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November – December 2017

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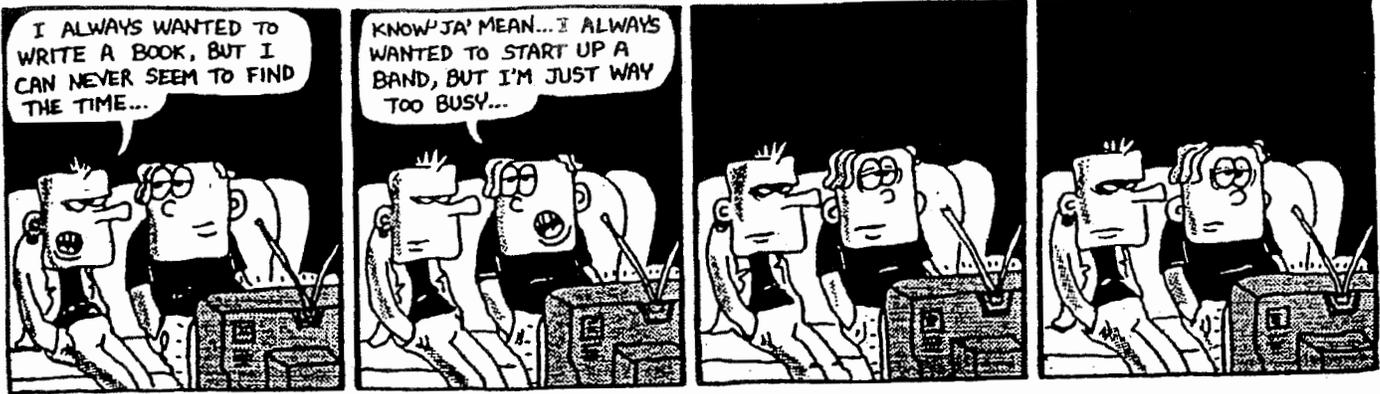
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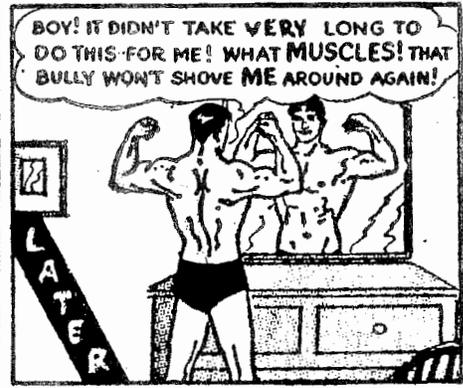


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Welcome to CHISME Cantina

A NEIGHBORHOOD CANTINA SERVING UP MEXICAN- INSPIRED FLAVORS IN LOWER NOB HILL.

Welcome to Lower Nob Hill's very own Chisme Cantina! With a colorful menu meant for sharing, we're shaking up the San Francisco food scene!

Chisme Cantina is brought to you by owner Ray Shlimon and design team KAKE. Hailing from the Windy City, Shlimon and his team are bringing Mexican-fusion tacos to the Bay area.

Forget refried counter service fare, Chisme is all about mixing taqueria classics with vegan and pescatarian-friendly favorites. Take a seat and enjoy Chisme Cantina! #ChismeSF

882 Sutter Street

(415) 370-7070

The Society Page

By Gene Mahoney

If you read it in the Herald, you probably know it already:

It's incredible: two more barber shops have opened in Lower Nob Hill. Locals "The Service You Deserve" is at 1120 Polk and Fresh Blades (featuring Rodney) is nearby at 1347 Polk. On a less testosterone-fueled note, Chic Chill, a trendyesque nail salon has opened at 1511 California.

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The Animal Connection II pet supplies store at 1677 Washington has closed. The original store in Burlingame is still extant, though.

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Mark Miller, a transplant from Boulder, Colorado opened a restaurant called Miller's Rest at 1085 Sutter.

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Ray Shlimon, a transplant from Chicago and the design team KAKE has opened Chisme, a cantina "mixing taqueria classics with vegan and pescatarian-friendly favorites" at 882 Sutter. Look for their ad in the issue.

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Russian Hill Upholstery & Décor is still located in Nob Hill, not Russian Hill. (Sort of.)

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Last issue, in this here column, a mention was made of the current show at the SF Museum of Modern Art. It's a retrospective of photographs Walker Evans took of the Great Depression. He took the photos while working for the Farm Security Administration, one of the programs of FDR's "New Deal" - which attempted to fight poverty but actually made it worse.

You don't believe the last part of the previous paragraph, but here's an

excerpt from this here column that ran ten years ago, in the final newspaper issue of the Herald. It's about how Thomas E. Woods in his book "33 Questions About American History You're Not Supposed to Ask" addresses the claim that the "New Deal" ended the Great Depression:

In school, we learned that the boom times of the "Roaring Twenties" were leading to impending economic disaster due to the "laissez-faire," pro-business policies of three Republican presidents: Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover. When the Stock Market crashed in 1929, the Great Depression struck, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt was voted into office, replacing Herbert Hoover. FDR heroically started a slew of government programs through his "New Deal," which put America back to work.

According to Woods, it didn't quite happen that way.

Although Herbert Hoover was a Republican, he effectively started the New Deal. The FDR administration's own Rexford Tugwell later acknowledged this, saying: "We didn't admit it at the time, but practically the whole New Deal was extrapolated from programs that Hoover started." When the Stock Market crashed in 1929 and the Depression hit, Hoover, in an attempt to "do something," created the Federal Farm Bureau and Reconstruction Finance Corporation, plus he passed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff. These were interventions that attacked the free market.

Roosevelt's policies were even more misguided than Hoover's (Roosevelt himself said that he never read a book on economics). One day he raised the gold price by 21 cents. When Henry Morgenthau, who later became Treasury Secretary, asked him why, Roosevelt said that "it's a lucky number, because it's three times seven." Morgenthau wrote later: "If anybody ever knew how we set the gold price through a combination of lucky numbers, etc., I think they would be frightened." (You can read about this in a book titled "The

Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression," by Amity Shlaes.)

FDR and his advisers believed that falling wages and falling prices weren't a symptom of the Depression, but the cause of it. FDR's National Industry Recovery Act (NIRA) created government-sanctioned cartels that set minimum prices, clearly not a consumer-friendly policy. (The Schechter brothers, first-generation Jewish immigrant butchers who paid themselves salaries of \$35 per week, were prosecuted under the NIRA for engaging in "keen competition," or giving customers too much choice. They lost their federal court case and were about to serve jail time until the Supreme Court vindicated them. After that rebuke to the NIRA, Roosevelt began his controversial, and unpopular, attempt to "pack the courts.")

The FDR administration also instituted the Agricultural Adjustment Act, ordering six million pigs to be slaughtered and 10 million acres of cotton to be destroyed. All to keep prices up while many people were starving and wearing rags.

Woods correctly challenges the widely taught belief that FDR "ended" the Great Depression, noting that "under FDR, unemployment averaged a whopping 18 percent from 1933 to 1940." (FDR's best year was 1937, when the unemployment rate dropped to 14.3 percent, though in 1938 it shot up again to 19 percent.) Keep in mind; this was in the thirties, when most women didn't work. Adjusted for today, you could practically double those figures. Also, 12 million men (almost 10% of the US population) were conscripted into military service when America entered World War II, so they weren't showing up on the unemployment line. On top of that, the Stock Market didn't average pre-Crash of 1929 levels until 1954, when Dwight Eisenhower was in the Oval Office.

Conversely, Woods notes, the historically maligned Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge administrations were marked by

peace and prosperity, with unemployment rates falling to as low as 1 percent, while the nation was still recovering from Woodrow Wilson's entry into World War I and also absorbing millions of immigrants. Woods quotes Coolidge as saying: "Perhaps one of the most important accomplishments of my administration has been minding my own business."

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Sinead and Me...



Has it really been thirty years? I remember walking around the student union at San Jose State University (where I got my useless degree) and running into the editor of the school newspaper (who gave my comics their start in print) and him excitedly telling me about the debut album from this amazing new artist named Sinead O'Connor.

I eventually became a fan of that album, "The Lion and the Cobra," as well as its follow-up, "I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got." Her third album was cute - a collection of old Big Band and Broadway covers. It was right around this time that she ripped up a picture of the Pope on "Saturday Night Live." Eventually her endless self-righteousness and complete lack of a sense of humor made the Jan Hooks imitation of her on SNL seem more realistic than parody. She released a few more albums that I ignored (apparently I wasn't alone).

And though the first two albums were good - even moving and groundbreaking, they apparently haven't held up well. Maybe the constant melodrama is too taxing on

the psyche. She seems to have been forgotten by Generation X and it's doubtful most Millennials have even heard of her.

Last I heard she went missing while riding a bicycle in Illinois and then resurfaced in a motel room in New Jersey, threatening to kill herself on social media, or something like that.

Hope you get better, Sinead. I've almost lost it myself a few times. We had some good memories. Well, I did. You don't know who I am.

Nothing compares 2 U.

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I went down to the Hearst Castle area of our beloved Golden State to see the Scarecrow Festival in Cambria last month. Thanks to my Indian guru Ashok and his sister (and his brother-in-law, too) for putting us up at the Quality Inn at San Simeon. And thanks to my friend Robert Brooks for driving us down there. Robert and I also made our way to Santa Barbara where we visited The Upham, a hotel where Aldous Huxley once lived. Robert's been reading a lot of Huxley lately. We went to the beach there. I walked along the sand but Robert went swimming and when he got out of the water one of his feet had some oil on it. A remnant of that major oil spill there decades ago.

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In 1987, in addition to drawing my "Good Clean Fun" comic strip for the newspaper at San Jose State University (when I wasn't listening to Sinead O'Connor), it also appeared in The Daily Californian at Berkeley. That's where I met Ace Backwards, who drew a strip called "Twisted Image" and Shannon Wheeler, who drew a comic called "Calaboose."

Shannon went on to draw the popular "Too Much Coffee Man" comic book series. Presently he has a book out titled "SH*T MY PRESIDENT SAYS - The Illustrated Tweets of Donald J. Trump." It's available from Top Shelf Productions.

As Shannon puts it: FDR had radio. JFK had TV.

Trump has Twitter.

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Haven't cruised by God's Gym in Oakland for a while. I wonder if it still exists. I sent this picture to my godmother - Patricia (the one who doesn't want me to refer to her as my godmother, she wants me to call her "a friend") - and she wrote back: "I always knew God was in Oakland."

Her husband, Ernest McCarty, plays bass on the new jazz CD, "A Reunion Tribute to Erroll Garner."

Ernest grew up in Chicago and dreamed of joining the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, but was prohibited from auditioning because he was black. He went on to tour the world with Garner, Gloria Gaynor, Odetta, Ike and Tina Turner, Oscar Brown Jr., and many others.

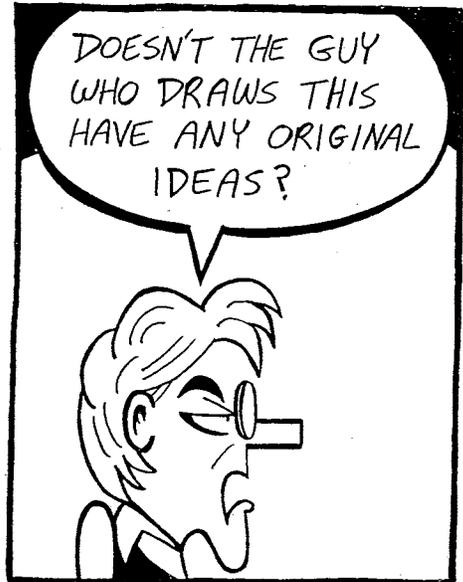
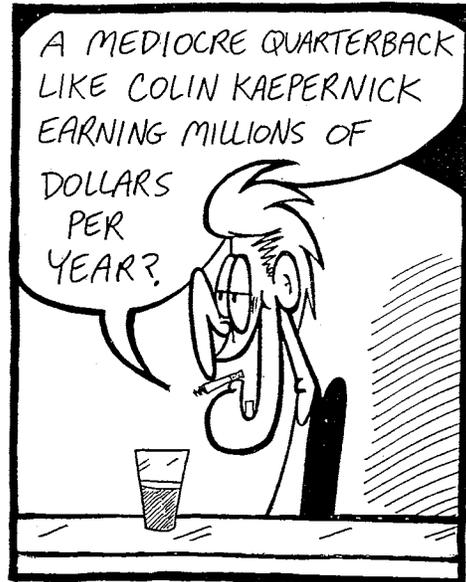
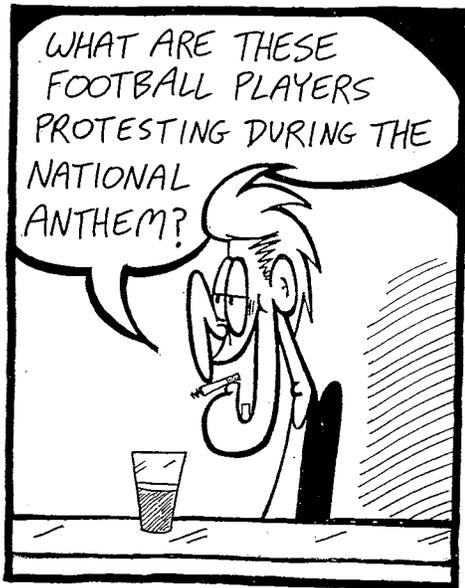
McCarty presently lives in Erroll Garner's hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. That's where "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" was filmed. That show had some cool jazz on its soundtrack. Let's head on down to the Neighborhood of Make-Believe...

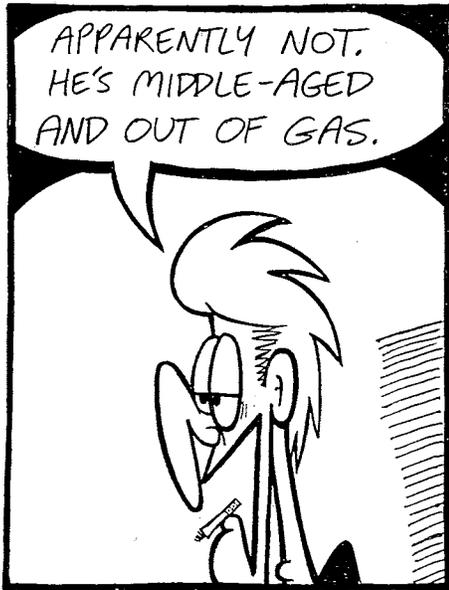
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GOOD
CLEAN
FUN
WRITTEN, DRAWN
& ©2017 BY
GENE MAHONEY
IT'S
CHAUNCY DILLINGER
in

FORGOTTEN
BUT
NOT
GONE





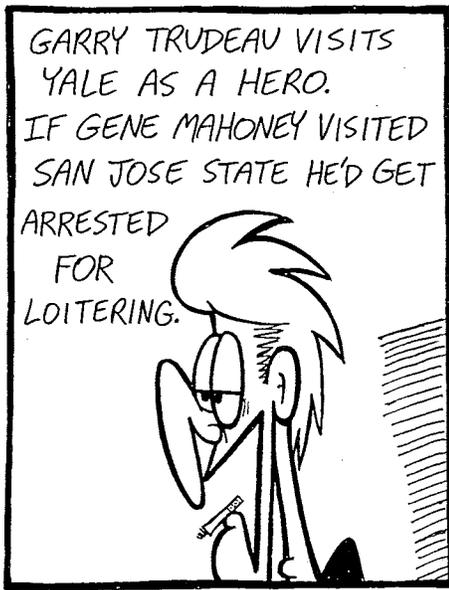
APPARENTLY NOT.
HE'S MIDDLE-AGED
AND OUT OF GAS.



PICASSO HAD HIS
"BLUE PERIOD,"
HE'S HAVING HIS
"DOONESBURY PERIOD."



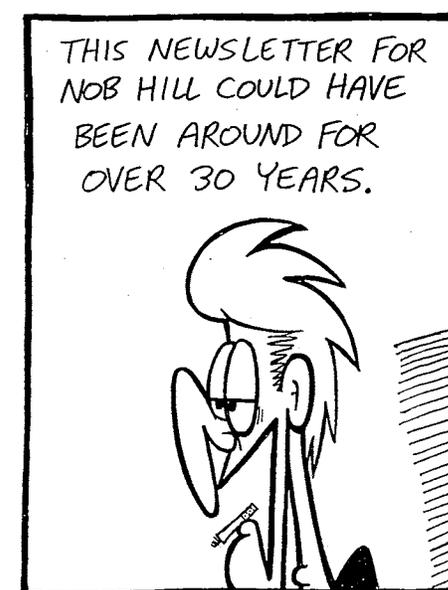
NO ONE REMEMBERS
HIS "GOOD CLEAN FUN"
COMIC STRIP IN
SAN JOSE STATE'S
NEWS-
PAPER
OVER
30
YEARS
AGO.



GARRY TRUDEAU VISITS
YALE AS A HERO.
IF GENE MAHONEY VISITED
SAN JOSE STATE HE'D GET
ARRESTED
FOR
LOITERING.



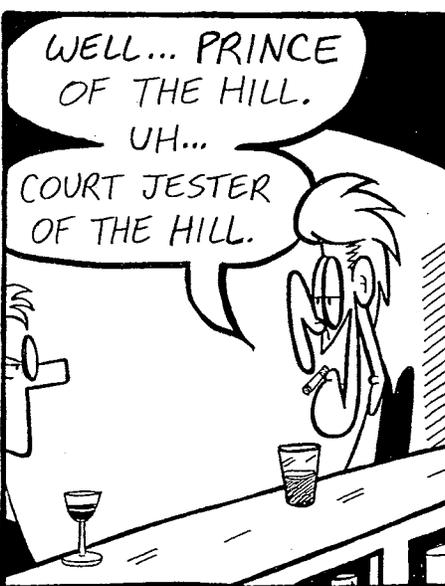
HE SHOULD HAVE SKIPPED
COLLEGE... AND SKIPPED
PUBLISHING THE HERALD
AS A NEWSPAPER, TOO.



THIS NEWSLETTER FOR
NOB HILL COULD HAVE
BEEN AROUND FOR
OVER 30 YEARS.



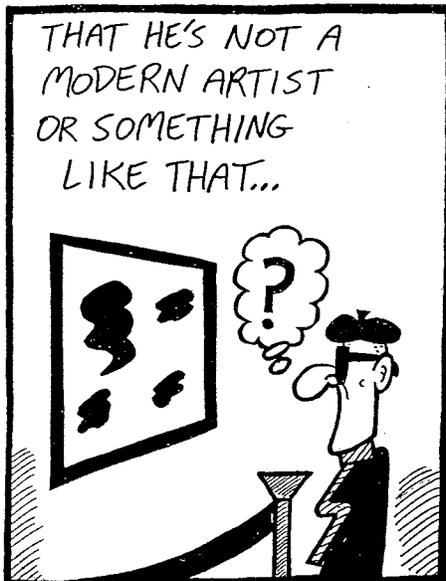
HE COULD
HAVE BEEN
KING
OF THE
HILL.

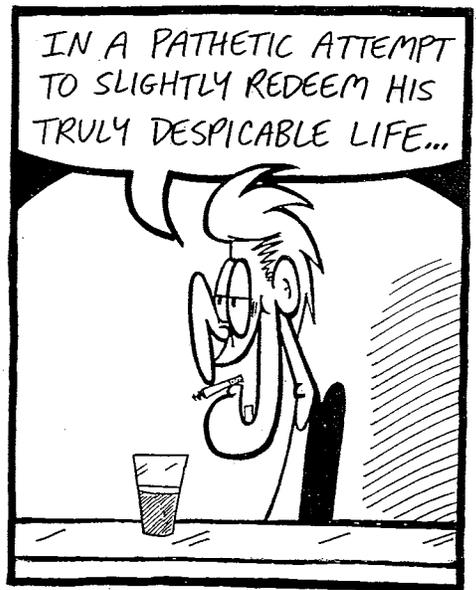
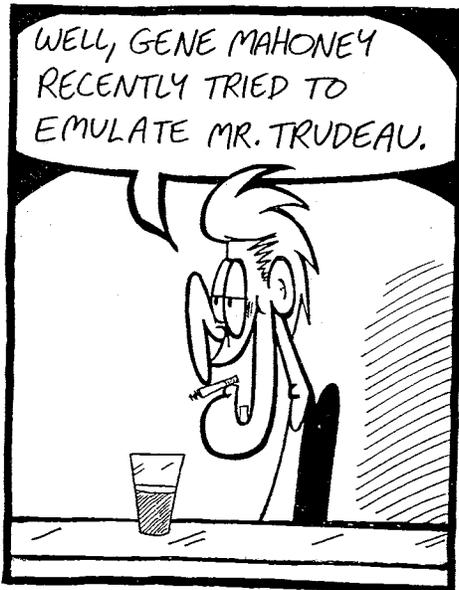


WELL... PRINCE
OF THE HILL.
UH...
COURT JESTER
OF THE HILL.



OR AS THE BEATLES
ONCE SANG,
"THE FOOL
ON THE HILL."





Telegraph from Berkeley

Have a very hateful Thanksgiving

By Ace Backwards

One thing I remember about last Thanksgiving 2016. It was the beginning of the rainy season. And we had already gotten 5 inches of rain (we would go on to get 37 inches). Hate Man had recently turned 80. But he still seemed strong and vigorous. And we all just assumed he would live forever, and the pushing and slapping and making demands would never end. Of course it turned out to be his last Thanksgiving. And it turned out to be a brutal winter. Hate made it all the way through the rainy season. But by the time April 1st finally rolled by he was pretty much shot. And he died the next day.

The thing I remember about last Thanksgiving was hanging out at Hate Camp all afternoon. And group after group kept converging on People's Park offering turkey dinners. There must have been at least 10 different groups bringing complete Thanksgiving dinners for the homeless. And they kept coming at us from every direction. And each time Hate would shout out "IN-COMING!" as we were bombarded with more food. Ha ha.

Then around 4 in the afternoon this guy pulls up to People's Park in his van and announces: "I HAVE FREE TURKEY DINNERS FOR ANYBODY WHO WANTS ONE!!" He has big trays full of turkey and mashed potatoes with gravy and cranberry sauce and pumpkin pies and etc. The works. But all the street people are laying on their sides in the grass groaning. I mean, at this point we can't even LOOK at any more turkey. But the poor guy is going up to person after person announcing "HEY I GOT FREE FOOD IN MY VAN IF YOU'RE HUNGRY!" But we're all like. "Yeah yeah. Great. You got any Alka-Seltzer?"

I finally felt a little sorry for the guy. Standing there all alone by his van with all that food and nobody to eat it. "All revved up and nowhere to go." So I went over and got a plate. Thanked him profusely. Happy Thanksgiving.###



R.I.P. Hate Man

"The only place I let touch my car."

--- Gene Mahoney

SF Herald

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Kid's classes at 10:00 am and 12:00 noon

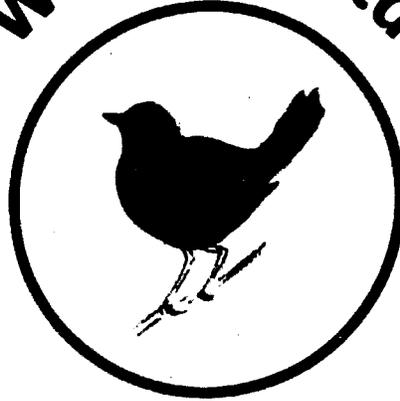
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