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STREET SHEET

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IF EVERYONE CAN'T AFFORD THE RENT



THEY SHOULDN'T F~~UCKING~~ TAKE OUR TENT

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SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE: As of July 29th there are 1,111 people on the waitlist for shelter in SF.

COMPTON'S TRANSGENDER CULTURAL DISTRICT

Tee Hoatson

Compton's Cafeteria Riot has come a long way from hiding in a newspaper clipping in the Gay and Lesbian Historical Archives, waiting to be discovered by trans historian Susan Stryker. Now that this monumental piece of trans history is out of the closet, it's no surprise that TLGBQ* communities have organized around it. By now, you've probably heard of Compton's Transgender District, or at least seen the bright pastel flags gracing a host of lampposts near Market and Sixth streets. Defined as "well-recognized, labeled areas of a city" with high concentrations of significant community landmarks, cultural districts aim to preserve and celebrate history. Compton's Transgender District is one of many such districts in San Francisco, including Calle 24, JCHESS, and SOMA Pilipinas, but holds the distinct honor of being the world's first cultural district to center transgender communities. You can thank Aria Sa'id, Janetta Johnson, Honey Mahogany, Brian Basinger, Stephany Ashley, and Nate Allbee for that!

The initial rumblings of this movement were birthed when the powerful real estate agency Group i attempted to purchase the 900 block of Market Street. For context, this part of the Tenderloin held a density of TLGBQ bars, cruising spots, hotels and bathhouses unmatched in the city for decades. What's more, some of the earliest examples of trans and queer political organizing and consciousness raising happened in this part of the Tenderloin. Basinger recounts: "I did not feel like the process had been done properly when the straight owner of Group i, the straight owner of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, Randy Shaw, and the supervisor of the district, Jane Kim, all came together to allow this without consultation with the community and with all of the neighborhood's resources flowing in one direction: out." Now, the likes of NPR, The Guardian, and KQED have covered the district, highlighting its celebratory vibe and the poetic justice of "San Francisco's storied transgender community" finally obtaining a legally recognized home. Janetta Johnson affirms that celebration, remembering that "we were restricted to that area in a way that was really screwed up and foul back then. I want to create a new experience in that space."

The story goes further than just a symbolic celebration, however. Compton's Transgender District opens the door for anti-gentrification efforts that directly impact members of the San Francisco TLGBQ community experiencing housing insecurity. Here's how.

The District is led and supported by Black trans women who work as frontline service providers.

The folks behind Compton's aren't random wealthy developers capitalizing on the vibrant history of the Tenderloin. They're front line service providers with lived experiences of interlocking anti-Black racism, transphobia, homophobia, and sexism, and they're dedicated to our community. As Basinger puts it, "...we are not people who come in and commute into our community and neighborhood and do the work. This is something that authentically sprung from the community...All that stuff that people talk about and try to wave flags about? That's who we really are." In particular, Johnson, Sa'id and Mahogany know what it's like to be on the margins of the margins of an already marginalized group. That lived experience enables them to have an eye for the people and communities who usually get screwed over in urban development plans. Johnson recounts, "Five of the girls at TGJIP who live in the district ... I sat them down and explained to them what was at stake and what we were trying to accomplish. And people showed up in a way that I never thought they would — and they brought other black trans people with them to advocate for the district." The organic community that's formed around Compton's is a solid indicator that the most marginalized members of our communities won't be left behind in this effort. In fact, they'll be leading.

Compton's is committed to preserving the affordable housing stock within the District and in surrounding areas.

Straight from the mouths of its founders, this is huge. If you've been through the process of getting back into stable housing in the Bay Area, you know how important this commitment is. The District's founders are particularly attuned to how displacement affects trans and gender non-conforming unhoused people. Mahogany broke it down beautifully when discussing her work as a community mental health director in Concord. "A lot of my trans clients had lost housing in San Francisco and were placed in housing [in Concord] away from their communities and resources for health. That caused a lot of isolation and negative outcomes like missed appointments and eventually, cancelled health care. San Francisco can be a lot better, it's like a bubble for visible trans folks. Outside of the city,

continues on page 3...

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

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COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition's work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: they bring their agenda to us.

NEW COUNT FOR THE HOMELESS

Darnell Boyd

The homeless population has grown to 9,800 people — how did this happen?

I'll tell you how: Our elected officials feel as though the homelessness problem is too great for them. My answer to them is, if so, then you should resign and let someone else who can fix it have your job. Quit catering to the special interest groups, pull up your sleeves and get to work.

We can also use a helping hand from the business community. You say it is not your responsibility to help fix society's ills, but it is. You just can't suck the life out of a city, get rich and move on. Just like breaking a campground, you leave a city in better shape than you found it.

We look to our business, religious and community leaders for leadership and answers. You call yourselves "exceptional." You call yourselves "the best and the brightest." I say, prove it.

Show us what you can do besides complain and beg for money. Put that Ivy League education to good use before it's too late. Help the poor and give something back to the community that made you wealthy. ■

POETRY BY M.Y.N.D.

I met M.y.N.d. on a trip to Los Angeles. She was facing housing instability and a difficult situation at the time, and her struggle and resilience was apparent to me. In just a couple of hours we talked about everything from intersectional feminism to her intensely emotional poetry and her past. M.y.N.d. has written poetry since she was 12. When I read her poetry I knew her voice had to be heard. - Anisha Tammana

POISONOUS WOLF

The day I met u I jumped through hurdles of conclusions
not noticing I was braiding the rope u would use to strangle my emotions
navigate mindless eyes through a raging sea
do u even want what's mine to give
nodding
choking
on the vapors coming from your pores
intoxicated by poisonous silence
I find comfort in my violence
the violinist in this symphonic masterpiece
the naked wolf...

MUFFLED MANIA

Flag down my mania
Tasmania tantrums
as I put things in perspective/ur eyes shut wide
can u see me
can u see me
on the front line
bravery slips into a flatline
my society rules
frustrated stressed
juice pressed
to impress
my heart breaks down the
compression in my veins
let the gas mask muffle the cry in vain

The Transwomen Behind The First Trans Cultural District

Tee Hoatson

continued from page 2...
it's hard to find work and hard to feel safe ... when we're forced out of the city, you see all the negative facets of trans existence exacerbated by the displacement."

The ways in which Compton's intervenes on this grim cycle are already clear to Johnson. "I've seen an effect of the district in that we've been able to negotiate with developers to secure space." She's also determined to take things a step further and focus on the plethora of empty buildings in the District. "I've been talking to the supervisors about them... We want to rezone and co-op-ify to provide housing for the community." Mahogany adds that "the goal is to get everybody housed. We're fighting for low income housing and community services centered in the district to get people off the streets and into homes and to keep

folks in their homes."
"Economic development" at all costs isn't the goal.
As previously mentioned, the leaders of Compton's Transgender District are integrated into the community within their district and are acutely aware of the challenges involved in improving the district's living conditions. Mahogany identifies the need for "strategic planning" when organizing to increase housing and livability without gentrification and displacement. "We advocate for affordable housing and specifically low-income housing, not just tearing down SROs to create market rate buildings with some proportion of affordable units included." She admits that this is balance is "something we really struggle with," but the Compton's team

offers tangible and practical ideas to achieve it. Johnson names these ideas rapidly and with excitement: "We're looking at creating co-ops and community businesses and business opportunities for our community. If a developer brings a business in, they need to HIRE TRANS PEOPLE! We're aiming for collective opportunities to make things like healthy meals and our own bars affordable ... In the end it's about safety, it's about transgender safety." Any and all development within Compton's District is designed to be by and for the community, and the likelihood of founder accountability is high.

Questions about the actual impacts of the district remain. How will Compton's Transgender District actually affect the unhoused communities of the Tenderloin? Will there be fewer sweeps and cameras

and more services and housing? Will the wealthy and white members of the TLGBQ community sacrifice their neighbors for their own exclusionary sense of safety? At this point, it's impossible to tell. Compton's only solidified in the last three years. But if the founders have anything to do with it, this district should remain just as radical as the cafeteria riot it gets its name from. The future seems bright.

*In other articles, we have used LGBTQ+ as the acronym to describe the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community. We use TLGBQ+ here to reflect to language used by the founders of Compton's Transgender District and to reflect the trans-forward approach of the district. ■

TRANSIT SYSTEM'S DETERRENT TO PANHANDLERS A BAD SIGN

TJ Johnston

As this paper goes to print the president of BART's Board of Directors, Bevan Dufty, wrote on twitter that BART will be removing the anti-panhandling signs and that the campaign "happened w/out considering broader messaging".

Here we go again: another anti-panhandling campaign.

To be specific, another plea for housed people to avoid giving money to usually unhoused or unsheltered people. This time, it's the Bay Area Rapid Transport (BART) stations that are putting up signs advising against doling out cash to spare-changers.

The sign reads, "Say no to panhandling. There's a better way to give." Below it is an image of a hand pointing downward with a heart formed in the negative space and a recommendation in small type to give to charities serving impoverished people and the URL to BART's social resource page.

Kelley Cutler, a human rights organizer for the Coalition on Homelessness, highlighted the transit system's new signage in a recent Twitter thread and debunks its underlying assumptions.

The signage is just one component on BART's enforcement-heavy effort to drive poor people away. It hired more security officers and is experimenting with gates to prevent fare evasion. Compared with these tactics, the signs are a kinder, gentler method of easing commuters' comfort levels around visible poverty throughout the system.

Oddly enough, this coincides with

a push from the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty to overturn or amend panhandling ordinances in eight U.S. states.

And it's not as bad as other PSAs I've seen. In 2003, the Hotel Council of San Francisco posted billboards with the tagline "Giving to panhandlers doesn't help, it hurts." The signs depicted tourists and local housies and conflated alms giving with substance abuse and sexually transmitted diseases.

One read, "Today we rode a cable car, visited Alcatraz and supported a drug habit." Another read, "Today, I did Tai Chi, donated some change and help spread STDs."

The subtext is such campaigns is the assumption that the person giving money knows better about the panhandler's needs than they do. Who is to judge how that money should be spent anyway?

Even if BART's message isn't as offensive, the attempt to help people through its social resource page fall short. One has to scroll to the bottom of the page — after several passages focusing on enforcement (oops, I mean "public safety") — to find those resources. Mostly, it's a recommendation to call the United Way's 211 or call assorted county social service agencies.

In my experience, most homeless people are already well-versed in accessing services, especially those specific to their situation. "Service resistance" isn't really a thing; it's that

some services are people-resistant.

And I hate to quibble, but some of the information, such as the SF Homeless Resource website, is outdated.

Invisible People publisher Mark Horvath has some tips about giving in a way that are affirming to all parties involved. He wrote in a 2017 article, "The truth is giving money to homeless people depends on the circumstances. If you feel the urge to give money and you feel safe, then it's perfectly fine."

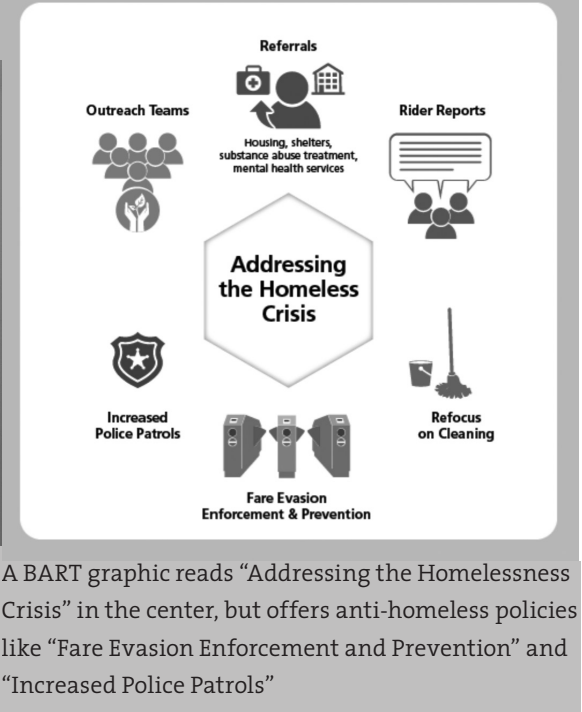
And that, contrary to what BART says, is the best way to give. ■



BART advertisement reads "Say no to pan-handling. There's a better way to give." with a hand forming a heart around words reading "Have a HEART but GIVE SMART"



A BART sign reads "No Panhandling" with an image of an outstretched hand recieving coins with a line through it.



A BART graphic reads "Addressing the Homelessness Crisis" in the center, but offers anti-homeless policies like "Fare Evasion Enforcement and Prevention" and "Increased Police Patrols"

How SAN FRANCISCO SWEEPS ENDANGER PEOPLE

In a city with a homeless crisis declared "cruel and unusual punishment" — alongside politicians and real estate developers putting LGBTQ+ people at risk

Toshio Meronek

This article was originally published on

the website Them.Us. them chronicles and celebrates the stories, people and voices that are emerging and inspiring all of us, ranging in topics from pop culture and style to politics and news, all through the lens of today's LGBTQ+ community.

One June night in 1966, a few dozen young dykes and queens gathered in San Francisco's Tenderloin district for a symbolic act of defiance against police and property owners. In what historians consider one of the earliest queer protests against cops and gentrification, the youth marched holding brooms, sweeping the streets as they went. The establishment considered them to be trash; the broom-pushers, who were members and collaborators of the early queer liberation group Vanguard, obviously begged to differ. And just in case anyone failed to get the symbolism of the sweep, they carried handmade signs reading the cops and landlords, with messages like ALL TRASH IS

BEFORE THE BROOM.

Their protest came two months before a Vanguard collaborator, Dixie Russo, would break a sugar pot at a Tenderloin coffee shop, setting off the Compton's Cafeteria riot. The Stonewall riots wouldn't ignite New York City's West Village for another three years.

Today, the month of June is still a mess in San Francisco. In preparation for the West Coast's largest Pride party, the city enacts sweeps of homeless people — with a disproportionate number of queer and trans people among them (30 percent are LGBTQ+, according to the city's 2017 count) — off the same streets where Vanguard activists pushed their brooms in 1966. Carried away from any community they've formed, it's an attempt by the city to ensure that San Francisco's ongoing housing crisis is placed well out of sight of the oncoming flood of tourists, who more than double the city's overall population during Pride weekend.

For low-income queer people, the

Vanguard action is even more relevant than it was 53 years ago. The city doesn't save its anti-homeless sweeps for events like Pride; in 2019, they're a year-long effort. Today, real estate corporations use words like "gritty" and "urban" to describe the Tenderloin in ads; they also fund campaigns that effectively make being poor a crime, like the one for the ableist "sit/lie" law that makes it illegal to sleep or even sit on the sidewalk here.

At the same time, the Tenderloin has been the epicenter of San Francisco's queer and trans life for decades; the city even turned a large chunk of the neighborhood into the world's first official "Transgender Cultural District" in 2018. But on an average night, entire blocks are eerily quiet. Police cars have a special low-register horn to disperse people who linger on the sidewalks, and their new neighbors have a highly efficient weapon, the city's 311 "quality of life" hotline (a.k.a. 911 for gentrifiers), which dispatches city workers — usually cops — to harass homeless people via a simple call, text, email, or

tweet. Today, an area that used to harbor dozens more queer and trans bars than the more-famously gay Castro District has just one, Aunt Charlie's on Turk Street.

Organizations representing real estate corporations and hotels, like the Civic Center and Tenderloin Community Benefit Districts, are campaigning to raise taxes for more surveillance cameras around their neighborhoods, which they say will make them safer. But as homeless queer people know all too well, "safety" can mean very different things to different people, especially when it involves surveillance and police.

Homeless sweeps are especially brutal to queer people working in the underground economy, like sex workers, or for anyone who sleeps in tents, vans, or generally lacks stable housing in a city with a 1,000-plus nightly waitlist for shelter beds. Restaurants affordable to low-income people have closed, and their shells remain empty, like the 24-hour Carl's Jr. at 10 United Nations Plaza that went dark in 2017 and

offered a warm place to go for the price of some waffle fries. "For lease" signs gather dust in its windows at the edge of the formerly busy plaza, where police now patrol the area from a permanently stationed Winnebago.

Tommi Avicelli Mecca works at the local Housing Rights Committee. In 1971, the homeless and tenants rights activist came out to his family and left home when his dad



A photo of Vanguard activists documenting their "Sweeps" action, from an October 1966 issue of the group's publication, Vanguard Magazine.

Courtesy of the GLBT Historical Society

SAN FRANCISCO'S HOMELESS QUEER HOUSELESS PEOPLE

and unusual" by the UN, crueler efforts to displace them pushing for increased surveillance and policing — are LGBTQ+ lives at risk.

couldn't accept his queer son. Mecca got into housing activism while working at the now-closed A Different Light Bookstore on Castro Street, which welcomed queer homeless youth who had no place to hang out. One day, someone from a local business group, the Castro Merchants' Association, showed up at the bookstore with posters demonizing homeless queer kids as "bad for business," and asked the store to tape up the flyers in the windows. "Absolutely not," he remembers saying, shocked at their cruelty.

Some of the wealthy gay Castro residents who benefited from the radical activism of a generation ago "had no sense of history," Mecca says. They were actively working to label homeless queer and trans youth as "less than human," in a calculated campaign to sweep them out of their neighborhood.

Mecca, an atheist, eventually teamed up with Reverend Jim Mitulski at the LGBTQ+-centered Metropolitan Community Church, which gave out pot straight from the pulpit to people who were hurting from AIDS-related illnesses in the 1980s and early 90s. Landlords who valued profits over people didn't have a problem with evicting tenants with HIV in order to raise the rent (which is still a problem). Mecca remembers working with ACT UP to present two gay realtors (and evictors) with the ashes of someone who'd died of AIDS. Businesses and neighborhood associations didn't love that kind of attention, but went full-on "ballistic" when activists later turned a Castro rec center into a youth shelter.

"People need housing that's free or cheap for everyone," says Tommi Avicoli Mecca — not non-solutions like 311 calls and police harassment.

These neighborhood associations continue to lobby and win the backing of the city's politicians, like San Francisco's current mayor, London Breed. During her campaign, Breed stressed that she grew up in public housing and bootstrapped her way into City Hall; at the same time, she promised to hire hundreds of new police officers to plump up a department with a disgrace of a record dealing with homeless folks, disabled people, and Black and brown people. Breed later opposed a tiny one-half-of-a-percent tax on corporations that make over \$50 million a year to fund homeless services. Voters passed it anyway.

Meanwhile, San Francisco's Black

population has bottomed out since it began to decline in the 1960s, when the city began a plan that Black queer writer James Baldwin dubbed "Negro removal." Of the Black San Franciscans who are left, thousands are homeless (the city's 2017 count found 34 percent of homeless San Franciscans are Black, even though they make up just 5 percent of the city's total residents).

Against this backdrop, the United Nations specifically called out San Francisco's homeless situation as "cruel and inhuman" in 2018 — and also really hard to understand, given the massive loads of tech and real estate money flowing through the city.

Gay California legislator Scott Wiener hasn't helped. When his reign in local politics began in 2011, Wiener made clear that one of his missions was to wipe out homeless people from the Castro. He soon removed benches in the district's Harvey Milk Plaza, spearheaded efforts to add ableist "defensive architecture" to block people from sitting in public spaces, and closed a recycling center that provided a way for homeless people to make a tiny income. Wiener's now pushing a housing deregulation bill, SB 50, which urban planners say will make problems worse for lower-income renters and homebuyers, while pushing for cities to fund SB 1045, his bill to lock up people who are homeless, disabled, and/or use drugs under a scheme called conservatorship.

Like Vanguard, groups like the Coalition on Homelessness, Gay Shame, LAGAI — Queer Insurrection, the Lucy Parsons Project, and the coalition behind Services Not Sweeps in Los Angeles fight the powers that rule California during its worst homeless crisis ever.

Their message: Housing instability isn't safe. Fancier surveillance cameras won't make the lives of homeless queer and trans people safer. The effects of global warming are just beginning; the San Francisco Department of Public Works's dumpster-ing of houseless peoples' tents during last winter's record-breaking rainfall and dangerous smoke from last fall's Camp Fire, the worst fire in California history, won't make people safer. Hosing down, herding, and moving people without doing much of anything to get low-income people into stable housing: clearly not safe.

The shelters that houseless people are

meant to turn to, it's well worth noting, are also notoriously anti-trans. Activists like Mecca have managed to make 24 beds available for trans and nonbinary adults at Jazzie's Place, America's first LGBTQ+ adult shelter. Larkin Street Youth Services has about 250 beds for youth across the city, but some of those are in buildings owned by transphobic and queerphobic landlords. And these places are just temporary places to land, not permanent, stable housing.

Politicians like Breed and Wiener say San Francisco can just build its way out of homelessness, which probably sounds like a magic cash register to the real estate developers who funded these politicians' campaigns. But as Mecca notes, you can't build luxury condos "and expect that it's going to trickle down to the people who need it. We learned that from President Reagan," who refused to help during the beginning of the HIV crisis, and then created another crisis by turning much of Roosevelt-era public government housing over to private developers and making housing insecurity great again.

"People need housing that's free or cheap for everyone," says Mecca — not non-solutions like 311 calls and police harassment. Something that has worked for houseless people with HIV/AIDS and veterans is government-subsidized public housing systems created in the 1990s and 2000s.

In a crisis, solutions might even mean squatting, as one of England's highest-ranking politicians, Jeremy Corbyn, suggested after the 2017 fire in London left hundreds of people homeless. Mere meters from Grenfell exist hundreds of "ghost condos," a name for homes that sit empty because they're owned by investors waiting for prices to go up, or by people who are rich enough to, in many cases, never actually see the properties in real life.

In March, the mortgage dot-com Lending Tree did the math around "ghost condos." In pricey cities like Los Angeles, New York City, and San Francisco, the number of ghost condos make homeless populations seem relatively tiny. Los Angeles County, for example, has about 270,000 empty housing units, while its official homeless count is 53,000.

With more billionaires per capita than anywhere in the world, non-wealthy queer and trans folks in San Francisco — especially those of us at the intersections,

who are disabled, and Black, Latinx, or Native American — are living precarious lives.

This May, a Mayor's office spokesperson revealed that San Francisco's homeless crisis jumped 17 percent over the past two years. The sweeps that have dumpstered thousands of people's possessions haven't cut the number of people with housing insecurity, but they have exposed the cruelty of 311 speed-dialers, real estate speculators and the politicians they fund, and city departments like the SFPD that brutalize young queers.

As a Vanguard member's sign put it so eloquently back in June 1966: ALL TRASH BEFORE THE BROOM. ■

doing
their
jobs

by Tommi Avicoli Mecca
© 2018

I see them on my way to work
on the sidewalk under the freeway
standing silently
as the homeless pack up tents
and belongings
how many times have they done
the same thing
how many miles have they
been forced to travel in a year
refugees from a war
that is never called a war
the next time I pass
I want to ask the cops
the DPW workers
if they ever wonder whose mother
father sister brother son daughter
cousin grandparent they are
these people they make leave
a spot where they feel warm or safe
where they've built community
a place under the freeway overpass
they call home
no doubt they'd shrug and tell me
they're just doing their jobs
something they should
be ashamed of

FENTANYL ON THE STREETS IN THE TENDERLOIN

Meghan “Roadkill” Johnson and Tee Hoatson

Every year, thousands of people die from opioid overdoses. Fentanyl, however, seems to have a particularly shocking effect. In 2017, 59 percent of opioid-related deaths involved fentanyl compared to 14.3 percent in 2010.¹ And this phenomenon isn't just national, it's happening here. In 2018, San Francisco had 57 officially recorded fentanyl-related deaths. This is a staggering number—in perspective, that is more than one death each week.

Pharmaceutical fentanyl was created in a lab by Janssen Pharmaceutica back in 1959. While synthetic fentanyl is primarily manufactured in the US and Mexico, China is also a major wholesale supplier of fentanyl products. Fentanyl was originally a controlled substance used only for pain management in chronic sicknesses like cancer and distributed for intravenous use only. Fast forward to the 1990s, the drug was introduced to the public for the first time in the form of a patch.

Despite its pharmaceutical origins, fentanyl has hit the streets like many other opioids. On the streets, fentanyl is usually illicitly manufactured, which means the fentanyl people typically use recreationally is completely and totally different from what is prescribed in hospital settings. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl in San Francisco comes in a powder, usually white or light-colored, and it typically contains about 3 - 4 % fentanyl and ~95% a bunch of other drugs, including other opioids, much more powerful fentanyl analogues, stimulants/uppers, and even baking soda or lactose powder.

High overdose rates can be explained by the drug's strength and the way people usually consume it. Given that pure fentanyl is 50 to 100 times the potency of morphine (and fentanyl analogues can be 100-1000 times stronger than pure fentanyl itself), other drugs are frequently cut with it to reduce costs to distributors. Buyers are, more often than not, unaware of the true chemical breakdown of what they're using and end up consuming a higher dose than intended—leaving them more vulnerable to overdoses.

In a closer look, we hear from an anonymous local harm reduction expert what Fentanyl use actually looks like and the approaches folks are taking in response to this potentially devastating drug.

“The narrative around fentanyl is that it is SO strong that overdose is immediate and unavoidable, that naloxone/Narcan2 won't work, that it's so powerful even if you TOUCH fentanyl, you could overdose and die. ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE MYTHS AND NOT TRUE.” It's true that because of its strength, street fentanyl can sometimes be “naloxone-resistant”; media outlets love to capitalize on the shock factor of this label. This does NOT, however, mean that naloxone doesn't work, just that higher-than-usual doses may need to be administered multiple times to reverse an overdose.

Who needs naloxone? Though it's helpful for any city resident to carry it just in case, our source tells us that “people who use drugs are the most likely to witness overdoses, because they're there. That's who we prioritize putting naloxone directly into the hands of, and we do that because it's evidence-based, with decades of research backing it up. People who use drugs are responding to and reversing over overdoses much more than EMS and SFPD combined in San Francisco, and they do so with far less resources and support.”

When thinking about fentanyl's overdose potential, discussed above, it's important to consider an extra layer of nuance. “It's unpredictable and scary, but it's not just the drug that creates the danger, it's the lack of resources surrounding the use: Homelessness, poverty, trauma, chaotic mental health symptoms, stigma, criminalization, sweeps, the constant and unending chaos associated with living in poverty.” Our source continues: “People

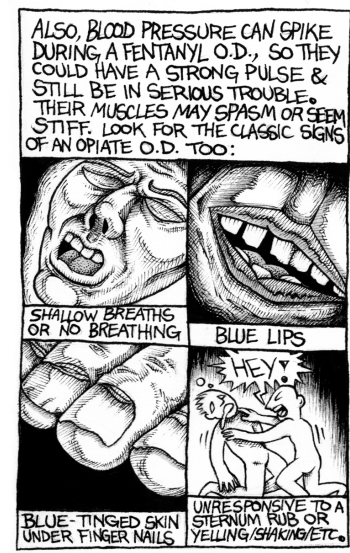
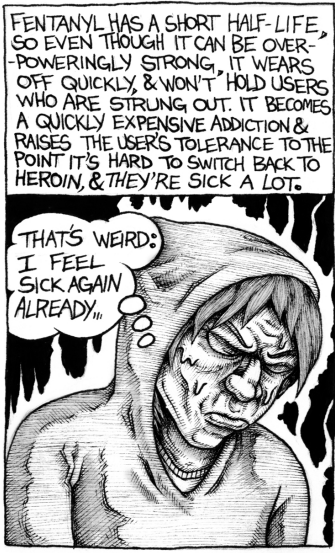
with money and resources do tons of drugs, all the time, this is a fact - the only difference is the stigma associated with their drugs, the quality of their drugs, and the fact that they have private places (housing) to do them in, so nobody sees it. So we work hard to make sure people have the resources they need to deal with an unpredictable and inconsistent drug supply, which the street drug supply has always been and will always be, as a result of the racist war on drugs, an unregulated drug supply and the criminalization of people who engage in it, often times out of sheer necessity and survival.”

So to answer the ultimate question, how are we combating fentanyl?

“We aren't. We can't. We have no control over the drug supply - nobody does, except for the cartels, and they're not exactly responding to requests for meetings, right? So we look at what we can control: What information is available to us, who are the experts to consult, what works? The experts are not law enforcement, not doctors. The experts are people who use drugs - they're actual geniuses who know how drugs work better than anybody, because they're the ones engaging in the supply and having to navigate the risks every minute of the day. We consult them, and then we amplify their voices to a larger audience, ensuring that what works is being replicated throughout the community. ■

If you choose to use fentanyl, or use other drugs that may contain it, here are some concrete tips for using fentanyl as safely as possible:

1. Use less to start.
2. Use slow.
3. Test your drugs whenever possible.
4. Smoke or snort instead of inject.
5. Try not to use alone, or have someone check on you.
6. Carry naloxone and know how to use it.



This comic is reprinted from Mission Mini-Comix, a loosely organized cartooning collective based out of San Francisco founded by Rio & Mikey, two S.F. Natives with great love for the sequential arts.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

AUG
3

(DIS)LOCATION: BLACK EXODUS LAUNCH PARTY AND COMMUNITY GATHERING

WHERE: BAYVIEW OPERA HOUSE

4705 3RD ST,@5-7PM

The Anti-Eviction Mapping Project is proud and excited to announce and invite you to a launch party and community gathering to celebrate the print and online publication of (Dis)Location: Black Exodus, the culmination of several years’ work in the community.

ACCESS: The Bayview Opera house is wheelchair accessible. We do not have a scent policy. Accommodation requests can be directed at the BVOH 415-824-0386.

AUG
4

QUEST: FILM SCREENING

WHERE: ROXIE THEATER, 3117 16TH ST, @1:30PM
QUEST – the Truth Always Rises, is a magnanimous love story highlighting our need for healing and empathy told from a 12 year old in crisis, addicted to tagging and losing faith in humanity. Stay after for a Q&A with director, Santiago Rizzo, followed by a panel discussion hosted by the Coalition on Homelessness to examine some of the film’s themes in the lives of San Francisco residents.

ACCESS: The Roxie offers ADA seating, assisted listening/audio description headsets and captioning devices. There are ADA restrooms available in the Little Roxie theater two doors up from the main theater.

AUG
8

NEVER AGAIN IS NOW: MOBILIZING THE NEXT GENERATION

WHERE: 100 MONTGOMERY STREET, THE PRESIDIO @7-9PM

Please join us for a screening of Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066, a documentary feature film by filmmaker Jon Osaki about the false information and political influences that led to the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. Through post-film discussions, we hope to promote the emergence of new storytellers who will serve as the next generation of spokespeople for the Japanese American incarceration story.

ACCESS: Ramp access is available at the back of the building on Taylor Road between Sheridan Road and Bliss Avenue. This building is ADA compliant.

AUG
11

DETENTION, DENIALISM AND RESISTING THE CAMPS THAT WON’T GO AWAY

WHERE: 100 MONTGOMERY STREET, THE PRESIDIO @2-4PM

QJoin historians Gary Okihiro (Yale University) and Alice Yang (University of California Santa Cruz) and other leading voices as we explore the intersection of detention, denialism and resistance and how the rise of antisemitism, Islamophobia and demonization of Central American refugees is only the latest example of the xenophobia, greed and political venality that led to the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans.

ACCESS: Ramp access is available at the back of the building on Taylor Road between Sheridan Road and Bliss Avenue. This building is ADA compliant.

AUG
14

DRUGS IN THE TENDERLOIN (1966)

WHERE: ROXIE THEATER, 3117 16TH ST@7-8:30PM

The Tenderloin Museum brings back Robert Zagone’s Drugs in the Tenderloin to the Roxie Theater for a one night only special engagement. Don’t miss this rare opportunity to view Robert Zagone’s guerilla-style documentary that captures the Tenderloin transforming into a center for young queers, drug users, and social services.

ACCESS: The Roxie offers ADA seating, assisted listening/audio description headsets and captioning devices. There are ADA restrooms available in the Little Roxie theater two doors up from the main theater.

AUG
15

STREET SHEET WRITER’S WORKSHOP

WHERE: COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS, 468 TURK STREET @12PM

Join our Street Sheet writer and editor TJ Johnston for a writer’s workshop that will cover the basics of journalistic writing and storytelling.

ACCESS: The Coalition on Homelessness is up a flight of stairs and offers a gender neutral bathroom. There is no scent policy here. Contact streetsheetsf@gmail.com for accommodation requests!

AUG
16

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ART FOR ARTAUCTION19

To find more
information on how
to submit artwork to
benefit the Coalition
on Homelessness visit
WWW.ARTAUCTION19.INFO

SEPT
12

ARTAUCTION19: TRANSFORMING ART INTO ACTION

WHERE: SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER
934 BRANNAN ST @5:30 PM

The Coalition on Homelessness cordially invites you to our 19TH ANNUAL ART AUCTION AND EXHIBITION. Come enjoy and bid on work from over two-hundred local artists and activists that truly transform ART into ACTION.

ACCESS: SOMArts is wheelchair accessible and has gender neutral restrooms.

VEHICLE TRIAGE CENTER

Sam Lew

Since 2017, homelessness has increased by 30 percent and a significant part of the increase in that population is due to an increase in the vehicularly housed population. Since 2015, the population of people living in their vehicles increased 22%. In response, what does the Department of Homelessness want to do?

Increase parking restrictions.

“The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing has requested overnight parking restrictions to support their work to resolve vehicular encampments and discourage re-encampment on these streets. DSHS will conduct thorough outreach to, and engagement with, people living in vehicles parked on these streets before carrying out encampment resolutions, and coordinate with the SFMTA on timing for posting parking restrictions.”

You may be wondering, is this because they have housing for those people living in their vehicles?

The short answer? No.

The plan is to “resolve” areas where people are living in cars and then restrict those areas entirely. Just like folks trying to survive in tents, people in vehicles are inhumanely swept from place to place when their vehicle is often the last thing keeping them from living directly on the streets.

Where are people supposed to go?

The Homelessness Department has

introduced a plan to build a “Vehicle Triage Center”, but that center will only have 33 parking spots — and the initial draft plan was to have 15 spots only for the storage of vehicles and three spots for staff. That would leave just 15 spots for people to have a safe place to park, and only for the duration of 60 to 90 days.

This is the department’s cruel and inhumane work. Instead of simply focusing on providing services and housing to vehicularly housed people, they have insidiously advocated for increased parking limitations. At the SFMTA Engineering Public Hearing on August 2, they will vote on taking more than 79 “oversize vehicle” spaces in the vicinity of Evans Avenue, Cesar Chavez and Phelps streets, while the Vehicle Triage Center will have 30 spots at most.

To say this is inhumane and inadequate is an understatement. Until every San Franciscan has a home, we need safe parking! ■



FIGHTING FOR MY FATHERHOOD

Michael Brown

I came to the city in 2007 because I have two boys. I was driving trucks countrywide for work. So I came to the city to be around the kids, they needed someone stable around. I took a job at Fort Miley VA hospital, I met a young lady who

worked there and we ended up having a child. Once she had a child she went back to college, she got a degree at SF State. In 2015 she got a job and left Fort Miley. Around that time we broke up.

When I left her I ended up homeless,

and that's how I met Stanley, who taught me the ropes while I was staying at Next Door. I was scared, didn't know how I would make it. But after a few years I got my own place. I was dealing with the loss of my family, my son and my ex-girlfriend who wouldn't let me see him. So I went to family court to explain to them what was going on. But instead of helping me out they gave her full custody, and made me start paying to see my son. So I wasn't just paying, I also had to take drug tests. And I had to do supervised visits.

Parenting is my joy, I'm a good parent, but they took that from me. I did this for two years, but every time I made a contract, they would break it. Two years of paying for supervised visits, 24 drug tests, all clean. They would give me one day with him when they agreed to two days. I jumped through all the hoops and it still didn't matter, they wanted more. And you know, we were in a cement room with toys on the floor and a two way mirror. When I told them I couldn't keep paying for visits they stopped letting me see my son at all.

To this day I have no contact with my son, no phone calls or anything. This is practiced nationwide, keeping fathers from their sons. They give the judges immunity, and allow them to rule by presumption.

Presumption is the new prejudice; he is allowed to be prejudiced legally. But now a 9-year old boy hasn't seen his father in three years, and no one cares.

So this gives me a feeling of powerlessness. I'm a disabled vet, I pay taxes. I'm invested in these systems that do nothing for me. The attorney that I used to have took my retainer and then showed up to court on Monday just to accept a bad deal that I didn't consent to. So I went and got another attorney, and I give him a retainer, and by the time we went to court I ran out of money, so he left, and just kept that money. And the third one got \$1,500 off me too.

But in spite of all of this, I have still made a home for myself. He has a room at my place that he's never seen. It's got toys, got a guitar, and he's never even seen it. And I brought all this information about how she is lying about me, but they are stuck on punishing me and my son. And three years is a long time to not see your dad, when you're a kid. It feels like yelling into space.

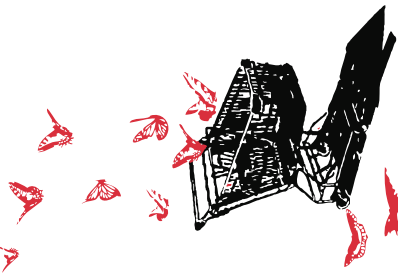
If I saw my son today, I would want to heal. I would want to show him we're family. I would give him a hug, eat some food, and just let him talk to me. ■



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Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco

DISPLACED

The building the Coalition on Homelessness is currently housed in has been sold. The new owners are tearing it down. So, after 16 years of calling 468 Turk our home, we have to move everything to another office.

The upside is that we're signing a new, long-term lease at a building owned by Hospitality House. Our new home will be just a few blocks down Turk Street, ADA-accessible, and best of all, permanent. The downside is that this move is unexpected and comes with many unanticipated costs.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

COALITION.NETWORKFORGOOD.COM/PROJECTS

Please give what you can to help us cover these expenses, including new wiring/phone system, transitional rent, a moving company, and bulk paper shredding!

