

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

*At the Warfield:* The Cat Empire, 11/16. Tinashe & Shygirl, 11/17. Jeremy Zucker, 11/28. Majid Jordan, 11/30. Jenny Lewis, 12/5. Berner's Cookies Christmas, 12/15.

Recently workers at the Nancy Pelosi Federal Building on Seventh Street (off Mission) were ordered to work from home and steer clear of the site because of the rampant crime and drug use around there. Ironically, the Federal Building is across the street from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which helped make that possible. It upheld *Martin v. Boise*, which declared civil and criminal punishments for the homeless are cruel and unusual. California voters helped out in 2014 by passing Proposition 47, which should have been named Proposition 950, as penalties for shoplifting, grand theft, receiving stolen property, forgery, fraud, and writing a bad check were all drastically reduced as long as the offenses were under \$950. It also reduced penalties for certain drug offenses. Do you think that may have prompted some people who aren't exactly law abiding citizens to move out here? Think about that the next time you see a news report about how the only reason crime is rampant and people are smoking crack on sidewalks is because of expensive rent.

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The adorable Chief Wahoo logo the Cleveland Indians baseball team had. Now they're the Cleveland Guardians. Yeesh.

A year ago, to add a little *diversity* to the discussion about Columbus Day, I ran some excerpts from an essay you can find online titled "Why 'Indigenous Peoples' Day Is Far Worse Than Columbus Day" by Michael Graham. Here are a few select paragraphs:



## SAN FRANCISCO HERALD

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When thinking of pre-Columbian America, forget what you've seen in the Disney movies. Think "slavery, cannibalism and mass human sacrifice." From the Aztecs to the Iroquois, that was life among the indigenous peoples before Columbus arrived.

For all the talk from the angry and indigenous about European slavery, it turns out that pre-Columbian America was virtually one huge slave camp. According to "Slavery and Native Americans in British North America and the United States: 1600 to 1865," by Tony Seybert, "Most Native American tribal groups practiced some form of slavery before the European introduction of African slavery into North America."

"Enslaved warriors sometimes endured mutilation or torture that could end in death as part of a grief ritual for relatives slain in battle. Some Indians cut off one foot of their captives to keep them from running away."

Things changed when the Europeans arrived, however: "Indians found that British settlers... eagerly purchased or captured Indians to use as forced labor. More and more, Indians began selling war captives to whites."

That's right: Pocahontas and her pals were slave traders. If you were an Indian lucky enough to be sold to a European slave master, that turned out to be a good thing, relatively speaking. At least you didn't end up in a scene from "Indiana Jones And The Temple of Doom."

Ritual human sacrifice was widespread in the Americas. The Incas, for example, practiced ritual human sacrifice to appease their gods, either executing captive warriors or "their own specially raised, perfectly formed children," according to Kim MacQuarrie, author of "The Last Days of the Incas."

The Aztecs, on the other hand, were more into the "volume, volume, VOLUME" approach to ritual human slaughter. At the re-consecration of the Great Pyramid of Tenochtitlan in 1487, the Aztecs performed a mass human sacrifice of an estimated 80,000 enslaved captives in four days.

Slavery, torture, and cannibalism—tell me why we're celebrating "Indigenous People's Day" again? And we're getting rid of Columbus Day to protest—what? The fact that one group of slavery-practicing violent people conquered another group of violent, blood-thirsty slavers? That's a precis of the history of the Americas before Columbus arrived.

This has always been the fatal flaw of the Left's politics of race guilt: Name the race that's not "guilty"? Racism, violence, and conquest are part of the human condition, not the European one.

There is, however, one key difference between the European Conquistadors and the Incas, Aztecs, and Iroquois who conquered the Americas before them: In addition to violence and greed, the Europeans also brought literacy, liberalism, and the scientific method, all of which would transform America into the greatest champion of human freedom the world has never known.

Do the anti-Columbus activists who claim Europe's conquest of America is a sin really want to live in a world where it never happened? Where America is an illiterate, technological backwater of tribal violence and ritual human sacrifice? Of course not. The only reason their ideological idiocy has free rein today is because Europeans showed up in 1492.

### Happy Columbus Day!

So after running that, all these "woke" white people freaked out and accused me of racism, which is ridiculous. I ran it because this is the Bay Area, where you just hear one side of the story – the politically correct one which paints American Indians as these wise, enlightened, peace-loving hippie types. I was born in 1965 and had a hip mom into all that New Age stuff, so I grew up thinking that whole *Dances With Wolves* schtick was real.

Hey, you're welcome to give up your property to the Indian tribe that was on it before paleface came along. Then that tribe can give it back to the tribe that had it before they kicked them off it. Then that tribe can give it back to the tribe that had it before they kicked them off it. Then that tribe can give it back to the tribe that had it before...###

# Goodbye, Cruel World...

By James Dylan

*Introduction:* OK, I wrote this a few months ago at a dark point in my life, when I was actually mildly contemplating suicide. I felt horrible and realized I didn't want to spend the rest of my life feeling like that. Since then, I've become better; not 100%, but still better than before. So, just to clarify, I don't want to off-myself at this point. But the article is still good, so why throw it away?

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A few months ago, I woke up and tried to get out of bed, but the world was spinning. This had happened to me a handful of times due to food poisoning, but it always went away and I forgot about it -- this time, however, it stayed with me. I felt like crap, I had horrible vertigo, was nauseous and had tinnitus ringing in both ears, it felt like my brain and ears were under "pressure", but not quite a headache, just this hungover feeling. Sometimes it felt like someone was pushing their thumbs into my eyeballs.

I went to a local "urgent care" place, and a young doctor there didn't seem that concerned about my symptoms, and prescribed Meclizine (Dramamine), which helped a bit. He told me to come back in two weeks and he would refer me to an ENT.

I consulted Doctor Google and diagnosed myself with Meniere's disease. From Wikipedia: "Ménière's disease is a disease of the inner ear that is characterized by potentially severe and incapacitating episodes of vertigo, tinnitus, hearing loss, and a feeling of fullness in the ear." There is no cure.

I looked up a few Ménière's disease support groups online, and scrolled through the posts and comments, and it didn't look good. People said I should give up chocolate, salt, and alcohol. Great! Why not throw in sex, and I'll just slash my wrists now. Wait...slash my wrists? Not surprisingly, suicide came up quite a bit in the chat groups. The symptoms of the disease do actually drive people to kill themselves.

Anyway, I've given up my beloved morning coffee, all alcohol, my occasional chocolate bar, and my food is bland now. This has helped ease up some of the symptoms, but still a lot has changed.

Through all this, I started thinking about my own life, and if my own symptoms became

so bad that I would want to check out of Hotel Ménière myself as well. Some say suicide is a coward's way out, but I don't agree. It takes bravery to end one's own life, especially to end suffering.

I don't agree with people killing themselves over stupid little problems in their lives -- like divorce, addiction, bankruptcy, mental illness or whatever. But if someone has a non-treatable illness and their quality of life has degraded to where they are suffering and a burden to their family, then why not? You get to choose the date, time and method. You get to get your affairs in order, instead of your family scrambling to find papers and records, etc. I have a bunch of collectible LPs that, if I died, I knew someone would probably throw in a dumpster, so I'd want to make sure those are properly taken care of.

335,000 humans die every day, 14,000 per hour, 235 a minute. Over 100 died as I wrote those sentences. Death is inevitable, so why worry so much about it? I'm not religious, but always appreciated the Buddhist teachings and principles. I don't believe in an afterlife, although it would be cool, I suppose, depending on what it is like. Will there be sandwiches?

I'm also not one of those people who start crying about how "unfair" life is -- the whole "Why me, what did I do to deserve this?" scene. I'm 56 now, and have had a privileged life, by anyone's standards. I've travelled all over the world, and have seen many people who are much worse off than me. My wife is from the Philippines, and in our travels there, I have seen people with no formal education living in cardboard shacks in garbage dumps, digging through bags of garbage eating "pagpag" (Pagpag is the Tagalog term for leftover food from restaurants scavenged from garbage sites and dumps).

In Vietnam, I have seen barefooted street orphans as young as three digging through dumpsters looking for food in the heavy rain. I visited orphanages filled with malnourished and deformed "Agent Orange" offspring, some who are blind and whose heads are the size of watermelons. In the Philippines, I've seen a woman who had breast cancer sprawled out on a kitchen table while a local "witch doctor" cut and scraped away the diseased flesh, because the family didn't have enough money for medical treatment.

I feel fortunate that I was born and raised by two normal adults in a stable, wealthy country. Things could have been a LOT worse. Despite all the issues with capitalism

and society in the US right now, it's still a great place to grow up and live, which is why so many people want to come here.

I was born in the late '60s and grew up in Arkansas in the '70s and got a glimpse of the final days of true Americana -- small towns that still had thriving downtowns (before Wal-Mart decimated them), a strong middle-class who could afford to buy homes and cars and send their kids to college. I remember being allowed to play outdoors all day long in the summer, waking up on Saturday morning, eating cereals so loaded with sugar that my hair would stand on end, then heading out on my bike (with an awesome banana seat) and not coming home until the sun went down, and my parents weren't in the least bit concerned. I would hang out at the public library (now they are day care centers for homeless and mentally ill).

I joined the Army in 1985 and spent 10 years in Germany, traveling all over the continent. I got to see the Berlin Wall and was there when it came down.

I got to see Depeche Mode live in 1986, I saw U2 on The Joshua Tree tour, The Who at Shoreline, I could list dozens of bands here that I saw... The Cramps on Halloween at the Warfield, Tom Petty at the Fillmore, James Brown and Johnny Cash, both in Manheim.

While in the Army, I jumped from multiple aircraft, including a huge C-130 jet and even a Chinook helicopter which promptly dropped us in the forest. I drove an unarmored Humvee through Iraq, risking roadside bombs and snipers. I survived weekly mortar and rocket attacks, and once was able to hitch a ride in a Blackhawk from Balad Airbase to Mosul, and the doors were open the entire time, which was a real trip (no pun intended).

I've led a long life and had plenty of good times and great memories. I've accomplished pretty much everything I wanted to -- I put both my wife and son through nursing school, and both are well-respected RNs at their facilities, and now are both working on their Masters degrees. When I first met my wife, she was working as a sales girl in a shitty department store in Doha, Qatar, and she never would have imagined her and her son's lives turning around like they have. I've also sent several of my wife's nieces and nephews in the Philippines to college or trade school, and have sent countless others overseas to work, as they wanted. Maybe that was my entire purpose in life. To help others become people who can help others in turn.

So there we are -- one morning I was fine, leaping out of bed, jogging, tearing up the bedroom during sex, weaving in and out of traffic while blaring Metallica, raging at the world -- and just a few days later I am sitting on the sofa, trying to avoid moving my head for fear the vertigo and nausea will overwhelm me, like an old man. But that's life and I have few regrets. What things would I have done differently?

I sometimes wish I had stayed in Europe, perhaps settling down in Italy or Austria. I often wonder what my life would have been like. The best times of my life were spent there.

I grew up a bit of a nihilist punk, and never imagined I would live this long anyway. I still have a lot of that attitude, and NEVER imagined myself at 60 years old.

Some things I won't miss? I hate seeing the state of the United States right now. People shooting each other over the most trivial "offenses." People seem to have lost their civility, they are unable to discuss anything without it devolving into a fistfight or shooting. I rarely go to any place where a large group of people congregate, as there always seems to be some asshole with a gun shooting up the place.

I stopped going to concerts anyway because Ticketmaster and scalping ruined the experience. Also, you can't go to a concert anymore without 50,000 idiots holding phones up over their heads, recording something that they will likely never watch, all because we now have an entire generation who think that giving off the appearance of having a good time is more important than actually having a good time. When you get an opportunity to see art, music or just life happening in front of you, take the time to enjoy it properly.

Sadly, I lived long enough to see one of my favorite bands as a youth, U2, fade away into blandness and irrelevance. On another sad note, it's depressing how music these days just sucks so much. What do kids have these days -- The Kid Laroi? BTS?

Another reason why I don't mind dying soon -- watching the events on 9/11 affected me more than I thought. I lost faith in humanity after all that death and pain and destruction. When I was a kid, I thought by 2001 we would have colonies in space and hoverboards and all the nations would be united, like in *Star Trek*... instead we have... what we have today.

Don't worry, I'm not yet slicing my wrists in a warm bath while listening to The Cure's *Funeral Party*. I'd like to do it on a day that looks good on my headstone. I've a bit of OCD and love symmetry -- maybe on my birthday so the dates match.

So, since I wrote this, I've been seen by people more trustworthy than Dr. Google, and my dizziness was "Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo" -- or BPPV. I saw a specialist who performed a few maneuvers on me that helped a lot, although I still have issues with mild headaches (migraines?), pressure on my ears, tinnitus, etc. He dismissed the idea of Ménière's disease, and says all the other symptoms are related to the BPPV, but I don't see that anywhere online. I was actually feeling great just a few weeks after I last saw him, but then just yesterday had an attack -- both my ears felt under pressure, and when people were talking to me it sounded distorted, and my ears would pop if I moved my jaws, so I'll be back at the specialists soon. Again, I'm nowhere near feeling suicidal, this whole article was just my thoughts at the time, justification for doing so, if I needed to.###

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## The Joys of Smoking

By Ace Backwards

**LINES:**

"I'll give you 50-cents for a cigarette."  
"OK." (*I take out a cigarette*)  
"Can I pay you the 50-cents later?"

"Can I use your lighter?"  
"OK." (*I hand him my lighter*)  
"Now could I get a cigarette to go with the lighter?"

(*Guy comes up to me smoking a cigarette*)  
"Spare a cigarette?"  
"What do you want a cigarette for? You're already smoking one."  
"I want another one for later."

**COMEBACKS:**

"Do you have a spare cigarette?"  
"No, my pack only comes with 20. Doesn't come with any spares."

"Can I get a cigarette?"  
"You certainly can. They sell them in that store right across the street."###

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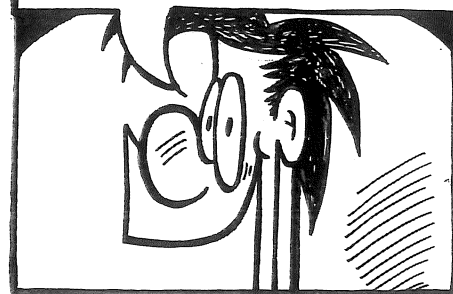
GOOD CLEAN FUN  
WRITTEN, DRAWN, AND  
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THERE'S NO SUCH  
THING AS A  
FREE LUNCH...  
(A FREE USELESS, WEIRD  
COLLEGE DEGREE, SURE,  
BUT NOT A FREE LUNCH.)

HELLO THERE! MY NAME IS  
LEE HARVEY WEMBLEY...  
AND WELCOME TO THE  
SF HERALD YOUTUBE SHOW!  
RECENTLY PRESIDENT BIDEN  
ANNOUNCED SOME PROGRAMS  
PENDING FOR COLLEGE STUDENT  
LOAN FORGIVENESS...



... WHICH REALLY MEANS  
COLLEGE STUDENT LOAN  
TRANSFERENCE...  
AS TAXPAYERS WILL BE  
FOOTING THE BILL...  
MANY OF WHOM NEVER  
WENT TO COLLEGE AND  
EARN LESS ON AVERAGE  
THAN THOSE WHO DID.



WE ASKED SOME  
COLLEGE STUDENTS  
HOW THEY FEEL  
ABOUT HAVING  
THEIR COLLEGE LOANS  
PAID OFF BY  
TAXPAYERS...



I THINK, IT'S LIKE, A TRAVESTY,  
THAT MY COLLEGE LOAN WILL BE  
PAID OFF BY RACIST, SEXIST,  
HOMOPHOBIC, TRANSPHOBIC, NON-VEGAN,  
CARNIVOROUS NEANDERTHALS.  
IT'S VERY UPSETTING, I'M GETTING  
THERAPY FOR IT, I HAVE PTSD.



I'LL BET THE VAST, VAST, VAST  
MAJORITY OF THESE TAX-PAYING  
SIMPLETONS HAVE NEVER READ  
ANYTHING BY PROUST OR EVEN  
VIEWED ANYTHING BY GODARD.

I'M ASHAMED TO BE ASSOCIATED  
WITH THEM, BUT IF THEY MUST PAY  
OFF MY LOAN, SO BE IT. ~~SMEE~~  
I'LL MAKE THE SACRIFICE.



THESE TAX-PAYING SCUM WHO ARE  
GOING TO PAY OFF MY COLLEGE  
LOAN ARE GOING TO VIOLATE ME  
WITH THEIR SYSTEMIC, PATRIARCHAL,  
BOURGEOISIE, PRIVILEGED, FASCIST,  
MILITARISTIC, CAPITALIST, RACIST,  
SEXIST, HOMOPHOBIC, TRANSPHOBIC,  
NON-INCLUSIVE, NON-DIVERSE,  
COLONIALIST, IMPERIALIST, RACIST  
(OH WAIT, I SAID "RACIST" ALREADY),  
FAT-SHAMING, GENDER-DENYING.....  
UH, WHAT WAS THE QUESTION AGAIN?



I WON'T BE PAYING BACK  
MY COLLEGE LOAN...

... BUT I IDENTIFY AS  
SOMEONE WHO'LL BE PAYING  
BACK THEIR COLLEGE LOAN.



YOUR COLLEGE LOAN  
PAID OFF BY PEOPLE  
WHO COULDN'T AFFORD  
COLLEGE...  
HOW PROGRESSIVE, HUH?  
IT'S TOO BAD MY NEPHEW  
DROPPED OUT AND DIDN'T  
GET THAT DEGREE IN  
"EARLY 21ST CENTURY  
ARCHITECTURE OF  
TRANSGENDER RESTROOMS."  
SEE YA NEXT TIME!

