

# Closed-down Pink Diamonds quickly reopens

Ex-D.A. Hallinan  
stalls city injunction

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN  
AND TOM CARTER

**T**ROUBLED strip club Pink Diamonds reopened at 220 Jones St. on New Year's Eve, a month after the building's owner, Terrance Alan, a member of the Entertainment Commission, shuttered the business in response to neighborhood complaints and police actions against noise, unruly patrons, and at least three incidents of gun play.

Less than two weeks later, City Attorney Dennis Herrera filed a complaint for injunctive relief, naming Damone H. Smith, the current club operator, and a list of others, including Club Paree, Pink Diamonds' earlier incarnation, as defendants.

The complaint now winding through Superior Court cites past violations of police, fire, health and building inspection codes at the club. It asks the court to order club operators to bring it into compliance with a laundry list of requirements that include how many guards to hire and posting signs about noise over the front and back doors.

Meanwhile, the litany of troubles outside Pink Diamonds' door swelled in the new year. Police visited the club twice in January because of fighting and unruly crowds. After one visit the manager closed down a private party.

**"...a disorderly and disruptive nightclub... a public nuisance."**

City attorney injunction

Deputy City Attorney Jerry Threet states in the injunctive complaint that the defendants maintained "a disorderly and disruptive nightclub that repeatedly operates as a public nuisance ... in violation of the required State and local permits." The 19-page complaint demands that the club's operators provide adequate security, control patrons, limit noise and obtain valid entertainment and late-night permits from the city Entertainment Commission.

The complaint catalogs a string of fruitless attempts by the city attorney to get the club operators to

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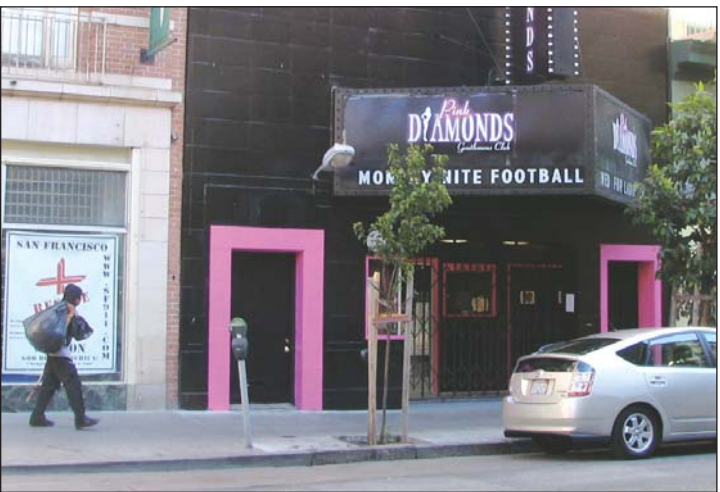


PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

**Pink Diamonds** reopened a month after being shut down.

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# CENTRAL CITY

# EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

## 'UNCONSTITUTIONAL'



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

**Five-year Seneca Hotel** resident David L. Green Jr. says that since the Sixth Street SRO installed individually locked mailboxes he has felt "more secure and independent."

# SRO mail call

City poised to sue  
Post Office over  
delivery policy

BY TOM CARTER

**S**AN FRANCISCO plans to sue the U.S. Postal Service in federal court for not delivering mail properly to SRO hotels, deputy city attorneys announced recently at a community meeting in the Tenderloin.

The Central City SRO Collaborative, a tenants'-rights group, had called the meeting Feb. 11 so city officials could hear firsthand about erratic mail delivery.

The attorneys listened to an hour of SRO residents' complaints and lack of individual mail service, and took names for follow-up interviews to build their case. They asked for help in finding more neighborhood witnesses to come forward and planned to record their stories the next week.

Compounding the problem is a new postal policy that further diminishes deliveries. Tenderloin Housing Clinic lawyer Paul Hogarth said that in reply to his inquiries a Postal Service spokesman said in a Dec. 22 email that a new policy was coming that restored old regulations.

San Francisco postal spokesman Jim Wigdel confirmed the change. The Postal Service sent a letter Dec. 24 to SROs announcing that service would stop to individually locked mailboxes installed in the

last 90 days, but service would continue for those installed before that. Wigdel said the change came after a management review of postal regulations that call for bulk mail drops at hotels.

Wigdel said he didn't know what prompted the policy review. The regulations, he added, are national in scope, not just centered on San Francisco, and supersede city and state laws, passed in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

He had no comment on the city's pending suit.

Dozens of SROs have installed individually locked boxes in recent years following pressure from activists on the post office to allow them, and later, from the city and state laws requiring them. However, the post office made exceptions for SROs to its bulk drops, or centralized delivery for hotels (see sidebar). Now, that agreement will be disregarded.

Supervisor Chris Daly, author of the mailbox ordinance, said the Postal Service's actions did not surprise him.

"I've talked to the city attorney and I feel good about this course," Daly told The Extra. "And I support (anything) that brings attention to this." He said he hoped Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who had threatened a congressional inquiry over the controversial SRO mail delivery four years ago, would get involved as "an interested party."

Pelosi's office did not respond to requests for comment.

Meanwhile, residents have recourse to "enforcement provisions" in the ordinance, Daly said. They allow SRO residents to seek lower rents by petitioning the Stabilization

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# GOOD NEWS for...

**DRIVERS** Parking lots are going extinct in the central city as developers snap them up to build much-needed housing. But there is, well, good news: Hastings College of the Law's garage at Golden Gate and Larkin is scheduled to open in May, according to CFO David Seward. "There are a total of 395 stalls, primarily for Hastings' students, faculty and staff, with public use depending on availability," he said. Also, the Central YMCA's two parking lots, at 351 Turk and 145 Leavenworth, which hold 60 cars and formerly were available only to Y patrons and staff, now are open to the public. Super Parking leases the lots from the Y and charges a \$7 special daily rate (in by 10 a.m., out by 6 p.m.) plus monthly parking, \$180. The lots, by the way, were scheduled to become market-rate housing, but AF Evans pulled out of the deal to buy them. AF Evans and TNDC will purchase the Y building to renovate into housing for the homeless, a process that's been put on hold while the Y looks for a temporary home.



Rendering of Hastings garage, opening in May.

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**FILIPINO VETERANS** Last October's disappointment among dwindling numbers of WWII Filipino vets over once-more denied benefits (see The Extra's p.1 story, November 2008) turned to a sense of well-deserved justice when President Obama signed the \$787 billion stimulus bill Feb. 17. Among the bill's provisions, this one urged by Sen. Daniel Inouye, D Hawaii: \$198 million to pay thousands of Filipino American vets who fought with Americans in the war — a one-time pension of \$15,000 for U.S. citizens and \$9,000 for noncitizens. An estimated 15,000 Filipino vets are still living — 3,000 in the United States and 12,000 in the Philippines. To receive the benefit, vets have to file by next February, but how long payout will take to trickle down is unknown. Activists have spent 60 years seeking financial recognition for the vets' service. The money seemed close last year but was blocked by the Senate in Bush's waning days.

If you have some good news, send it to [tom@studycenter.org](mailto:tom@studycenter.org) or [marjorie@studycenter.org](mailto:marjorie@studycenter.org)



Artist depiction of proposed condos at 180 Jones — if you build it, will they come?

## Economy down, nonprofit housing on hold

Modest market-rate condo project, however, still confident of success

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

IT'S a truly nail-biting time to be building housing. If you're a nonprofit developer with plans under way, will the public funds be there once all the permits and EIRs are approved? And if you're a market-rate developer with condos already in the pipeline, will buyers come?

Given the sour economy, representatives of three projects who made presentations at the February Tenderloin Futures Collaborative were surprisingly upbeat.

"We're going before the Planning Commission March 5 and expect to start construction next year," said Tony Kim of Town Consulting. He was back at the Collaborative for the third time, updating members about 180 Jones St. and progress on building eight stories of condos on the site, currently a surface parking lot. Among the 15 one-bedroom and 22 two-bedroom units, all but four will be market rate.

"The property owner and my client, Eddie Tsang, started this project years ago with a five-story building," Kim said, "but he was encouraged by the Planning Department to increase it to eight stories."

The project still needs its building permits, Kim said, but he expects everything to go through easily. Planning has already issued a preliminary "neg dec" — a declaration that the project is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment, he said.

"I'm wondering — since the Tenderloin now is a historic district, were there any attempts to make 180 Jones architecturally compatible?" asked Carmella Gold, Central YMCA executive director.

Kim said they worked with neighborhood planner Tim Frye to make sure it did. "We made several adjustments. The proportions and height are compatible with other buildings in the neighborhood, and we borrowed some elements from the two buildings on either side of us — the cornice at the top and

the combination of wide and narrow windows."

Kim wouldn't comment on what the condos might cost, "market-rate" being the most mutable of concepts these days. In January, San Francisco's median price for houses, condos and TICs dropped almost 25% from a year ago, and sales were off 22%.

Kim later, however, told The Extra that these condos might go for between \$375,000 and \$400,000 in order to be competitive with other market-rate units in the Tenderloin.

"That's probably less than what I would have estimated a year ago," he said.

At the other end of the housing spectrum are apartments for families with very low incomes and the homeless. TNDC Community Organizer Steve Woo, who handles administrative tasks for the Collaborative, introduced two TNDC projects, both in SoMa, at 1400 Mission and 1036 Mission.

The 1400 Mission project, at 10th Street, is being constructed with Citizens Housing Corp. In 1999, the two nonprofit develop-

ers paid Bank of America \$4.5 million for the site, which was planned as a half-block complex of new buildings that would include affordable housing, a structure for some city offices and market-rate condos. The city pulled out of the deal several years ago, and the Crescent Heights company's plan to build two towers of 720 luxury condos at Market and 10th Street seems stuck in the rut of crumbling foundations where several buildings were razed two years ago.

TNDC's portion of the site, currently a parking lot, will have 150 studios and one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. Its height varies — 15 stories on 10th Street, 10 stories on Mission Street and five stories on Jessie Street.

"This will be an LEED silver-rated building," TNDC Project Manager Akhi Nagraj proudly pointed out. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is an international certification program and benchmark for green buildings. Four levels of certification — certified, sil-

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# City attorney to sue Post

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Rent Board when residential hotel owners don't install "receptacles for each residential unit." SROs must comply with postal specifications for installing the receptacles, but the ordinance says "delivery will not be enforced by the Department of Building Inspection."

The standing-room-only crowd of three dozen tenants jammed into a small room at the SRO Collaborative were eager to tell their daily woes. Two-thirds indicated by a show of hands their mail had been lost. A third said government and personal checks had been lost. One man said that because he hadn't received government letters requiring a response, he lost his Medicare benefits.

Only four residents said their SROs have individually locked mailboxes, suggesting a large number are without them in the estimated 20,000 residents in the city's 503 SROs. The

collaborative staff last year "street canvassed" the TL and Sixth Street SROs, working from a Department of Building Inspection list. The staff found 31 SROs totaling 1,003 units without individual mailboxes.

Several residents said mail carriers routinely dump mail on the floor if a desk clerk isn't there to accept it. And many bemoaned certain desk clerks who hold back mail to punish people or leverage favors.

Most of the nonprofit hotels, including TNDC's and Tenderloin Housing Clinic's, the parent of the SRO Collaborative, have installed individual boxes in their SROs, said Jeff Buckley, SRO Collaborative director. But many privately owned SROs haven't made the change, he said. Now, according to postal authorities, it's too late and there won't be any more recently converted SROs getting individualized mail delivery.

(Ironically, the city ordinance obliges the Postal Service to provide SROs that want to

switch to individual mailboxes a list of vendors that sell them.)

"We think it's unconstitutional," Deputy City Attorney Sherri Kaiser said of the policy. "People have rights to get (mail). We'll try to get the post office to look at its regulations and a federal judge to look at what's resulted."

"(City Attorney) Dennis Herrera is pouring his interest into this," Kaiser added. "He really wants to move this forward."

A fundamental problem is that postal regulations prevail over state and local laws, just like with medical marijuana. The Postal Service is a quasi-federal agency. Its regulations entitle apartment buildings to individual box delivery; hotels get a bulk drop with the mail sorted and distributed by hotel personnel. SROs are classified as hotels. The Postal Service makes no distinction between tourist hotels like the Fairmont and the city's SROs that are homes to thousands of low-income and formerly homeless citizens.

"It's true our law is lower on the totem pole," said Kaiser. "But they (the Postal Service) are not following their own regulations. There's a section that (details) what an apartment building is, and an SRO meets all those requirements."

Chief Housing Inspector Rosemary Bosque said at the meeting that Building Inspection staff had spent "a lot of time trying to get compliance" but exacerbating the problem is that 1 in 5 of the SROs have lobbies off the main floor where carriers won't deliver. Bosque tried to involve Sen. Feinstein, she said, but her calls were not returned. Since the mailbox ordinance went into effect, Bosque said, the post office doesn't have enough staff to handle additional work.

"A residential hotel is the same as a residence," Bosque told the group. "You are residential households. Perhaps this (lawsuit) will get the attention of Feinstein, Pelosi and Boxer."

The city attorney asked SRO residents to be specific about their experiences, and they didn't lack for examples.



Charles Maxwell, who got the ball rolling for SRO mailbox delivery, and Marsha Jackson, then-Bayanihan House administrator, in front of the hotel's then-new mailboxes.

## SRO mail call: The backstory

**I**F you see Charles Maxwell anywhere, tell him that what goes around comes around. He is the formerly homeless man who began the push for individually locked mailboxes in SROs after moving into the handsome then-new Bayanihan House at Sixth and Mission streets in October 2003.

A bank of gleaming mailboxes had been installed in the Bayanihan lobby but the post office wouldn't touch them. Postal authorities said hotels got a bulk drop, according to its regulations. So desk clerks had to distribute the mail.

Maxwell was incensed. He thought it was his right to get mail delivered safely, directly and privately to his new home. He went to the Central City SRO Collaborative and began working with staffer Earl Brown. Together they got scores of other SROs involved. Eventually, 330 residents, complaining of desk clerks mishandling, losing, even stealing mail, signed a petition calling on the post office for individual mailbox delivery.

The coalition had tried for months to meet with postal authorities but got put off. But when Supervisor Chris Daly's office got involved, a meeting was set. The post office backed out of that, too, and another. Finally, in May 2004, Brown and the activists broke through the stonewalling and went to the post office's administrative offices at 1300 Evans for a confrontation.

Then Postal Service Customer Services Manager

Robert Reed relented, but without ever considering the SROs anything but hotels for transients. Reed agreed to take each SRO case by case, provided managers completed the required paperwork.

That June, Rep. Nancy Pelosi's office responded to the growing issue after her representatives met with a staffer from Supervisor Daly's office and coalition members.

"Congresswoman Pelosi will initiate a congressional inquiry to see how this problem can be solved," Dan Bernal, her deputy district director said in a statement.

With the promise of city legislation to come for SRO individual mailboxes, though, Pelosi curbed the inquiry.

Daly's legislation, effective April 2006, called for private and nonprofit SROs to have boxes installed by April 2007. But the post office had just one worker to oversee size and location compliance requirements. Hundreds of SROs had to wait for site appraisals before proceeding. By August 2007, 82 SROs had installed mailboxes, a spokesman told The Extra then.

Now, any SRO mailboxes that were installed after Sept. 24 will be ignored and those hotels will get bulk drops, just like it was when Maxwell moved into the Bayanihan. The desk clerk said Maxwell moved out three years ago. ■

—TOM CARTER



Windsor Hotel resident Robert Joyner says that individual residents it made order out of chaos.



# Office over mail delivery

**The laws** were meant to eliminate third-party handling of mail and cardboard caddies like this one that was supplanted at the Camelot Hotel by individually locked mailboxes.

Ron Whitaker said at his All Star SRO in the Mission the mail carrier rings a bell, opens the door, yells "mail call" and tosses the bag of mail upstairs.

"We don't even get a 'mail call,'" said Dan Jordan who lives at the Shree Ganeshi at 68 Sixth St. "We got our individual boxes in October but the post office won't deliver unless they're on the first floor. Well, they're on the second floor, so the (carrier) just dumps the mail on the ground and leaves."

Robert Kauth, from the Alder Hotel in the next block, said he lost his medical benefits because of government mail he didn't receive. He said he has a terminal condition and missed doctor's appointments because of the shoddy mail delivery. The desk clerk has "played games" and withheld his Social Security checks, too, he said. Another man talked about a private SRO owner who opened mail indiscriminately and tossed away letters sent to people who had moved. He knew, he said, because he emptied her waste baskets.

Another Alder resident, Andrew Kaczmarshi, said his mother had sent him a \$150 money order to help on his rent so he wouldn't be evicted. But after two weeks he hadn't received it so he ran a trace.

"They told me it was cashed three days after it was sent," he said. "And I was evicted."

SRO residents say lack of individual mailboxes is "dehumanizing" and an affront to being poor that leaves them even more vulnerable. Amid the fusillade of complaints one man yelled to the officials seated at a table in front asking when a court decision could be expected on something like this.

"It's hard to predict," said Kaiser. "But one to two years after we file is an ample time."

A senior investigator, Carol Stuart, took notes on the residents' comments and planned to take statements by appointment at the SRO Collaborative office the next week. Two weeks later she told The Extra she took 12 "representative" statements from residents that are "a good overview."

If residents don't think their SROs have

complied with the law they can petition the Stabilization and Rent Board for a rent reduction. Executive Director Delene Wolf said there have been two cases.

Four tenants at a 3900 Third St. SRO got \$50 rent reductions, Wolf said. But the case is on appeal because the owner said he didn't get

a hearing notice. The owner has since installed individual mailboxes, she added, but "the post office won't deliver" because of a technicality.

The other case involves five tenants in the Crystal Hotel at 130 Eddy St., which doesn't have individual boxes. But a hearing date hasn't been set. Uravi LLC owns the Crystal. ■



## TL now officially Uptown — next comes history museum

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

**T**HE Uptown Tenderloin Historic District — 33 blocks north of Market Street — was officially added to the National Park Service's Register of Historic Places Feb. 13.

Next: a history museum in the Cadillac Hotel, with initial grant funding of \$35,000 from the Fifth Age of Man Foundation in the Mission District and pro bono design by architectural firm Perkins + Will.

Randy Shaw, Tenderloin Housing Clinic executive director and prime mover in pushing the historic district, says the museum will open in 2012.

Fifth Age of Man Foundation was originally the Mark Ross Foundation, founded in 1985. When Ross died in 1995, he designated the bulk of his wealth, from a San Francisco import-export business, to the creation of the new foundation, its name derived from a line in Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and other classical mythological and cultural references. Grantees are a varied lot, from the San Francisco Ballet to the Ayn Rand Institute and the Pacific Rowing Club.

Also planned: As many as 100 colorful flags will line the streets of the Tenderloin announcing the historic district and the neighborhood's uniqueness, courtesy of the North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. The CBD ran a contest for four banners — one touting the historic district; two more general on the themes of families, diversity and heart of the city in the neighborhood; and a fourth announcing the new Taylor Street arts district.

The Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development gave the CBD \$25,000 to pay for production and installation of the first three banners, while DPW is fronting for the fourth.

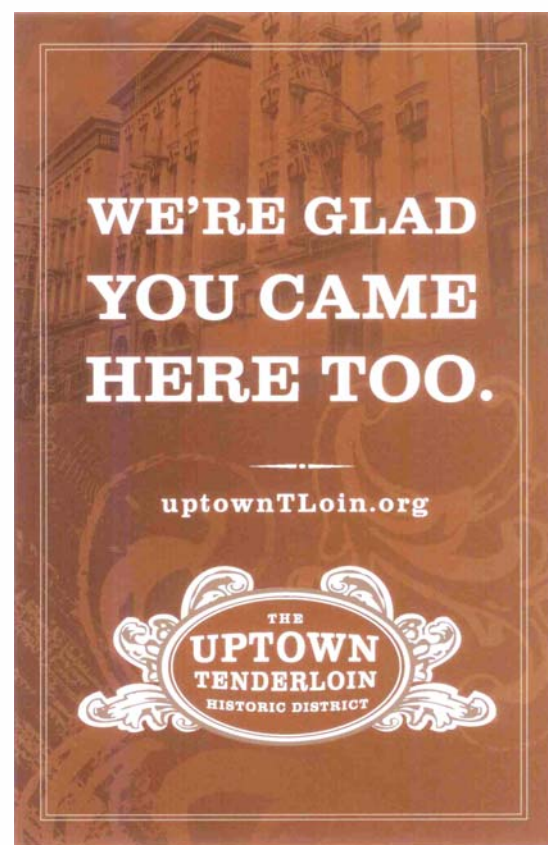
CBD General Manager Elaine Zamora says DPW took over the Taylor Street portion of the project to "accelerate the process" of getting the banners up. The CBD has approved a design with the arcane message "Art on Taylor in the Ten."

The arts district, three blocks of Taylor north of Market Street, is being planned by a coalition of the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, San Francisco Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts, the North of Market Neighborhood Improvement Corp. and other neighborhood groups. On Feb. 21, Gray Area Foundation for the Arts broke ground at 55 Taylor for renovations on a vacant former porn theater where it will open a gallery, cafe and artists' stu-

dios and other arty spaces.

As The Extra went to press, the CBD announced the winning banner design — but not the exact message — for the historic district. Academy of Art student Kayla Jones' design was chosen by the museum's just-formed board of directors. Board members are Shaw, S.F. Hilton publicist Debbie Larkin, Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund associate Brad Paul, the Cadillac's Kathy Looper, Hastings CFO David Seward and Zamora.

Winners of designs for the two other banners will be announced in March. One banner will feature a design by a youth artist, under 18, and another by someone from the community at large. Zamora said the CBD put out a call for artists on Craigslist and to 200 on its community email list. ■



**This** was the winning design for the Uptown Tenderloin Historic District banner by art student Kayla Jones.



PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER 2004

When the SRO switched to locked mailboxes for



**GARRISON SMITH JR.**  
Elevator mechanic

It was the best of times when Garrison Smith Jr., formerly homeless, lived in his clean, well-lit SRO. People liked and admired him. He was honest, quiet, supportive and a smart chess player.

But even his dying too young was not the worst of times, his friends who were missing him knew.

"It's an awkward moment," said Joe Jackson, one of 13 mourners who gathered in the Coast Hotel at Mr. Smith's memorial on Jan. 27. A variety of white flowers on a forest green clothed table made a handsome bouquet with three lighted candles to each side.

"I don't remember what he died of," continued Jackson, the hotel's tenant representative. "But he died with a roof over his head among friends. He didn't die on the street. We can thank a lot of people for that and the mayor."

The Coast is a Care Not Cash hotel for formerly homeless welfare clients. Its 124 rooms house 150 people.

Mr. Smith collapsed while walking in the neighborhood and was taken to St. Francis Memorial Hospital where he died Jan. 19. He was 54. His friends said he suffered from diabetes. The medical examiner's office said cause of death is pending.

The mourners described him as a guy who always said hello, never lied, was "good people in a very difficult neighborhood," and a valued friend.

"All I can say is rest in peace, Garrison," said one man, sobbing. "Thanks for letting me know you."

Darwin Golden said he was in a St. Boniface shelter with Mr. Smith three years ago before they got housing at the Coast. He lightened the mood with an anecdote.

"He couldn't pronounce my name," Golden said, "He'd introduce me as darlin' and then tell people we used to sleep together. I had to correct him and say, 'at a shelter.'"

Another mourner said Mr. Smith's death was bad timing. He had worked at least 10 years as an elevator mechanic — once solving a problem when the Coast's elevator broke down — and "soon" was to come into some retirement money.

Mr. Smith surely would have liked his tribute.

"We're community," said Jackson, a 20-year resident who was grandfathered back in to the Coast after its renovation as Care Not Cash housing. "The counselors do a good job here. It all gives people a little dignity. We even honor our dead pets." ■

—TOM CARTER

**LAWRENCE MILLER**  
Bicycle benefactor

Lawrence Miller made bicycles from scavenged parts, then gave the bikes away. A quiet man, he hadn't been a resident of the Ambassador Hotel long enough to gift many of his fellow tenants, but he made an impression anyway.

Mr. Miller, tall and lean, moved quietly into a fourth-floor room in February 2006 and pretty much kept to himself.

"He was a good tenant and didn't seem to need us," said hotel social worker Rachel Throm at Mr. Miller's memorial Nov. 9 at the Ambassador. The Rev. Glenda Hope conducted the memorial that was held in the second floor Listening Post room. "He was a good guy, sweet," said another social worker.

"If you went by his room he always said hello," said Larry Edmond. "I had a vinyl record album but no record player. He sold me his for \$12. It was

worth a lot more than that."

When Mr. Miller wasn't out searching for used bicycle parts in the neighborhood, he was in his room assembling one. He kept his room neat and clean, his friends said. The parts were organized in one place and he worked on just one bicycle at a time.

"He gave me three bicycles," said Richard Zinser. "And he always asked me if I needed any help."

Mr. Miller worked until the day he died — Oct. 31 — probably of AIDS, his friends said. He was found in his room. He was 49.

"He was very sick at the end and worked until he couldn't get up to answer the door," said his neighbor, Gerry Kirby. "Other people were affected by his death. There were more arguments, people jumping to anger. I think they were acting out their hurt, their emotions."

Kirby couldn't say for sure that Mr. Miller died of AIDS, only that he had exhibited symptoms of the disease. "His hair had straightened out and his eyes were large (and dull)," he said.

The Listening Post room was originated in 1984 during the AIDS epidemic as a place where residents could come and talk with someone from Network Ministries. It was a project of the Rev. Hope, Ministries executive director.

Now, doubling as a library, the Listening Post is open three or four times a week from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Volunteers, including Hope, show up to listen. No one knew whether Mr. Miller had ever dropped in.

But despite his limited time at the Ambassador, Hope said, "he had quite an impact." ■

—TOM CARTER

**GEORGE TIRADO**  
Poet, co-founder Molotov Mouths

Chicano poet and activist George Tirado was passionate about his art — spoken word — and his passion exploded on stages, on DVDs and CDs, at festivals and cultural events.

Mr. Tirado died unexpectedly Jan. 16 at the Empress Hotel where he'd lived for a year. It was his mother in Texas who had the idea of a spoken word memorial for him at the hotel.

As about 30 people were gathering in the hotel community room Feb. 18, a large monitor at the front of the room was playing a DVD of Mr. Tirado and other artists reading at City Lights bookstore in 2001. His piece was called "509 years," a poem that also appeared in the 2003 book *Molotov Mouths, Explosive New Writing*. Mr. Tirado was a co-founder of the Molotov Mouths, a political word troupe with a social justice message.

On the DVD, Mr. Tirado begins in his low, dramatic voice, "I was born into two worlds, one of the earth, my skin brown from the sun, and my heart charged with the power of the sun, and my mind able to contemplate the complexities of the gods." Like a Greek chorus, other performers on stage with him intone, "509 years, 509 years, 509 years."

Empress Property Manager Roberta Goodman brought a telephone into the community room. On the speakerphone was Mr. Tirado's mother. Goodman checked every now and then to make sure she could hear what people were saying about her son.

"George was a complex fellow," Goodman began, "and for a year he graced us with his presence here at the Empress. We're all grateful to have known him." ■



He was part of a writing project that Goodman introduced at the hotel, an offshoot of Community Works/West, which uses the arts and education to help underserved populations such as women coming out of jail and people in recovery. The project was coordinated at the Empress by Tanya Perlman.

Perlman held a fat sheaf of papers. "I know George was complicated," she said, "but I got to know him through his writing. He believed there was a huge responsibility to put one's writing out there." Perlman said plans are in the works to publish Mr. Tirado's works, as well as others' in the program. Then she read four of his powerful pieces — about his mother, about what was in his pockets, about his drug habits, about Tonia.

Others at the memorial described their relationship with Mr. Tirado or read their own compositions. One was the photographer Nappy Chin, who lives at the Empress:

"George, you pissed me off," he began. "You could have given me a hint."

Another resident, Angela, recalled how she and Mr. Tirado talked about their speed days: "We'd talk for hours. We were going to take a long, long trip, maybe on a boat."

Josiah Luis Alderete, one of the Molotov Mouths, said, "George had a lot of Georges inside of him — some who inspired me, some I couldn't trust. Don't make a saint of him. Remember all of him."

Alderete then read "Poesia" by Mr. Tirado. An excerpt: "This guy once asked me, 'Why don't you write like Pablo Neruda?' I laughed as I found my favorite spot on 16th and Mission. . . . There is nothing more promising than the twinkle in the eye of an early morning score when you know everything is good. . . . In the corner of my eye I see Satan lurking in the shadows, he's dressed in his favorite hoodie."

Junebug, also a Molotov Mouths member, said writing helps her keep her sanity. "I can't believe George is gone." Then she read a poem she said she wrote at Hospitality House in honor of Mr. Tirado, which began, "Que pasó, wassup, wassup, wassup."

The Internet is filled with references to Mr. Tirado's work, his life and his death.

Writer and comedian Bucky Sinister, a fellow performer, wrote on his blog about Mr. Tirado's art, his physical size — 400 to 500 pounds, he says — and his destructive drug use: "George and I shared a fascination with dirty, earth-bound angels as images in our work. . . . I always hoped he would show up at a 12 Step meeting. About a half dozen of us from the same circle, out of all of us who got high and drunk together, are 12 Steppers. But too many, like George, didn't make it past fifty. Fifty used to seem like forever away, back when 25 sounded old. George, you fat fuck, you tenderloin death star, you Oxycontin troll under a self-burned bridge. I used to be jealous of you. I've missed you for years."

Mr. Tirado is survived by his mother, one brother in Texas and another brother in Arizona. ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**District 6 Safety Forum**, March 10, 201 Turk St. Community Room, 6 p.m. Discussion about creating a districtwide safety platform; refreshments and door prizes. Organized by Alliance for a Better District 6 with many neighborhood nonprofit cosponsors. Info: 820-1560.

**158th Annual San Francisco St Patrick's Day Parade**, Sat., March 14, 11:30 a.m., Largest Irish event west of the Mississippi, offering more than 100 floats, Irish dance troupes, marching bands, arts, food. Parade starts at the corner of Market and Second St. and ends in front of City Hall. Info: parade hotline, 395-3417, and [sfstpatricksdaysparade.com](http://sfstpatricksdaysparade.com)

**SoMa Community Open Space Workshop**, Wed., March 18, 6-8 p.m., Arc of S.F., 1500 Howard St. Hosted by SoMa Leadership Council and Neighborhood Parks Council. Info: 621-3260 and [openspacesf.org/meetingpacket](http://openspacesf.org/meetingpacket).

**Celebration of Steve Conley's life**, March 19, Swig bar, 561 Geary (between Taylor and Jones), 4-10 p.m. Community members are invited to an Irish wake to celebrate the achievements and friendship of Steve Conley, who passed away Jan. 23; Irish entertainment, remembrances, door prizes. Donations accepted for a memorial fund in Steve's name. Info: 820-1412 and <http://stevanconnelly.blogspot.com>.

**TL Captain's Community Forum**, March 31, 6-7:30 p.m., police station Community Room 301 Eddy. Topic for this regular monthly meeting is robbery prevention tips and demonstrations. Info: Sgt. Gaetano Caltagirone, 345-7340.

## COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE 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, facilitate communication.

## HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

**CBHS Consumer Council**, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3-5 p.m., CBHS, 1380 Howard, room 537. Call: 255-3695. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

**Health & Wellness Action Advocates**, 1st Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call: 421-2926 x306.

**Healthcare Action Team**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, Quaker Center, 65 Ninth St., noon-1:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home and community-based services, expanded eligibility for home care and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

**Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group**, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call for dates and times: 421-2926 x306.

**Mental Health Board**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. 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 the public.

## SAFETY

**Safety for Women in the Tenderloin**, every 3rd Wednesday, Central City SRO Collaborative, 259 Hyde St., 4-6 p.m. Informal, friendly environment, refreshments, gender sensitive to LGBTQ community and sex workers. Discuss how to make Tenderloin SROs safer for women. Information: Alexandra Goldman, volunteer campaign coordinator, 775-7110 x102.

**Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT)**. Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department's free disaster preparedness and response training at any neighborhood location. See Website for schedule and training locations, [www.sfgov.org/sffdnert](http://www.sfgov.org/sffdnert), or call Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.

**SoMa Police Community Relations Forum**, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location changes monthly. To receive monthly information by e-mail, contact Meital Amitai, 538-8100 x202 or [mamitai@iisf.org](mailto:mamitai@iisf.org).

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

## NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

**Alliance for a Better District 6**, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or [sf\\_district6@yahoo.com](mailto:sf_district6@yahoo.com), a districtwide improvement association.

**Boeddeker Park cleanup**, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9-noon, organized by the Friends of Boeddeker Park. To RSVP to work or for information, call Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

**Central City Democrats**, meets four times a year, 301 Eddy St. Community Room. Addresses District 6 residential and business concerns, voter education forums. Information: 339-VOTE (8683) or [centralcitydemocrats@yahoo.com](mailto:centralcitydemocrats@yahoo.com).

**Central Market Community Benefit District**, board meets 2nd

Tuesday of the month, 989 Market St., 3rd Fl., 3 p.m. Information: 882-3088, <http://central-market.org>.

**Community Leadership Alliance**. CLA Community Advocacy Commission monthly meeting, City Hall, Room 34. Subcommittee meetings and informational forums held monthly at the Tenderloin Police Station Community Room. Information: David Villa-Lobos, [admin@CommunityLeadershipAlliance.net](mailto:admin@CommunityLeadershipAlliance.net).

**Friends of Boeddeker Park**, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

**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.

**North of Market Planning Coalition**, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Call: 820-1412. Neighborhood planning.

**North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District**. Call District Manager Elaine Zamora for times and dates, 440-7570.

**SoMa 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](mailto:jim.meko@comcast.net).

**South of Market Project Area Committee**, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom, between 6th & 7th Sts. Health, 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](http://www.sompac.com).

**Tenderloin Futures Collaborative**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Tenderloin Police Station community room, 301 Eddy. Call 358-3956 for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses 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.

**Senior Action Network**, general meeting, second Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon, St. Mary's Cathedral. Monthly committee meetings, 965 Mission #700: Pedestrian Safety, third Wednesday, 10 a.m.; Senior Housing Action, third Wednesday, 1:30; Information: 546-1333 and [www.senioractionnetwork.org](http://www.senioractionnetwork.org).

## SUPERVISORS' COMMITTEES

City Hall, Room 263

**Budget and Finance Committee** Avalos, Mirkarimi, Daly, Chu, Wednesday, 1 p.m.

**Land Use Committee** Maxwell, Mar, Chu, Monday, 1 p.m.

# Pink Diamond's lawyer Hallinan delays injunction

➤ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

obtain permits and eliminate the gun play outside the club before filing the lawsuit. Once sued, Smith and his lawyer, former S.F. District Attorney Terrance Hallinan, quickly agreed — in writing — to maintain one professionally trained security guard for every 50 patrons, post employees at the club's entrance and exits to keep patrons quiet, report any disruptive patron to the police, keep the street and sidewalk clean within 100 feet of the club after closing, and to prominently post well-lighted signs at the entrance and exits advising patrons to remain orderly.

Smith has to obtain the city permits, eliminate noise, not exceed the building's 192-person occupancy and more: provide a cell phone number to all interested neighborhood residents and business owners, enabling them to register noise complaints with the club's manager.

## CLUB TO REPORT COMPLAINTS MONTHLY

Smith also has to log all complaints, include the club's responses to the complaints, and report results in writing to the Tenderloin Police Station for distribution at its monthly community meetings. Smith, or his representative, must attend the community meetings. And he has to install video security cameras at the site, keep the recordings for at least three months, and make them available to the city attorney and police on demand.

After signing the stipulation for settlement, Smith appeared to back down from his written agreement when his attorney Hallinan objected.

On Feb. 17, Hallinan asked Superior Court Judge Peter Busch to hold up the court orders until the city attorney filed legal arguments in support of the orders. The city attorney's written request for the already signed injunction to take effect will be con-

sidered by Busch this month.

Hallinan's objection, which caused the delay, was a disappointment for Threet, who told a packed TL police community meeting Feb. 24 that Hallinan and the club had "backpedaled," and things were "not happening as promised."

Hallinan did not return repeated calls for comment.

Moreover, despite the ongoing legalities, Pink Diamonds continues to attract raucous, late-night crowds that it can't control. Jan. 24 and 25 were back-to-back rowdy nights amounting to a "super busy" weekend for cops, said TL permit and code enforcement Officer Miguel Torres.

## 2 WOMEN FIGHTING AT 4 A.M.

Two women were pulling hair and bashing each other outside the club at 4 a.m. Jan. 24 while music blasted from idling cars. The women, drunk and enraged, wouldn't stop. Fifty people cheered them on. Club security couldn't stop them, nor could the cops. Finally, a security guard shot them in the eyes with Mace, according to the police report. Meantime, squad cars from other police districts arrived and blocked off Jones Street to all traffic. No arrests were made.

Acting manager David Muhammad told police in advance there would be an amateur strip night Jan. 25 that would last into the wee hours. At 1 a.m., 40 to 50 mostly young men lined up outside, but the crowd quickly grew to 90, requiring more police.

"Club security was having trouble controlling them," Torres said, quoting the report.

Cars slowly cruised the area. By 2 a.m., the line outside was a milling jumble that blocked the sidewalk. "Security couldn't control it and Muhammad was advised to control it but couldn't," Torres said. At 2:45 a.m., 120 people were blocking the sidewalk and police reported overcrowding inside, too.

A Fire Department official was summoned. He entered and asked Muhammad for the published maximum capacity number. Muhammad couldn't find it. The fire official estimated 250 people were inside, though Muhammad said there were 220. But the official said the maximum is less than 200 and asked Muhammad to send 50 people outside. Instead, Muhammad closed the club. There were no arrests.

Smaller incidents, too, show that 220 Jones is a magnet for spontaneous combustion outside its door.

At the February police community meeting, Torres said a woman reported being assaulted by three other women Feb. 1 at 3:30 a.m. in front of the club. The victim had flagged a police patrol, he said later, and an ambulance was called. Paramedics treated her for a bloody lip and she refused any more treatment. No arrests were made.

## RAPPER NEEDED GUN 'FOR PROTECTION'

On Jan. 31, at 3:52 a.m. police stopped a car at 220 Jones that had made a turn without signaling. They found the driver had two outstanding warrants and a loaded, semiautomatic handgun near the driver's seat. As a rapper, he told police, he "needed it for protection."

A check showed the gun was registered to him, but he had a suspended driver's license. Torres said the man told police he was waiting for his cousin inside Pink Diamonds. A club security guard said the car had been driving by "all night." The man was arrested.

Noise, too, is apparently a nuisance.

Earl Rogers, chaplain of the next-door neighbor Rescue Mission, said at the community meeting that he could hear the club's pounding music "from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m." Threet later spoke to him privately at the meeting about particulars. ■



# Economy puts nonprofit housing projects on hold

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ver, gold and platinum — are based on points achieved for sustainable green building and development practices.

But Nagrai was less sanguine about when construction might start.

"It is unclear where we'll fall in the timeline because of the city's budget woes," he said. "Much of our funding comes from the Mayor's Office of Housing, and though we're budgeted for 2009, we don't know yet if they've frozen new projects. MOH will probably prioritize the various projects it has in the pipeline."

A couple of blocks away at 1036 Mission, between Sixth and Seventh streets and right next to Lucky Tours Check Cashing, TNDC wants to build a two-tower building with 100 units for very low-income and homeless families. It would rise 13 stories on the Mission Street side and step down to 10 stories on Jessie Street.

The proposed mix of units is 15 studios, 13 one-bedrooms, 64 two-bedrooms and eight three-bedrooms. The rent for the affordable units would range from \$732 to \$974 a month; the 20 "homeless" units, the majority of which are two-bedroom, would rent for from \$300 to \$533.

The aim is for it, too, to be LEED silver-rated, said Project Manager Renu Madan, "though we hope to do even better than that."

TNDC has submitted an environmental evaluation application to Planning and expects a preliminary neg dec in March, Madan said.

TNDC Executive Director Don Falk told The Extra in an email that he's confident the projects will materialize eventually.

"Both will certainly go on hold for a while, once we finish getting them entitled," he said. Entitlements include land use approvals such as conditional use and variance applications. "We're talking about the projects being delayed, not terminated."

Falk said the federal stimulus bill has little housing money in it, and the state's affordable housing financing is nearly depleted.

"The biggest problem we face in these projects is the defeat in November of Proposition B," he added. "If it had passed, there's a really good chance that the city would have enough money to keep feeding projects [like these]. Basically, the city has more projects in its pipeline than it can identify funding for right now."

Feb. 20, the S.F. Business Times reported that the Planning Department is proposing time extensions for high-profile developments that already have their "coveted city entitlements" — now they're required to start building within 18 to 24 months of getting approvals. An extension could prevent years of paperwork and a quicker start to construction once the economy turns around. Among the projects cited in the article that would benefit are Crescent Height's project at 10th and Market Street and 12,000 units of already approved housing. ■

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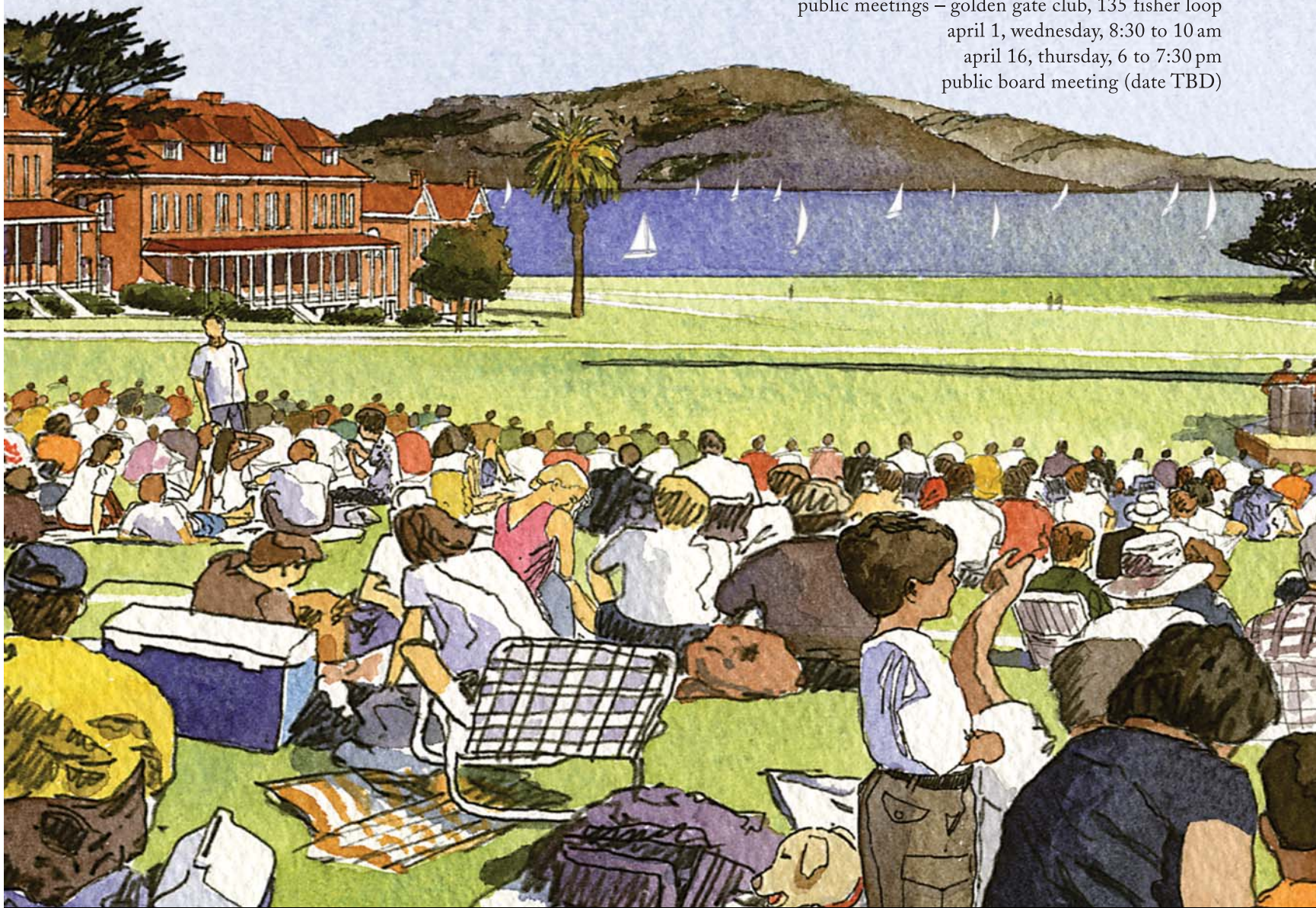
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public board meeting (date TBD)



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