Bay Area Council
honors Hall of Famers

A thousand business, civic and
political leaders were set to swank
it up Tuesday night at the Bay
Area Council’s annual banquet at
San Francisco’s Fairmont Hotel.
This year, as it has since 1995, the
public-policy group honored
three leaders who have not only
done well in business but have
done good deeds in the community
by inducting them into the Bay
Area Business Hall of Fame.

This year’s Hall of Famers are
Sun Microsystems Chairman
Scott McNealy, biotech pioneer
Edward Penhoet and San Francis-
cisco’s human rescue ranger, Delan-
cy Street co-founder Mimi Sil-
bert.

The feisty and outspoken
McNealy co-founded Sun in 1984
and ran the firm until 2006, when
he was kicked upstairs to chair-
man. That has allowed McNealy to
“put all the wood behind one
arrow” — to use his own manage-
ment phrase — in this case his new
passion, a nonprofit Web site for
K-12 teachers and students called
Curriki (curriki.org).

Penhoet, a former UC Berke-
ley professor, co-founded Chi-
ron Corp., one of the early bio-
tech firms, which is now part of
the Swiss pharmaceutical firm
Novartis. At year’s end, Penhoet
will retire from his post as direc-
tor of the Gordon and Betty
Moore Foundation, through

which he has dispensed
$220 million a year for conser-
vation, science and environ-
mental causes.

Silbert, who started her life’s
work by co-founding a drug reha-
bitilation center in 1971, was hon-
ored for building Delancey Street
into an institution that has helped
some 14,000 former felons gradu-
ate to gainful employment.

Attendees were to hear from
former California Govies, Gray
Davis and Pete Wilson in a dis-
cussion moderated — if that
word can be used in connection
with that real cat in the hat — by
former San Francisco Mayor
Willie Brown.

And since it would border on
the criminal to assemble such a
well-heeled crowd without asking
for money, the event was a fund-
raiser that organizers expected to
bring in more than $500,000, said
Bay Area Council spokesman
John Grubb.

— Tom Abate

Google opens office
South of Market

Google’s new San Francisco of-

fice, located close to the South of
Market waterfront, has better
views than cube-land at the com-
pany’s Mountain View headquar-
ters.

Now employees who live in the
city won’t have to take one of the
company’s free Wi-Fi-equipped
commuter buses down Highway
101 during rush hour.

Google has quietly planted its
flag in San Francisco, joining
several other technology com-
panies in the city’s financial and
South of Market neighbor-
hoods. In Google’s case, the
company is moving into some
former offices of Gap, at 345
Spear St., where it is occupying
several floors and about 200,000
square feet in what is known as
Hills Plaza.

Yes, there is free food is served,
just like at the Googleplex, al-
though there is less variety. Poor
Googlers.

Some members of Google’s
public relations team have al-
ready moved in. No word on
other departments, though
there is room for about 800 em-
ployees.

— Verne Kopytoff