

## Bowers' turn to howl

**W**E will leave it for others to independently review this new book by Ed Bowers, a security guard who moonlights as a poet. Here we simply want to hip you to an important new work from the hood.

Bowers works graveyard for The Extra, serving as its somewhat self-indulgent Art Beat writer. He's the one who brought you "Will Bark for Food" and a fine photo poem series. So, clearly, my effort here is self-serving.

Many months back, Bowers started emceeding readings at his hangout, the 21 Club, "diviest bar in the Tenderloin," Esquire calls it. The landmark watering hole is smack on the hot corner of the Tenderloin Arts Corridor. It's also now an arts venue: The 21 Club hosts the only ongoing poetry readings this side of Brainwash.

To stay busy, Bowers wrote this concept piece of 21 poems. Turns out the idea provided this stream-of-consciousness writer some welcome structure and focus. To wit, a few choice tidbits plucked from among the poems.

- I admire people who put tattoos on their faces.  
They're not trying to impress me.  
They're trying to warn me.
- Hemingway was afraid of nouns.  
Hemingway loved war.  
War is full of verbs.
- The Universe is points of light  
fogged by points of view.
- I don't want someone to save me.  
I want me to save me.
- I'm sitting here inside me.  
Whoever created me is gone.  
I am my own responsibility.



### 21 POEMS

Done in the 21 Club  
Ground Zero in the Tenderloin

By Ed Bowers

STUDY CENTER PRESS

There are those of you who will be put off by Bowers' unabashed desire for drink and his perhaps overwrought reverence for neighborhood oases. But it is what it is, as we say, and refer you to the latter two excerpts above to savor his understanding of the ultimate bottom line when it comes to abuse.

I think "21 Poems" is a fine work by the Tenderloin bard. He even lives practically next door to where The Blackhawk once wailed. Now it's his turn to howl. It's published by Study Center Press as a central city extra.

What adds to the uniqueness of this little book of timeless poetry are images captured during a single evening of the poetry readings, sponsored by The Extra, that Bowers presents at the 21 Club the second Wednesday of every month. The artful journalism of Lenny Limjoco, Study Center art director and photographer, play point and counterpoint with the 21 poems.

You can get a copy at The 21 Club or at The Extra — \$5 either way. ■

— GEOFF LINK

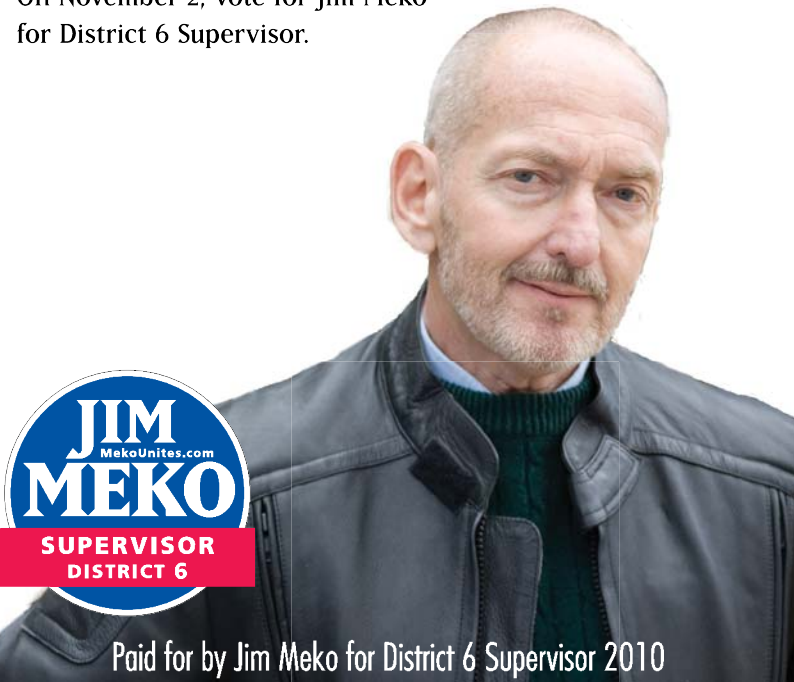
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