Boeddeker Park makeover — the first look at architects’ idea

BY TOM CARTER

Is Boeddeker Park ready for an extreme makeover? One may be coming. Kicking off the idea is a design by a collaboration of pro bono architects from three firms that would put a big lawn in the middle and a promenade around it. Usually fierce competitors, they warned to improving a park that looks like a fortress.

Among the features unveiled at the Friends of Boeddeker Park meeting June 14 are a large circular lawn, a tiny revenue-generating café with one wall doubling as an outdoor movie screen, a long basketball and athletic court, a ramp leading up toward a garden and a new, second community building.

It's fantasy at this point and has no price tag.

"We’re the first to see this initial plan," Friends Chairwoman Betty Traynor said before the PowerPoint presentation in the Police Community Room. "Maybe we can come up with some more ideas, but we need plans for any funding process and this helps us move forward. There's a whole community process we have to go through."

The architects got involved through Jacob Gilchrist, a Trust for Public Land project manager who, on the lookout for a community project, started attending Friends' meetings eight months ago. Ideas came and went among the board for a golf green that actually lingered in the mix for a couple of months. In November, Gilchrist mentioned redesigning Boeddeker Park as a possible project to the trust’s advisory board — the Bay Area Business Council — which has several architectural firms as members. Three jumped on board. And for the 13 designers who came forward, Boeddeker’s sketchy Tenderloin reputation suddenly worked in its favor.

"They got excited," said Jennifer Wechslar, an architect who helped with the presentation. "It was "It all has an amazing potential impact."

Elaine Zamora

CENTRAL CITY EXTRA SURVEY

Where to get it fresh

24 stores stock Tenderloin’s most fruit, vegetables

BY TOM CARTER

Smart people put the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables high on any health chart. A fresh food diet can ward off serious disease, save big money and lead to happier lives by helping people dodge preventable miseries and untimely death.

Fresh fruits and vegetables have long been a concern in the Tenderloin. They are in short supply. With a population of 80,000, the Tenderloin, San Francisco’s lowest-income neighborhood, has no supermarket.

The neighborhood’s most popular spot to find fresh produce has for 26 years been the bustling Heart of the City Farmers Market in U.N. Plaza. Open every Wednesday and Sunday, its fine and affordable commodities have been a godsend for the central city.

The Extra last year surveyed all Tenderloin stores that carried fresh fruits and vegetables and then updated the list in June. We found a few surprises, including a man who never leaves the TL to shop for perishables and happily gets 90% of them from one store less than a block from where he lives. We also found people who think nothing of hopping on Muni to shop better deals outside the hood.

But our main revelation was actual numbers. In canvassing 50 blocks, we found 24 stores that every day carry more than a dozen fruits and vegetables. (See map on P. 4.) About the same number of stores carry fewer fresh items, generally only potatoes, onions, apples and bananas.

Are these enough precious perishables for the Tenderloin’s residents? And, more profoundly, could more availability and accessibility — with mudding — inch the neighborhood into better health? The first question is a concern of TNDC, the neighborhood’s biggest low-income landlord, which is contemplating opening a grocery store in a future building at Eddy and Taylor. The second question concerns fresh food advocates, S.F. Public Health and the state Legislature.

Nothing matches the farmers’ market for volume, obviously, but a few ethnic Asian stores have a surprisingly profuse variety. The store owned by the New Chiu Fong Co. at 724 Ellis St. offers at least a dozen fruits and more than 65 different vegetables (from beets and eggplant to many forms of squash and, seldom seen in these parts, jicama and chayote).

Two stores with the most fruit and vegetables are in Little Saigon, one at 724 Larkin — the Hiep Thanh Food Market Corp. — and the New Chiu Fong Co. around the corner. On a sunny afternoon in June, Sun Ung is at the cash register at Hiep Thanh check- ing out customers, most of whom are Asian. Stacks of produce in boxes and packaged goods occupy the front of the store and extend out the door. An old man buys two plastic cups filled with rice wine at $1.50 each. Then two women push a red plastic basket containing a dozen items onto the
B L I N D  P E D E S T R I A N S 
Five Tendeloven introduce "Eyes on the Street," a device to help visually impaired people cross the street safely. Part of a $1.6 million project to improve transportation in San Francisco, the "Eyes on the Street" project is in receipt of a grant from the California Department of Transportation. The "Eyes on the Street" device can be used to signal when it is safe to cross the street. The device is being tested as part of the project. It is expected to be installed in all major intersections in the city.

T H E  H O U S E 
The Extra is preparing a resource guide for the Tendeloven and western SoMa. Funded by the Koshland Committee of the San Francisco Foundation, and advises a group of residents from western SoMa, the guide will be for neighbors and residents and service providers. Only resources in these two closely defined neighborhoods will be included. To ensure your resource is in the guide, send pertinent information to studycenter.org. We don't want any helpful program to be left out.

T L E  T E E N S
Summertime, and the fish are jumping. At least eight Tendeloven teenagers hope they'll hop onto their hooks and into their boat. The eight signed up for the Extra Youth Fishing Pol, a program that can summer takes boys and girls 12-17 from all over the city out on the ocean to fish for salmon. They leave before dawn, July 19, from Fisherman's Wharf. Boeddeker Park Director Rob McDaniels will be the escort. Each chartered boat sailing out under the Golden Gate Bridge will hold 14 kids and one supervisor, besides crew and cops. Kids bring their lunch, but all fishing gear and but, like the trip, is free. McDaniels says he may make a second excursion before the program ends Aug. 17.

T H E  P L A N E T
PG&E recently inaugurated "Climate Smart," a program that enables its customers to join the swelling ranks of carbon-neutral Californians by investing in greenhouse gas emission-reduction projects. By paying an average of $5 a month extra to power their homes, customers can invest in projects that reduce greenhouse gases. This is in turn "balances out" the emissions from the power generation electricity and natural gas and helps make the customers carbon-neutral. PG&E hopes to project that if all the 25 million customers can invest in projects that reduce greenhouse gases by 250,000 tons. It has put up $1.5 million to make its own offer to customers and hopes its customers will contribute $2 million to the fund.

I f  y o u  h a v e  s o m e  g o o d  n e w s,  w e l t d o  t o  m a r j o r i e @ s t u d y c e n t e r . o r g  o r
If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or at johnj@studycenter.org. We're looking for news about new programs, events, funding, awards, grants, etc.

P e e k  a t  m a y o r ' s  c o u r t  p l a n
Neusom's rep doesn't ask community for input

B Y  M A R J O R I E  B E G G S
S aving the words — what are the Tendeloven's biggest prob- lems, and how can the community solve them? Not one person in the Collaborative meeting, attendance in April was 11 and in May the number had dropped to 3.

But folks turned out this time because someone from the mayor's office was coming to talk about Newsom's controversial pro- posal for a TL/SoMa community justice center, aka community court.

In December, the mayor returned from New York gushing about opening something similar to Manhattan’scriminal court, Community Court, credited with helping to clean up Times Square.

Besides Newsom, the project's steering committee includes reps of Superior Court, Public Health, Human Services and the offices of the sheriff, police, pretrial diversion, public defender, district attorney, and city attorney.

Julian Potter, deputy chief of staff in the Mayor's Office of Public Policy & Finance, gave the Collaborative a quick court overview, said she was there to hear Neighborhood court concerns, she posed no questions soliciting direct input about the court. Instead she asked, "So what's the Tendeloven's strengths and its most pressing problems?" We’re doing a lot of one-on-one to show other residents we care," said one of the 10 residents at the meeting, an impressive number for any TFC meeting.

"Our socioeconomic problems mean that we’re survivors," said another resident. Compassion, diversity, accessibility and density were but four of others as ways the neighborhood could help.

"We have a history of fighting problems — and we have fun events here," added the Rev. Glenda Hope, S.F. Network Missionary and director and Collaborative chair.

Daniel O’Connor, St. Anthony Foundation community liaison, recalled, "A woman once told me that when people get to know you face, they watch out for you.

And Carmela Gold, Central YMCA director, got the last word. "There are a lot of avenues for addressing problems."

Hands flew up when it came to the litany of neighborhood problems.

"People come from outside the neighborhood. I see Jaguars pulling up in the alleys all the time."

"There’s rampant crack-dealing and the police do nothing."

"We are lacking a history of being a marketplace that facili- tates crime."

"It's impossible to separate the social problems from the crime problems.

"You are people are allowed to loot and they harass residents.

"Services shouldn’t be placed right at home where people can buy alcohol and drugs."

Michael Nulty, president of Alliance for a Better District, offered the fate of the existing community courts, coordinated by Mayor Newsom's Criminal Justice and the district attorney's office. "We have a lame-duck D.A. who has no interest in the job," Nulty said. "Why hasn’t she supported the (existing) community courts? And the local community? They’ve left us out of the process."

Potter had stated by summarizing the difference between the mayor’s proposed court and the existing eight community courts — one of them serving the Tendeloven and SoMa.

"The mayor’s ver- sion," Potter said. "In the New York model, a law- breaker arrives at the center by police immediately, and the same day the public defender and appears before a judge. The judge has access to social service options for the defendant, she said, and there are consequences if he or she keeps showing up before the judge."

In the current community courts, residents volunteer to sit on panels that hear misdemeanor cases and hand down sentences, including restitution, and community service.

A Superior Court FAQ sheet on the proposed center calls today’s community court a "court but rather a mediation program to handle misde- meanors and will likely be included in the list of services available at the center. The sheet doesn’t describe what kind of crimes the Superior court judge would hear, so The Extra asked Potter.

"It’s run up to the neighborhood,” she said. "Maybe it would’n’t be rape and murder, but it could be felonies."

Potter closed by reiterating her claim that the center is a work in progress. It has no official name yet, its boundaries are "fluid," its location undecided. In May, Newsom, D.A. Kamala Harris and Superior Court Judge David Ballan locked eyes at 50 N. Main Plaza, 245-259 Hyde and 150 Ois. After the meeting, The Extra talked with resident Mark Ellinger, a TL/SoMa community court panelist. This is a really contentious issue, especially among those of us who’ve worked to make community courts succeed," Ellinger said. "We’ve been struggling with the D.A.’s office and police to make sure they deal with quality of life crimes, asking them to funnel them through our courts, but we can never anywhere. I don’t speak for everyone, but the D.A.’s office is turning its back on our courts and it’s insulting to a lot of us. I’m fed up with it."

"We used to have 80 or 90 cases a month and needed extra ses- sions. The last few courts I paneled, we heard four or five cases."

Ellinger bristles. "I don’t see any restorative justice in this model. It sounds puri- tive, and the idea of calling it a community justice center is just semantics."

The Board of Supervisors has- n’t brought into the proposal yet, either. At the June 28 budget commit- tee meeting, Supervisor Aaron Peskin called the proposal “all smoke and mirrors” and held off any formal plan before okaying the mayor’s entire $750,000 request to launch the court. The commit- tee voted to put $250,000 in reserve.

"We have a lame duck D.A. who hasn’t done her job. Why hasn’t she supported the (existing) community courts? And the same with the mayor. They’ve left us out of the process."

Michael Nulty  FRANKLIN STREET 5 & KITTY DISTRICT "S"

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Michael Nulty  FRANKLIN STREET 5 & KITTY DISTRICT "S"
**Gum never sleeps**

Mayor turns trash into political hay

BY PHIL TRACY

Mayor Gavin Newsom chose June 21, the night before his state of the city address, to release the results of San Francisco’s first-ever audit of street litter.

Using the time-honored method of issuing a ringing一个多年度的呼叫。Newsom declared chewing gum to be a public enemy No. 1 and declared McDonald’s as the top repeat offender in the brand category of brand name litter.

The litter audit, which cost $25,000, according to Mark Weisdorf, public outreach program manager of the city’s Department of the Environment, was conducted from April 9 through 20. The audit also counted of large litter and small litter on 105 sites chosen randomly by computer. Five of those sites were in the Tenderloin: they yielded 3% total of the small litter total, suggesting the neighborhood is pretty clean. Statistically, the neighborhood should have had 5% of the small litter total. There was no ranking of sites by large litter items.

Actually, the mayor was talking apples and oranges. Chewing gum was part of the comprehensive, statistically valid, 49-page “Branded Litter Survey,” designed to customize the enormous unpopular fast food chain. Facing no credible opponent, the mayor has wisely elected to run against McDonald’s litter and SafeWay plastic bags.

In the case of chewing gum, the method the auditor selected — accumulated litter versus fresh litter — might not have been the best. The auditor’s summary makes the point that San Francisco averaged 23 items per site, compared to 21 small-litter items per site for Toronto, which has been countering litter and cleaning up for several years now. Most other audited cities average a small litter rate twice as high as San Francisco’s.

There also are fewer cigarette butts on the ground in San Francisco, where only 5% of small litter is cigarettes, compared to 14% on the streets of Toronto. San Franciscans’ well-known aversion to smoking is apparent in the litter.

Our litter also reflects the efficiency of our entrepreneurial scavengers. A total of six beer cans for every 1000 cigarettes, compared to the 300 cans per 1000 cigarettes that are being trampled to the industrialness of the homeless and little Asian ladies.

Mark McKinney is a widely respected environmental consultant. His core proficiencies include litter auditing. He was project manager for a series of five litter audits done for Toronto between 2002 and 2006. He devised the methodology for the San Francisco audit and wrote the report.

He says he’s not surprised by the findings. “California is a smoke-free state so you would expect low counts on the bottles and cans. It’s well-known everywhere that San Francisco has some of the strongest anti-smoking laws. People who don’t smoke don’t drop cigarette butts on the ground.”

The good news is that because the method uses ‘fresh litter’ for the audit, the audit can be replicated in the future and the city’s progress in fighting litter can be charted with a fair degree of confidence.

Newsom included in the audit’s announcement a pledge to reduce the city’s litter by 50% over the next five years, so it’s nice to know we have a handy way of checking whether that goal is attained. Let’s hope the mayor’s promise doesn’t go the way of Willie Brown’s pledge to “Get San Francisco in the first hundred days of my administration.”

Architects show ideas for Boeddeker makeover

The architects’ design splits the park into two districts and opens up the western half.

The design does away with the Eddy-Jones gate, the clock and outdoor toilet, and puts in four steps stretching about 12 feet along Eddy. But they don’t lead anywhere and would not doubt be ideal for sitting. Fencing would separate them from a multisport court, including basketball, running north the length of the park and fenced off from Jones. East of that, a large circular lawn with a walkway around it, flanked by Ala and Verba Beul Gardens, would be the park center. A playground would rim the western part of lawn.

**Cafe and outdoor movies**

On Eddy, at the middle of the park’s southern boundary, a small cafe would rise like a two-story kiosk, its north-west wall also to serve as an outdoor movie screen. Next to the cafe would be more steps up to the main gate, next to the existing community house, which would become two stores with activities on each floor.

From the main gate, a rising ramp would run north to the Ellis gate, dividing the park. A community building would be built at Ellis. In front, a large sloping garden area would expand toward Presentation Senior Community whose volunteers regularly join park cleanups and flower planting.

A walk-through tunnel under the ramp would link the sections.

One score of people in attendance seemed stunned and excited by the plan. Some called it “amazing,” another ‘lovely.’ But several had reservation.

“The steps will be an issue,” said Elaine Zamora, the North of Market/Tenderloin CID board member and advocate for the elderly. “But it all has an amazing potential impact.”

Putting up more buildings was not a good idea, one observer said: “This was the critics, a woman who has lived nearby for a couple of years but never set foot inside the park until she began work for the city.”

Some complain that the park has too many sections, or pockets, and lacks a feeling of openness.

The architects’ design has been criticized as “defensive.” The surrounding spiky, 6-foot-high fencing is uninviting, even foreboding. The only operating gate closes at a 4-pm-ledged brick walk through the middle, called ‘the gauntlet’ for its regular rau-

cover of sedentary idlers. Some people are afraid of the crime, one observer said, as a woman who has lived nearby for a couple of years but never set foot inside the park until she began work for the city.”

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counter, bean sprouts on top. Ung's fingers fly from item to key and back. The total is $9.15.

“We sell a lot of bean sprouts,” says the 22-year-old San Francisco State student. He works five days a week, and he often speaks Teo Chiu, a Chinese dialect.

The stream of customers is steady, not crowded like on weekends. Ung says he declines to be photographed and shrugs when asked how many customers he serves each day. He guesses 100, but the seven we count over a 10-minute period would suggest a higher number.

His employer, a handsome Asian woman in a red short-sleeve tunic. She smiles at the questions and bursts into laughter when asked permission to take a photo. And no, she says, they do not have 200 customers a day.

Do her customers ask for items she doesn’t have? “No,” she says, “I have everything.”

The New Chiu Fong Co. has a faded blue awning and ugly silver security screening imposed on its 25-foot storefront. Inside, the store goes back 80 feet, triple the size of 1925.

The first third of the store contains an astonishing array of perishables. The rest of the store is dry, bagged and canned goods. But the owner isn’t around and no one is talking.

**MY FAVORITE STORE**

It’s a different story two blocks away at the Right Way, 596 O’Farrell St. An Asian woman who says she’s not from the neighborhood surveys the colorful boxes of peaches, nectarines, cantaloupes, watermelons and mangoes outside.-selects a pair of 2-for-$1 mangoes and goes inside to pay. At the cash register, Kamal Alwadi smiles and says, “We sell everything.”

“This is my favorite store,” says Yves Nicolas, 60. “Very good prices.” Nicolas shops at the farmers’ market on occasion but never leaves the neighborhood to buy groceries. “Groceries are too heavy to carry,” he says. And this store is good for me. I live in the next block. It’s the best. I come here all the time.”

Across the street at the Econo Market, Frank Massis is at the cash register, behind him a wide selection of liquor bottles. He owns the Econo, the Right Way and the Mid City over on Geary. At midday business is good but not hectic. He calls customers by name and makes calls while talking on his cell phone, speaking English, Spanish or Arabic. He works 12-hour days, six days a week. He says Massis bought the Right Way two years ago and in that time says he has increased the fruit and vegetable offerings by 5%.

“The demand was there,” Massis says. “It sells. It’s good quality and cheap. Did you see Go look.” He points across the street to the Right Way and steps outside for a smoke. “The big stores are closing,” he says. “Too much overhead. Do you want something to drink?”

It’s unlikely that a chain supermarket will land in the Tenderloin and iffy, at this point, that a smaller, full-service grocer would take the risk, according to an analysis commissioned by TNDC.

The nonprofit, which operates 1,807 housing units in the Tenderloin — 1,211 of them SRO rooms — is seeking a loan from the Mayor’s Office of Housing to buy the 22,000-square-foot parking lot at Eddy and Taylor. It wants to build at least eight stories of low-cost family housing.

On the ground floor, TNDC conceives a full-service grocery, which it sees as a major economic development for the neighborhood. The mixed-use project wouldn’t be completed before 2012, says Nick Gurland, senior project manager.

TNDC’s study by Ventura Partners, concluded in May, said that, given the neighborhood and store size, a “mainstream grocery” wouldn’t be interested and that turning the entire 17,000-square-foot ground floor into a market “isn’t warranted financially.”

The big chains, operating on thin profit margins, require more space — typically 30,000 square feet — and different demo-

**SHOWED are the locations of 24 Tenderloin stores that stock a dozen.png Heart of the City Farmers Market, the cornecapita at the bottom of it**

Governor puts Leno’s health at risk.
California Food Policy Advocates in Berkeley. "It's a chang e. And this is exactly what he's been talking about. If you stopped him on the street and asked him, he'd say '284 is great.' Hech blamed the state budget deficit.

The pilot program is aimed at making fresh produce an economical choice in low-income neighborhoods where typically they are less available and more expensive. A diet rich in fruit and vegetables reduces the risk of chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke, as well as certain cancers.

Food stamp-certified grocers aren't required to offer fresh produce and typically don't. And the food stamps benefit — a federal allotment — is only $2.70 a day, not a sum that promotes health. Leno tried living on food stamps for a week this year to dramatize the inadequacy of the sagging safety net. He said he remained hungry all the time, no matter what he bought.

In San Francisco, two-thirds of those eligible for food stamps aren't signed up, Leno said. In the 94110 Tenderloin ZIP code, the participation rate was less than 18%, according to a December 2004 report from the San Francisco Food Alliance.

Gwen Smith of Literacy for Environmental Justice on June 27 attended the first meeting in Sacramento of 40 growers, retailers, health department and food stamp officials to discuss the creative details of Leno's Healthy Food Purchase Pilot Program.

The bill is designed after LEJ's Good Neighbor program that's been working in Bayview-Hunters Point since 2001 to reverse the alarming trend that merely 5% of the food sold there was fresh. The program found mom-and-pop groceries willing to stock fruits and vegetables in return for help putting in refrigeration, the funding for which came from donations and S.F. Department of Environment grants.

"Studies show that the first of the month the food stamps go quickly," Smith says, "and by the second week people are not eating healthy. Money can go only so far. The whole idea is that if you buy produce, you get more. So if you buy $1 worth of produce, you get 60 cents back."

Those figures aren't in AB2384, but they were discussed at the Sacramento planning session, she says. "We are extremely hopeful we'll get the fund ing.

When it comes presumably before Leno's seven-county pilot project's 2011 re peal date — federal funds will be used at the mom-and-pop to stock store and market produce. Because Leno is from San Francisco, the county should get favored status and Bayview Hunters Point and the Tenderloin would be first in line for incentives.

City College journalism student Doug Ahlgren and Study Center Executive Assistant John/David Nolte contributed to this report.

Farmers market: No expansion

FARMERS Market shoppers at U.N. Plaza seem to want more of a good thing but the market won't likely add another day to its Wednesday and Sunday schedule.

"I shop here at least once a week and I'd do more if it were open another time, an evening maybe — I love it, it's fresh and cheap and the heartbeat of the city," said eight-year TL resident Christopher Hajenmeir. The United Air Lines flight attendant had just bought several bags of produce at one of the four Busalacch Farms produce stands at the market.

Over by the Gipponeri fruit stand, where the cherries were nearly sold out at 2:15 p.m., Garland Hall, TL resident and manager of the Ambassador Hotel, says he comes to the market at least once a week.

"I could do 75% of my shopping here if I had to," Hall says. "If it were open more, I'd come." Like Hagenmeir, he takes public transportation to shop deals elsewhere.

Christine Adams, the farmers market manager, says she tried 20 years ago to add another day and it didn't work.

"We had a third day, Fridays, and it really interrupted Wednesdays and Sundays," she says sitting in her white van parked on a walkway behind the booths. "It meant we lost half the Sunday business. It cut into Wednesday, too. But now we've got enough."

If all the vendors were selling out, she says, she would consider it. She won't add vendors that sell lunch either, because she doesn't want to compete with local restaurants.

"We had the tamale lady with us before the Mexican restaurants opened around here," Adams said. A taqueria is nearby on McAllister and two more are at Sixth and Market streets.

One other trend occurring is the declining use of food stamps, now the Electronic Benefits Transfer card.

"Most of the business here is low income," Adams said.

"A lot of people come with just $1 or $2."

The market used to process about $5,000 a day in the paper food stamps before converting to EBT cards in August 2004. During that summer it processed $1,000-2,000.

"Now it's about a third of that," Adams says. "And I have no idea why."

— TOM CARTER
ROBERT BRUCE BROOKS

Robert Brooks, stern and unsung, was the smart, dependable dispatcher dedicated to sending Mobile Assistance Patrol vans out in the dead of night to rescue drunks, addicts and anyone unfortunate enough to be incapacitated.

Mr. Brooks was 20 years in recovery himself. He knew that helping people in need gave them another chance to recover and perhaps find a better life. The ubiquitous MAP vans, a program of Community Awareness and Treatment Services, help with homeless outreach, scraping people off the streets and taking them to facilities where services are available. During his eight years with MAP, he worked the graveyard shift.

Mr. Brooks died May 20 at the Western Addition home of his significant other, Martha Johnson, where he lived since moving from a Turk Street SRO. He had suffered heart problems for several years. He was 60.

On June 7, a day after his funeral, a dozen friends and co-workers gathered at a memorial for him at CATS' 39 Fell St. offices in a second-floor conference room above where he had worked. They remembered him as a dependable worker, even self-sacrificing, but sometimes cantankerous and opinionated. Two women said they admired his ability to show up and do his job but his “husky” attitude had alienated them.

Max Haptonstahl, MAP program director, said Mr. Brooks was a “sensitive figure in establishing our 24-hour dispatch” and in maintaining a high standard for the city. Mr. Brooks handled the graveyard shift’s calls — usually from six to 15 of MAP’s total 125 daily calls — while monitoring and transmitting radio calls to the vans. Haptonstahl later explained that, although the graveyard shift has fewer calls than other shifts, the night-time calls are more critical “as far as preventing homeless deaths.” Early morning is when people on the street are “most vulnerable,” he said.

MAP driver Jack Harris Jr., who worked under Mr. Brooks for two years, said he thought he was “odd” at first but got used to his personality. As soon as Harris got to work, Mr. Brooks started talking to him, always emphasizing a professional attitude.

“He said no matter what kind of situation I got into out there to use my better judgment and deal with it — not call him — and get the result to him and he’d back me 100 percent,” Harris said. He paused. “And when I walked through that door he could tell at a glance when I wasn’t feeling good, and we’d do a process on it. It’s hard to accept he’s not here.”

Born in Philadelphia, Mr. Brooks went into the Army after high school, serving in Vietnam and Taiwan in the mid-1960s. According to obituary notes on a table holding two bouquets and a display of 10 large color photos, he bounced around Los Angeles after the service until resuming his education. He graduated from Los Angeles Technical Trade School in 1980, then moved to San Francisco and got a job with Multi-Services Center North. He received a BA degree from San Francisco State in 1989 at age 43. In 1998, he joined MAP.

“Robert was most proud of the fact that he was clean and sober over 20 years,” the notes said. “His sobriety allowed friends to see the real Robert.” He was known as an avid reader and a computer buff and was considered quite knowledgeable. He impressed people with his “encyclopedic” recall of old films and popular music — admiring Smokey Robinson above all singers — and appreciating people who contributed to the African American culture.

One of two framed pictures showed Robinson with his arm around Mr. Brooks’ shoulders. “Robinson was in a grocery store somewhere in town,” said Haptonstahl, “and one pointed at Robert and said, ‘That’s your biggest fan.’ So Smokey walked over to Robert and somebody took their picture.”

But Haptonstahl said there was a side of Mr. Brooks few knew. He was surprised, after eight years of knowing him, to see among the several pictures of Mr. Brooks with his companion and her two daughters that he was smiling. “I just learned, too, that he taught the daughters how to swim,” Haptonstahl said.

Mr. Brooks was buried at the 500-acre National Veterans Cemetery in Sacramento.

—TOM CARTER

DAWN MILLS

Family caregiver

The unexpected death of 27-year-old Dawn Mills had come as a shock to the small group of mourners who gathered at the Ambassador Hotel on June 11 to pay their respects.

Ms. Mills, the caregiver of her mother, Genevieve Mills, who lives at the 55 Mason St. hotel, died on Memorial Day four days before she was to be married, and in the presence of her mother. Her mother said that “she was injected with battery acid.” On the street that means she got a “hot shot,” an injection of poisoned dope.

“She was murdered,” said Mr. Mills’ fiance, Abdul Azim Diab. “And I know who did it.”

A spokesman for Southern Police Station detailed there was no information on the case or even confirm that it was under investigation.

“He died of the same problem I had; I pushed holes in the hospital wall. I had to be restrained,” said Diab, a thin man, 69, who looks much younger.

A spokesman for the medical examiner’s office said the cause of Ms. Mills’ death had yet to be determined pending the toxicology report.

Ms. Mills, who was born prematurely Dec. 7, 1979, at San Francisco General Hospital, was a resident of the Camelot Hotel on Turk Street, said her mother. She weighed 1 pound when she was born, her mother said.

“She was a good sister,” said her brother, Kenneth Nutter. “Any time she needed help I was there for her.”

“She was always helping somebody,” said her mother, who uses a wheelchair and respirator. “She took very good care of me. She loved to draw and paint.”

“She was an artist,” Diab said. “She loved to draw angels.”

“Grief comes because we love and care,” said the Rev. Glerida Hope, who presided over the memorial.

“She had a great personality, a great spirit,” said one mourner.

Diab said he and Ms. Mills were to be married June 1. “She was a ball of fire,” he said. “She’d tell me things and I’d do it right away.”

Ms. Mills is survived by an 8-year-old son, three sisters and a brother.

“I lost my best friend, but those things come and go,” said Diab. “But she’s still here.”

—JON GORES
New night life: trying out the techno-bars

BY ED BOWERS

Three techno-bars have sprouted in the most technologically unappealing area in America, the San Francisco Tenderloin and Sixth Street. This scene is happening because young people need to get together to meet; not only are they lonely, there is also a biological imperative.

Of course I understood that smart people make money off of it. I do not judge this. It is simply a fact. Probably the last place I would ever go in my life before I die would be to a techno-bar because I hate the music. It’s called “house music,” and should stay there.

But I don’t like the sound of it. It’s not a fact. For all I know this marching-band, bass-based, repetitive jive, resulting in a numbing effect that inspires nothing, is as profound and valuable to the future of life as an amoeba.

The music in these clubs just sounds so square that it makes me scared that my parents are taking over the world. It is the John Philip Sausa music I listened to on my record player in 1955, or the jangle music in Tarzan movies that while people thought black people danced to.

All these clubs are supposedly based on music that is supposedly music. But underlying these simple-minded rhythms is a speed-infused rage that’s sad and scary.

So now that I have done the music review of these clubs, I’ll attack the ambience. Oh, did I say attack? I must control myself. Before that is the inside of these establishments is gorgeous, 19th century decadence at its best, and each club is an individual with its own personality. Originality is the essence of evil, so subtle individuality is their saving grace.

PLAY-BAR: 101 Sixth St.

The first time I came here was with Veronica. We were drinking martinis at a table when I looked toward the dance floor. A scantily dressed woman was sitting on a stool with her pants so low that I could see inside her body.

“Is this my imagination or is that girl wearing that low, that I am being sucked into a black hole?” I asked Veronica.

“No that is not your imagination,” she replied. That’s when I got the idea to do this article.

All these bars are black, black, black, black except the Play-Bar were named Elizabeth, but one spelled it with an “S.” Go figure.

The dance floor at the Play-Bar can be a lot of fun for people who want space to dance because while we were there it was empty.

Strobe lights give the floor a 60s effect. A double helix radiates on the ceiling and there’s a pole on the stage that want-to-be-lap dancers can practice on. The lighted painting on the wall over the dance floor appeared to be a depiction of a god rising out of hundreds of ice pipes that unfortunately I have seen people I care about use to turn themselves into demons.

There sure were a lot of sexy women in this bar. Most of them wore high heels. I flat feet and my main job is walking around a condo counting burned-out light bulbs, so I can sympathize with the efforts they’re making to be attractive when enduring massive amounts of pain.

The Play-bar is a pleasant, friendly place for people in their 20s and 30s to get together. Soon there will be a dance floor in the basement and the bar will be renovated and given a different name. Life is change. Simply being a Live Wire is not enough.

Aaron Lacis is one of the owners, as well as the bartender I talked to when I visited this establishment. He’s a good looking man and a nice guy with an existentially meaningful life.

I got a laid-back, friendly feeling from this place.

Club Six permit suspended for noise

BY JOHN GOINS

The survival of Club Six, one of the city’s trendiest dance clubs, took a turn for the worse June 5 with the Entertainment Commission’s decision to revoke Angel Cruz’s entertainment permit because of continuing complaints from nearby residents about ear-splitting noise and heavy vibrations generated by the club’s powerful speakers at night.

The suspension will be in effect for 120 days so Cruz can operate and doesn’t go belly-up while he attempts to rectify his problem. It also means that the bartenders, DJs, security guards and junior workers who work for him will remain employed, and the bands, artists and music promoters who consider him a rare patron will get work.

Cruz is an early player and a major one in the central city’s late-night club scene that also includes the Play-Bar and Anu on Sixth Street and the 187 Eddy Club and the Crash Club on Mission Street, and Etiquette on Sixth, well-known magnets for hundreds of young people from around the city and the Bay Area.

Cruz has hired sound engineer Charles Silter to solve his Humongous problem: booming speakers shaking the windows at 60 Sixth St. where the club, and the Lawrence Hotel above it, are housed.

The suspension came with a caveat: any sound violations during the 120-day period will tack on another 60-day suspension. And after that 90 days, ending with Cruz’s permit permanently revoked upon further violations, Entertainment Commission Terrance Alan said in a phone interview.

Alan, who owns and runs his buildings and has been a landlord for 120 years, previously operated, said Silter is a first-rate sound engineer, and the improvements will be expensive.

“It’s one of the most expensive things a club owner can do,” Alan said. And in Cruz’s case it could be tricky. He said, “There are no blueprints for that old building and the sound system wasn’t scientifically installed.”

The closure of a popular business on Sixth Street where people from different communities can earn a living, be creative and enjoy themselves is no small thing. Alan said he was concerned about the club’s employees and the lost income. “The real problem is the employees suffer. And the club brings a mix of folks to the neighborhood.”

And what of the club’s relationship to the people who live in the neighborhood, particularly those who can’t sleep at night?”

“I think Paul Hogarth wrote a good article characterizing their attitude,” Alan said, referring to the managing editor of Beyond Chron.com, who is also a legal counselor and organizer for the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, which produces Beyond Chron, the daily online opinion and features publication.

“Sixth Street residents are organized around the bar and are ready to get together,” Hogarth wrote, “it had nothing to do with trying to rain on the night life parade in San Francisco.”

Alan said the commission heard testimony from about 100 people at the June 5 hearing, most of them saying that the club should remain open. “The Entertainment Commission doesn’t have any villains,” he said. “Overall, the city does benefit from nightlife.” The Extra previously quoted Cruz saying he had already invested well over $100,000 in sound improvements and $1 million in the club. He contended with the commission’s so-called “out of improve- ments, or say what he is paying Silter.

Cruz said he was disappointed in the commission’s decision. “It’s sad when residents at the hearing,” Cruz said. “I saw only two people from the Lawrence there.” When asked what impact his club has had on Sixth Street Cruz said, “The facts speak for themselves. I’ve done a lot of good there. Look at my track record. I bring revenue to this city. But anything worthwhile is not easy.”

A black street person dressed in a red vest was sitting at a table by himself, obviously lonely, and they didn’t kick him out.

A-plus.

ANU: 45 Sixth St.

I took a beautiful woman with me and we ended up here. People treat you differently when you are with a beautiful woman. The only thing that doesn’t cost it more is money.

Her name is Veronica Josephine Faraday, and I interviewed her for The Extra a long time ago when she existed under a different name. We had lunch at the Tenderloin. Neither one of us comes here just to visit techno-bars. We are citizens, this fishbowl is where we breathe, and probably where we will die.

Veronica was wearing a tweed suit and looked androgynous, very “Cabaret” and appropriate to the environment, or so we thought. But this scene is extremely old-fashioned. This new generation is the ‘50s, ignoring the wars, loving their solidified concepts, and just wanting to be happy though terminally miserable.

I was buzzing around like a bee, absorbing the nectar of ambience, while Veronica was sitting on a chair minding her own business. At least that’s what I thought. When I reconnoitered with her later she had a story to tell.

“…”He Beck-looking, art school child started caring my hair? So I stood up and said sternly, “Do I know you?”

“…”Then he held out his hand. I did not shake his hand’ And then he said, “I like your lines and bone structure!”

“And I said, ‘You like my lines and bone structure? Then pay me!”

The little man who patted Veronica on the head got a wake-up call.

The Anu is all art on the wall. Some of it depicts ancient scenes of people listening to real music like when Miles Davis played the Black Hawk without the aid of techno.

There was lots of dancing at the Anu. There is nothing wrong with any bar that encourages danc- ing. The Anu is full of the desire of five dollars. A vodka cran-berry made with swirl costs three dollars in most bars around here.

ETIQUETTE: 1108 Market St.

There’s a tendency for young people now to want to go back to the 19th century, they’re scared of the future and feel violated by the freshly laid-to-rest past. Recently, I spent two years in a story about young hipsters there loved 19th cen- tury poetry.

Much of the décor in these techno-bars is eleg- ant black vinyl, cold fluorescent lights. A black beast, crawling in the dark, décor. A市政协

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS
Concerts Beginning Friday, July 20 from noon to 1 p.m. and continuing every Friday through August, free piano concerts at the Cadillac Hotel, 380 Eddy. Co-sponsored by the Tenderloin/North of Market Community Benefit District.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE
HOUSING
Supportive Housing Network, 4th Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Alesia Hopper, 421-2926 x302.

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the month, noon, 201 Turk Community Room. Contact Michael Ruby, 339-3837. Resident unity, leadership training, facilitate communication.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH
CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30, CBHS, 1380 Howard, 3rd fl., 393-3457. Advisory group of the managers who develop and oversee mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m. Health Action, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call: 421-2925 x306.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, Quaker Center, 60 Ninth St., noon-1:30. Focus on increasing supportive home and community-based services, expanded eligibility for home care and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served. Call: James Conover, 701-4714 x204.

Boarders and Clutterers Support Group, 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call: 421-2925 x306.

Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 207B. CBHS advisory committee. Call: 255-3474.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough, 5th fl. Call 905-6264. Family member group, open to consumers and the public.

SAFETY
North of Market NERT, bimonthly meeting. Call Lt. Erica Artesen, S.F. Fire Department, 970-2022. Disaster preparedness training by the Fire Department.

Sofka Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Location changes monthly. To receive monthly information by e-mail, contact Melit Amital, 538-8100 ext. 202 or sofka@cbhsconsumer.org.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy, Call Susan Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., 301 Eddy. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1500 or sf_distr

ets@cbhsconsumer.org. Districtwide association, civic education.

Boudoir Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9-noon, organized by the Friends of Boudoir Park. To RSVP or for information, Call Betty Traynor at the Neighborhood Parks Council, 621-3396.

Central City Democrats, meets four times a year, 301 Eddy St. Community Room. Addresses District 6 residential and business concerns. For information: 339-VOTE (8683) or centralcityDemocrats@yahoo.com.

Community Leadership Alliance, CLA Community Advocacy Commission meeting monthly, City Hall, Room 304. Subcommittee meetings and informational forums held monthly at the Tenderloin Police Station Community Room. Information: David Moyer, moyer@cbhsconsumer.org, dmooyer@cbhsconsumer.org.

Friends of Boudoir Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boudoir Rec. Center, 240 Eddy. Plane park events, activi

tes and improvements. Contact: 502-4466.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5 p.m. Board works to protect SoMa resources for children, youth, families and adults. Gene Friend Recreation Center, 270 Sixth St. Information: 538-8100 x202

Mid-Market Project Area Committee, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m., Ramada Hotel, 1231 Market. Contact Carolyn Diamond, 362-2500. Market Street rededication on Fifth to Tenth streets.


North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District, 1st Thursday of the month, noon. Call Eileen Zamos, 440-7570.

Tenderloin Leadership Council, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., The Arc, 1500 Howard St. at 11th. Emphasizes good planning and good government to maintain a diverse, vibrant, complete neighborhood. Contact: Jim Meko, 624-4309 or jim.meko@comcast.net.

South of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom, between 7th and 8th. Hairs Safety and Human Services Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday after the first Monday, 1035 Folsom, noon. Information: 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Tenderloin Police community room, 301 Eddy. Call at 358-9356 for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses sharing information and taking on neighborhood development issues.

SENIORS AND DISABLED
Mayor’s Disability Council, 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, Room 400. Call: 554-6789. Open to the public.


SUPERVISORS’ COMMITTEES
City Hall, Room 206

Budget and Finance Committee, Daly, Duffy, Ammiano, Makrisin, Estrada, Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Land Use Committee, Maxwell, Sandoval, McGoldrick, Monday, 1 p.m.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

addicts who panhandle cigarettes outside their do...