

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

**At the Regency Ballroom:** Malaa, 2/15-16. Baynk, 2/22. Confidence Man, 3/4. Notd, 3/7.

In 2017 Ed French, a lifelong San Franciscan known as an all-around nice guy, was photographing the sunrise at Twin Peaks. The 71 year old French was approached by a young man and a young woman who robbed him of his camera at gunpoint. A video of the encounter shows the man stealing the camera, then the woman shooting French. The two exit, though the man returns to grab the camera bag and kick French, who lies dying on the ground. A jogger found him, called 911 and administered CPR, but French eventually passed away at a hospital.



**Ed French**

About two weeks later, a 53 year old man and a 33 year old woman were robbed of their camera and wallets at gunpoint on Geary and Gough by... guess who. Fantasy Decuir, 20, and Lamont Mims, 19, were arrested. Both had extensive rap sheets. A few days before French's murder, Mims was in custody for previous crimes but released by mistake. Mims later said he held the gun in the robbery after French's murder because he "didn't want Fantasy to kill someone else."

In 2023 Mims was charged with second-degree robbery of Ed French. The jury couldn't reach a verdict for Decuir on the same charge, with a vote of 10-2. Despite the murder of Ed French being on videotape, the jury voted 10-2 in favor of convicting Mims and Decuir of murder ( a unanimous verdict is required for a murder conviction).

District Attorney Brooke Jenkins refiled the case and in 2024 Mims and Decuir were convicted. This is San Francisco, and Decuir and Mims are black, so of course the race card appeared. Fantasy Decuir's attorney, Mark Iverson, blamed "the extreme pain" she

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experienced from sickle-cell anemia, called the sentence "inhumane and unjust" and blamed "profound institutional racism underlying this punishment."

These two scumbags won't be strapped to the electric chair, but at least they got life in prison without the possibility of parole. At least they won't be released and then teach diversity-equity-inclusion classes at SF State.

Kudos to D.A. Brooke Jenkins for doggedly pursuing the case. *You go, girl!* Her predecessor, Chesa Boudin, was all set to offer Decuir and Mims sweetheart plea deals. Thankfully, the soft-on-crime Marxist Boudin was recalled by SF voters in 2022, relegating him to his present position as a professor at UC Berkeley, no doubt rotting young minds with classes on "restorative justice." Speaking of which...

This is what Ed French's sister, Lorrie, has to say about that: "Restorative justice? If they can restore my brother, that would be justice. Restore what? Restore them back to the streets to do this to others? I am not the victim who will get up and say, 'I forgive you.' There is no forgiveness in my heart. We have fought five years for justice. We are not going away until we have justice for Ed."

I learned about this tragedy from SF's finest muckraking journalist Susan Dyer Reynolds in a new website called The Voice of San Francisco (TheVoiceSF.org). Read her story with the rather long title of "**After former District Attorney Chesa Boudin tried to set one of his killers free, justice is finally served for Ed French.**"

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I saw *A Complete Unknown*, the new biopic about Bob Dylan at the Balboa Theatre here in SF. While watching it, I thought of another movie theatre – the UA Fontana 6 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Why? Because I worked there as an usher in 1984. In between New York and California I lived in the Sooner State for a

year. A guy I worked with, Steve Higgins, was a big Dylan fan. I looked him up online a while ago and discovered he was instrumental in getting the Bob Dylan Museum opened in Tulsa (he helped open the Woody Guthrie Museum there too). I was going to contact him after all these years and see if he wanted to be interviewed for the Herald, but then I remembered the admonition from Mr. Dylan – Don't Look Back. Or rather, Dont Look Back.###

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### After Midnight By Ace Backwards

I was heading up the road the other night after midnight on the Berkeley campus. I pass this guy who's curled up sleeping right in the middle of the road. I roust him. "Hey man, you can't sleep here. You'll get run over by a car."

He grabs his bag of stuff and I lead him up the road to this deserted patio where he can sleep on a bench (and not get his ass run over). I don't know if he was on drugs. Or if he's crazy. Or what. And after all these years, I've given up trying to figure out why people do some of the things they do. As a guy who spends a lot of time out and about late at night on the streets, it's not uncommon to come across unusual people doing unusual things. And it can get a bit surreal at times. I have a saying that sometimes runs through my head at times like these: "It's a whole 'nother world after midnight."###

**THE YOU DECADE**

by Ace Backwords



**GOOD CLEAN FUN – Written, Drawn, & ©2025 by Gene Mahoney – “Mucho Fuego!”**

