

Tenderloin answers Twitter-type query: 'How are you doing?'

"Biz gone down but we r unlike ne othr restaurant. people not only come here 2 eat, but its a community. they gather here 2 talk & hangout, & I try to provide them a comfortable place 2 meet up."

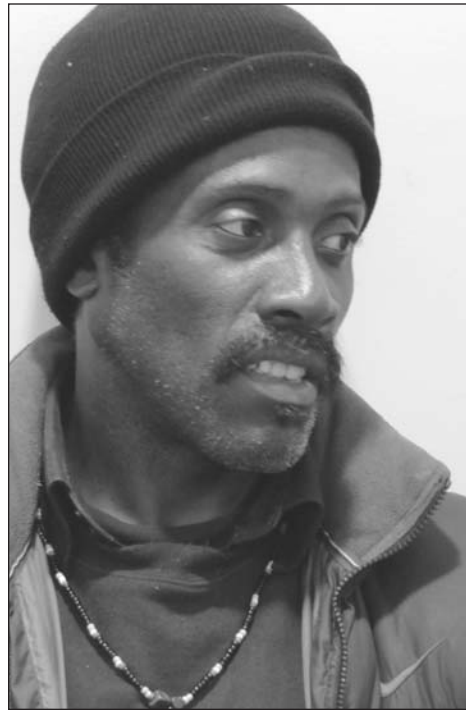
Mimi Yee

OWNER, MANOR HOUSE RESTAURANT



"The economys not affecting me. People are saying there are no jobs but slowly there are more. ur seeing more on Craigslist daily."

Herbert Huston
AT THE TECH LAB, 150 GOLDEN GATE



"Business wise we r doing fine, but we r trying harder. It has gone down, but we have no employees so it cuts back on the expenses. Its just my husband and me working longer hours, like 11 to 12 hrs/day, sometimes more. But weve had the place over 30 years and put 3 daughters thru college."

Mike and Jean Aburahma
CO-OWNER, TURK AND LARKIN DELI



"Im here from Costa Rica. I have 2 babies. Im here looking for work + 2 see my brother. I hoped for job opps but it proved to be fruitless. Ive never not been able to get a job till now. Im having a really hard time."

Justin Leshua

LEAVENWORTH AND GOLDEN GATE



"Im doing ok. The environment around me is changing relatively more than my own personal life is changing since Im retired, so Im not as affected by the slump as others. But I feel people r behaving differently. Im hearing about more deaths and robberies."

Jim Charles

REGULAR, CAFÉ RAMIND



"My husband invested in mutual funds in 05. Now its half of what it was. I talked to the bank manager who said his are dropping 2 but he says dont worry the value will go up. I haven't seen it yet!"

Betti Miner

AT THE TECH LAB, 150 GOLDEN GATE



"Things've been up n down. Sometimes its busy, sometimes not. Theres a lunch rush, but then it slows down after 2. I dont think the economy has anything to do with it."

Jin Lew

EMPLOYEE, LARKIN EXPRESS DELI



"We r finding it tough. Biz dropped bout 20% since Nov but its slowly picking up. Ive just been here for 1 & 1/2 yrs, and we r just barely making it, but there r plans 2 bring in more business."

Joe Dunphy

OWNER, CELTIC COFFEE COMPANY, MCALLISTER STREET



"Im OK. Ive been blessed w/family in the area. had a great job till Jan. then it collapsed. The economys bad but if u really want a job u can get one just not in the city. I have a job interview tomorrow in Fremont."

Benson Hinga

LEAVENWORTH AND GOLDEN GATE



"Im surviving, but economys hurting me cuz all my programs r getting cut. Its hard. I dont wanna go back 2 doing stuff on the streets. I dont wanna go back 2 doing drugs. I hope they change things soon."

Leauthry Carpenter Sr.
MANOR HOUSE RESTAURANT



"It sux. There r crackheads, drug dealers, bums, breakins, burglaries. We had 9 breakins in 2 weeks on this 1 block. People have become more frugal. They like 2 make their own lunches. Lux items like coffee r on bottom of the list."

Ramind Lee

OWNER OF CAFÉ RAMIND, LARKIN STREET



"We have a lil more people coming in than usual lately even with the economy. They dont buy more or less, just the same amount. Nothings changed, everythings fine."

Olga Cortez

EMPLOYEE, RIGHTWAY MARKET, O'FARRELL AND LEAVENWORTH



"Right now Im homeless. I applied for GA but only get 59 bucks. Im living in a shelter but dont like it. I havent had a job in 15 years. I used to be a maid and was in construction. I helped build Moscone Center but theyre only taking you if ur certified now."

Joanne Phillips

LEAVENWORTH AND EDDY



"Im on SSI. I get 1100/mo but not enough affordable housing. Im having a hard time getting stable + a lots of others r 2."

Terrence Billenstein
LEAVENWORTH AND GOLDEN GATE

Battle over Grand Liquors' license in 'ground zero' gentrification

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Turk, Itzhak Volansky, recently evicted owner of McDonald's Bookstore, said the intimidating street scene was a reason his business failed. On the corner is Club 21, where a man was shot to death outside after closing a year ago. And just a few doors from Tip Top at 62 Turk is Tenderloin Liquors.

What has happened now is change that residents never thought would come, brought about by the "art district" push from the mayor's office. Meanwhile, many believe this is an opportunity to boot a liquor license out of an area saturated with them.

Already, typical of the TL, issues and motives have gotten muddled in community meetings Rantisi has attended, even before any

formal hearings on the liquor license transfer.

How Rantisi, 43, came to be evicted is a story with two versions. Standing in his store one afternoon with his attorney, former District Attorney Terence Hallinan, Rantisi explained it all to The Extra.

Rantisi said that in December he met with his landlord, Jack Sumski of Davis Properties, who suggested he rent 65 Taylor St., formerly Club 65. Besides Grand Liquors, Rantisi also rents 63 and 61 Taylor for storage. Sumski wanted him to put in a market at 65 Taylor and would let him have all four locations for \$7,000 a month, Rantisi said.

"I said okay and we shook hands on it, man to man," Rantisi said. "Then I get (an eviction) letter from his attorney in March saying I have 60 days' notice."

"He (Sumski) got a better offer," Hallinan interjected.

"The landlord wanted me out by May 1, but 60 days isn't enough time to move," Rantisi said. "I have to get approval from the city first for the license. I can't move until then. I've asked for an extension."

Sumski told The Extra that he had made the offer but he had stipulated conditions.

"I met with (Rantisi) six or eight months ago," Sumski said. "I offered him that space (at Club 65) if he'd put in a market and stop selling the little liquor bottles, the malt liquor and the fortified wine. That's what causes problems.

"And he agreed. But he didn't do a damn thing about it. I tried to help. I offered. I'd have put money in it, too. But he didn't follow up with me. I did everything I could. I have to

improve the area and I've got the city behind me. Now he's moving into that other place. He was supposed to be out in 60 days, but I'm giving him an extra month."

So you didn't break the deal?
"I'm not that kind of guy," Sumski said. Legions have lined up to keep Rantisi out of the mix and they are itching for the fight.

TNDC community organizer Steve Woo said he and others rushed door to door to beat an April 23 deadline for protests to be filed with the state Alcoholic Beverage Control. They collected 100 signature protest forms from residents within 500 feet of the new site. TNDC itself leases to the Tea Room porn theater on Eddy Street and two liquor stores — California Market in the Ambassador Hotel and Daldas Market at 200 Eddy St. across from

TNDC headquarters.

The SRO Central City Collaborative, an arm of Tenderloin Housing Clinic that fights for tenants' rights, is opposed. Director Jeff Buckley said he had helped get 60 signatures of nearby SRO residents protesting the transfer. The collaborative will move nearby, to 48 Turk St., in June.

The Tenderloin Community Benefit District is against the transfer to 90 Turk St.

"The CBD will be contacting the mayor's office, filing objections with the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control and attending and testifying at any and all hearings held on the matter," said Director Elaine Zamora.

In March, the CBD additionally formed a committee to coalesce community opposition. Each member representing an organization

was asked to have that entity object, too. And two members were to ask Supervisors Daly and Bevan Dufty to hold hearings on the license transfer.

TL police are opposed because it's a violent area. "We have no choice," says Capt. Jimenez. But he doesn't hide his respect for Rantisi's resolve to cooperate and serve the community.

Two community meetings in April featured Rantisi. He requested the first to explain his plans and answer residents' questions. It was arranged for April 21 in the police Community Room by Community Leadership Alliance Director David Villa-Lobos. Two dozen people were there.

Rantisi and an employee distributed copies of his floor plan for the 2,600-square-foot Tip

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