

# THE TENDERLOIN TIMES

Volume 9, number 7

Voice of the Central City since 1977

August, 1985

## TL's Shocking Pedestrian Death Rate

### Six Die in Four Months

by Jim Sugarek

An alarming number of pedestrians have been killed or injured by moving vehicles in the Tenderloin recently, including a six-year old Laotian girl who was killed by a hit-and-run driver late last month.

During the three-and-a-half month period ending July 30, vehicles on Tenderloin streets killed six people and injured more than thirty others, according to a Times review of police records.

Neighborhood activists, concerned with the growing safety problem, charge that the City is treating the Tenderloin as a traffic thoroughfare, not a residential neighborhood.

"There's a price in human lives to having a major artery go through a residential neighborhood," said Richard Livingston, a board member of the North of Market Planning Coalition. "The Tenderloin should not be asked to pay that price just to get people to the freeway."

Six-year old Anong Phongsavath ran into Jones Street at Antonio Alley on Saturday, July 27 at 2:57

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### Marching Against Crime



The Anti-crime march took on a carnival-like atmosphere as young and old, cops and hustlers, immigrants and long timers took to the streets. Everyone from Police Commander Frank Jordan to Aarti resident Darwin Dias (holding "We Don't Love You" placard) joined in.

photo: Andrew Ritchie

### Thousands Risk Lives At Sea

## Red Tape Stymies Vietnamese Immigration to America

by Sara Colm with Nguyen Huu Liem

A legal departure program from Vietnam set up in 1979 to stem the massive outflow of Vietnamese "boat people" risking their lives at

sea has cut down the number of boat departures. But the program is so slow, cumbersome and difficult for refugees to negotiate that more than half a million people are currently on the waiting list.

Critics charge that the lack of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and the U.S. has complicated the process, since the two countries do not talk directly to each other and must use the United Nations as an intermediary.

Of those who do not make it to the United States, a disproportionate number are elderly or sick. And many, depending on their immigration status, are ineligible to receive medical or public assistance until they have been here three years.

"The program has seemed to be the way for the Vietnamese to send out elderly and ethnic Chinese people while extorting money from them at the same time," says Vu-duc Vuong, director of the Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement (CSEARR).

"It was the young and the fit, capable of escape by boat, that escaped first and are now trying to retrieve their elderly parents," says Laurie Reemsynder of the International Committee for Migration (ICM), offering another factor in the

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photo: Andrew Ritchie

Elderly Vietnamese woman steps into a new world as she arrives at San Francisco Airport.

## Fight Against AIDS Comes to Tenderloin

by Dennis Conkin

San Francisco health officials, fearing that the AIDS epidemic could grow among some high-risk Tenderloin residents, are stepping up their outreach and education efforts in the neighborhood.

This expanded effort comes at a time when more San Franciscans than ever are being diagnosed with and dying of AIDS. Last month, 49 people in the city died of the disease and 54 new cases were diagnosed.

"We consider the Tenderloin to be a high-risk neighborhood," says Dr. Peter Goldblum, deputy director of the city-funded San Francisco AIDS Health Project.

It is also a neighborhood that has largely been ignored in terms of AIDS education efforts, which have tended to focus on white, middle-class areas, according to health officials and neighborhood activists alike.

But if it has often been ignored by health educators, it has not been spared from the tragedy of the disease.

"It was a very emotional experience," said "Ric," a 23-year old male prostitute, recalling the recent death from AIDS of a Tenderloin friend. "I loved him and miss him. I lost a part of myself when he died."

### Outreach to High-risk Groups

Health experts are directing their efforts in the Tenderloin at three

primary groups they consider to be at high risk for contracting AIDS:

- Intravenous drug users who can spread the disease through the shared use of needles.
- Male prostitutes, many of whom are young and may take inadequate precautions to protect themselves and others.
- Other young people who live in or hang out in the Tenderloin and are sexually active.

### The Danger of Needles

Health officials are particularly concerned about the disease being spread by intravenous drug users. "We fear a second epidemic is going to occur among people that share needles, either long-time addicts or recreational drug users," says Barbara Faltz, a nurse-educator with the AIDS and Substance Abuse Program of the Health Project.

Intravenous drug users are at high risk for AIDS because the virus is

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## ask the people

by Jim Sugarek

### What Makes You Laugh?

Asked on Market St.



**Pauline Rothstein**  
Mainly when the joke is on me—when I've been had. Or when I bungle up a word or come up with a quick comeback.

**Yogi Kasam**  
This deal with abstinence. That's always a funny thing with me—the way religions promote it and the media picks it up. I practice Kundalini yoga.



**Paul Hazard**  
A good joke played on me! Or like this morning at St. Anthony's, a girl I'd never seen before came up and poked me and told me never to touch her. She was just kidding around.

**Ben Geddes**  
My friend Mike—a lot! Just the way he acts—the things he says. He just does crazy things. We go to a show and he'll jump up on stage and take over the microphone.



**Michael Breeze**  
The scene in the TL. You gotta laugh at it all. Otherwise you'll depress yourself. I'm not in jail, I'm not a junkie, and I'm smiling.

**Dorothy Chandler**  
I like the funnies. I like Dennis. It starts my day. But right now I'm worried about my house. It costs \$600 a month and I can't afford it.



**Albert Mahoney**  
Not too much really. There's too much disparity. When I see kids playing. When I see children or couples—people having a good time—it makes me feel good.

In July's "Ask The People" column, some photographs were incorrectly identified. The man identified as Howard Beck is actually Lee Stroub. The man identified as Lee Stroub is Santana Panalver. And the man identified as Richard Cole is Howard Beck. We regret the errors.

## letters

Readers are encouraged to send letters to: Editor, Tenderloin Times, 25 Taylor, S.F., CA 94102 by the 20th of each month. Letters should be signed and my be edited by the Times.

Editor,

Thank you very much for the newspaper. I have been receiving it for quite some time now. I really enjoy all of the information and news that its pages are graced with. Keep up the excellent work! I look forward to receiving your newspaper each and every month.

Charlie Recotta

Editor,

Thank you for coming to speak at Spring Gardens Center. We are sponsored by St. Anthony Foundation and our members come from all neighborhoods in San Francisco and cross all cultural and social economic lines. We are continually seeking ways to broaden our members' awareness of the Tenderloin and other related senior issues. We think you are offering a quality newspaper and we wish you continued success.

Gratefully,  
Gloria Garcia

Editor,

I was somewhat dismayed to see that your July issue, with its very good articles on crime, neglected to list Victim Witness Assistance as at least a prime resource—if not the prime resource. The San Francisco Police Department directs all victims to us via a leaflet issued to them at the time an injurious crime occurs.

The enclosed items, with which you should be familiar, are distributed at libraries, hospitals, shelters, etc. and members of our staff are always happy to speak in Spanish, Chinese or English

## The Old Master



photo: Andrew Ritchie

Eighty-nine-year old dragon master Sin Lee drills his disciples—all Tenderloin kids—in preparation for the grand opening of the S.F. Arts Festival. Their 75-foot rainbow-colored dragon was a hit.

about our services.

Community United Against Violence and Family Violence are other parts of the District Attorney's overall services to crime victims and directly interconnected through Victim/Witness Assistance.

So please include us on future lists and do not hesitate to call for further details.

Sincerely yours,  
Anne B. Daley  
Executive Director  
Victim Witness Assistance Program

Editor,

The June edition of the Tenderloin Times was really outstanding. Congratulations to you and the staff. Please include me as a paid subscriber.


Sincerely,  
David Werdager, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Health

Editor,

Your Tenderloin Times is a very interesting, informative and influential voice in the community.

Did you read Herb Caen's scathing attack on our dirty streets (July 11)? Don't you think the Tenderloin should be a model community of 'cleanliness is next to Godliness,' etc.—with window boxes and roof gardens and neighborly people? Don't your landlords and merchants give a damn how their fronts look? Maybe if you could get things scrubbed up, there'd be less crime? It's really a small area, really. Not too much to tackle.

Best wishes,  
A fan and reader



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## How to Help Refugees in Thailand

If you were concerned about last month's article on the plight of Cambodian refugees stranded in refugee camps in Thailand and want to know what you can do, fill out the coupon below, or write your own

letter of concern, and send it to the Times at 25 Taylor St., S.F., CA 94102. We will forward your concerns to California congresspersons and Secretary of State George Schultz.

Dear Congresspersons:

Please convey my concerns about Cambodian refugees in Thailand to Secretary of State Schultz and ask him to:

- Have the State Department review the cases of Cambodian refugees in Thailand and along the border who have been turned down or found ineligible for resettlement abroad.
- Negotiate for humanitarian and educational aid and for the safety of the 250,000 refugees living along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_



**United Way**  
of the Bay Area

# Neighborhood Rallies Against Crime

by Wade Hudson

In the largest demonstration in recent neighborhood history, 300 protestors chanting "More Jobs, Safer Streets" and "No More Crime" marched through the streets of the Tenderloin July 13 and gathered at Boeddeker Park for a rally that featured Mayor Feinstein.

The marchers, including seniors, Southeast Asians, children, businesspeople and police officers, met in front of the Cadillac Hotel. Sporting colorful banners and hand-made picket signs, the lively crowd snaked through the neighborhood over Eddy, Mason, Turk, Leavenworth and Ellis streets on their way to the park.

Glide Church Rev. Cecil Williams kicked off the speeches by telling the crowd: "We cannot let crime overcome us. We must overtake crime. All of us must work together to make a better quality of life in the Tenderloin to make sure that people get jobs, housing, a better shake in life."

Don Feeser, president of the North of Market Planning Coalition said: "We're not going to arrest everybody. We recognize that a lot of people out on the streets are down on their luck, like the Giants. But to the hard-core criminals, those who abuse seniors, the muggers, the drug dealers, we say we don't want you. Go someplace else."

After asking Buonchon Thepkaysone and Sophie Karet from the Lao and Cambodian communities to join him on the stage, Vu-Duc Vuong, the Vietnamese head of the Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement, said, "We came here by necessity but now we're calling this neighborhood our home by choice. We want to make this a better place for the poor, the hungry, the aged, the disabled, everybody. We want to work with everyone and declare war on crime."

Other speakers included Senator Milton Marks, who called up on the crowd to help "stop crime and develop more jobs," and Ramada Hotel Manager John Small, who urged everyone to "eliminate the criminal element and return the neighborhood back to the people."

Following brief speeches by march organizer Randy Shaw and neighborhood volunteer Hazel Blackwell, an enthusiastic Mayor Feinstein took the stage. Working the crowd like a cheerleader, she asked, "Do you like the park? Do you want a safe Tenderloin? Will you work to get it?"

"You've got to network, you've got to tell your beat cop when you

see a crime," said Feinstein, who then introduced Tenderloin beat cops Steve Venters and Kevin Dillon and had the crowd chant their names. "Make them your friends," she urged.

When Feinstein then asked the crowd, "When people assault you, do you want them to go to jail?", she didn't receive the expected response but only a loud "No." "Not even if they beat up your friends?" she responded, but the only answer was someone calling for more policemen on horses in the Tenderloin.

Leroy Looper closed the rally commenting, "I saw people in windows today who were afraid to march. They felt trapped. You've made it easier for them to join us next time."

Four days later, 50 people attended a community meeting to plan educational workshops on crime-related issues. At this meeting Mari Bianca, an active member of the San Francisco Network of Mental Health Clients, and Barbara Arms, acting director of Hospitality house, raised some concerns about the march.

"You need to be more clear about what crimes you are concerned about," suggested Arms. "We're in a conservative era. You can stir up passions and damage innocent people, including homeless people who are often seen as criminals. What we need to do is get at the roots of crime, poverty and drug addiction."

At its next meeting, the crime committee responded by clarifying that its focus is on violent crime and crimes against property, rather than crimes such as panhandling and prostitution.

The committee will hold a public workshop on crime and related issues Aug. 17, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel.

**Men's Clothes Needed**

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Thousands of inner city folks took to Golden Gate Park last month for a day of fun and food in the great outdoors at a picnic sponsored by St. Anthony's Dining Room. Father Floyd Lotito, who reportedly joined in the boogeying, to a live band, vows to make the picnic an annual event. photo: Andrew Ritchie

# Critics Hit City's Priority on Methadone Treatment

by Cliff Lehman

Although heroin use has declined significantly since the mid-70's, San Francisco continues to spend more than forty percent of its total drug program budget on methadone treatment for heroin addicts.

A heated controversy over this issue has erupted among San Francisco drug treatment agencies and city drug officials. Critics charge that more of the city's drug treatment money should go to other kinds of programs. The city, however, resists cutbacks that would kick out people now in treatment.

"I don't think (the city's plan) addresses the current problems of San Francisco very effectively," said Harvey Feldman, a drug researcher who has been studying San Francisco's drug problems. "It's out of touch with what's going on."

According to indicators such as numbers of arrests, drugs seized and reports from emergency rooms, heroin use has decreased drastically since the mid-seventies, while poly-drug abuse—the habitual use of more than one drug—has risen rapidly. In particular, cocaine and speed use have increased greatly.

However, these same indicators show that while still well below mid-seventies levels, the past four years have shown a new increase in heroin use. The degree of increase is a subject of debate, however, and some treatment providers insist that more funds should go to programs for people with poly-drug abuse problems.

Most of the city's heroin treatment programs rely primarily upon methadone, a synthetic narcotic that can legally be prescribed by doctors to help people stop using heroin.

Critics of methadone charge that the treatment substitutes one drug addiction for another and makes the addict dependent on the drug treatment center.

"I got really sick trying to get off methadone. Kicking methadone was harder than getting off heroin," a 47 year old heroin addict who has tried to kick heroin several times told the Times.

Methadone is taken orally, produces a high in initial users and prevents the painful withdrawal symptoms commonly caused by discontinuing heroin. If methadone is continued at the same dosage level, the body develops a tolerance and after about six weeks the euphoric effects disappear.

Methadone "detoxification" is a twenty-one day treatment program in which heroin addicts are given methadone daily in decreasing amounts until they are clean of both drugs.

Methadone "maintenance" is the long term treatment of an addict with daily doses of methadone. The dose

is the same everyday and is calculated to avoid withdrawal symptoms without producing a high. Both programs involve close medical supervision and counseling.

Proponents of methadone maintenance say that is the most practical way of dealing with heroin addicts. Older addicts, especially, are cited as benefitting from the drug.

According to Ron Kletter, director of Bay Area Addiction Research and Treatment located on Geary Street in the Tenderloin, methadone maintenance eliminates some of the most negative side effects of heroin addiction. Since it is provided free or at low cost, criminal activity is no longer needed to support a habit. Taken orally, it removes the use of needles which spread disease.

In Kletter's treatment strategy, the addict is no longer on the six- to eight-hour pendulum swing from euphoric highs to scrambling-for-a-fix lows commonly experienced by heroin addicts. Methadone is required only once per day, which allows the addict time to work, think and seek counseling.

Being drug free is not the only measure of success, said Shirley Gross of Bayview Drug Treatment Programs, which runs another of the city's methadone clinics. "We define success as visible changes in a person's life style and behavior," she said. "A person though still on methadone could stop criminal behavior and have no contact with the criminal justice system. That would be a success."

Critics however charge that going into a methadone clinic for one's daily fix is humiliating, reinforces addicts' negative self-image, and does not address more fundamental problems. They argue for 24-hour residential "therapeutic communities" emphasizing job development programs that would help people make more complete life-style changes.

Chester Stern, program developer at Walden House, the city's largest residential treatment program, considers methadone maintenance to be legalized drug pushing. "A drug is a drug. Methadone is fine as a detox method, but we need to get these people off all drugs and back into society as productive members," he said.

Nancy Presson, director of the city's drug division opposes reducing funding for programs that are already established because she doesn't want to "destabilize" the treatment of clients already in those programs.

The city's Advisory Committee on Drug Abuse is now debating the city's proposed drug plan. Their recommendations will go to the Board of Supervisors for consideration there.

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## in short

by Dennia Conkin

**Quick Quiz.** What's the priority issue for our neighborhood? The North of Market Planning Coalition queried its membership in July to find out and 89 percent said that housing was the major issue in The Tenderloin. Crime was listed as the next most pressing problem. NOMPC Board of Directors will use the survey in planning action in the next year.

**Fund Funded.** Representatives from 20 community organizations were on hand July 17, as Henri Lewin, v.p. of the Hilton Hotels Corporation presented a check for \$80,000 to the United Tenderloin Community Fund. The check acknowledges the Hilton's commitment to the neighborhood. Leroy Looper, of Reality House West, Chairman of the fund said, "When you tear down, you also have to play a role in building up."

**Strike Settled.** Tenderloin-based Local 87 of the Service Employees International Union ratified an agreement with the San Francisco Maintenance Contractor's Association on July 17. The 2700 members of local 87, some of them TL residents, went on strike after the Contractor's Association refused to negotiate a new contract.

**City Celebration.** Free summer concerts at GG Park Bandshell: August 1—The Grant Street Band, country and blue grass music with vocalist and pianist Kerrigan Black; August 2—The Magnolia Jazz Band, dixieland jazz, and the Jung Mei Chinese Dance Troupe; August 15—Senior Variety with Mary Davis and Tance Johnson's Dance Action, modern dance; August 22—European Cabaret with Ed Fonseca and the Ina Challis Opera Group; August 29—The San Francisco Moving Company—a contemporary dance group and vocal harmonies of jazz standards. with Jazzmin. Programs are free and start at 1:30 pm. For more info, call 474-3914.

**Jazz on the Hill.** Potrero Hill Neighborhood House hosts free Sunday afternoon Jazz on Potrero Hill, August 18, 3-5 pm. Co-sponsored by Musician's Union Local 6. A benefit for PH Neighborhood House, 935 De Haro Street. For more info, call 826-8080.

**AIDS Update.** Hospitality House will present a seminar on AIDS on Aug. 20 at 6 pm in the Drop In Center. Find out what you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones from AIDS. Come and get your questions answered. Specialists from the AIDS Health Project will be on hand. For more info, call Hospitality House at 776-2102.

**Boxera Back.** World-famous Newman's Gym has relocated to 48 Golden Gate Avenue and will continue its popular Boy's Boxing Club for ages 8-15. For more info call 776-7020.

**Computers World.** Free computer training to anyone 18 or over. John Adams Community College, 1860 Hayes, offers free job training in secretarial, accounting, word processing and computer studies. For more info call 346-7044.

**Hiroshima Remembered.** Tuesday August 6 marks the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Over 200,000 people perished in the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki—and tragic health and genetic consequences haunt the survivors. Many groups plan to commemorate the anniversary. For more info, contact the August 6-9th Commemoration Committee at 334-9968 or 561-8297.

**Pages For Prisoners.** Michael Hennessey, Sheriff of San Francisco is making an appeal for books to prisoners. The situation is so critical that the Sheriff's Department will even pick up books whenever feasible. Call the Sheriff at 558-2411.

**Get A Head Start.** The San Francisco Head Start Program is enrolling three- and four-year olds in its free preschool program beginning in September. The federally funded

program provides low income families with children who are three and four with preschool experience, health and dental services, parent education, snacks and lunches, and information and referral service. Handicapped children are eligible regardless of income. For more info, call 431-9424.

**Street Art.** Artists living or working in the Tenderloin who are interested in showing in the next Pieces of Eight Exhibit should contact Nelson Morales at 776-2102 or 673-8297 by August 15.

**Can We Talk?** Learn how to resolve your disputes and neighborhood conflicts by learning conflict resolution and negotiating skills. The next Community Boards orientation is Wednesday, August 7. For more info call them 864-4890.

**Labor Beef at Ramada.** Ramada Hotel has refused to honor a contract signed with Local 2 of the Hotel, Restaurant and Bartenders Union allowing the union to represent workers. A hearing will be held with the National Labor Relations Board on Aug. 6 at the Federal Building. Ramada says it could not honor the agreement because some workers filed a complaint against both the union and Ramada. The NLRB could verify the original agreement, call for elections or say the union could organize if 30 percent of workers sign union pledge cards.

# Developers Violating Agreement, Community Group Says

by Rob Waters

A special fund that should by now contain more than \$1 million for subsidizing rents in four Tenderloin hotels has never been set up by the hotels' operators, in violation of an agreement which gave the owners millions of dollars in federal and city subsidies to buy and rehabilitate the hotels, according to the North of Market Development Corporation, a community group monitoring the project.

The hotel operators are also charging rents that exceed the levels specified in the signed agreements that govern the project, the community group says.

The hotel owners, San Francisco Residential Hotels (SFRH), deny both charges and attribute the dispute to "a difference of interpretation." Peter Bagatelos, an attorney for the owners, told the Times that the charges are "a non-issue."

The development corporation has threatened to take legal action on these and other issues, including possibly foreclosing on several loans that were made to the owners through the corporation's auspices. Attorney Randy Shaw of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic has also threatened to take legal action on these and other issues, including possibly foreclosing on several loans that were made to the owners through the corporations' auspices. Shaw has also threatened to go to court to force the owners to lower rents.

The four hotels—the Dalt, the Ritz, the William Penn and the Hamlin—are owned and managed by San Francisco Residential Hotels, a partnership associated with the southern California-based development firm, Goldrich, Kest and Stern. They were purchased in a complicated deal put together by Mayor Feinstein's office in 1981 that included a \$2.5 million federal grant, a \$1 million city loan, \$6.5 million in bank bond financing and an \$850,000 investment by the partners themselves.

Under the terms of the agreement that set up the project's financing, the hotel owners were supposed to pay 12 percent interest on some of

the loans into a special rental subsidy account. The funds gathered in that account were to be applied to the low-income units to keep the rents down.

The development corporation in a letter dated July 5, 1985 stated that "SFRH has failed to establish the 'Rental Subsidy Account' as required..." and called the situation, "a matter of the utmost gravity." The letter contends that more than \$1 million that should have accrued in the subsidy account may have been lost to the low-income tenants of the project.

But Bagatelos, the hotel owners' attorney, says the corporation misconstrued the intent of the agreement and that his clients have, in fact, lived up to the obligation. "The subsidy account was not intended to be a 'piggy bank,' as North of Market (Development Corporation) interpreted, but rather an accounting procedure," Bagatelos said.

Another area of dispute between the owners and the development corporation is over the rents now being charged to newly-rented rooms.

The agreement governing the project set up two categories of units in the hotels—"very low income" and "low-income." The rents on the "very low-income units" should now be under \$187, while rents on the "low-income" units should now average about \$210, according to the agreement.

The hotel owners have been charging as much as \$250 to new tenants in recent months, and the development corporation is crying foul, charging that this is a serious violation of the agreement.

"It's unconscionable," says Claudia Viek, president of the development corporation. "I know they're doing it because they say they're losing money but they're abrogating the agreement."

The owners deny that they are overcharging and claim that when vacant units are included as zero in computing an average rent figure, they are in compliance with the agreement. One of the four hotels in the project, the Hamlin on Eddy Street, is entirely vacant as are more than 20 units in the other three buildings.

Walter Park, vice-president of the

development corporation, described the owners' method of computing vacancies as zero as "preposterous," arguing that the result of using such a formula would be that when the number of vacancies is reduced, they would have to lower rents on existing tenants in order to comply.

### A Troubled Project

The project, set up in 1981 in an effort to help preserve low-income housing in the Tenderloin, was structured so that the developers would run the hotels as low-income housing for 15 years, renting rooms at specified rent levels, and then would turn over two of the buildings to the community and keep two for themselves.

But the project has experienced difficulties and controversy from its very beginning. The Times reported in January of this year that the project was in serious economic trouble and was plagued with management, security and rehabilitation problems.

Since that time, the hotel owners have brought in a new property manager, beefed up security and, in the opinion of everyone involved with the project, improved the general operation of the hotels.

"We have turned this thing around in my estimation," says

Walter Fertig, the manager of the four hotels. "We're running very full, everyone's paying their rent, we seem to have everyone completely satisfied."

But while day-to-day operations have improved, the project's troubled finances have not. The owners say they are losing money every month and cannot be expected to continue to do so. They want to negotiate a restructuring of the financial agreements governing the project and they want permission to raise rents.

The development corporation is equally concerned about the poor financial showing, particularly since a clause in the agreement says that if the total project is in deficit at the end of its 15-year life, only one instead of two hotels would get turned over to the community.

A series of meetings aimed at negotiating a restructuring of the project's troubled finances have taken place in the past but the development corporation, angered by what they see as a continuing failure on the part of the owners to live up to the terms of the agreement, has now cut off any further discussion of project restructuring until the hotel owners satisfy them that they are complying with the agreement.

*Stay with us Giants  
Good Luck 49'ers  
Good Luck Tenderloin Times*

from

**FRANK'S 21 CLUB  
Turk & Taylor**

# Tenderloin Traffic

continued from page 1



Sixty-one year old Tenderloin resident was killed by a bus on Leavenworth and McAllister streets in May. Photo was taken by a young member of the YMCA Photography class.

pm. She was struck and killed by a red Toyota, whose driver fled the scene of the accident. A suspect was arrested the next day at the airport about to board a flight to the Philippines.

"Children are a population at risk in the Tenderloin and we should be doing more to help them," commented Vu-Duc Vuong, director of the Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement, who also said that many refugees fear traffic more than crime.

## The Five-Second Walk

The "walk" sign at McAllister and Leavenworth lasts only five seconds. That was not enough time for Tenderloin resident Everitt Doane, 61, who was killed May 3 when a tour bus rounded the blind corner.

"The signals are designed for a person walking three and a half feet per second, slightly slower than the average person walks," said Norman Bray, senior traffic engineer for the Department of Public Works. "Obviously we can't design them for the slowest person."

Bray's department is investigating the accident and ways to improve the intersection, considered by many Tenderloin residents to be among the most dangerous in the neighborhood.

At 1:30 pm on July 3, Robert Whiley, 27, crossed against the light at Leavenworth and Eddy. He was struck and killed by a Muni bus travelling on Eddy. The city had removed the "walk/don't walk" signals a few years ago when the traffic lights were replaced.

"A few days after the accident, the city put up speed limit signs," said Livingston, "but we had sent them a letter about it over a month ago."

The Planning Coalition letter stated, "Because of our concern for the safety of the children, we request that you post the neighborhood with 'children at play' signs, and additional 'walk/don't walk' signs."

The Citizens' Advisory Committee of the North of Market Rehabilitation Assistance Program also sent letters to the city asking for improved traffic controls in the Tenderloin.

## Little Money for Safety

Bray told the Times that because of budget-cutting measures, streets less than 50 feet wide are not equipped with pedestrian signals and very few new traffic signals are installed.

The department however does have money for less expensive signs and crosswalks, and requests that letters be specific about the location and what is needed, Bray said.

## Seniors Hassle Muni

Complaints about insensitive and dangerous Muni bus drivers have also been raised at weekly meetings of Antonia Manor seniors, including one woman who is suing Muni for an ankle broken while riding a bus.

The seniors made six requests to Muni at a recent meeting with Tom Rickert, staff person for Muni's Handicap Advisory Committee:

- Buses should pull up to the curb for seniors.
- Drivers should use the special "kneeling" devices on those buses equipped with them.
- Drivers should avoid sudden stops and starts when seniors are riding.
- Drivers should enforce courtesy seating.
- Muni should deal with overcrowded buses.
- Drivers should wait for people to be seated or standing securely before leaving the curb.

Rickert told the Times that Muni policies are designed to deal with the safety issues raised by the Antonia Manor residents, and drivers are trained to follow these policies. But traffic may prevent drivers from pulling up to the curb or cause the drivers to brake suddenly, he said.

To aid seniors and the disabled, Muni now has 280 wheelchair lift vehicles on twelve designated lines, 149 kneeler buses and improved railings on many buses, Rickert said. "We're working for the same things these people are requesting," he insisted.

Not satisfied by Muni's response, Antonia Manor residents plan to hold a public forum at which seniors can discuss transit safety issues and plan to present their request directly to the mayor.

The other three recent fatalities in the Tenderloin were caused by careless drivers. On April 15, an elderly driver from Fremont turned left from the right hand lane of O'Farrell at

Polk, starting a collision which killed Tenderloin resident Hoa Chiem, 71, who was standing on the corner.

At 2:15 am on May 27, a speeding gold Cadillac ran a red light on Geary at Leavenworth and killed 32-year old George Butler, Tenderloin resident.

At 4:30 pm on June 30 after the Gay Freedom Parade, a speeding van killed a Walnut Creek man on Taylor near Turk.

Both speeding drivers fled the scene of the accident. The first was apprehended, the second was not. Eight of the other accidents during this three month period were listed by the police as hit-and-run.

Ten of the thirty-five accidents analyzed by the Times occurred on Geary between Van Ness and Powell, and six others happened on Market. Five of these accidents involved buses, and three involved taxis.

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# Fighting AIDS in the Tenderloin

continued from page 1

transmitted through direct contact with blood in the sharing of needles. Also, many drugs taken intravenously, such as methedrine, function to suppress the body's immune system, contributing to the potential for contracting AIDS.

To date, only nine people in San Francisco are known to have contracted AIDS through the intravenous drug route although 155 other people with AIDS indicated that they have used drugs intravenously. Faltz says that several recent studies indicated that the rate of intravenous transmission of AIDS is rising.

Some eastern cities, particularly New York, have much higher numbers of AIDS patients who contracted the disease through intravenous drug use.

Some health educators also believe that heavy drug and alcohol use may function to lower the inhibitions of users and increase the chance that they will engage in the kinds of unsafe sex acts which may spread the virus, acts which they might otherwise avoid due to fear of AIDS.

"If you are in a high risk group, you should assume that you are infectious, you should not have sex which involves the exchange of body fluid and you should not share needles," advises Faltz.

**'He could have gotten it from one of his tricks'**

When a 16-year old friend died of AIDS last year, it sent a chill down the collective spine of a group of young male prostitutes working in a New York City strip.

"It crushed me," recalls a 17-year old former prostitute named Michael who now lives in San Francisco. "We were very close. He could have gotten it from one of his tricks."

"There was a group of about 20 of us in the same age bracket—13 to 16—that worked that particular strip. It made a lot of us go get information. Some went off the streets for two weeks. Some came back, some did not. It was the first experience a lot of us on the strip had with AIDS."

Michael says he now deals with the problem by abstaining. "Other teenagers can have their safe sex. I deal with AIDS by being celibate."

Unfortunately, many teenagers and young male prostitutes are neither celibate nor safe.

"A lot of teenagers are awkward about their sexuality," says Barbara Trimble, director of youth services at Hospitality House. "They don't plan sensibly around their sexual activities. They think any kind of birth control measures are 'uncool.' They are reluctant to be assertive even if it means protecting their own lives."

Ernest Andrews, a counselor with



photo: Andrew Ritchie

Turk Street sex shops. Scene there may be part of the AIDS problem.

the Youth and AIDS Project who is stationed at the Larkin Street Youth Center, has been working with young prostitutes to educate them about prevention techniques such as using condoms and avoiding the exchange of bodily fluids.

While not endorsing prostitution, Andrews urges teenage hookers to negotiate safe sex transactions with their customers, thereby protecting both customer and prostitute.

"AIDS awareness should not be hooked to attitudes about sex," Andrews says, referring to the fact that teenagers are sexually active and that prostitution among the homeless, runaway young is a fact of life.

One who has adopted this approach is 'Ric,' a young male prostitute who developed a strict policy about safe sex after his friend died of AIDS.

"It made me aware of how important safe sex practices are, not only in the gay community but in the heterosexual community as well," he said. "I only practice safe sex now. If my customers don't like it, they can take it down the street—where they might get more than they actually expected."

"I'm getting into phone sex now—at least you can't get AIDS from it."

Andrews is particularly concerned about young prostitutes who also shoot drugs. "I see a lot of kids who are shooting crystal (methadone) or cocaine to give them longevity when they are working on the streets, pulling two or three tricks a night."

Like all AIDS agency workers, Andrews feels his program is underfunded. A recent cut eliminated one of just three staff positions.

Another possible contributor to the spread of AIDS are the numerous

sex clubs, peep shows and porno theatres found in the Tenderloin. These businesses draw a wide range of customers—straight and gay men as well as young male prostitutes.

Many have in the past permitted sexual conduct on the premises and some people familiar with the clubs believe they still do.

One Tenderloin man with AIDS interviewed by the Times said that he had had sex 200 times in one recent 12-month period in the back rooms of the clubs and theatres centered at Turk and Taylor streets.

In May, 1985, the Tea Room on Turk Street received a warning from the District Attorney's office that it was not in compliance with Superior Court Judge Roy Wonder's 1984 preliminary injunction prohibiting high-risk sex acts from occurring in sex businesses frequented by the public.

A reporter's recent visit to the Tea Room revealed no direct sexual conduct openly occurring. Signs warning patrons to refrain from unsafe sexual contacts with others were posted on several walls.

"It's not the place, it's what you do," says AIDS Health Project educator Dr. Peter Goldblum. "Places where sex is the merchandise that do not encourage their customers to engage in safe sex must clearly be seen as working against a solution to the problem."

### AIDS, Hookers and Hysteria

The relationship between female prostitutes and AIDS is controversial. Recent press reports about a Tenderloin prostitute whose lover had AIDS and who developed AIDS symptoms sparked alarm that she would continue plying her trade and possibly infect her customers.

In May the Seattle Department of Health announced that women arrested for prostitution will be routinely tested for the presence of AIDS antibodies, an action which Priscilla Alexander of Coyote, a San Francisco-based organization which advocates for prostitutes' rights, denounced as "an absolute invasion of privacy."

Only two of 33 women tested to date have been found positive.

Alexander believes that prostitutes are being scapegoated and harrassed for a problem they are not causing.

"They hysteria about prostitutes is not based in reality. Street prostitutes use condoms the most—and their chances of transmitting the virus are almost zero," Alexander says.

"What will stop the epidemic is safe sex practices. Instead of blaming people, they should be teaching people. Prostitutes account for only 5 percent of sexually transmitted disease," she said.

Nationally, only 13 men—out of almost 12,000 reported AIDS cases—are believed to have contracted AIDS through heterosexual contact with women. On hundred women are thought to have developed the disease through contact with men.

### Becoming AWARE

A group called the Association for Women's AIDS Research and Education (AWARE) is studying the AIDS risk among women. The research involves an anonymous interview and blood testing to determine whether women have been exposed to the AIDS virus.

The study, conducted out of the Ambassador Hotel, is geared to educate women about safe sex practices and to determine the risk of AIDS to prostitutes and women who have had multiple sex partners.

### People Helping People

AIDS has been called the most potentially catastrophic epidemic of our time yet those fighting against AIDS have also had to fight for adequate funding for research and treatment, largely due to the fact that, so far, its victims have primarily been gay.

In the Tenderloin, increased attention is beginning to be paid to the needs of a growing number of people with AIDS.

Network Ministries, a Tenderloin-based group has begun to work with people who have AIDS, people who love them and people who mourn them.

"Our whole thing is to be present, to work with people in such a way that they become aware of their own power," said Rev. Glenda Hope, co-founder of the group. "We have an obligation to work with people who need help."

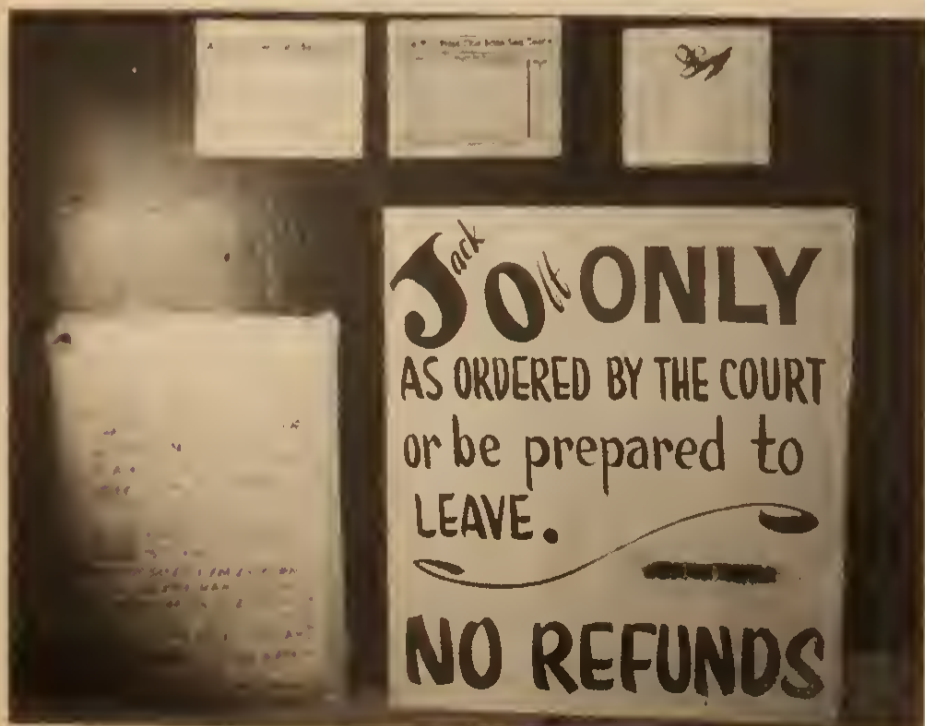


photo: Andrew Ritchie

Signs of the times inside the Tea Room Theater on Turk Street.

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## Facts on AIDS

The following are the answers to some commonly asked questions about AIDS. The information was compiled from material provided by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. For more information or referral, call them at 863-AIDS.

### What is AIDS?

AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, is a disease caused by a virus which breaks down a part of the body's immune system. This breakdown leaves the body vulnerable to a variety of unusual infections. Not everyone infected with the virus, however, will develop AIDS. There are several possibilities:

- The majority of infected people will develop antibodies to the virus but remain healthy, displaying none of the symptoms of AIDS. People in this group can give the virus to others through shared needles or intimate sexual contact.

- A smaller group of people who are infected with the virus will develop AIDS Related Condition (ARC). They may exhibit mild to severe symptoms such as swollen lymph nodes, unexplained, persistent diarrhea, unintentional weight loss, mild or intermittent fever, drenching night sweats, fatigue and/or yeast or fungus infections.

- An unknown percentage of people who are infected with the AIDS virus will develop AIDS. A diagnosis of AIDS is made only after finding specific life-threatening infections of malignancies that do not normally occur in healthy people. The two most common diseases associated with AIDS are Pneumocystis Carinii Pneumonia (PCP) and Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS).

### How is AIDS transmitted?

AIDS is transmitted through sexual contact and blood-to-blood contact. Sexually, it is not transmitted through casual contact but by allowing the bodily fluids of one person—semen, blood, vaginal secretions, urine or feces—to enter the body of another person.

The most common blood-to-blood route of transmission is through the sharing of needles by intravenous drug users. A small number of people, however, have contracted AIDS from receiving blood transfusions. It could also be passed through the sharing of razors or toothbrushes.

It is not transmitted through toilet seats, shaking hands, sneezing or being around people who have AIDS.

### Who is at risk to contract AIDS?

- Gay and bisexual men who are or have been sexually active.
- Intravenous drug users.
- Hemophiliacs.
- Women or men who have had unsafe sexual contact or have shared needles with someone who may have been infected with the AIDS virus.
- Babies born to parents in any of the above groups.
- People who have received blood transfusions between 1979 and 1984 have a very slight risk of infection.

### What steps can people take to avoid AIDS?

The most important thing is common sense. If you are sexually active, make your safe sex. Condoms have been found to be useful in preventing the spread of other diseases. Use them. Do not allow semen, blood, vaginal secretions, urine or feces to enter your body or the body of your sex partner. Personal implements such as sex toys, razors or even tooth-

brushes that could become contaminated with blood or other fluids should not be shared.

### What is this new AIDS blood test?

The AIDS anti-body test, which recently started being offered at various sites throughout San Francisco, is a test to determine whether a person has been exposed to the AIDS virus and developed the AIDS anti-body. A positive test result indicates that the antibody has been found in your body. A negative result indicates that the antibody has not been found in your body. The test is not completely accurate. A small percentage of people tested may be told that they are infected with the virus when they are not. In addition, a small percentage of people will receive a negative test result when in fact they have been infected with the virus.

### What does a positive test result mean?

A positive result means that you have been infected with the AIDS virus and your body has produced antibodies. You should assume that you are contagious and capable of passing the virus on to others. It does not mean that you necessarily have or will get AIDS or ARC. You can reduce your chance of getting AIDS by avoiding further contact with the virus and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

### What does a negative test result mean?

A negative result means that no AIDS antibodies have been found in your blood. This does not necessarily mean that you have not been infected with AIDS. In most cases, people will develop antibodies within two months after infection but in some cases it may take as long as six months. A small number of people never produce the antibodies. People who test negative should still follow safe sex guide-

lines and avoid sharing needles.

### Should I take the test?

This is an individual decision that only you can make. The test is not absolutely conclusive and many people who test positive may never actually develop AIDS or ARC. The test will not tell you whether you actually have or will get AIDS or ARC or whether you are healthy. It will tell you whether you are infectious and capable of spreading that infection and will alert you that you have a potential of developing AIDS and should therefore take extra precautions.

### How do I know if I have AIDS?

There is no way of knowing for sure without a thorough examination by a doctor. There are, however, certain symptoms that are common to people infected with AIDS. Bear in mind that many of these symptoms are also present in minor illnesses such as colds, bronchitis, and stomach flu. In AIDS, however, the symptoms are recurrent or persistent. The general symptoms include:

- Persistent unexplained fatigue.
- Unexplained, shaking chills, fever or drenching night sweats that last longer than several weeks.
- Unexplained, unintentional weight loss greater than 10 pounds.
- Swollen glands in the neck, armpits, groin or elsewhere which are otherwise unexplained and last longer than two weeks.
- Flat or raised blotches or bumps ranging in color from pink to purple, occurring on or under the skin, inside the mouth, nose, eyelids or rectum. Initially they resemble bruises that do not go away. They are usually harder than the skin around them.
- Persistent white spots or unusual blemishes in the mouth.
- A persistent dry cough which has lasted too long to be caused by a common respiratory infection, especially when accompanied by shortness of breath.

## Howie, AIDS Victim

by Dennis Conkin

On the Turk Street strip, the neon lights of the sex parlors are blinking away in the Sunday afternoon fog. Street people crowd around an arcade on the corner of Turk and Taylor, playing video games and hanging out. A female hooker dressed in working clothes saunters by.

Sitting in a cafe just across the street from all the action, Howie looks weak and exhausted. Sipping from a styrofoam cup of coffee and pulling a drag on a cigarette, he sighs deeply and peers out the window.

Howie is certain that he has AIDS. "I tested positive on the AIDS antibodies test. My ex-lover is in the hospital with AIDS. My turn has come," he says.

"I've kind of been biding my time for these last few months waiting for death to ride up," he says. "I started feeling a dread about it a year ago."

Although he knows that a positive result on the AIDS antibodies test does not necessarily mean that he has AIDS, he mentions other symptoms—dizziness, weakness and relentless night sweats.

"I've never been sick like this before in my life," he says. "It's really tiresome waking up in your sleeping bag sopping wet every other night."

Howie has lived in San Francisco for two years and has been on the streets for one. "I usually sleep in Dianne's front yard (outside City Hall)," he says. For the last few weeks, however, he has been receiving General Assistance and living in a hotel. He has told no one how ill he is. He doesn't really want to go into a hospital, although he is sure he is experiencing the first stages of AIDS.

"I'm just trying to work right now

and make some money. I don't want to go into the hospital totally broke," he says. Howie is required to sweep the streets two days a week to receive his welfare check. Yet he feels he is getting more and more ill. "It's getting to the point where I am going to check myself in pretty soon. The last time I was sick, I thought I was going to die. It was like I had the flu, a cold and pneumonia all at once," he says.

In addition to struggling with his deteriorating health, Howie is trying to come to terms with his life, his family and his friends.

He feels responsible for his ex-lover, who is now in the hospital with AIDS, and is convinced that he gave it to him.

He frets about what to do with his teenage son, who is now being cared for by a friend and for whom he wants to set up a guardianship.

And he agonizes over how to deal with his parents, who he has not seen in years.

"One of the things I am wrestling with is whether to tell my family that I have AIDS. I don't they will accept it, but still if it's my last chance to communicate with them, maybe I should.

"They don't accept me. They might accept my dying.

"I really don't want to go into the hospital until my son is taken care of. If I didn't have a son, it would be a lot easier. I feel like I'm leaving someone behind."

Until he quit last summer, Howie was a regular in the Turk Street sex shops. One year, he says, he had 200 sexual encounters in them.

"I stopped going—not for myself, but for everybody else," he says.

He also made the bath-house scene. "People think that closing down the bath-houses was wrong," he says. "But it was the only way they could get our attention. If they hadn't put up a (legal) roadblock,

we'd still be rolling down that highway at 90 miles an hour," he says.

Speaking of his deep worry and concern about some of his friends and other members of high risk groups in the Tenderloin, Howie says: "The Tenderloin population is hard to reach. A lot of these guys out here are on the needle. Their time is coming. They just don't believe it. I never touched a needle and look what's happening to me.

"The big problem with the Tenderloin is determined ignorance. If you decide for yourself that you are going to ignore it, then you think there is less chance that it will touch you. Tenderloin gays are just not aware.

"I'm part of the whole Tenderloin unawareness. I don't have any idea where Shanti or anything is."

Howie is bitter with the way AIDS has been dealt with by the government. "Does it have to come to movie stars like Rock Hudson or congressmen's sons to get the ball rolling? I am disappointed with my government that I am such a low priority. That hurts. If something

had been done earlier, I might not be sick now."

For Howie, grappling with these issues is a solitary and lonely process. He has not sought out friends or professional help; he has, in fact, told almost no one that he has AIDS.

"It's scary how lonely this is. I fear I'm going to be ostracized when people find out. I can't believe the comments I've heard. I have been insulted by the comments of friends about AIDS and the people who have it.

"I'm not afraid of death, I believe in reincarnation. I don't care what a person's religious beliefs are, when the time comes we all face an awareness of the sudden void.

"It's sort of like the last couple of years, I've been looking over the edge of the well—and now I've lost my grip and fallen in. I felt safe when I was just looking in.

"Your whole life does flash before your eyes—it's like a slow motion nightmare you are not going to wake up from. This is the final bad dream unless they come up with a cure.

"It all seems so senseless."

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# LIVING

## the tender side

by Robin Wechsler

Members of the Tenderloin community are encouraged to submit information for The Tender Side to: Robin Wechsler, Tenderloin Senior Outreach Project, 220 Golden Gate, S.F., CA 94102 by the 15th of each month.

Several new faces have arrived on the Tenderloin scene this month. With the addition of two new staff members to the North of Market Planning Coalition, Brad Paul will finally have more time to practice his drums. Heidi Swarts comes to the Coalition from the California Historical Society, and she will be working as a community organizer in the neighborhood. Maryann Leshin joins the Coalition as a half time Administrative Assistant. Maryann was working for OCCUR in Oakland. Welcome to you both. And, in the gone but not forgotten department—Brad says that ex-Coalition staff members Erik Schapiro and Claire Iandoli are still playing on their softball team.

The Refugee Employee Assistance Program (REAP) has also experienced some staff changes. Nancy Betts, as the new Job Developer, is busy trying to find employment positions for refugees. If any readers have job leads for Nancy, please call her at 776-8114. Glen Price is REAP's new Executive Director. He has replaced Mary Gonyea who was promoted to Executive Director of San Mateo Catholic Social Services. Congratulations Nancy, Glen and Mary.

It has been over three months

since Cathy Wolfhiem left for Senegal, Africa to work as a health educator, and she's finally back. She was picked up at the airport by Tenderloin beat cop Benny Fong and Tenderloin kids Eric Hanserd and Sweet Pea Mueller. Twelve hours later, the four of them were joined by a few other neighborhood kids: Gerado and Rafael Chavez, Terrence Hanserd, Eric Wheeler, Yen and Anh Phung, Mai Tran, and Tracey Thomas, and the whole gang drove up to Benny's cabin in Lake Tahoe for a little R&R. They played softball, basketball, went swimming, and barbecued anything that moved. Welcome home Cath.

Christina Augello and the Cadillac Players made the Pink Section of the Sunday, July 21st, Chronicle (a sure sign of growing fame!). Steven Winn's story, "The Tenderloin: All The Streets Are A Stage," mentions several of the Player's productions and quotes Christina about cultivating the cultural side of the Tenderloin. The Cadillac Players are taking a break at the moment, but according to Richard Livingston, the Reality Art Workshop is far from quiet. Sameth Chea and the Cambodian Dance Theatre are rehearsing in the workshop on Sundays, and on Saturdays, one will find the Trinity Afro-American Dance Group working hard under the direction of Jean-Marie De la Trinite.

A few more tender births are pending arrival. According to Charlie Peck, by the time this issue of the Times is out, Lynette Carlton should have given birth to a baby boy, Eli. Donna Hoang says her pregnancy is "measuring up." She's due in October. Happy birthday to Robin Pak, TL Times reporter Sophath

Pak's youngest, in July—two years old!

Stanley Huynh and Anh Dung Thoi, two Vietnamese youths from the Tenderloin Recreation Center, hiked the high Sierra in July. They went on a back-packing trip organized by the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program in conjunction with the Rec Center.

In the political department, special mention goes to Hazel Blackwell and Jack Kelly, who spearheaded an effort by the North of Market Multipurpose Senior Center's Senior Or-

ganization to write letters to the Governor requesting increased funding for AIDS programs and research.

And finally, happy birthday Tom Finney (Aug. 6th)—we wish you all the best. P.S. Betty Knight and the Eastern Park Apartments crew is planning a fall senior fashion show. Read next month's column for more info.

**Good Luck 49'ers  
Frank's 21 Club**

## Lao Refugee Makes Video Dream Come True



Thai Video on Eddy Street.

photo: Andrew Ritchie

until 1976 when he fled to a refugee camp in Thailand. Arriving in San Francisco in early 1980, he lived on public assistance for four months before landing a minimum wage job. "My sponsors, the Tolstoy Foundation, and welfare money were a big help when we first arrived," says Sengthong. "But the money was just enough to keep us alive, day by day. It was impossible to get on with my life."

Speaking a little English, Sengthong was able to get a job at \$3.00 an hour in the Shaw Hotel on Market Street as a maintenance man. He mopped floors, fixed things and painted.

"I knew it was a pretty tough job and much less status than I had in Laos, but I kept going," he says. "By my last two years there I was a supervisor, getting \$1,200 a month. I also became the manager of my apartment building. I was always very busy."

Living in a small studio on Eddy Street with his wife and newborn baby, Sengthong's life had a lot of pressure—but a dream kept him going. He wanted to save enough money to start his own business. Now he has done it.

"Being self employed with just my wife to help me is a lot easier than working for someone else," he says. "I hope we can make it now. We want to stay here in the Tenderloin. So far so good."

by Chanthanom Ounkeo

Thai Video, a tiny shop on Eddy Street sandwiched between a garage and a welfare rights office, opened its doors in June. The shop is owned by a Lao refugee named Sengthong Chanthavong who has worked at various jobs for all but the first four months of his five years in America.

The tiny shop is always crowded with people perusing the videos or waiting on Sengthong's friendly service. All the films offered, whether from Thailand, China or India, are dubbed in Thai—which explains why most of his customers are from Thailand, Laos or Cambodia (most of whom can understand Thai). Colorful and flamboyant movie posters decorating the walls attest to the variety of films offered, from Chinese Kung Fu dramas to Indian love stories.

Sengthong was a businessman in Vientiane, the capital city of Laos,

Not only did I have no complaints from him, he wouldn't even let me try one bite. From where I was sitting, it looked like he had broccoli, zucchini, bamboo shoots, onions, and black mushrooms to go with his beancake. He just sneered at my porkchop.

A couple of weeks later, I tried the Mekong's version of Com Ga Ngu-Vi (five spice chicken—\$2.95). Although the chicken was done just right, I found it a touch bland. My lunch was accompanied by a small bowl of fish sauce that was hot, but not a good choice with five spice chicken. My partner ordered vegetables with shrimp (\$2.95) from the "A La Carte" section of the menu. At the Mekong, "a la carte" apparently means "Chinese-style" because the rice was served in a separate bowl, instead of under the shrimp and veggies. I usually prefer my vegetables to be cooked a bit longer than these were, but regular readers will not be surprised to know that I ate all my vegetables and liked them fine.

Finally, I dropped by the Mekong one day when I was alone. Feeling adventurous, I ordered But Chan (chicken soup—\$2.95) from the column headed "Specials," which seems to mean "noodles instead of rice." This soup was so delicious that it got me to wondering whether or not there's a Jewish community in Vietnam. Somebody there knows how to make life-enhancing chicken soup.

All in all, the Mekong serves great lunches. Except for that first chaotic visit, the service is courteous and efficient. I would like to know why all the tables are decorated with capital letter T's and silhouettes of cows. Is this an authentic Vietnamese custom, or was 730 Larkin Street once the home of Tex's Barbecue? Whatever the reason, the Mekong is a very good restaurant, and after three consecutive kvetchy columns, a pleasure for me to review.

## eatin' the loin

by Arthur B. Kalson

Mekong Restaurant  
730 Larkin at Ellis  
9am—9pm  
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

\*\*\*1/2

Things started out badly for me at the Mekong. The first time I ate there, the restaurant was jampacked with conventioners wearing illegible plastic name tags. They were gleefully worrying rice with chopsticks or forks, and making loud group noises of appreciation as each course was served. Their presence lent the Mekong a party atmosphere that wasn't conducive to relaxed dining. The staff was hard-pressed to keep up with the chaos; in fact, one of my lunchtime companions had to leave before her food arrived. Nevertheless, the food was so good that we agreed to forgive the Mekong for the confusion.

I ordered a Com Dia Mekong (Daily Combination—\$3.75) that included soup, a spring roll, a small salad, and a choice of barbecued chicken, beef, or porkchop. One of my friends selected the chicken, while I opted for the porkchop.

Lunch finally began with sweet and sour cabbage soup that was unbearably sweet. None of us could manage more than a single spoonful. Fortunately, the rest of our food was excellent.

My porkchop was well-done, cut into sections, and served over rice. The barbecue sauce was mild and tasty, a good complement to the pork and the chicken, which my friend generously shared with me in the interest of accurate journalism.

My vegetarian companion tried Rau Xao Dau Hu (beancake with sauteed mixed vegetables—\$3.25).

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# Escaping the Concrete Jungle

by Wade Hudson

When the lungs ache for fresh air and the skin begs for sunshine, the San Francisco Bay Area offers an amazing choice of places to go to enjoy nature, stretch the legs, and escape the concrete jungle. Residents of the Tenderloin can reach most of these treasures by foot or inexpensive public transit. Following are some personal favorites.

1) Aquatic Park to the Golden Gate Bridge. By walking north on Leavenworth over Nob Hill and Russian Hill or by taking Muni's #19 Polk to Ghiradelli Square at Hyde and Beach, those who want a good healthy two or three hour walk can see some of San Francisco's most spectacular scenery in one outing.

From the end of the pier that curves out into the Bay at Aquatic Park, one can walk west along the coast all the way to the Golden Gate Bridge, passing through Fort Mason, the Marina, and a long stretch of sparsely-populated sand dunes and beach before reaching the historic brick Fort Point right under the bridge (part of the Golden Gate Recreation Area, recently liberated from the US Army).

After exploring the Fort, find the path that heads up the hill to the bridge—(another breath-taking hike for those who still have the energy). On the San Francisco side, a Muni bus stop on the western side of the toll plaza is available for those who prefer not to re-trace their steps.

2) Special parts of Golden Gate Park. When chilly winds spoil otherwise warm sunshine, relief can be found by heading to the Arboretum at Golden Gate Park. The N Judah streetcar from the Market Street subway goes to Ninth and Irving, which is one-and-a-half blocks south of the entrance to this botanical garden filled with hundreds of exotic trees, plants and flowers, as well as a refreshing fountain and an entertaining duck pond.

It takes most people many visits to discover every nook and cranny of this amazing place, which includes a garden of native California plants, a redwood grove with an outdoor chapel, a hillside filled with cacti and a Japanese moon-viewing platform.

Two nice things about the Arboretum—it's lightly peopled and well-

protected from the wind. Warmth and seclusion both!

Leaving through the Arboretum's north entrance, check out the serene Japanese Tea Garden before finding one of the least-known and most-rewarding features of Golden Gate Park: Strawberry Island, which rests in the middle of Stow Lake just west of the tea garden. Two bridges across the lake go to the island, which houses the Chinese Pavilion and a large waterfall. But the real surprise here is the view of the entire park from the top of the island, which like the park itself is "man-made." From no other location is it possible to appreciate the wonder of this park in one single panorama.

3) Sutro Ruins and Lands End. When you really want to get away from people and get in touch with Mother Earth, but don't have the time or money to get out of the city entirely, one good bet is to hop on a 38 Geary to the end of the line at Sutro Park. This small park overlooking Cliff House and Ocean Beach was the former home of a turn-of-the-century San Francisco mayor and is interesting enough in itself.

But even more fascinating, just north of Cliff House, are the ruins of the old Sutro Baths, an enormous public swimming-pool-turned-ice-rink destroyed by fire in 1966. A poster in the window of the cafe gives a picture of what it used to look like. Now only a foundation remains, along with a cave (the Times will give a free subscription to the first person to guess the original purpose of this cave), and a tunnel leading to the rocky coast northward.

A much safer course however (several people die each year out there) is back up the hill to trails which go for miles north, far from cars, houses and other signs of modern civilization. Those who might be bothered by nude sunbathers should stay away from the beaches, and everyone should be careful not to be too adventurous on the cliffs.

On Sunday afternoons this outing can be capped by finding your way through the Lincoln Park golf course to the Palace of Legion of Honor for the weekly organ recital that sends echoes through the marble halls. Located a mile or two north of Cliff House, this museum can be found



The Golden Gate National Recreation Area near the Golden Gate Bridge is a great place for a summertime walk.

most easily by following the flat railroad bed that used to carry a train along the coast.

4) Angel Island and Tiburon. From Fisherman's Wharf, \$6.10 can purchase a round trip ticket on the Red and White Fleet to Angel Island, a state park, and Tiburon, a quaint coastal town that looks like an old Hollywood movie set. The ferry ride itself can't easily be beat and Angel Island is a favorite Bay Area spot of many tourists and old-timers alike. Check out the electric "elephant train" for an island tour or hike to the top of Mt. Livermore for a 360 degree panorama of the Bay. A leisurely walk around the island, with an occasional hike down to a beach or two, can be invigorating. Just be sure not to miss the last boat! Unknown punishments await those who falter behind.

Continuing on to Tiburon can offer the curious a glimpse of how the rich and super-rich live, but a short stay at the free wine-tasting room can make the trip worthwhile even for the faint at heart.

5) Mount Tamalpais and Stinson Beach. This mountain just north of San Francisco, which was sacred to the Native Americans of the Bay Area and the most popular beach nearby, can be reached by Golden Gate Transit on weekends and holidays (round trip: \$3.35). By boarding the #20 at Seventh and Market or Geary and Van Ness and transferring to the #63 at Marin City, you can explore some of the many secluded trails in this rambling state park or just go to the end of the line for a day at the beach.

6) Fort Conkhitte and the Marin Headlands. A less expensive outing to Marin county is provided on Sundays and holidays by Muni's #76 (round trip: \$1.20), which leaves Van Ness and Sutter every hour on the hour beginning at 9:45 am. You can ask the driver to let you out anywhere along the route which heads west along the Marin coast west of Golden Gate Bridge, and find your place in the sun on these rolling hills, or find the beach near Fort Conkhitte at the end of the line.

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If your answer to these questions is YES, then you may be interested in living at the Aarti Cooperative, 391 Leavenworth. For more information, come to a Membership Committee meeting on Thursdays at 7:30 pm.

## Lunch-time Theatre Debuts

by Cliff Lehman

High Noon Theatre, a new project of the Tenderloin's own EXTheatre, made its debut June 26 with a creditable production of Tennessee Williams' one-act, "The Lady of Larkspur Lotion," directed by Christina Augello.

Set in a seedy, New Orleans hotel, the piece features a hardhearted landlady and two self-deluded tenants. The play, which advocates living in the imagination to fill needs not met by reality, is an apt opening for High Noon's attempt to enliven the noon hour with theatre.

The show opens with the writer at his typewriter describing the room and the day. He overhears the landlady, Mrs. Wire, demanding the overdue rent from Mrs. Hardwicke-Moore. The tenant's defense is a melodramatic claim that the hotel is too full of flying cockroaches to warrant paying the rent being asked. The fact is she hasn't got the money.

To this point the actors were not quite clicking but a hard-driving attack by Mrs. Wire (Frances Middleton) on Mrs. Hardwicke-Moore (Lauren Lundgren) catalysed the cast. The play came alive.

The ensuing, longwinded defense by the writer (Dan Higgins), of Mrs. Hardwicke-Moore's creative rendition of reality is inspiring. Mrs. Wire, however, is unmoved, and proceeds to verbally bombard her two imaginative tenants with the truth about their lives.

Wounded, but undaunted, the writer coaches Mrs. Hardwicke-Moore

in the reconstruction of her dream world. Lundgren carries us along with the strength of her vision. We see with her through her mind's eye the impossible world of immaculately clean, marble-floored villas in Brazil from which on a clear day you can see the White Cliffs of Dover.

The audience literally enters the world of the play, seated on the set no more than a foot or two from the action. The unique layout gives you the sensation of being on stage without being forced to participate. This and the effective mixture of stylized and naturalistic set pieces and details make it easy to suspend our disbelief.

The manner in which it was offered and the relaxed, friendly atmosphere before and after the show were welcome relief from the nervous pretensions so common at theatre presentations in San Francisco.

Food was available at bargain prices and there was time before the play to eat. However the timing of the show could be more punctual for the sake of those with less flexible work hours.

High Noon plans to produce four or five noon-time shows per year, according to Director Augello. The company is open to scripts and actors from outside the present group, she said.

"The Lady of Larkspur Lotion" was a welcome bit of escape from the daily routine. Let's hope High Noon continues to embroider reality and nurture imagination with their productions.

## Cambodian Dancers Find a Home in the Tenderloin



photo: Andrew Ritchie

Young Cambodians practice traditional dance weekly at the Cadillac Hotel.

by Sophath Pak

Today in the Tenderloin a 27-year-old Cambodian refugee named Sameth Chea is attempting to revive the ancient culture of his country by organizing a dance troupe of Cambodians living in the neighborhood.

He is a survivor of the brutal reign of the Khmer Rouge in the late 1970's where millions died and Cambodian culture itself was almost extinguished because traditional art, music and education were banned.

"I spent almost six years of my life learning about Cambodian traditional dance and music," says Chea, who first learned Cambodian dance in refugee camps in Thailand. "Now I wish to contribute my experience to young children so they can learn to dance and remember our culture."

Along with two friends, Chamroeun Ith and Sophin Ros, Chea has organized a dance group called the Cambodian Cultural Society. Chamroeun joined a traditional dance troupe in Cambodia in 1979 after the Khmer Rouge were ousted by the Vietnamese. Ros studied at the Fine Arts college in Phnom Penh from 1970-73 and is an expert on Cambodian traditional dance and music.

The group performs both classical and folk dance. Classical dance, presented for the royal families in the past, uses elaborate costumes and tells the stories of royal life. Folk dance is performed in the normal garb of country folk. Hunting spears or farming tools can become a part of these dances with their themes of hunting, farming and daily life. According to Ros, after King Sihanouk was deposed in a coup in 1970, folk dance—which up until then had been performed only in the capital and schools—became much more popular in the countryside, performed by countryfolk everywhere.

Both classical and folk dance are copied from the figurines of celestial dancers that grace the stone walls of the famous Angkor Wat, erected over 700 years ago during the height

of Cambodian political power and artistic creativity.

"I want to tell the world about Cambodian culture and art," says Ros. "Ours is an ancient culture that was a great empire between 802 and 1431 A.D. Angkor Wat is a symbol for Cambodian art."

Musicians accompany the dancers on xylophone, stringed instruments, flute, horn and drum. "Our classical music sounds like rainfall," says Ros. "The xylophone sounds like the pattering of rain, the horn sounds like a small frog and the drums sound like thunder."

The Cambodian Cultural Society was initially encouraged and sponsored by Father Nazarin of the Orthodox Catholic Synod. The 25 dancers in the group practice weekly at the Cadillac Hotel on Eddy Street.

A young woman named Doeuk Pou explains why she is a dancer with the group: "I want to let people know that while Cambodia is a small country it once was a great empire with a rich culture," alluding to the six centuries during which Cambodia ruled Indochina.

Roza Keo, another dancer who learned dance in a refugee camp on the Cambodian border, says, "Very few people still remember Cambodian culture. Because of this it is very important for me to learn and keep it alive for the next generation."

## Senior Artists Show Masterpieces



photo: Andrew Ritchie

Marjorie Tuft, 86 years old, poses next to her award-winning painting.

by Pat Peterson

Seven Tenderloin seniors received prizes in the Sixth Annual Old Masters and Ms. Senior Art Show July 15 at a reception held by Artists Embassy International and Spring Gardens Senior Activity Center. The awards ceremony capped a city-wide competition open to seniors sixty and over.

As the artists viewed their works hanging in the Embassy gallery, they were entertained by senior musicians. Olivia Desmond opened the musical program singing "You Are Love" accompanied by Althya Youngman on piano. And being doused by an overturned punch bowl didn't dampen the spirits or the rich deep voice of Dudley Perkins, nicknamed "The Big Chill," as he sang "Song of Songs" and "Summertime."

The musical program ended with the entire group singing "One World Anthem" written by 87-year old Katherine Whiteside Taylor.

Many of the artists participating were from the North and South of

Market Adult Day Health Center and Central City Hospitality House, where they work under instructors Alice Tarkeshi and Robert Volbrecht.

Tenderloin winners included first second and third place in sculpture to Jessie Busby ("Bearded Man"), Leo Daly ("Ancestor"—a mask of brilliant green) and Gordon Levaway, ("Man-Woman"—a three-dimensional work in paper mache).

Kui Virginia won third prize in Impressionism for an untitled work, and three special judges awards went to Manuela Pundamiera, Santos Contreas, and Alice Mollison.



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# calendar

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to send items for the calendar to: Calendar, Tenderloin Times, 25 Taylor, S.F., CA 94102 by the 20th of each month.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### MONDAYS

**Non-Profit Food Store:** meets 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at the Cadillac Hotel, 366 Eddy, 4 PM, Everyone Welcome. **Free.**

**Life Drawing and Painting Workshop:** Hospitality House, 146 Leavenworth, 7-10 PM, **Free.**

**Pottery and Sculpture Workshop:** Hospitality House, 146 Leavenworth, 7-10 PM, **Free.**

### TUESDAYS

**Polk Street Town Hall:** 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 1751 Sacramento, 6:30-8:30 PM. Working on youth problems in the Tenderloin and Polk Gulch. Interested People Welcome. **Free.**

**Mentra Meditation Evenings:** Videos, natural foods dinner, San Francisco Meditation Center, 1249 8th Avenue, 6:30 PM. For further info call: 564-9802. Also Friday and Saturday. **Free.**

**Workshop:** Theatre and Movement. We will explore what our community is where we live and who we are. All welcome. YMCA Auditorium 2nd floor, 220 Golden Gate, 8:30-10 PM, **Free.**

**Legal Counseling for Women:** W.O.M.A.N., Women Organized to Make Abuse Non-existent, 2940 16th St., 9:30 AM. **Free.**

**Quilters Workshop:** Reality Arts Workshop, 366 Eddy, 2:30 pm. **Free.**

**Meeting:** Cadillac Players, Reality Arts Workshop, 366 Eddy, 6:30 pm, Open to the public. **Free.**

**Meeting:** Tenderloin Senior Outreach Project, Reality Art Workshop, 366 Eddy, 10 am, **Free.**

### WEDNESDAYS

**Tenderloin Writer's Workshop:** Hospitality House, 146 Leavenworth, 7 PM, **Free.**

**Infant/Toddlers Lapsit:** A storytime for infants to age 3. Share nursery rhymes, games simple stories and poetry with your young child. Children's Room Main Library, 7 PM. **Free.**

### THURSDAYS:

**Senior's Exercise Class:** "No Sweat," North of Market Senior Center, 333 Turk, 2-3 PM, Except July 4. **Free.**

**Bingo!** Reality Art Workshop, 366 Eddy, 2 PM. Cash Prizes. Admission \$2.50

### FRIDAYS

**Tea Dance:** with live band, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Main and Market Sts. 5:30-8:30 PM, **Free.**

**Senior's Photo Club:** Interested in learning to shoot, develop, and print your own photos? Join the Central YMCA's Senior Photo Club. Well equipped darkroom available and professional instruction on developing and printing. Fridays, 1:30 PM. For more info: 885-0460 or drop in at 220 Golden Gate.

### SATURDAYS

**Atro-American Dance Class:** Trinity Dance Collective, Reality Art Workshop, 366 Eddy, 1 pm. **Free.**

**Silkscreening Workshop:** Hospitality House, 146 Leavenworth, 1-4:30 PM, **Free.**

**Infant/Toddler Lapsit:** A story time for infants to age 3. Share nursery rhymes, games, simple stories, and poetry with your young child. Children's Room Main Library, 11 AM, **Free.**

**Preschool Storytime:** Program of songs, games, stories, and poetry. Ages 3-5, Children's Room, Main Library, 11 AM, **Free.**

### SUNDAYS

**Dancing:** Socializing, refreshments and coffee. YWCA, 620 Sutter St., Formore info: 775-6500 (Also 4th Wednesday of the month)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### AUGUST 3

**Film:** "Annie," Carol Burnett, Albert Finney, Main Library Lurie Room, 10 am. **Free.**

**Theatre:** San Francisco Mime Troupe, "Crossing Borders," Precita Park (Folsom & Precita), 2 pm. **Free** (Also Aug. 4)

### AUGUST 7

**Museums:** DeYoung, Academy of Sciences, Legion of Honor, and Asian Art museums are free on the first Wednesday of each month. 9-5. **Free.**  
**Meeting:** Crime Abatement Committee, Reality Art Workshop, 366 Eddy, 12 Noon. **Free**

### AUGUST 8

**Films:** "The Little Prince" and "Doonesbury Special," Main Library Lurie Room, 12 Noon. **Free.**

**Meeting:** North of Market Planning Coalition Board of Directors, Reality Art Workshop, 366 Eddy, 9:30 am. **Free.**

### AUGUST 10

**Theatre:** San Francisco Mime Troupe, "Crossing Borders," Dolores Park (Dolores & 18th), 2 pm. **Free** (Also Aug. 11)

### AUGUST 12

**Meeting:** Make A Circus Planning Committee, Herald Apts., Eddy & Jones, 2 pm. **Free.**

### AUGUST 13

**Meeting:** North of Market Planning Coalition Zoning Committee, 295 Eddy, 10:30 am. **Free.**

### AUGUST 15

**Film:** "Watership Down," Main Library Lurie Room, 12 Noon. **Free.**

### AUGUST 17

**Theatre:** San Francisco Mime Troupe, "Crossing Borders," Golden Gate Park Panhandle (Baker & Masonic), 2 pm. **Free.**

**Workshop:** Crime in the Tenderloin, Crime Prevention and Education Committee, Ramada Renaissance Hotel, 9-1. **Free.**

### AUGUST 19

**Meeting:** "How Can We Build Affordable Housing in the Tenderloin," North of Market Planning Coalition, Reality Art Workshop, 366 Eddy, 12 Noon. **Free.**

### AUGUST 22

**Film:** "Animal Farm," Main Library Lurie Room, 12 Noon. **Free.**

### AUGUST 25

**Circus:** Make A Circus, Eddy Street between Jones & Taylor, 12:30 pm. **Free.**



The Tenderloin will come alive Sunday Aug. 25 with the magic of Make-A-Circus. Starting at 12:30, Boeddeker Park and Eddy Street from Jones to Taylor will be transformed into a land of fun and fantasy—complete with circus clowns and elephants like Derique McGee and his affectionate friend, above. The circus is sponsored by AMFACS and the North of Market Planning Coalition.

### AUGUST 26

**Meeting:** Mental Health Committee, North of Market Planning Coalition, Reality Art Workshop, 366 Eddy, 1 pm. **Free.**

### AUGUST 27

**Meeting:** Zoning Committee, North of Market Planning Coalition, 295 Eddy, 10:30 am. **Free.**

### AUGUST 29

**Films:** Academy award winning shorts. Main Library Lurie Room, 12 Noon. **Free.**

# Rocking The Park



Zazu Pitts Memorial Orchestra wowed a lunch time crowd at a free concert in Boeddeker Park last month. photo: Andrew Ritchie

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# Viet Immigration Program Bogged In Bureaucracy



photo: Andrew Ritchie

New arrivals from Ho Chi Minh City, soon to be re-united with their families, at San Francisco Airport. It took years of waiting.



photo: Andrew Ritchie

Happy moment at San Francisco Airport. De Ngo hasn't seen his family in seven years.

continued from page 1

disproportionate number of elderly leaving Vietnam through ODP.

In 1979 the United States and Vietnam agreed in writing to set up a formal departure process, the Orderly Departure Program, to reduce the numbers of people risking their lives at sea. In that year alone, an estimated quarter-million Vietnamese set out to sea in flimsy crafts, and many fell victim to treacherous seas or vicious pirate attacks.

Partly due to the ODP program, the numbers leaving by boat have decreased significantly. Nonetheless the United Nations estimates that about 10,000 people will set out to sea this year from Vietnam.

Half a million Vietnamese now in Vietnam are waiting for approval for legal departure. At best, 12,000 people will make it out via ODP this year. At that rate it could take 40 or 50 years to clear the current files, not to mention the new requests that will come in.

The ODP process is slow and frustrating, involving lots of paperwork. Refugees in the United States, Canada, France and Australia participate by petitioning their government to let their close relatives join them. At the same time those relatives in Vietnam file with the government there. Two lists of acceptable candidates are kept separately by the two countries, and through the intermediary of the United Nations, matching names are sought. An exit visa from Vietnam and approval from the United States are both necessary.

If the relatives in this country are citizens or permanent residents, they must show they can support their newly-arriving family member for at least three years and must apply for them to come as "immigrants," rather than as "refugees." In April of this year, thirty percent of ODP cases arrived on immigrant visas.

Because so many of those arriving are elderly and in need of medical care, and because immigrants do not

qualify for Medi-Cal, Medicare, Social Security, or other income assistance programs for three years, this technicality often results in a heavy burden for these families.

"We automatically associate ODP flights with wheelchairs, sick people, old people," comments Reemsnyder of ICM, which meets new arrivals at San Francisco International Airport.

The 26 ODP arrivals on a recent flight met at the airport by the Times averaged 75 years of age and included two people with cancer, one with organic brain syndrome, two with heart disease, one with cataracts, and numerous people with bad vision.

"It's not uncommon for us to have to arrange eight wheelchairs and a 'three-seater,' (a special bed for airplanes) for those too sick or old to travel sitting up on an ODP flight of 30 people," said Reemsnyder. "One man arrived here in immediate need of kidney dialysis, which his son was unaware of until his arrival. For someone just barely off welfare himself, what is he supposed to do?"

### Tangled in Red Tape

Pulling together all the documents and evidence needed to qualify for ODP has been called a "nightmare" by applicants and cited as a common problem by refugee assistance workers.

"There are difficulties with people obtaining the necessary records such as marriage and birth certificates," says Wayne Luk of the Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement. "In 1975, (during) the fall of Saigon, a fire ruined the South Vietnamese archives with many of the vital records. And ethnic Chinese born in China frequently don't have proper birth records because they may have assumed Vietnamese names to avoid persecution."

Huynh T. Chuon submitted his ODP application four months ago for his family in Vietnam. His paperwork in Vietnam is complete but he says he is having trouble getting together all the documents asked for

by the United States. "They demand too much," he says. "My house was destroyed during the war and all the documents were burned. I don't know what to do next."

Le Thien Thanh, a recent ODP arrival who lives on Geary Street, says, "Many applications get cancelled or eliminated by the Vietnamese government without reason. I was very afraid that I would be in that situation. Many people have to bribe the Vietnamese officials. It's sometimes very costly."

The waiting game can be deadly. Tat Nuoi, a new arrival through ODP, describes his five-year wait as a "terribly frustrating ordeal." Although relieved and happy to be with his family again, he is anguished that his mother, left behind in the process, died shortly after he left Vietnam. He bitterly attributes her death to ODP.

"She was so frustrated, hopeless and depressed. She gave up," he said.

"The Vietnamese community in the United States is panicky that the program could come to an end one day with very little notice, stranding

their relatives forever," comments John Yarling of the United States Catholic Charities.

"It's been ten years now since the war ended. We now have a period of time when people can move more freely and relations between the United States and Vietnam seem to be improving," says Yarling, who adds that it may be in the interest of the Vietnamese government to bring the program to an end in the future.

Yarling also believes that the process of re-uniting families would be speeded up and smoothed out if the United States recognized the government of Vietnam and established formal diplomatic relations. "They don't have to be bosom buddies, but it would help if the process were direct rather than brokered through the United Nations."

Vu-duc Vuong, director of the Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement, agreed. "The United States really has no leverage at all, no say in who's leaving. There would be more impact if there were more of a formal relation between the United States and Vietnam," he said.

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## senior space

by Myre Von Aerts

If you were renting the property you live in on March 1, 1984 you may be entitled to money from the state under two programs: Renters Credit and Renters Assistance. You can qualify for both programs.

### RENTER'S CREDIT

You may be entitled to \$60 (\$137 a couple or head-of-household) in Renters' Credit from state taxes even though you don't pay taxes if you meet the following two points:

- You have been renting since March 1 1984.
- Your building is subject to property taxes (most church-owned property is not). You can still get the refund whether or not your landlord paid the taxes.

### What to Do

You must file for the money any time within the next four years; there is no penalty for late filing. You simply complete Tax Form 540, or, if you have no taxable income, Form 540A. You can get the forms from the Franchise Tax Board, Room 1241, 345 Larkin (the cross street is Golden Gate).

### RENTERS' ASSISTANCE

Older or disabled people may also be entitled to Renters' Assistance from state taxes. The size of your refund depends on your income and the number of months in which you qualified. The higher your income,

the lower the refund. You must meet all the following criteria:

- You were aged 62 or over on December 1984, or disabled or blind and any age.
- Your household income in 1984 was not more than \$12,000.
- The building you live in is not exempt from property taxes.
- You pay at least \$50 a month towards your rent; you will not be eligible for assistance for any month in which you paid less than \$50.

### What To Do

You must file with the State Franchise Tax Board between 16 May and 3 September 1985 on Form 9000. Forms are available from the Franchise Tax Board where you get your Renters' Credit forms. September is not too far off so don't delay.

### HELP!

If you need help in completing the form, some senior centers have qualified volunteers who will fill it out for you. And if you are housebound or in a nursing home, there is help available for shut-ins. Legal Assistance to the Elderly cannot help you with your form but we have a list of places that do provide such assistance. Call us at 861-4444. If you have any questions about these programs, call toll-free 800-852-7050 but be patient, the line is busy.

*(This article has been prepared by Legal Assistance to the Elderly, 333 Valencia Street, San Francisco 94103 telephone 861-4444. LAE provides free legal services to residents of San Francisco who are 58 or older. Call for an appointment.)*

landlords will allow more people than are actually listed on the lease to live in an apartment without charging additional rent. Many landlords also allow tenants to keep pets even though the lease prohibits this. Unless you are certain that your new landlord will not charge you extra rent for additional occupants, and will let you keep pets, you should think twice about moving.

Remember: Every time a housing unit becomes vacant in San Francisco the landlord has the opportunity to raise the rent an unlimited amount. Moving from apartment to apartment when problems arise will thus result in higher rents both for you and for all Tenderloin residents. While moving to a new dwelling is a good idea in a few situations (as when you move into a subsidized or non-profit unit with a below-market rent), such a decision should never be made in haste. When in doubt, seek help.

## tenant log

by Randy Show  
Tenderloin Housing Clinic

It is an unfortunate fact of Tenderloin life that many tenants seek to escape from problems at their current home by simply moving to a new one. The decision to move is often made suddenly, and without considering the many negative sides of moving. This column will discuss why moving should only be considered as a last resort.

Many tenants are so eager to get away from potential housing problems that they move out before the problems become reality. For example, many tenants move out after getting a letter announcing a rent increase from their landlord. But the letter may actually be incorrect or invalid and the true story may be that no rent increase can be imposed. It is therefore critical that tenants contact the Housing Clinic or other agencies prior to acting rashly in response to what may be incorrect information.

Many tenants who move out of a housing problem forget to consider the "hidden costs" of moving. Such costs include phone installation, increased security deposits, and the time and effort spent in the moving process. In addition, many tenants move without giving their landlord the required 30 days written notice. The result may be that they lose their security deposit.

Another thing to consider is whether a new landlord will allow the same number of occupants and/or pets as the current landlord. Some

## Tying the Knot



photo: Andrew Ritchie

Turk Street residents Peang Bora (far left) and Chhith Yoeung (far right) greeted their guests in traditional Cambodian fashion at a festive wedding dinner last month.

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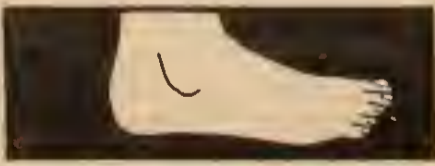
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# POETRY & PROSE

## HE PICK AND THE LICK OF REPORTEE

Heard winners and endured lose tears crocodile schtick  
stuff

That's what  
A crock of shit  
Said staid instead  
Even uneven off the bedstead bastard  
Self centered uncentered selves suffering  
Pseudo  
Exalting being abandoned and shelved  
In inference nobody equivalent  
Their pain sensitized homogenized insignia  
Asinine in own nine asses

Here comes one now  
Wanting love without loving  
Listen how it chants

He understands me  
Never have I been  
S-o-o loved

Alongside shimmer-rim another  
Loving without love wanting  
Altoo  
Gether enchants

I understand him  
Never have I  
Loved so

Here comes one now  
Wanting love without loving  
Listen how it chants

Am ever deserted so  
Desolate on deserts dried of affliction  
How very invariable  
Shallow each is when am  
Such a swell being  
So deserving of my dessert being  
Loved

Alongside glimmer-rim another  
Loving without love wanting  
Altoo  
Gether enchants

Like  
Hell is so  
You got it but  
Fully but  
Re  
Verse  
Butt out  
Hear but  
Am here by myself but  
Seldom  
And that feeling their  
Depth and their  
Solidness  
Summons my  
Own deserving exaltation  
PreSENTED PRESENTed  
Pre-scented  
Loving them

Rhett Stuart

*Tenderloin residents are encouraged to submit their work to: Poetry and Prose, c/o Robert Volbrecht, 146 Leavenworth, S.F., CA 94102 by the 15th of each month.*

## GOING OUT

I'm tired. Four grey walls stare blankly at me, solemnly taunting me to go ahead and do something about it. What can I do?

I got out, wander up and down, around and over, here, there, everywhere is nowhere.

The sick cancer which is humanity in its lowest form, decaying ulcers of our species, creeping, crawling, slithering, hurtling through space, screaming at the top of their lungs, lying on the cold pavement on top of broken glass, swimming in their own (as well as other's) urine, vomit, blood and defecation.

Sirens pierce the air and eardrums. A motorcycle goes belching its unmuffled "go to hell" staccato on by as a bus roars into traffic with a lurch, and thick, black, polluting smoke comes squirting out on people who register disgust for an instant, then regress into their zombie-like state of oblivion to all that is transpiring around them. Their busses come and they get on, but I remain.

J. Dolron

## A STORY

hundreds of people around me, some vacant, some anxious, some stumbling, some in hostility: characters from a play, a play not yet written. a thousand characters in search of an author, if they find not this author they must return, return to the nauseating cycle of a regurgitated story. some break away, some find their author, some find a violent escape into that story that never ends.

Renno Mahriano

## HUM AND HER KIDS

There was a mother of many happy healthy children and two of these kids were quite strange. She could never predict their behavior nor did she know what they wanted out of life so she didn't know how to reward them when they were good. After great deliberation she decided to employ a fairy witch. A fairy witch is a fairy capable of extreme isolation. This one was named "Humdinger." Hum, as her friends were quite fond of calling her turned the two strange children inside out (in a very safe spell that made sure the children would not lose their innards.) Hum discovered that the boys were really Billy goats on vacation in life as humans. This explained why they ate everything they came across without gaining any weight. Hum consulted with a seer who suggested that the children needed challenges which in facing would prove their extraordinary skills and win them status in the world. So Hum took the boys off to the cave of Orgeel where they were encouraged to roam free and tame the bloody dragons who dwelt there. Shulabeil tamed a dragon named Cant and Wheezelefoot tamed one called Drug. They were written up in all the newspapers of their times as great heroes and when their lives as humans grew to a close they went happily into other forms of life as very important spiritual healers. Hum and the mother were blessed.

Emily T. Cutler

## GEORGIA

Strong as a horse  
Stubborn as a mule  
No one but a fool  
Would be so cruel  
To herself!

Verna L. Sonneman

## NYTAL AT DAY-CAMP—A DICTIONARY FANTASY

The PROD of God is PRODICAL,  
PROMISCUOUS with pain;  
PRODIGIOUS as the thunder-claps  
PROFUSELY pouring rain.

This PRODIGY of nature,  
This PRODUCT of His whim,  
Portends a few PROVISORS  
Laid on suppliants to Him:

Repent, PROFESS; misdeeds confess,  
Lest the prayers we PROFFER fail,  
And PROFILES for His sufferance  
We PROJECT to no avail.

So long as sinners PROMULGATE  
PROFLIGACY in passions,  
Their PROGENY cannot escape  
Lives marred by head-shop fashions.

They'll watch their cookies crumble  
Through a haze of Amital;  
PROGRAMMED by pills, our Jacks and Jills  
Will care not where they fall.

Pain is the burning of incense  
On the altar of self-sacrifice  
PROFANE not the body eclectic:  
PRONG PROMPTLY your PRONENESS to vice.

Anna Krivonic

## POWER

People who are on power trips  
Or finding how to build one  
Succeed by crunching others  
Who'd think of harming no one.

To cut the power off of one  
Who needs it not at all  
Just to make themselves look good  
Who really aren't, at all.

I hate those unkind people  
Who use one just to gain  
Power, blinding power  
(which is no real gain).

I feel that some feeling  
Or an understanding way  
Would be a little better  
Than to put one to dismay.

I have a heart of feeling  
Oh Power, how strong thy sting  
For evil and dissension  
can only power bring!

Michael A. DeBene

## UNTITLED

What for and why do you this?  
That think-meaning and talk-meaning mean not the same?  
Do orifices be divided for truth and for lies,  
for True-Honor and Honor-not?  
Is face-to-be-presented but mask-to-be-seen?  
I mask-that-is-seen vapid reflection of  
Mask-that-is-truth?

Leo Chosa

## CAREER MAN

Now we're callin' it, 'foreclosure'  
I have the sheriff, standing by  
Just in case out there's a mean one  
Who wants to punch me in the eye—

Yes, I know I sound indifferent  
As I rattle off my spiel  
As I watch another hay-seed  
Get the short end of the deal—

"All livestock and machinery  
Will be needed for the sale!"  
And I swear I see astonishment  
As on and on, and on, I rail—

Then my briefcase snaps up smartly  
And I'm 'headed out', again  
'Cause I know another, 'homestead'  
Is awaitin' 'round the bend—

And they're callin' me, 'the banker'  
Who gives the farmers living hell  
And my tires spitting gravel  
As I drive on through the dell—

Warren D. Eastman

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SAN FRANCISCO



DIANNE FEINSTEIN

July 3, 1985

Matundu Makalani, Manager  
"Heart of the City"  
Farmer's Market  
220 Golden Gate Avenue, Room 719  
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mr. Makalani:

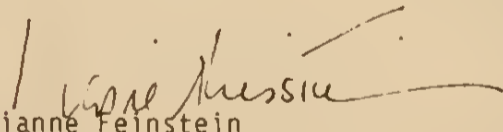
For some time I have been receiving reports on the operation of the Farmer's Market at the United Nations Plaza, and I was most intrigued by the latest report that your Wednesday operation is now matching Sunday's. You are truly doing a remarkable job!

I also noted that your market observed its fourth anniversary and I want to take this opportunity to congratulate each of the members of your board, and the farmers themselves, for the public service being provided.

The area in which you are operating is one that needs as much people related activity as possible and I hope you will continue your enhancement of San Francisco's Civic Center area.

All of us in the Mayor's office can see your market in operation and send our continued best wishes and regards.

Sincerely yours,

  
Dianne Feinstein  
Mayor

DF/GV:1a  
7807R

# Come Join the Circus!

**Amfac, Inc., through its Community Action Team of employee volunteers, is proud to present the Tenderloin premiere of Make • A • Circus on Sunday, August 25th.**



*Laurence Davis  
on the Spanish Web*

The three-part show, which includes workshops in juggling, stilt-walking, acrobatics and clowning and ends with a special children's performance, starts at 12:30 p.m. on Eddy Street, between Jones and Taylor. Dozens of neighborhood organizations will add to the circus atmosphere by running penny carnival booths before and after the show.

With Make • A • Circus, Amfac salutes the children of the Tenderloin. Their growing presence is challenging and enlivening our City.

**Come Join the Fun!**

**Sunday, August 25th  
Eddy Street (between Jones and Taylor)**

**10:30 - 12:30 and  
1:30 - 3:00                      Penny Carnival  
12:30                                Make • A • Circus begins**

**Free and open to the public**

**Seniors Welcome**

**For additional information, call:  
Don Feeser  
North of Market Planning Coalition  
(415) 474-2164**





## Tai-nạn Lưu Thông ở Tenderloin

Jim Sugarek

Trong thời gian qua, ở khu Tenderloin, số người đi bộ bị thương hoặc chết vì bị xe đụng tăng lên rất cao. Vấn đề này đã làm cho dân chúng ở đây đòi hỏi chính quyền thị xã phải có biện pháp để làm cho đường phố trong khu Tenderloin an toàn hơn cho người đi bộ.

Từ trung tuần tháng Tư cho đến giữa tháng Bảy vừa qua, xe cộ chạy trong khu này đã giết chết năm người và làm bị thương 30 người -- theo sự nghiên cứu hồ sơ cảnh sát bởi ký giả của Times.

Một vài thí dụ về những vấn đề lưu thông ở Tenderloin sẽ cho quý vị thấy vì sao. Đèn đi bộ "Walk" ở góc đường Leavenworth và McAllister chỉ có khoảng chừng năm giây đồng hồ. Ví thể mà ông Everitt Doane bị một chiếc xe bus cán chết ở góc đường này hôm mồng 3 tháng 5 vừa qua. Hôm mồng 3 tháng 7, ông Robert Whiley, 27 tuổi, đi bộ ngang góc đường Leavenworth và Eddy khi đèn đang đỏ và bị cán chết bởi xe bus Muni. Đèn đi bộ "Walk/Don't Walk" ở góc đường này đã bị gỡ bỏ bởi ty công chánh thị xa mấy năm về trước.

Trong một bức thư gửi cho ty Công Chánh ngày 5 tháng 6 vừa qua, The North Market Planning Coalition đã yêu cầu họ treo bảng hiệu "Coi Chủng Trẻ Em" và giới hạn tốc độ cũng như gắn thêm đèn đi bộ ở các góc đường.

Một vài ngày sau khi ông Whiley chết, ty công chánh đã gắn thêm một số bảng giới hạn tốc độ, theo lời ông Richard Livingston, một nhân viên của North Market Coalition. Ông Livingston hứa là sẽ tiếp tục đòi hỏi ty công chánh thực thi những khuyến cáo của cộng đồng nữa. Ngoài ra, ông Livingston cũng đang nghiên cứu những biện pháp khác như biến những đường một chiều thành hai chiều để xe cộ chạy chậm lại, như vậy bớt nguy hiểm hơn cho người đi bộ.

Ông Vũ Đức Vương, Giám Đốc Trung Tâm Ty Nạn Đông Nam Á cho biết: "Phần lớn người ty nạn Đông Nam Á ở Tenderloin sợ tai nạn xe cộ còn hơn là vấn đề phạm pháp nữa. Đã có rất nhiều người ty nạn bị giết và bị thương vì xe cộ trong khu này. Nạn vượt đèn đỏ, quẹo đường không ngừng lại là những nguyên nhân chính. Ngoài ra dân ty nạn mới qua không quen với lối đi bộ trên đường phố đông đúc xe cộ chạy vùn vụt.

Ngoài ra các vị bà lão ở The Antonio Manor (một viện dưỡng lão) đã gặp các viên chức của số Muni đề yêu cầu có những biện pháp giúp đỡ các vị lớn tuổi đi đường khó khăn đi xe buýt được an toàn và dễ dàng hơn.

## Chờ Đợi Đoàn Tụ: Chương Trình Ra-Đi-Có-Trật-Tự (ODP)

Sara Colm và Nguyễn Hữu Liêm

Chương trình Ra-Đi-Có-Trật-Tự (ODP), được thực thi từ năm 1979 nhằm chặn bớt sự ra đi bằng đường biển của người Việt Nam, đã làm giảm được số người bỏ nước rạt. Nhưng vì không có sự bang-giao giữa Mỹ và Việt Nam để giúp đỡ tiến hành thủ tục giấy tờ cho cả nửa triệu người đang chờ đợi, một số người đã chỉ trích rằng chính quyền Mỹ không có một ảnh hưởng nào trong việc quyết định người nào được ra đi khỏi nước. Do đó, những người được ra đi phần lớn là già cả, tật nguyền, hoặc người Việt gốc Hoa.

Phần lớn những người này đến Mỹ với tư cách di dân chứ không là dân ty nạn. Do đó, họ không được hưởng một trợ cấp xã hội nào trong vòng ba năm.

Ông Vũ Đức Vương, giám đốc Trung Tâm Ty Nạn Đông Nam Á (CSEARR) nói: "Trong một vài năm qua, chương trình ODP đã được coi như là một cách để chính quyền Việt Nam tống khứ khỏi đất nước số người già cả, người Việt gốc Hoa đóng thời để làm tiến số người này. Chính quyền Mỹ chẳng có một ảnh hưởng nào về vấn đề này. Nếu có bang-giao giữa hai quốc gia, thì vấn đề chắc sẽ tốt đẹp hơn."

Bà Laurie Reensynder thuộc The Intergovernmental Committee on Migration (ICM) nói: "Những chuyến bay của chương trình ODP thường chở đầy người đau yếu, già cả, và tàn tật." Bà Reensynder đảm trách việc đón tiếp người mới tới ở San Francisco. Trong chuyến bay của ODP đến gần đây, với 26 người, tuổi trung bình ở khoảng 70. Hai người có bệnh ung thư, một người bị bệnh não tủy, hai người đau tim, một người điếc, một người bị mất vảy cá, và phần lớn đều bị yếu mắt.

Bà Reensynder nói tiếp: "Chúng tôi thường phải đợi chờ tới 8 xe lăn tay hay những xe khác để di chuyển những người đau yếu, tàn tật hay già cả trong một chuyến bay chỉ có tới 30 người. Một mặt tôi nghĩ rằng cho

### Gánh Xiệc Đến Tenderloin

Bà con ơi! hãy chuẩn bị cho một buổi chiều vui nhộn. Đoàn xiếc "Make-A-Circus" sẽ đến trình diễn cho dân chúng khu Tenderloin, người lớn cũng như trẻ con, vào ngày Chủ Nhật 25 tháng Tám vào lúc 12 giờ 30 ở trên đường Eddy, giữa đường Taylor và Jones. Đoàn đường này sẽ bị đóng để dành cho gánh xiếc và xe cộ phải đi ngã khác. Gánh xiếc sẽ bao gồm một toan thắng hề, vũ ban, nhảy lon, tung mình và vĩ ban nhạc dân ca Jazz.



Bước vào một thế giới mới: Các vị bà lão vừa bước xuống Phi Trường Elderly arrivals from Ho Chi Minh City enter a new world as they arrive at Airport.

người già cả được đoàn tụ là một điều hay; nhưng thật khó mà không chỉ trích về lối làm việc của Việt Nam."

#### Một Chương Trình Đoàn Tụ Gia Định

ODP được thành hình năm 79 trong một thông cáo chung giữa Mỹ và Việt Nam, có được là vì thế giới công kích nặng thảm kịch "thuyền nhân" hồi đó. Từ đó, số người vượt biển đã giảm xuống rất mau. Vào năm 1984, số người đi bằng ODP cao hơn là số người vượt biển.

Liên Hiệp Quốc ước lượng khoảng 10,000 người Việt sẽ liệu mạng ra đi vào năm nay trong số đó có đến 4000 người sẽ bị tận cùng bởi hải tặc. Hiện giờ, một tháng có 1000 người ra đi bằng ODP.

Thủ tục ODP rất lâu dài, đòi hỏi nhiều giấy tờ và tài liệu. Chương trình này dành riêng cho người Việt có thân nhân ở Mỹ, Gia Nã Đại, Pháp và Úc. Người Việt ở Mỹ làm đơn song với thân nhân ở Việt Nam. Muốn đi ra khỏi nước, cần có giấy xuất ngoại cấp bởi chính quyền Việt Nam đồng thời phải được chính quyền Mỹ chấp thuận. Về phía Mỹ, họ có một danh sách. Phía Việt Nam có một danh sách riêng. Qua sự trung gian của Liên Hiệp Quốc, người nào có tên trong cả hai danh sách thì mới được đi. Với hơn 500,000 người trên cả hai danh sách, cộng với vấn đề giấy tờ rắc rối, thủ tục ODP trở thành rắc rối và lâu lắc.

Nếu người Việt ở Mỹ là công dân Mỹ hoặc là thường trú dân, họ phải nộp đơn cho thân nhân qua với tư cách là di dân. Họ cũng phải ký giấy tờ bảo đảm chu cấp cho thân nhân ít nhất là ba năm.

Ba mươi phần trăm của những người đến bằng ODP trong tháng Tư vừa qua là di dân. Do đó, người già cả, bệnh tật sẽ không được hưởng một trợ cấp xã hội, hay y tế

nào cả trong vòng ba năm.

Bà Reensynder nói: "Có một người đến đây cần phải giải phẫu thận; nhưng người con ở Mỹ thì mới hết hưởng trợ cấp, anh ta biết làm gì bây giờ?"

#### Gánh Nặng Của Thủ Tục Và Giấy Tờ

Làm thế nào để có đủ giấy tờ liên hệ và bằng chứng cần thiết để nộp đơn cho ODP là một đòi hỏi lớn đối với người nộp đơn. Đây cũng là một trở ngại lớn cho sự hoàn tất thủ tục. Ông Wayne Luk, giám đốc ODP ở CSEARR, nói: "Rất nhiều người không tìm ra được giấy tờ như hôn thú hoặc khai sanh. Năm 1975, văn khố trung ương ở Sài Gòn bị đốt cháy, tiêu tan phần lớn những giấy tờ tồn trữ ở đó. Thường thì người Việt gốc Hoa sinh ở Tàu không có đủ giấy tờ cần thiết vì họ khai là sinh đẻ ở Việt Nam, lấy tên Việt để tránh dân áp bởi chính quyền sau 1975."

Ông Huỳnh T. Cường nộp đơn ODP bốn tháng rồi. Về phía thân nhân của anh ở Việt Nam thì giấy tờ ở đó đã hoàn tất, nhưng ở Mỹ thì anh đang bị thiếu giấy tờ. Ông ta than phiền: "Người ta đòi hỏi nhiều quá. Nhà tôi bị cháy rụi hồi chiến tranh và giấy tờ bị thiêu rụi cả. Tôi biết làm sao bây giờ?"

Ông Lê Thiện Thanh, mới đến Mỹ bằng ODP và hiện đang sống trên đường Geary không phải trả tiền gì cả, nhưng cho biết: Vấn đề tuy thuộc vào hoàn cảnh cá nhân. Rất nhiều người phải hỏi lộ và tốn rất nhiều tiền. Nhiều trường hợp đơn từ bị bác bỏ bởi chính quyền Việt Nam không vì lý do gì cả. Hồi đó tôi cũng sợ bị như vậy."

Vấn đề bóc lột không chỉ có giới hạn ở Việt Nam mà thôi. Dĩ nhiên ở Mỹ không đòi hỏi tiền kèm gì ngoại trừ phí tổn thị thực chú ký,

Xem tiếp trang 19.

photo: Andrew Ritchie

# Giải Trí Mùa Hè: Đi Ra Khỏi Tenderloin

Wade Hudson

Nếu đời sống ở thành phố đã làm cho bạn chán nản, bạn có thể thoát ra khỏi khu vực Tenderloin trong thời gian ngắn bằng cách đi xe bus để đi đến những công viên đẹp tuyệt vời trong thành phố San Francisco.

Một trong những nơi đó là vườn Arboretum ở công viên Golden Gate. Bạn sẽ cần đi nhiều lần đến đó mới có đủ thời giờ để khám phá ranhững vẻ đẹp của khu vườn này với trăm ngàn cây cỏ lạ lùng, hấp dẫn. Bạn hãy ra đường Market, xuống đường xe điện ngầm, đón xe N-Judah để đi đến đường số 9th Avenue và Irving. Vườn Arboretum chỉ cách đó một góc đường.

Một nơi khác là vườn Thủy-Tiến (Aquatic Park), nằm ở phía bắc của công viên Ghinadelli. Bạn có thể đến đó bằng cách đón xe cable car Hyde Street ở đường

Powell.

Sau khi đi bộ đến cuối bờ đê bên vịnh San Francisco, bạn có thể đi dọc bờ biển lên đến cầu Golden Gate. Dọc đường này bạn sẽ thấy rất nhiều cảnh trí đẹp và những bãi biển rộng rãi. Từ Fort Point ngay dưới cầu Golden Gate bạn có thể đi ngược về phía Nam qua một ngọn đồi, bạn sẽ gặp một trạm xe bus.

Nếu bạn muốn đi bộ nhiều, bạn có thể đi xe bus số 38-Geary đến cuối đường Geary ở công viên Sutro, gần tòa nhà Cliff House. Sau khi thưởng ngoạn nơi này, bạn hãy đi ngang qua đường Geary để thăm vùng nhúng cảnh đồ nạt nhưng đẹp đẽ của Sutro Baths. Phía Bắc là một con đường mòn đá hàng dặm làm cho người đi vào đó quên hẳn rằng mình đang ở thành phố.

# Mở Rộng Vòng Tay



Già và trẻ ở Cadillac Hotel trong Khu Tenderloin photo: Andrew Ritchie Young and old communicate at the Cadillac Hotel.

# Giảm Tiền Thuê Nhà Của Bạn

Randy Shaw

Có phải apartment của bạn thiếu máy sưởi hoặc nước nóng? Thang máy không sử dụng được? Những dịch vụ chính như bồi phòng, giặt giũ khăn, ra hay nhân viên trực đã bị cắt bớt? Ông chủ nhà bắt bạn phải trả tiền điện, nước mà trước kia bạn không phải trả? Đừng Lo! Luật thuê nhà của thị xã San Francisco cho phép bạn giảm tiền nhà xuống bằng cách điền đơn ở The Rent Board, 170 Otis Street, nếu những tình trạng trên đã xảy ra cho apartment của bạn.

Bạn nên yêu cầu giảm tiền thuê nhà nếu:

- \* Thang máy hư hỏng nhiều lần hoặc là không có
- \* Không có hơi sưởi và nước nóng
- \* Những dịch vụ như bồi-phòng, khăn ra, phòng khách, thứ tins... đã bị cắt giảm
- \* Nhà cửa hư hỏng như trần nhà bị lủng lỗ hay nhỏ nước
- \* Dịch vụ an ninh của khu chung cư bị cắt giảm

Nếu làm đơn yêu cầu, ngoài

tiền nhà được giảm xuống, The Rent Board có thể thúc đẩy chủ nhà sửa chữa những khiếm khuyết hoặc đem lại những dịch vụ đã bị cắt giảm. Bạn đừng lo là chủ nhà bạn sẽ trả thù bằng cách đuổi bạn đi vì làm như vậy là bất hợp pháp.

Cùng nhau hợp tác với các người thuê nhà khác trong cùng một chung cư bằng cách nộp đơn khiếu nại và tham dự những buổi họp chung. Những tổ chức của những người thuê nhà thường được thành lập trong những dịp đó. Từ đó, chủ nhà sẽ dễ ý đến các vấn đề của chung cư vì họ biết là người thuê nhà biết đến quyền hạn của họ.

Làm đơn khiếu nại để yêu cầu giảm tiền nhà thì rất gian dị. Mẫu đơn có sẵn ở The Rent Board, 170 Otis Street hay ở Tenderloin Housing Clinic ở 383 Eddy Street. Nhân viên ở nơi đó sẽ giúp bạn điền đơn. Nếu nhiều người cùng khiếu nại một lần, The Housing Clinic sẽ đại diện quý vị trong các thủ tục khác. Quý vị không cần có luật sư để làm chuyện này.

# ODP: Kẹt Trong Mạng Nhện Hành Chánh

Tiếp theo từ trang 18.

những cơ sở thường mai làm tiền qua chương trình ODP cũng mọc lên nhiều nơi. Các nơi này lấy tiền phí tổn cao, họ cho rằng họ làm thủ tục nhanh hơn, và có ưu tiên đặc biệt. Ông Carl Pihl ở Lutheran Social Services nói: "Tệ trạng chung là họ lường gạt những người tỵ nạn ngay thẳng, không biết gì cả. Họ lấy mẫu đơn ở các cơ sở thiện nguyện, bôi bỏ nhãn hiệu để dùng cho dịch vụ thường mãi của họ."

## Yếu Tố Thời Gian: Liệu Việt Nam Hủy Bỏ Chương Trình?

Với tình trạng phức tạp, chờ đợi mọi môn như vậy, nhiều người đang bắt đầu mất hết hy vọng đoán tự đi gia đình. Ông John Yarling ở United States Catholic Charities (USCC) cho biết: "Người Việt ở Mỹ đang lo là chương trình ODP có thể chấm dứt bất thình lình để gia đình của họ bị kẹt lại mãi mãi. Thời gian là yếu tố quan trọng nhất. Đây là khoảng thời gian người ra đi bằng ODP có về đến đất, và ít nhất là hai chính quyền Việt Mỹ đang có những liên hệ cần biết. Mười năm đi qua rồi, ví quyền lợi của họ, chính quyền Việt Nam phải muốn lo cho xong vấn đề này."

Sự chờ đợi dễ được đoán tự cũng rất có hại. Ông Tắt Nuôi vừa mới đến bằng ODP, diễn tả năm năm làm thủ tục đoán tự ở Việt Nam "rất là bức bối và khó khăn." Mặc dù đang vui vẻ vì được đoán tự với gia đình ở Mỹ, nhưng Mẹ của anh bị kẹt lại và tủi nhục khi anh rời khỏi

nước. Ông ta đòi hỏi cho ODP "Mẹ tôi tuyệt vọng vì không được đi với con. Bà buồn quá và tủi nhục."

Ông Yarling cho rằng chương trình ODP sẽ được tiến hành nhanh chóng và hiệu quả hơn nếu hai quốc gia bang giao với nhau ví hiện giờ mọi thủ tục phải qua sự trung gian của Liên Hiệp Quốc, chứ không trực tiếp giữa hai chính quyền.

# Những Điều Cần Biết Về ODP

Nguyễn Hữu Liêm

## I. Ai Hội Đủ Điều Kiện:

Người Việt ở Việt Nam với các ưu tiên sau:

Ưu Tiên I: Thân nhân gia đình của người đang ở Mỹ như vợ chồng, con cái, anh em, cha mẹ, ông bà, và cháu nội chưa lập gia đình.

Ưu Tiên II: Những người đã làm cho chính quyền Mỹ tối thiểu là một năm sau ngày 1 tháng 1 năm 1962.

Ưu Tiên III: Những người có liên hệ với Mỹ như đã có làm việc với các công ty Mỹ; du học ở Mỹ; cựu nhân viên cao cấp của chính quyền Nam Việt Nam; những người bị đi học tập cải tạo ở Việt Nam...

Những Trường Hợp Nhân Đạo Đặc Biệt: Dành cho những người không thuộc vào một ưu tiên nào ở trên.

## II. Ai Có Thể Đi Chung:

Vợ chồng, con cái chưa lập gia đình có thể đi theo với người đứng đơn hội đủ các điều kiện trên.

## III. Làm Thế Nào Để Nạp Đơn:

1. Ở Việt Nam, những người hội đủ điều kiện có thể nộp

đơn bằng cách gửi thư thẳng cho văn phòng ODP ở Bangkok.

2. Ở Mỹ, thân nhân có thể nộp đơn bằng cách đến một cơ sở thiện nguyện như IRC, USCC, CSEARR... để làm đơn

3. Thân nhân có quốc tịch Mỹ hay thường trú dân (có thẻ xanh) phải đến sở di trú (INS) để làm hồ sơ (Form I-130) trước khi đến một cơ sở thiện nguyện.

## IV. Giấy Tờ Và Bằng Chứng Cần Thiết Để Nạp Đơn:

Người đứng đơn ở Mỹ hay ở Việt Nam phải có một vài bằng chứng về sự liên hệ thân nhân hoặc hợp tác với chính quyền Mỹ trước kia ví dụ như giấy hôn thú, giấy khai sanh, sổ gia đình, giấy cán cước trước 1975, giấy tờ có liên hệ với công sở Mỹ... Các giấy tờ này cần phải được dịch sang Anh Ngữ.

## V. Một Vài Điều Cần Biết Thêm:

1. Quý Vị ở Mỹ muốn nộp đơn ODP, trước hết hãy đến một cơ sở thiện nguyện để hỏi thêm chi tiết (Bài viết này chỉ phác họa những điều chính mà thôi.)

2. Đừng đến các văn phòng dịch vụ thường mãi mà quý vị nghe hoặc thấy quảng cáo trên các báo Việt Ngữ. Những cơ sở thường mãi này không làm việc hiệu quả hơn các cơ quan thiện nguyện. mà lại còn phải tốn tiền nữa.

3. Đừng nhờ đến luật sư. Tiền cuộc phí sẽ rất cao mà cũng chẳng hiệu quả gì hơn.

4. Mọi dịch vụ về ODP ở các cơ quan thiện nguyện đều miễn phí, ngoài số tiền thi thực khoảng chừng tư ba đến năm đồng.

5. Tất cả các cơ quan thiện nguyện đều phải làm hồ sơ qua một hệ thống chung. Không có cơ quan nào nhanh hơn cơ quan kia.

6. Đừng làm giấy tờ nhiều nơi; ví như vậy không những chẳng giúp ích gì mà chỉ làm hồ sơ quý vị chậm lại vì nhân viên ODP ở Thái Lan sẽ phải điều tra tại sao quý vị đã nộp đơn nhiều nơi.

7. Hãy kiên nhẫn. Thủ tục giấy tờ đòi hỏi một thời gian ít nhất là hơn ba năm. Đừng gửi thư đến ODP trừ khi nào được yêu cầu về một vấn đề nào đó, vì thư tư có thể tạo trường hợp lẫn lộn về hồ sơ của quý vị.

