

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

I opened an abandoned newspaper box at the corner of 22nd Street and Guerrero and it was full of Bay Guardian endorsement guides for this year's elections. Wow, the Bay Guardian quit publishing ten years ago already. The Herald's own Ace Backwords and I used to use the Bay Guardian endorsement guides to elections years ago when the Bay Guardian was still a newspaper. We used to take them into our voting booths and whatever the guides recommended, we'd vote the exact opposite way.

I'm glad I met Ben Manilla before he died. He produced radio shows like *Elwood's BluesMobile* with Dan Aykroyd and *Philosophy Talk* out of Stanford University. I used to listen to him in 1983 when he was a DJ at WLIR on Long Island. My friends who were in this punk band called the Dead Virgins got mad at him because he wouldn't play their record on his show. He was a nice guy, despite what the Dead Virgins thought.

Caltrain has gone electric, and now has trains every 30 minutes. As advanced as this engineering is, there seems to be one bug in the system – the restrooms. Apparently there's only one per train. And the doors tend to close and lock when no one is in there, so people wait outside thinking they're occupied, doing the wee-wee dance. I remember one woman yelling "I'm about to shit in my pants!" Luckily, the conductor unlocked the door just in time. Also, oddly, when people are in there, the doors tend to fly open.

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**.

Shortly after, I got a voicemail message from the manager of a SoMa restaurant I was trying to get advertising from. He informed me that I was no longer allowed to deliver copies of the Herald to his establishment as the aforementioned article was "racist." I think he said I was banned from the place, too. So I called him up and said, "Does this mean you don't want to advertise in the Herald?" (Only kidding about that last part.)

He had a good Barack Obama-ish voice and delivery. (And like Obama, he spoke a long time without actually saying anything substantial.) Whatever. Hey, he sure was more eloquent than the guy who freaked out when I first published parts of the essay the year prior to that. I dropped a copy of the Herald off at this dive bar in the Tender-Nob, and this guy who looked like he sang for

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some Seattle grunge band circa 1993 ran out, handed it back to me, and called me a "racist weirdo." Can you believe that? Well, okay – the "weirdo" part – he's probably right about that. But "racist"? I was protesting against apartheid in South Africa at UC Berkeley before this guy was in diapers.

Basically, the article simply stated the fact that American Indians before the arrival of Columbus generally weren't the peace loving hippie types they're often portrayed as. Many tribes practiced slavery, cannibalism, and human sacrifice – and Graham's article also points out that atrocities were committed by Columbus and other Europeans.



www.mlb.com/indians, Fair use.

The adorable Chief Wahoo logo the Cleveland Indians baseball team had. A few years ago they wussed out and changed their name to the Guardians. The Indians were named in honor of Louis Sockalexis, a great Cleveland ball player who was Native American.

If he were here today, Hiawatha, the great Native American peace activist who formed the Iroquois Confederacy and ended ritual cannibalism and generations of revenge wars among five Indian nations – would probably agree with Graham's article.

I had a hip mom who was into all this "new age" stuff so I grew up believing all this *Dances with Wolves* shtick. But real life isn't always politically correct. Writes historian Thomas E. Woods: "In other words, the American Indians were human beings who responded to the incentives they faced, not cardboard cutouts to be exploited on behalf of environmentalism or any other political program."

I'm channeling for Hiawatha, you guys who called me "racist" -- and wish you both the best. (Hiawatha and I are both from New York, so we're homeboys.) Though carelessly throwing around the word "racist"

has sustainability issues. Note this headline from the Babylon Bee:

Scientists Warn That Within 6 Months Humanity Will Run Out Of Things To Call Racist

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Mysteries of the Known Universe: "non-alcoholic beer"

By Ace Backwords

I just came across a 12-pack of "non-alcoholic beer" that somebody had discarded (and probably for good reason). "Non-alcoholic beer." That's always been a mystery to me. You drink it and drink it, and you don't get any buzz whatsoever. What a concept! I've drank an ocean of beer over the years. But believe it or not, I've never particularly liked the taste of beer. And would never order it simply as a beverage. I usually choke down the first couple of beers of the evening. Though after that they start to go down smoothly. And smoother and more smoother as the night progresses. But I kind of believe in that old adage: "If man could get drunk from eating grapes we never would have invented wine."

Now that reminds me of another mystery — "decaffeinated coffee." That makes about as much sense to me as non-amphetamine speed. "Hey man, you gotta try some of this non-amphetamine speed I just scored! It's the greatest! You take it and take it and it has no effect whatsoever!"

