Strip club shut after continuing noise, violence

City-commissioner owner shuts Pink Diamonds

BY TOM CARTER

The beleaguered Pink Diamonds strip club was shut down Dec. 1, put out of business by the building owner after the city attorney threatened to sue over the club’s continual violations.

The shuttering of the 220 Jones St. venue also came nine days after a man was gunned down on the street in an incident police traced to Pink Diamonds. And it came less than a month after the club management promised the neighborhood smooth sailing. The manager announced in a specially called public meeting that the club had hired an ex-police captain to devise an outside security system to control crowds and avoid bloodshed.

“The property owner decided he wanted that club out of there,” Deputy City Attorney Jerry Threet said at the Nov. 25 Tenderloin police Community Forum. “And he called me to say it would be shut down in December.”

The building owner is Terrance Pope, who serves on the Entertainment Commission and heads the Late Night Coalition, an industry group that promotes establishing after-hours entertainment in the city.

Threet said the previous day he had sent Alan’s lessees a letter, copying Alan, saying the city attorney was contemplating litigation to get the club to comply with the law. The lessees are Ed Pope of Ed Pope Inc., and Damone H. Smith of D.H.S. Global Investments LLC.

Pope and Smith also had created Pink Diamonds’ predecessor, The Vixen, which became so plagued with noise, violence and code violations and citations that Alan closed it late in 2007. In a letter last September, the building owner, Terrance Pope and Smith also had created Pink Diamonds’ predecessor, The Vixen, which became so plagued with noise, violence and code violations and citations that Alan closed it late in 2007. In a letter last September, the building owner, Terrance Pope, said the property owner decided he wanted that club out of there. After The Vixen closed, Pope and Smith assured the city that new management would manage to toe the line. Their letter pointed out. Yet ‘troubling incidents’ continued.

Located just a half a block from Tenderloin police Station 5, Pink Diamonds operated in the spring and at some point began selling an array of non-alcoholic, high-energy beverages and alcoholic, high-energy beverages.

Of the 12,633 people registered to vote in the Tenderloin, only 66% actually cast ballots in the November election. But it was a big jump in participation.

Central City’s turnout soars, yet falls below the rest of S.F.

BY MARJORIE BEGGS, HEIDI SWILLINGER AND TOM CARTER

It hit the rest of San Francisco, voters in the central city turned out in record numbers for the 2008 general election. Despite the major leap forward, the Civic Center area turnout was low compared with the rest of the city — citywide, 81% of voters, 88,112, cast ballots.

“Compared to 2000 and 2004, it’s night and day,” said Charles MacNulty, Elections Department voter outreach manager.

When you look at the heart of the central city, the numbers do soar compared with previous elections, yet remain the lowest of the low.

The Extra pulled numbers for the Tenderloin’s 17 precincts and nine precincts in west SoMa. Together, the turnout averaged 68% — 20,548 voters registered in the 26 precincts and 13,975 cast ballots.

In the Tenderloin, 66% of those registered voted, a big jump compared with 57% in both 2004 and 2000.

In the West SoMa precincts, 70% voted this election, up from 60% in 2004. Because of changes in SoMa precinct numbers, The Extra was unable to get comparable information for the 2000 general election.

The Extra’s more focused central city boundaries make our tallies less rosy than the Elections Department’s, which includes the Tenderloin in a neighborhood of 33 precincts it calls Civic Center/Downtown. The department reported a turnout of 78% for Civic Center/Downtown in 2008, 66% in 2004 and 54% in 2000.

But Civic Center/Downtown’s boundaries extend as far east as Sansome Street and north to Sacramento Street. When the TC’s 17 precincts are factored out, the 16 tonier precincts averaged a 75% turnout, 12 percentage points higher than the Tenderloin.

The department’s SoMa summary takes in an additional 10 precincts that stretch down to King Street and along the Embarcadero to Market Street. Excluding West SoMa, those 10 had an 80% turnout. In the total 19 SoMa precincts, Elections report- ed, 76% of registered voters cast ballots, up from 68% in 2004.

So, central city came through better by nine percentage points than eight years ago. But it was still way off the citywide average and, for the first time, was the neighborhood with the lowest turnout in the city. Its closest competitors for that dubious distinction were Visitacion Valley at a hair above 68% and Bayview-Hunters Point at 70%. Both had jumped way up from 2000 — Bayview 19 percentage points and Vis Valley 16.

Of course, the fact that this presidential election was special drew voters everywhere out in droves. That the central city

We’re dead last

Of the 12,633 people registered to vote in the Tenderloin, only 66% actually cast ballots in the November election. But it was a big jump in participation.
Attendants at court-mats, but regulars soldier on

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

AFTER seven years, the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative may have to rethink its usefulness because of a change in neighborhood information-sharing.

Launched in 2001 to carry on some of the work of the disbanded Lower Eddy/Leavenworth Task Force, the Collaborative’s monthly meetings used to draw 25 people interested in hearing about the latest land use plans, project and program startups and shutdowns, store openings, changes in bus routes and much more.

With a full agenda, Chair Glenda Hope often had to drop one presentation to make sure there was time for the next. Meetings always went full tilt for 90 minutes, right up to adjournment.

At the November meeting, only nine people showed. One was the Rev. Hope and another was Steve Woo of TNDC, who sends out the meeting notices, recruits presenters and prepares agendas. This agenda had only two items on it. The meeting was over in 45 minutes.

The Extra asked a few former regulars what they think is going on. “Perhaps there has been some shift of interest,” said Elaine Zamora, manager of the North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. “but there’s still so much going on in the neighborhood, and the need to know is still there.”

She acknowledged that proliferation in the number of meetings held by organized activists may be affecting TFC’s lower turnouts. Seven years ago there were no CBDS, no regulars soldier on.

“Perhaps there has been some shift of interest,” said Elaine Zamora, manager of the North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. “but there’s still so much going on in the neighborhood, and the need to know is still there.”

She acknowledged that proliferation in the number of meetings held by organized activists may be affecting TFC’s lower turnouts. Seven years ago there were no CBDS, no regulars soldier on.

“We are going to have a lot of meetings so before you,” she said. “The issues are still out there — things haven’t changed much in the neighborhood even if there are more active organizations.”

Crime and poverty persist, she says, and Tenderloin stakeholders need to track how land is being used.

TNDC’s Woo chalks up meeting attendance of 9-11 people as fluctuation. Still, he says support from TFC’s steering committee “has been dwindling,” making it hard for him to do TFC outreach as well as his full-time TNDC community organizing job. “Two days after the December Collaborative meeting, Woo sent out an email to regular attendees saying that he and Hope had decided to cancel, but ‘we will pick up again in January.”

CURRENTLY IN THE BLACK

The 172 units, for single adults ages healthy behavior rather than punishment or rehab for substance abuse.

The building’s top two floors house the Tenderloin Homeless hotel, which opened in 2005 on the ground floor of the Tenderloin Hotel.

YMCA Executive Director Car melia Gold used to be a regular, too. She thinks TFC meetings may have lost some punch, but they remain essential to the neighborhood.

“It’s been wonderful to have a venue to discuss new projects, programs and faces in the past,” she said. “I support it in concept and practice, and I learn something new every time I attend. And I like that it’s volunteer-based — a pipeline where diverse people can gather.”

Gold also believes the many neighborhood meetings these days are healthy, a sign of active involvement. “We’re not just in a meeting, we’re in a movement,” he said.

Mortensen said that he and Hope had decided to stop the meetings, which were held on the second Monday of the month at 134 Golden Gate and held for two years. “We’ll pick it up again in January.”

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tomb@studycenter.org.
Breathing through cultural barriers to health care

BY HEIDI SWILLINGER

Coping with breast cancer is hard enough. But coping with it alone is harder. Esther Macaraeg can’t change the fact that she is the leading cancer among Filipino American women, affecting 73 in 100,000 Filipinas. But she has made it her mission to make sure they don’t have to go through it on their own.

As executive director of the Filipino Senior Resource Center in the Western Neighborhood Project, Macaraeg is in close touch with the Filipino community. She founded the center — initially as a volunteer — in 2000 to fill the needs of the neighborhood’s large senior population. It’s one of the neighborhood’s newest resources devoted to Filipino Americans.

At the Senior Resource Center, Macaraeg provides case management, makes referrals for housing and medical care, and offers translation services that range from explaining forms written in English to interpreting during doctors’ visits. She also offers support groups for seniors, and when she realized that many who attended were breast cancer survivors, she formed a group for them.

With help from U.C. San Francisco and a $55,000 grant from the Avon Foundation, the group began meeting in July. In focusing on breast cancer, Macaraeg zeroed in on an unfilled need. Just behind Japanese women, Filipinas have the highest breast cancer rate among Asian subgroups, and the highest mortality rate among Asian subgroups in California, according to Nancy Burke, a professor at UCSF’s Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Center. Compared with white women, Filipinas are more likely to be diagnosed at later stages and are more likely to die from the disease. Despite this, Burke says research on — and resources for — Filipinas with breast cancer is scarce.

Although most of the members in Macaraeg’s group are elders, it is open to women of all ages. They meet every other Monday to learn the latest about issues relating to breast cancer: the group is conducted in Tagalog. The educational component is important, says Macaraeg, because many of the women are immigrants unfamiliar with the concept of preventive medicine. They may not recognize the importance of having regular mammograms, or they may simply be afraid to go to a doctor, she says.

“In our culture, we go to the doctor if we feel something is wrong,” says Macaraeg. “Otherwise, we don’t go.” She adds that many Filipinas — especially elders — rely on “medicine man” — family medicine men — for their health, and this can complicate matters, unlike problems in the West, where many Filipinas who take medicine for their cancer treatments are used to getting help from their families. “I’m lonely,” she says. “Some of the women have no one to talk or make jewelry, candles or silk flowers, which they sell at fundraisers for the center.”

With money raised from craft and food sales, as well as donations from San Francisco’s 40,000 Filipinos, Macaraeg has turned a modest two-room office in the basement of the Mint Mall building into an oasis for the 10 to 15 women who attend the support group events.

For group members Veneracion Zamora, Celestina Jugo and Romana Elomina, who all faced their illness with little or no support from family members, the group is a valuable respite from their cares.

“I enjoy the laughter and camaraderie of the group,” says Zamora, a retired Pacific Bell worker who was diagnosed with cancer in both breasts. “It gives me a reason to get out of the house.”

Jugo says the craft sessions help her relax. “I don’t think about my problems,” says the retired security guard, adding that she particularly enjoys the company the group provides because her family lives in the Philippines. “I’m lonely,” she says.

Jugo’s situation is far from rare. Romona Elomina, for example, was diagnosed in 2007 and underwent chemotherapy. The retired hotel housekeeper is a widow whose daughter lives in Las Vegas. Macaraeg says she particularly enjoys the company this group provides because her family lives in the Philippines.

“Depression is a part of that sickness,” says Jugo. “Some of the women have support from families, but if you are a senior, you may have kids, but they’re busy with their own families.” One of Macaraeg’s goals was to establish a buddy system, so that members have someone to turn to. “That’s important,” she says. “Knowing you have someone to rely on in case of emergency.”

New ED at SomArts

BY TOM CARTER AND MARJORIE BEGGs

Leitheit says that as the new executive director of SomArts, she knows she has “big shoes to fill” — those of Jack Davis, who died in September 2007 after 20 years at the helm of the innovative South of Market arts center.

“Leitheit’s passion for community-based art, artists and their work . . . makes her an excellent choice to provide the next generation of leadership at SomArts,” said Brian Freeman, playwright/director and chairman of the search committee for Davis’ successor.

More than 450,000 people a year come through SomArts’ Brannan Street doors for its year-round arts classes, theater performances, gallery exhibitions and technical services.

Leitheit visited one of those art exhibitions in 2005 and, she recalls, found it “a magical place,” with a mix of patrons from all over the city — “so friendly, talking and laughing, and it flowed into the gallery and showed in art on the walls” — people there are very expressive.”

She joined SomArts in October after 10 years as an arts administrator, the last four as the assistant director of Wesleyan University’s Green Street Arts Center in Middletown, Conn. Green Street is a neighborhood arts and cultural center that serves Middletown’s population of 43,000 but also draws audiences from the surrounding metropolitan region.

Leitheit initiated more than a dozen new performance, literary and visual arts programs at Green Street, increasing attendance and income for the center. She currently is vice chair of the Emerging Leader Council of Americans for the Arts, which promotes and nurtures new artists nationwide. The council helps the organization develop programs and resources.

Leitheit says she’ll try to create a new chapter for SomArts, like a “metal alloy” that joins new and established artists. “It’s important that we explore.”

That exploration is happening. In November, SomArts Gallery featured “Synthetic Masquerade,” an exhibition of Internet artists and how they express themselves by creating an avatar — an icon. — for a game, virtual world or Website chat.

For SomArts programs and services, visit somarts.org or call 415-1414.
A NEIGHBORHOOD HERO

But his unique work in the Tenderloin, first with the poor and homeless, and then with the poor who were dying of AIDS, made him a neighborhood hero. On Dec. 6, AIDS Day, a memorial for him was held at Tenderloin Health, the nonprofit he co-founded that originally addressed the AIDS crisis and now serves 500 homeless people a day. Following brief remarks, the crowd picked up whistles as they sang: "Blow the whistle against violence..." More than a dozen speakers, including Hope, told how Mr. Wilson’s work with suffering people had profoundly impressed them and in some cases helped change lives.

"He was a giant in my life," Hope said. "More than any other person I've known, he showed me the meaning — taught me — forgiveness and unconditional love."}

By Tom Carter

There’s a job that can’t wait, Hank Wilson told the volunteer intern from San Francisco’s Ministries. Upstairs, in the Ambassador Hotel that Wilson managed, George was in bad shape, very sick, incontinent. They had to give him a bath. They went upstairs. George had gotten out of his filthy room and was crawling down the hallway naked, covered in his excrement. The two got him into the bathroom. Wilson drew the bath and with effort pulled George into the tub and started cleaning the tenant who had always given him a hard time, the Rev. Glenda Hope recalled, as she told the story in her Network Ministries office recently. It was more than 20 years ago, and it was her intern. "That’s who Hank was at the core," she said, sniffing and dabbing her eyes. "That’s what we saw in him. This guy who had so ripped him off and was screaming obscenities and cursing him — and Hank was tenderly washing the shit out of his hair like a mother with a baby, and then drying him off with fluffy towels. And meanwhile, someone was changing his sheets." Hope paused as the memories from 28 years of knowing Mr. Wilson and often working with him in the Tenderloin’s deep trenchest resonated in her mind. As the guiding light of Network Ministries, the diminutive, rail-thin pastor has ministered to the poor and dispossessed and developed programs since 1972. She was not an intimate friend of the gay man, but a very good friend. On Network Ministries’ 17-minute DVD about his work made in 2006, Wilson, a stout 5-foot-11, illuminates some causes of homelessness among the TL’s gay population.

"He was a giant in my life," Hope said. "More than any other person I’ve known, he showed me the meaning — taught me — forgiveness and unconditional love. I adored him." Henry ‘Hank’ Wilson, gay activist, innovator and humble servant of the Tenderloin’s sick, poor and homeless, died Nov. 9 at Davies Medical Center. Mr. Wilson, a nonsmoker who had survived the ravages of HIV/AIDS, died of lung cancer. He was 61.

Mr. Wilson’s achievements are so epic some of his friends have called him the ‘Mother Teresa of the Tenderloin.’ Others said he created so many organizations here and in the Castro that he was the ‘Johnny Appleseed’ of the Castro. A mustache, lived a Spartan life jammed with troubles got to him, he recharged by swimming laps at the YMCA. He worked hard and could do so many things at once. But he didn’t burn out. His key advice was: ‘Pace yourself.’ At the right time, he’d go and swim 50 laps at the Y and come back.

"He was brilliant, too. He had these ideas, and never spent much time thinking. He just did them and left the rest to others. There were just details, he said. It was the big idea that counted, like, ‘People with AIDS can have a decent life.’"

In 1980, Hope ran a roving ‘house church’ project. She staff and volunteers went into SROs just to talk and listen to poor people. Sometimes there would be prayer or Bible study, but the idea was to be present to support people. She knew the kinds of people Mr. Wilson was bringing into the Ambassador.

"He was constant at first to let us come in," she says. “I guess he had had some bad experiences with religious people beating people over the head with the Bible. But little by little he came to trust us, and then he started giving us names of people to visit.”

"He gave us his small office to use and he’d go away. It held eight people."

Mr. Wilson said to her one day that people were dying on the street at an alarming rate. Nobody knew what was happening, — there wasn’t a name for it yet — but he wanted those people at the Ambassador.

Hope remembers the first death in the win-
Senior pastor of the Tenderloin Ambassador Hotel to Tenderloin Health

His legend lives on in the Ambassador Hotel, thanks in part to the work of New York’s ARIES Network.

December 2008–January 2009 / Central City Extra

At the memorial that Mr. Wilson bought flats of seedling plants to give to tenants so they could nurture life, a subtle image for their individual and collective struggles.

“Tenants traded the place a lot and didn’t pay rent,” Hope said. “They were worried about getting evicted. Usually, if I didn’t come by, they’d evict them, and then let them move back in.”

Hank was a small man. But Hope said he was powerful. “He’d offer them a place and then tell them, ‘Well, you didn’t have a place to stay.’ ”

Wilson was aware of some things people thought he was nuts. “I know people laugh at me and what I do,” he said. “I don’t care. I’m not the only one doing this. But I like that about myself.”

Mr. Wilson launched harm reduction 10 years before the approach even had a name. In practice, the approach recognizes that you can do drugs, be an addict even, but don’t harm yourself or the people around you.

“Hank and company were providing home-care services beyond what the city agencies were offering. Without a penny of public money, paid for by the meager resources of the clients themselves,” Ostertag wrote. “This was not a program the city thought was possible.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Wilson was creating organizations away from the hotel like ACT UP and HIV/AIDS Network Ministries to rekindle activism and harm reduction measures. But the city thought the AIDS problem lay mainly with the homeless and AIDS victims. “When few were paid attention to this neighborhood ‘needs assessment.’ The recommendations remained on a shelf out of which to dispense condoms, bleach and disinfectant for needles, make referrals to city programs and send out ‘CHOWs,’ low-paid community health outreach workers, to spread the word. But then the heavens opened up.”

A particularly rainy season brought the city a direct “thread” to the community, TL Health Staffer who led the AIDS outreach program at St. Boniface Church that offered its sanctuary during the day for sleeping. He finally stepped when his medical treatments became too much of a drain.

“Hank and company were providing home-care services beyond what the city agencies were offering. Without a penny of public money, paid for by the meager resources of the clients themselves,” Ostertag wrote. “This was not a program the city thought was possible.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Wilson was creating organizations away from the hotel like ACT UP and HIV/AIDS Network Ministries to rekindle activism and harm reduction measures. But the city thought the AIDS problem lay mainly with the homeless and AIDS victims. “When few were paid attention to this neighborhood ‘needs assessment.’ The recommendations remained on a shelf out of which to dispense condoms, bleach and disinfectant for needles, make referrals to city programs and send out ‘CHOWs,’ low-paid community health outreach workers, to spread the word. But then the heavens opened up.”

A particularly rainy season brought the city a direct “thread” to the community, TL Health Staffer who led the AIDS outreach program at St. Boniface Church that offered its sanctuary during the day for sleeping. He finally stepped when his medical treatments became too much of a drain.

“Hank and company were providing home-care services beyond what the city agencies were offering. Without a penny of public money, paid for by the meager resources of the clients themselves,” Ostertag wrote. “This was not a program the city thought was possible.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Wilson was creating organizations away from the hotel like ACT UP and HIV/AIDS Network Ministries to rekindle activism and harm reduction measures. But the city thought the AIDS problem lay mainly with the homeless and AIDS victims. “When few were paid attention to this neighborhood ‘needs assessment.’ The recommendations remained on a shelf out of which to dispense condoms, bleach and disinfectant for needles, make referrals to city programs and send out ‘CHOWs,’ low-paid community health outreach workers, to spread the word. But then the heavens opened up.”

A particularly rainy season brought the city a direct “thread” to the community, TL Health Staffer who led the AIDS outreach program at St. Boniface Church that offered its sanctuary during the day for sleeping. He finally stepped when his medical treatments became too much of a drain.

“Hank and company were providing home-care services beyond what the city agencies were offering. Without a penny of public money, paid for by the meager resources of the clients themselves,” Ostertag wrote. “This was not a program the city thought was possible.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Wilson was creating organizations away from the hotel like ACT UP and HIV/AIDS Network Ministries to rekindle activism and harm reduction measures. But the city thought the AIDS problem lay mainly with the homeless and AIDS victims. “When few were paid attention to this neighborhood ‘needs assessment.’ The recommendations remained on a shelf out of which to dispense condoms, bleach and disinfectant for needles, make referrals to city programs and send out ‘CHOWs,’ low-paid community health outreach workers, to spread the word. But then the heavens opened up.”

A particularly rainy season brought the city a direct “thread” to the community, TL Health Staffer who led the AIDS outreach program at St. Boniface Church that offered its sanctuary during the day for sleeping. He finally stepped when his medical treatments became too much of a drain.

“Hank and company were providing home-care services beyond what the city agencies were offering. Without a penny of public money, paid for by the meager resources of the clients themselves,” Ostertag wrote. “This was not a program the city thought was possible.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Wilson was creating organizations away from the hotel like ACT UP and HIV/AIDS Network Ministries to rekindle activism and harm reduction measures. But the city thought the AIDS problem lay mainly with the homeless and AIDS victims. “When few were paid attention to this neighborhood ‘needs assessment.’ The recommendations remained on a shelf out of which to dispense condoms, bleach and disinfectant for needles, make referrals to city programs and send out ‘CHOWs,’ low-paid community health outreach workers, to spread the word. But then the heavens opened up.”

A particularly rainy season brought the city a direct “thread” to the community, TL Health Staffer who led the AIDS outreach program at St. Boniface Church that offered its sanctuary during the day for sleeping. He finally stepped when his medical treatments became too much of a drain.

“Hank and company were providing home-care services beyond what the city agencies were offering. Without a penny of public money, paid for by the meager resources of the clients themselves,” Ostertag wrote. “This was not a program the city thought was possible.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Wilson was creating organizations away from the hotel like ACT UP and HIV/AIDS Network Ministries to rekindle activism and harm reduction measures. But the city thought the AIDS problem lay mainly with the homeless and AIDS victims. “When few were paid attention to this neighborhood ‘needs assessment.’ The recommendations remained on a shelf out of which to dispense condoms, bleach and disinfectant for needles, make referrals to city programs and send out ‘CHOWs,’ low-paid community health outreach workers, to spread the word. But then the heavens opened up.”

A particularly rainy season brought the city a direct “thread” to the community, TL Health Staffer who led the AIDS outreach program at St. Boniface Church that offered its sanctuary during the day for sleeping. He finally stepped when his medical treatments became too much of a drain.

“Hank and company were providing home-care services beyond what the city agencies were offering. Without a penny of public money, paid for by the meager resources of the clients themselves,” Ostertag wrote. “This was not a program the city thought was possible.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Wilson was creating organizations away from the hotel like ACT UP and HIV/AIDS Network Ministries to rekindle activism and harm reduction measures. But the city thought the AIDS problem lay mainly with the homeless and AIDS victims. “When few were paid attention to this neighborhood ‘needs assessment.’ The recommendations remained on a shelf out of which to dispense condoms, bleach and disinfectant for needles, make referrals to city programs and send out ‘CHOWs,’ low-paid community health outreach workers, to spread the word. But then the heavens opened up.”

A particularly rainy season brought the city a direct “thread” to the community, TL Health Staffer who led the AIDS outreach program at St. Boniface Church that offered its sanctuary during the day for sleeping. He finally stepped when his medical treatments became too much of a drain.

“Hank and company were providing home-care services beyond what the city agencies were offering. Without a penny of public money, paid for by the meager resources of the clients themselves,” Ostertag wrote. “This was not a program the city thought was possible.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Wilson was creating organizations away from the hotel like ACT UP and HIV/AIDS Network Ministries to rekindle activism and harm reduction measures. But the city thought the AIDS problem lay mainly with the homeless and AIDS victims. “When few were paid attention to this neighborhood ‘needs assessment.’ The recommendations remained on a shelf out of which to dispense condoms, bleach and disinfectant for needles, make referrals to city programs and send out ‘CHOWs,’ low-paid community health outreach workers, to spread the word. But then the heavens opened up.”

A particularly rainy season brought the city a direct “thread” to the community, TL Health Staffer who led the AIDS outreach program at St. Boniface Church that offered its sanctuary during the day for sleeping. He finally stepped when his medical treatments became too much of a drain.

“Hank and company were providing home-care services beyond what the city agencies were offering. Without a penny of public money, paid for by the meager resources of the clients themselves,” Ostertag wrote. “This was not a program the city thought was possible.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Wilson was creating organizations away from the hotel like ACT UP and HIV/AIDS Network Ministries to rekindle activism and harm reduction measures. But the city thought the AIDS problem lay mainly with the homeless and AIDS victims. “When few were paid attention to this neighborhood ‘needs assessment.’ The recommendations remained on a shelf out of which to dispense condoms, bleach and disinfectant for needles, make referrals to city programs and send out ‘CHOWs,’ low-paid community health outreach workers, to spread the word. But then the heavens opened up.”

A particularly rainy season brought the city a direct “thread” to the community, TL Health Staffer who led the AIDS outreach program at St. Boniface Church that offered its sanctuary during the day for sleeping. He finally stepped when his medical treatments became too much of a drain.
only kept pace with, rather than surpassed, the vastness of San Francisco suggests how deeply ingrained the neighborhood's voting patterns are.

With so much to vote for — a president we believe in, representatives in Congress, the state Senate and the Assembly not to mention Prop. 8, that are so meaningful to the neighborhood — it would seem to be good reason to warrant an even higher turnout.

Don Falk, executive director of TDNC — the main sponsor of the big Boeddeker Park registration drive in September — considers the turnout an accomplishment. “For a selfish man, I was really pleased to see the success we experienced in getting Tenderloin residents out to vote,” he said. “Seventy-one percent (more than 800) of TDNC residents who were eligible to vote did vote.” And more than 500 of eligible TDNC residents cast ballots for the first time in their lives in either the November general election or the June primary, Falk said.

OBAMA, AMMIANO AND LENO

Tenderloin and SoMa voters gave a big thumbs-up to Barack Obama for president, but were less enthusiastic about Tom Ammannio for the District 13 Assembly seat and Mark Leno for District 5 state senator.

The president-elect got 81% of Tenderloin votes and 83% of West SoMa votes. In the TL, he grabbed the most votes, 88%, in precinct 3602 at the high-end of the neighborhood between O’Farrell and Post. Citywide, Obama got 84% of the votes. In West SoMa, where 85% voted for Obama, precincts 3630 and 3631 had a dead heat for the highest percentage, 86%.

But the more mundane local candidates were less of a draw. Ammanio got 83% of the overall Assembly District 13 electorate (the eastern half of the city) but 10 percentage points fewer in the central city. Almost 87% of voters in state Senate District 5 (also the eastern half of San Francisco plus all of Marin County and some of Sonoma County) went for Leno. In the Tenderloin it was 75% and in west SoMa, 74%. The falloff for the two of the most stalwart champions of the central city was surprising, even to the2 candidates.

Michael Nulty, president of Alliance for a Better City, 6 was baffled, but he offered a possible explanation. “I think the TL is more diverse and has more newbies. Because they’re new, they might have been first-time voters, not realizing who they were voting for.”

BALLOT MEASURES

• National — even international — attention focused on Proposition 8, the state ban on gay marriage. Citywide, three of four San Francisco voters were against it; the measure came in at 69% against TL precincts 3605, 3607, 3610, 3614, 3619 and 3621 from 44% to 59% against, but the other precincts offset those 50-50 medium votes. In precinct 3613, the Tenderloin Police Station's block, there were 114 votes for the proposition and 115 against. The biggest discrepancy was in precinct 3616, the blocks east and south of Octavia, where 48% voted for and 48% against Prop. 8.

Statewide, the proposition won narrowly, 52% for and 48% against.

• Measure B, Supervisor Chris Daly’s affordable housing fund Charter amendment, lost citywide, as 52% of voters shot it down. But even in the central city, it wasn’t a resounding victory. The Tenderloin voted 65% for and 57% against, in West SoMa 54% for and 45% against.

We were extremely disappointed in the failure of Measure B to pass,” TDNC’s Falk said. “It will have ramifications over the next few years. Housing projects already approved and funded will have to go on hold. If B had passed, those projects could have gone forward immediately.”

Falk thinks many voters were influenced by “the macro economic situation” and the mayor’s opposition to the measure. There’s a lot of support for affordable housing in San Francisco,” he said, “but if it doesn’t translate into funding, we’re going to continue in the crisis we’re in.”

In other poorer neighborhods, Measure B fared the same as in the central city: 68% approved it in the Mission, 63% in Bayview-Hunters Point, 57% in the Heights-Ashbury and 56% in Vis Valley. Chinatown voters came in the same as city-wide, 52% against.

“The whole electorate was pleased with the outcome,” said David Luttken, a Bay Area political analyst and head of Fall Line Analytics in San Francisco. “For (Measure B’s) failure, I don’t see that as a mandate on affordable housing, just as a rebuke on the price tag.”

There was no ‘new’ money involved and the price was too steep. The measure would have set aside for 15 years an additional 2.5% from every $100 of assessed property tax to purchase, build or maintain affordable housing; support programs for first-time home buyers, fund rent subsidies and repair public housing. According to the controller in the voter pamphlet, had the measure been in place in 2008-09, it might have raised $36 million.

The rejection of Measure B extended the city’s affordable housing losing streak at the polls even further. In 2002, voters only mustered 56% of the vote for a $250 million affordable housing measure that needed a two-thirds majority. In November 2004, it was a different story for a $200 million measure, but the result was the same. The vote was just 5.5% short. And in June 2008, voters showed little respect for Measure F, which would have designated half of any mixed-use development at Hunters Shipyard and Candlestick Point as affordable housing. Voters by 2-to-1 said no.

Possibly this time around with Measure B, the citizenry was apprehensive about how deep city finances are to be whittled down. Mayor Newsom warned in the voter pamphlet that B would mean more cuts to city services — this when San Francisco was facing an estimated $250 million deficit for 2009-10 that it could ill afford, a figure that just after the election was re-estimated at a staggering $575 million.

Calls and emails requesting comment from Supe Daly, B’s main author, went unanswered. Even a reporter’s trip to his office failed to elicit a reply.

• Confusion about the real effects of Measure K, an ordinance that would have changed how laws are enforced for prostitution and sex workers, was reflected in how San Franciscans voted — or didn’t. Citywide, 59% of voters rejected it.

“I was pleased with the outcome — it was pretty clear vote,” said the Rev. Glenda Hope, San Francisco Network Ministries’ executive director. “Network Ministries” opposed it because it felt it was a free pass for pimps, johns and human traffickers. Political progressives opposed the measure as well.”

Hope might have been pleased with the outcome on her home turf, the central city, where she’s worked for more than 10 years. Though not all TL voters marked the measure on their ballots (hence the under-100% total), 4% voted against and 4% against it in the Tenderloin. In West SoMa, it was 4% for and 5% against.

The biggest discrepancy between Tenderloin voters on Measure K was in precinct 3601, the pro-measure-heavy blocks bounded by Van Ness and Jones, Golden Gate and Eddy. There, 32% voted for
without a food and drink license, staying open after 2 a.m. and having to do heavy security and so forth. Politicians cited the club for these violations on two occasions in September and closed it once for overcrowding. The Tenderloin’s entertainment area capacity is 231. More troubling was the violence. Also in September, police had to quell a raucous after-hours crowd as shots were fired — terrifying neighbors.

Thrert asked Alan to do something about it.

Alan said he'd call his office with a written plan to address these public nuisance activities. "Thrert wrote Alan on Oct. 17. That same day, Alan met with Thrert and The Extra, and on Oct. 29, Pink Diamonds management, reacting to the rising neighborhood uproar, held a community meeting in its strip club. It was attended by several city officials, including Entertainment Commission Executive Director Bob Davis, Tenderloin Capt. Gary Jimenez, club manager David Muhammad, retired police Capt. Richard Cairns and about 50 neighborhood residents. Muhammad had a beautiful tone — greeting guests at the door and h dos d'oeuvres for everybody.

Alan, Pope and Smith did not attend, nor did Thrert.

Cairns, Muhammad announced, was going to plan outside security to handle trigger-happy patrons. They were prohibited from being there, so the neighborhood could rest in peace.

Jimenez, an old friend of Cairns ', told the group he had more than 100 calls to the club, "a death threat on the street" before a solicitation — if any — could be proved.

And it almost happened.

A block away, on Saturday, Nov. 22, about 4 a.m., a man was shot twice in the torso and once in the head. He died, and police were said in a crime bulletin he emailed to neighborhood activists. Witnesses heard the shots and said a "black male was standing over the victim just prior to jumping into the passenger side of a double-parked white Cadillac. Escalade that immediately fired several rounds on an already footed on Golden Gate toward Market Street."

The victim was a Texas man visiting his brother in San Francisco.

Jimenez added that the police were responding to the violence with "saturated patrols." The TL is Zone One in Chief Heather Fong's Violence Reduction Plan for the city's hotspots.

Last year Thrert replaced Deputy City Attorney Neil Park, who for years handled TL code complaints, with a new ALR case officer. "We will continue to add to the ALR and police code violations, he said. He had gone and left his brother in front of Pink Diamonds. The unsought brother clamped up and wouldn't talk to police, who might have shot his brother or the motive.

The victim was recovering in the intensive care ward at San Francisco General. He'd left the scene, according to police. He had gone to get his car and left his brother in front of Pink Diamonds. The unsought brother clamped up and wouldn't talk to police, who might have shot his brother or the motive.

Newsom’s popularity wasn’t enough to push his agenda through. K. 52% against

"I think people at first found it confusing because of the way it was written," said Hope. "But as people got more informed, they realized there was a lot more to it." Hope says efforts to address prostitution in the city got nowhere.

"Many people in the No on K coalition are working to draft legislation that will help those situations, rather than the problems, johns, and traffickers," she said. She's not sure what form the legislation will take: the group is studying what other states are doing, rather than the problems, she says that she does not support legalization. "People don't understand street prostitution," she said. "This is not Prostitution in a different form."

- Measure L, funding for the Community Justice Center, flopped citywide with 57% voting no and 43% yes. But with 669 people voting, the second highest number of any TL precinct, that was more than dou-

- The TL is Zone One in Chief Heather Fong's Violence Reduction Plan for the city's hotspots.

- Last year Thrert replaced Deputy City Attorney Neil Park, who for years handled TL code complaints with a new ALR case officer. "We will continue to add to the ALR and police code violations, he said. He had gone and left his brother in front of Pink Diamonds. The unsought brother clamped up and wouldn't talk to police, who might have shot his brother or the motive.

- The victim was recovering in the intensive care ward at San Francisco General. He'd left the scene, according to police. He had gone to get his car and left his brother in front of Pink Diamonds. The unsought brother clamped up and wouldn't talk to police, who might have shot his brother or the motive.

- "I think people at first found it confusing because of the way it was written," said Hope. "But as people got more informed, they realized there was a lot more to it." Hope says efforts to address prostitution in the city got nowhere.

"Many people in the No on K coalition are working to draft legislation that will help those situations, rather than the problems, johns, and traffickers," she said. She's not sure what form the legislation will take: the group is studying what other states are doing, rather than the problems, she says that she does not support legalization. "People don't understand street prostitution," she said. "This is not Prostitution in a different form."

- Measure L, funding for the Community Justice Center, flopped citywide with 57% voting no and 43% yes. But with 669 people voting, the second highest number of any TL precinct, that was more than dou-

- The TL is Zone One in Chief Heather Fong's Violence Reduction Plan for the city's hotspots.

- Last year Thrert replaced Deputy City Attorney Neil Park, who for years handled TL code complaints with a new ALR case officer. "We will continue to add to the ALR and police code violations, he said. He had gone and left his brother in front of Pink Diamonds. The unsought brother clamped up and wouldn't talk to police, who might have shot his brother or the motive.

- The victim was recovering in the intensive care ward at San Francisco General. He'd left the scene, according to police. He had gone to get his car and left his brother in front of Pink Diamonds. The unsought brother clamped up and wouldn't talk to police, who might have shot his brother or the motive.

- "I think people at first found it confusing because of the way it was written," said Hope. "But as people got more informed, they realized there was a lot more to it." Hope says efforts to address prostitution in the city get...
SPECIAL EVENTS
Toy giveaway at Tenderloin Police Station. Dec. 23, 301 Eddy community room. Members of the 49ers football team and the Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep football squad will distribute toys to 50 neighborhood children chosen from among those in the YMCA, Tenderloin Playground, and the Boys and Girls Club programs. Info: Officer Tom or Capt. Jimenez, Tenderloin Station, 345-7300.
SFGracecycle, used cycling oil drop-off event. Dec. 27-30, Costco Warehouse parking lot and parking areas at all S.F. Whole Foods Markets. Save oil from the faucets in a tightly sealed, nontamperable container and drop it off during store hours; it will be recycled into biofuel. Info: 695-7366 or www.SFGracecycle.org.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULED HOUSING
Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Kendra Fuller, 421-2926 x304.
Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the month, noon, 201 Turk, Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training, of the month, noon, 201 Turk, Community Room. Contact
p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Contact: Kendra Fuller, 421-2926 x304.
Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group served. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.
Center, 65 Ninth St., noon-1:30 p.m. Focus on increasing sup-
5-7 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 928. Health & Wellness Action Advocates health consumer advocates. Open to the public.
CBHS, 1380 Howard, room 537. Call: 255-3695. Advisory group
p.m., location TBA. Contact: Kendra Fuller, 421-2926 x304.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Info: Officer Torres or Capt. Jimenez, Tenderloin Station, 345-7300.
Tenderloin Playground, and the Boys and Girls Club programs.
Wednesday, January 28, 11:30 am - 1 pm
Client Advisory Panel
Wednesday, January 14, 11:30 am - 1 pm;
Tuesday, January 20, 9:30 am - 11 am
Sunday, January 11, 12 pm - 6:30 pm

Office of Self-Help
1095 Market St., Suite 202

peer Support Line 575-1400

Dept. of Journalism
City College of San Francisco
50 Phelan Ave. Bldg. 214 San Francisco, CA 94112 (415) 239-3460

Spring 2009 Courses
Classes begin on January 12

Jour 19: Contemporary News Media
3 units M/W/F 9:00-10:00 a.m. D185 6:30-9:30 p.m. 1125 Valencia St. 217 Santiago

Jour 21: Writing and Reporting
3 units M/W/F 10:00-11:00 a.m. CH 213 3:00-6:00 p.m. 1800 Market St. 306 Rocha

Jour 22: Feature Writing
3 units T/R 11:00-12:30 p.m. Bngl. 214 6:30-9:30 p.m. 1125 Valencia St. 218 Rocha

Jour 23: Electronic Copy Editing
3 units T/R 9:00-10:30 a.m. 1125 Valencia St. 218 Rocha

Jour 24: Newspaper Laboratory
3 units M/W/F 12:00-1:30 p.m. Bngl. 214 Rocha

Jour 29: Magazine Editing & Production
3 units M/W/F 1:30-3:00 p.m. 1125 Valencia St. 218 Rocha

Jour 31: Internship Experience
2 units Exp Hours Av Bngl. 214 Rocha

Jour 37: Intro to Photojournalism
3 units T/R 9:00-11:30 a.m. 1125 Valencia St. 217 Lifland
W 7:00-10:00 p.m. CH 213 Lifland

www.ccsf.edu/departments/journalism

Outreach and Community Events January 2008
Health Promotion Forum
Topic: Breath Easy Meditation
Speakers: TUI’s Richard Dayaguyog, MSW, and Becca Wolfin, MSW
Date/Time: Tuesday, January 20, 9:30 am - 11 am
Location: 187 Golden Gate

Client Advisory Panel
Come talk with Tenderloin Health’s Board Client Representative(s) and program managers about plans for Tenderloin Health. Also provide input on new services and how we can improve.
Date/Time: Wednesday, January 14, 11:30 am - 1 pm
Wednesday, January 20, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Volunteer and Intern for Tenderloin Health
Orientation: Sunday, January 11, 12:30 pm - 6:30 pm
240 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor, lunch provided
You must register for volunteer trainings.
Stop in/gail Emdin (415) 437-2900 ext. 234.

For a schedule of our current groups or for more information call 415.431.7476 or go to www.tenderloinhealth.org

TENDERLOIN/HEALTH a continuum of care

C E N T R A L C I T Y E X T R A / D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 8 - J A N U A R Y 2 0 0 9

8