

February 2025

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

**At the Warfield:** Melvin Seals & JGB, 2/22. Mxmtoon, 3/7. Connor Price, 3/11. Jim Henson's Labyrinth: In Concert, 3/13.

A lot of people are freaking out about President Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration. They say that without illegal aliens working in the fields, a cucumber will cost, like, \$500, etc. That's unlikely, as labor plays a small role in the price of food, as opposed to the price of fuel to transport food. Only about 4 percent of illegal aliens work in agriculture, and they make up only about a quarter of all farm labor. And those illegal alien gang members collecting welfare in "sanctuary cities" like New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco aren't picking blueberries. Even in California, most illegals work in restaurants, hotels, and transportation.

The people advocating for illegals working in the fields for peanuts seem to be the same ones advocating for a living wage. That's kind of contradictory. Here's an idea: how about we have a more orderly guest worker program? The legal immigrants getting ripped off by immigration attorneys would probably be in favor of that. Another idea: how about all those people not working but getting taxpayer assistance because they have mental problems – *the psychiatric conditions where they are able to get drunk and surf the internet all day but are unable to work* – toil in the fields and earn their assistance?

Speaking of which, fares increased on Muni recently. So those of us using Clipper cards are subsidizing fare-evading bums. Tell Muni how you feel about that. A letter sent to them is probably worth about 200 emails. They're at 1 S. Van Ness, SF, CA 94109. It's small quality of life things like this that will improve the city. Do you think drug addicts, winos, and litterbugs pay their fares?

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*Juror #2* – probably the last movie Clint Eastwood will ever direct – came and went from theaters recently. Apparently the new bigwig at Warner Brothers didn't promote it very well – supposedly he's looking to the future for younger talent, and Clint is pushing 100. Find it on a streaming service and check it out. It's excellent, and I'm not just saying that because my mom's boyfriend of the late 1970s, Tom Thon, has a small role in it as a witness being cross-examined.

So Marianne Faithfull, Mick Jagger's ex-girlfriend turned 1960s pop star turned 1970s homeless, anorexic heroin addict, actually made it to 78 before passing away recently. I liked her 1979 critically-praised comeback

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album *Broken English*. She was a celebrity fan of the trendy terrorist Red Army Faction, but anyone who wrote "Witches' Song" can't be that bad. Hey, we all do stupid things when we're young(er). So long, Marianne.



### RIP Robert Shadric — "a long-time Berkeley street presence"

By Ace Backwards

A couple people asked me about the homeless guy who was found dead in a men's room on the Berkeley campus a couple weeks ago. I had written about a homeless guy I knew who lived in a campus men's room for several years and they wondered if it was him.

Well, he was eulogized in the local news today. And it turned out it was somebody else. This long-time Berkeley street person named Robert. And it turned out I had a bit of history with him too.

I ran into him one night about 20 years ago. I was walking down the street and I passed him, and for no reason he started glaring at me and spewing this angry, threatening, racist rant at me. So that got my attention.

A couple nights later I passed him again. And he did the same angry rant at me. And I wasn't in the mood for it. So I started glaring and ranting back at him. We ranted back and forth at each other for a bit. And then went our separate ways.

When you live on the streets, you get well used to dealing with "street crazies." So whenever I passed him on the street after that, I'd always sort of bristle and get my back up. Just in case he decided to amp it up from threatening words to actual violence. And we'd often rant at each other whenever we passed. When he started shouting at me I'd shout back at him "ARE YOU TALKING

TO ME?!" (Sometimes you have to ask that question with these wingnuts because you're not sure if he's ranting at me or talking to himself.) And he'd sort of mutter some vague threats back at me. And then keep walking.

So our little feud never escalated beyond that point. Thankfully. Then I didn't see him for several years. . .

But then one day ran I into him again. Turns out he was a regular that hung out in front of the Cheeseboard pizza shop on Shattuck Avenue. So once a month when I went down to that neighborhood to get my glaucoma eyedrop prescription refilled at the pharmacy nearby, I'd pass by him. But, fortunately, he no longer recognized me. That's one of the nice things about these street wingnuts who have so many wars going on in their head with so many other people. They usually forget about you over time. They have so many other people to curse and threaten. And you get off their screens. But I never forget them.

Anyways, I never knew anything about the guy, aside from my odd interactions with him on the streets. But from reading this article in the Berkeley Scanner, he obviously had another side to him — aside from his obvious crazy side. And there were some people who felt warmed towards him.

Just like there were plenty of other people who were on the other end of his crazy, angry, threatening rants (including women and children). And felt less warm towards him.

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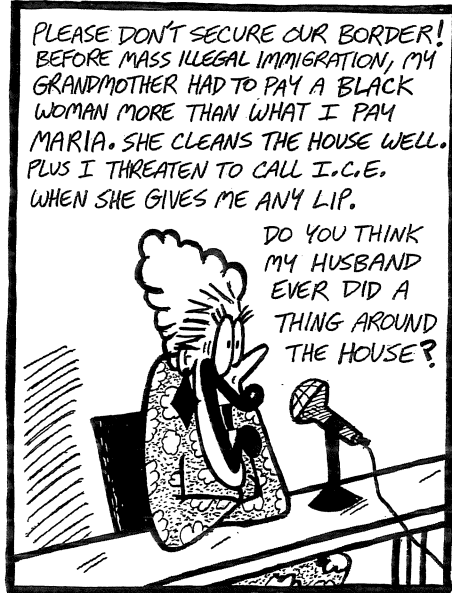
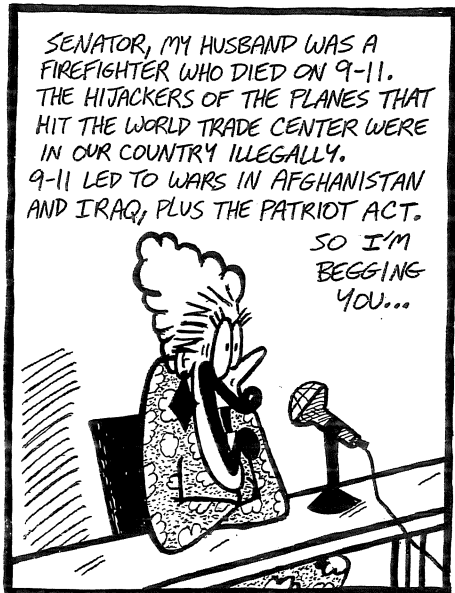
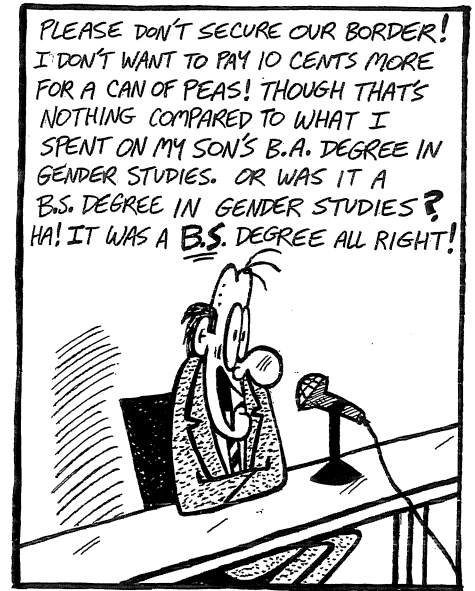
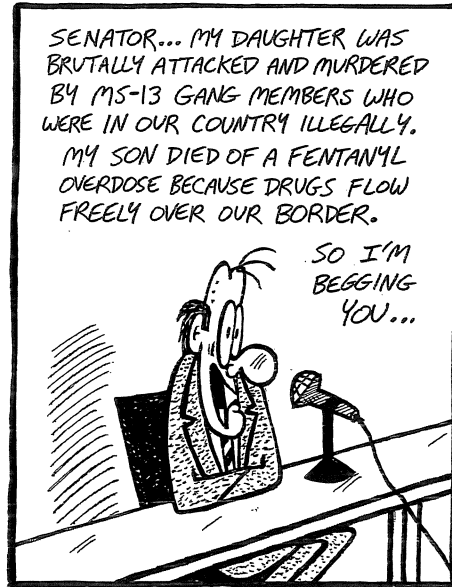
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**CNN.com**

Capitol Hill was abuzz today as Congress heard pleas from average Americans regarding illegal immigration.

[View video](#)



**CNN.com**

Stay tuned for continuing coverage of the Trump Administration's fascist attempts to actually enforce existing immigration laws.

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