wounding five men and killing a woman. The driver, believed to be part of a drug deal. The Mercedes sped off, chased by San Francisco police, who said the SUV hit 110 mph going over the Bay Bridge. Police said it was the poorest, with scores of historic, well-kept hotels and other buildings. Hardworking Latino and Asian families coexist with a grumpy, poverty-stricken underclass seeking soup kitchens and detox centers. Mental health patients find help from a plethora of nonprofits; a high percentage of parolees and ex-cons try to stretch any captain has served in the TL. He is now the department’s night supervising captain for the city.

“Tenderloin is the easiest war to wage,” Gantry said. “There’s not an area where you can’t find people involved in some way. It’s not a trick.”

The Tenderloin’s historic bad reputation is its allure, though the Tenderloin is nothing like the Tenderloin.

The Tenderloin kids learn importance of high school

Mexico City, worked in the hotel industry after high school, then went to college to become a translator. She later got a break when a Big TV station started hosting Univision’s Spanish-speaking weekday morning programs on Channels 14 and 20.

Two panelists, one an assistant district attorney working with the juvenile division, the other a final-year law student, said when they were kids people were scared of Tenderloin, who “didn’t like to talk to strangers.”

Denny Choi, who as a youngster had spent eight hours a day playing video games, said he was once introduced to a woman who “didn’t like to talk to strangers” but overcame that barrier.

“Take things slowly,” Dyer cautioned. “You don’t need to know the answers to everything. Take baby steps.”

Bolden-Monifa also gave advice to ease the psychological burden of wanting too much too fast.

“I didn’t go to culinary school,” said Lee. “I didn’t feel like I needed experience. Then I did a clever thing: I went to find a job I might like, and I found it.”

“The happy student said she had learned more in 10 minutes than she had from her school’s culinary program. He applied for jobs only at places he greatly admired, and a stall at the Ferry Building Farmers’ Market.

You can teach in public schools, which are 90% of the nation’s schools, or private schools, he told her. Public schools require a teaching credential, private schools don’t, he said. Substitutes teach doesn’t require a credential. And some college kids are getting paid to teach in middle schools, now,” Crutchfield said. “I can hook you up.”

The best place in California to commit a crime is...
having a job you love

The kids at once saw an opportunity for their Y classes.

"Will you be a guest chef at our cooking class?" they asked.

"Yes, he said. and Aladuni agreed to come to their art class.

At every session the kids wanted to know if the panelists liked their jobs. Only one panelist wavered, but only for a moment. Alaaeddine Sahibi, a Moroccan-born corporation lawyer who moved to Los Angeles when he was 10, said that the March 23 session that he works on mergers and buyouts and with venture capitalists. Mounds of paperwork can be boring, he said.

"At times I do enjoy it when it makes the news and I can see, yes, I was involved with the transaction, that's exciting. And the perks are worth it, flying all around the world, everything paid for." a 14-year-old boy wanted to know what the panelists were doing when they were 14.

Becky Schweighardt, a scientist who did HIV research for 20 years, said her early years as "a department store clerk without any high aspirations" were "not so good." Choi, serving on his second panel, said, "High school was hard to figure out."

"You need to find your passion," said the scientist. Schweighardt, who had spent 21 years in Manhattan’s Times Square and seeing a crowd of 250,000 people, recalled the thrill of arriving in New York. And working at a job she loves. Allen gave him World Series tickets. Not many, when asked, would change much in their past, because they didn’t have a choice. One brother a lifer, more for him as the older brother. That is going strong with 50 employees in Denver.

The panelists indicated that the path to success was not easy, even for those who showed talent early on. "You need curiosity and the will to pursue," said the scientist. Schweighardt, who had spent 21 years in school, then four more, in training. "You need to find your passion," said Crutchfield, who said he was the first black teacher at San Francisco’s exclusive Town School for Boys. "If you do what you love, the saying goes, you’ll never have another day of work."

"Don’t be afraid to ask people about what you’re passionate about," said Gruber, who works for Adobe Outreach. "It will help you understand. When I was young, I didn’t know that."
DEWAYNE BISHOP
Member, Black Brothers Esteem

The death of Dewayne Bishop was discovered Feb. 15 when police found him on the floor of his room at the Ambassador Hotel. At a service Feb. 24 in the hotel’s Listening Post, about a dozen friends and fellow resi-idents gathered to remember him.
Mr. Bishop was born April 12, 1960, perhaps the only certainty about his past. His social worker will say nothing about his roots; the medical examiner says his birth certificate will say nothing about his roots; the medical examiner says his birth certificate will say nothing about his roots. His social worker will say

“...and over the past few months, physical weakening may have caused him to appear ‘a little standoffish. He was a troubled soul. Like most of us, he was confused.’...”

When a person is sick,” said Henry Banks Ladd, who honored Mr. Bishop by singing a powerful version of “His Eyes Are on the Sparrow,” “you think that they can do things. But they can’t.” Ladd had met Mr. Bishop at a group meeting. But when they played tennis together in Golden Gate Park, “He allowed me to see another side of him: vibrant and healthy.”

Some people said he was withdrawn,” said Tom Laurent, “but we had lively conversations. Before Christmas, he knocked on my door and handed me a stocking filled with various items he had hand-picked for me.... He showed great respect for others. We enjoyed talking for long periods of time.”

Several of those gathered identified themselves as “fraternity broth-ers,” fellow members of Black Brothers Esteem, a group that is part of the S.F. AIDS Foundation. Mr. Bishop had been a client, then volun-teered in a variety of events around the city to help promote health. Black Brothers’ Tony Bradford called Mr. Bishop “a great spirit,” and the group’s Micah Lubensky said Mr. Bishop had done “a lot of speaking, talking about how important HIV prevention was.” He was very passionate about making a difference in the community. “...”

When Mr. Bishop worked at a Starbucks, said Lubensky, he was “very well-organized; very clear on deadlines, on making sure he’d stay on track at work. And that’s one of the reasons he was a very good volunteer for me. I asked him to speak publicly, he was very happy to do so. And he was a very sweet person, a very sweet individual.”

Edmund Jucye recalled that Mr. Bishop had been working at a 7-Eleven when he was recruited by Black Brothers Esteem. “Coming to BBE was really great for him.” Jucye described him dressing as a bishop — reflecting his name — at a Halloween party, and the great appetite he had for chicken pizza from Trader Joe’s. “He would always eat with great appetite...” Lubensky added, “He liked to listen close. He had people he bonded with and cared about.”

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Pauline Baker, Mr. Barrow’s sister, said their family was raised in the Fillmore, and that as a youngster Joe liked music and lifting weights. He attended Polytechnic High. His poor eyesight disqualified him from military service, but he worked as a merchant seaman for many years.

“I don’t think he liked it very well,” his sister said. “He got off that boat and wouldn’t even get on a ferry. He was done with boats.”

He came ashore for good in the late 1980s to help care for his aging parents — his mom and stepfather, the late Christine and Sterling Jones — in the Fillmore. He worked as a janitor at San Francisco General, as he had previously on ships, and as a property manager. Caring for the family became “a bit much” for him, Baker said, and she had little contact with him in recent years. “There’s always issues, but you leave the door open, keep the same number. You don’t close your heart.”

He “liked to watch TV and listen to music,” she recalled. “James Brown, that was his guy. He liked soul.”

Mr. Barrow was “basically a loner,” she said, though he treasured his family. He displayed their pictures prominently in his room, and kept all their letters as a “way of keeping him alive.”

She had not heard much from her brother in recent years, Baker said, but figured he was saving his money to visit his family. His middle child, Christine, had recently given birth to her first granddaughter, she said. “He displayed their pictures that was his guy. He liked soul.”

“He was getting ready to do something,” his sister said. “He figured he was saving his money for his family. He displayed their pictures prominently in his room, and kept all their letters as a ‘way of keeping him alive.’”

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