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Russian Hill Upholstery & Décor is still located in Nob Hill, not Russian Hill.

At the Warfield: Magdalena Bay, 9/18. The Hives, 9/20. The Prodigy, 9/22. UB40, 9/26.

2025 marks the hundredth anniversary of the Scopes trial, taught in schools for generations and immortalized in the movie *Inherit the Wind*. To sum it up, Tennessee's 1925 evolution law forbade the teaching of evolution - that man evolved from lower animals - and insisted upon the teaching of Divine Creation of man as taught in the Bible.

A teacher, John Scopes, taught his students about evolution based upon George William Hunter's textbook *A Civic Biology* and was put on trial by angry religious leaders. Basically, history paints the pro-evolution players as rational and the religious leaders as a bunch of superstitious dopes.

Tennessee historian Bill Carey bought a copy of the aforementioned textbook at a used bookstore and noticed there may be more to the traditional story. That there may have been something besides basic evolution in the book that may have upset some people - a byproduct of evolutionary theory.

The book advocated eugenics - the belief that society should prohibit "undesirable" people from breeding. These included what eugenicists called the "feeble-minded, criminals, and those with low morals." The author expressed disappointment that it was unlawful for them to be killed off. He divided mankind into five races: Ethiopian, American Indian, Mongolian, Pacific Islander, and "the highest kind of all, the Caucasians, represented by the civilized white inhabitants of Europe and America."

Eugenics was becoming popular in Europe around this time, and helped Adolf Hitler gain power in Germany. Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger was a white supremacist who enthusiastically supported it. By 1920 over 30 states (not including Tennessee) had eugenics laws that required the sterilization of people who were determined to be undesirable, including "idiots." Newspapers at the time ran headlines such as "Eugenics Helping in Reduction of Crimes, Experts Say."

Inherit the Wind portrays a teacher jailed for teaching evolution and is booed and hissed at whenever in public. In reality John Scopes never spent a day in jail and was well-liked.

Scopes challenged the law because business leaders thought the publicity would be good for the local economy and talked him into it. The American Civil Liberties Union let it be known via a newspaper that they were looking for a plaintiff. Eugenics is never mentioned in *Inherit the Wind*.

Defense attorneys at the Nazi trials after World War II claimed the Holocaust was based on eugenics, so it faded away.

The "feeble-minded" were allowed to populate the world again.

Speaking of the feeble-minded, Kamala Harris announced that she won't be running for governor of our once fair state. Darn. As you may recall, in 2014 Kamala was the Attorney General of California and sold Proposition 47 to voters as the "Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act" which drastically lessened penalties for many crimes, including shoplifting.

And we all know how much better things have been around here since Proposition 47 passed, don't we?

So to honor Kamala's legacy, my pal Steve and I propose that those locked plastic cases protecting store merchandise from being ripped off hereby be referred to as "kamalocks."

The next time you're at a store, say, "I'd like to purchase a tube of toothpaste. Can you unlock the kamalock for me?"

If they ask you why you call it that, educate them.



kamalock noun /'kæm.ə. lɑ:k/ A locked plastic case used as a barrier to prevent store merchandise from being stolen. Named after shoplifting proponent Kamala Harris.

Rest in peace, Tom Lehrer. I used to listen to his humorous piano songs on Dr. Demento's radio show as a kid. You can listen to some, including "The Vatican Rag" and "National Brotherhood Week" on YouTube. It turns out he was so smart that the military used him for his scientific genius. He spent his last years teaching mathematics at UC Santa Cruz.



World Class Drinker By Ace Backwards

Counterculture writer Hunter Thompson drank virtually every day, all day long, for nearly 50 years. So it's hard to beat that. His wife said he would start with the beer right after his morning 5 cups of coffee. And then alternate the beer with whiskey throughout the day. Hunter Thompson drank so much that he almost died when he had hip surgery. Not from the surgery but from the DTs from going days without alcohol. I heard the doctors fed him whiskey intravenously just so they could stabilize his metabolism. In spite of his massive substance abuse, his organs were in fairly decent shape at the time of his death. It was his bones - his back and his hips - that were starting to go.

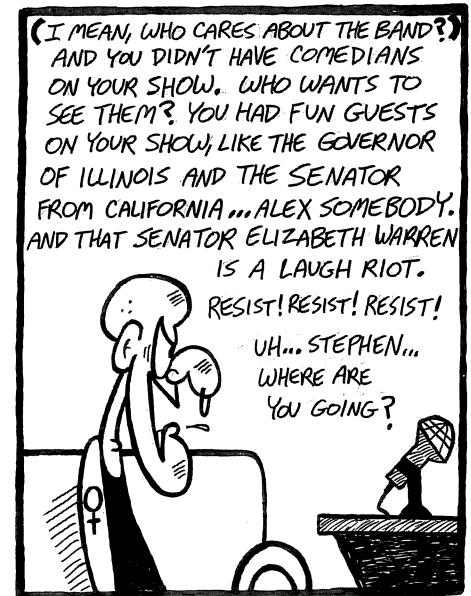
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THE ART OF PANHANDLING

by Ace Backwards

