

THE BLOTTER

Ingleside

Glen Park, Bernal Heights, Excelsior, St. Francis Wood



Feuding combatants: On Feb. 21 at 11:45 p.m., two neighbors, ages 42 and 41, attacked each other with baseball bats in the street. The responding officer found the older combatant breaking the windows of the other man's truck. The younger man was found inside his home on the 1500 block of Florida Street. A search of that home revealed baseball bats, one rifle and two handguns. Both men were charged with assault, and the younger man was also charged with being a felon in possession of firearms.

Mission

Mission district, Noe Valley



Quick heist: On Feb. 17 at 11:15 a.m., a suspect entered a bank and demanded cash from a teller. The teller complied, and the suspect took the cash and fled the bank. The suspect was not apprehended.

Taraval

Sunset, Parkside, portions of Golden Gate Park



Child abuse: A 5-year-old boy knocked on a neighbor's door Feb. 22 at 7:22 p.m. asking for help and stated that his mother and father had beaten him. The neighbor saw that the boy had significant injuries and that some of the visible marks had been covered up with makeup. Officers responded to the scene, conducted an extensive investigation and arrested both parents for corporal injuries to a child and felony battery.

Bayview

Bayview, Hunters Point



Attention-getter: Officers responded to San Bruno Avenue on Feb. 15 at 10:40 p.m. regarding a shooting on Dwight Street. The victim said he was sitting in his car when he heard a bang on the window and saw a man, with a gun in his hand, standing next to his car. Two additional suspects stood behind the man with the gun.

The victim stated that the suspect continued to hit the window, with the gun, until it shattered. The victim jumped out of his car and ran, hearing a gun shot as he left the area. The victim watched as the suspects got into another vehicle and sped off. No one was injured during the incident. No suspects were located.

Tenderloin

Tenderloin, bordered by Geary, Market and Larkin streets



Inebriated relative: On Feb. 24, officers responded to the 100 block of McAllister Street regarding an assault. The victim told the officers that her cousin had been drinking all day and attacked her, and then bit her in the leg, breaking the skin. The victim reported she was kicked while on ground and then further beaten and struck with fists. The suspect was arrested and the victim was taken to the hospital.

S.F. man found not guilty of murder charges

By Will Reisman
Examiner Staff Writer

A 20-year-old San Francisco man was acquitted Tuesday of first-degree murder in connection with the May 3 shooting death of Ajason Black, 32, in the parking lot of the Buchanan YMCA on Geary Boulevard.

Deputy Public Defender Mark Iver-

son told jurors that Demetrius Hill had no motive to kill Black, police had no physical evidence and that the eye-witnesses had motive to lie in order to cover up for the real shooter.

"I find this to be a very satisfying verdict because I believe that Demetrius Hill is innocent," Iver-son said.

In the hours preceding the shoot-

ing, Black was engaged in a heated public argument with a 34-year-old woman. At the trial, the woman testified to watching Hill shoot Black once in the back.

Hill, who would have faced up to 25 years if found guilty, was acquitted after a jury deliberated for six hours.

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The Chronicle In Ruins

SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY JANUARY 16, 1865 - ????

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



William Randolph Hearst

I do not remember the first time I heard someone refer to The San Francisco Chronicle as the Titanic. But I do remember the first time I understood the powerful truth of that metaphor.

It was while watching a documentary on the iconic sunken ship when I learned that the full name of the doomed vessel was the Royal Mail Ship Titanic. As the tragedy of the RMS Titanic began to unfold, most of those on board did everything they could to save their lives. However, some did everything they could to save the mail. As I watched these reenacted images of postal workers struggling to save one sack of registered mail only to see two other sacks become lost to the sea, I couldn't help but wonder aloud: "Who in the hell cares about saving the mail?"

The answer is obvious: Mailmen. So then, "Who in the hell cares about saving The San Francisco Chronicle - or any other newspaper for that matter?" The answer is equally as obvious: Newspapermen and newspaperwomen.

On February 24, Frank Vega, the chairman and publisher of The Chronicle released a memo stating that due to the rapidly declining economy, declining advertising revenues, staggering weekly losses and "the bleak economic forecast for the foreseeable future" that major changes are headed our way. "Business as usual is not an option. If we are unable to accomplish these reductions in the immediate future, Hearst Corporation, which owns The Chronicle, has informed us that it will offer the newspaper for sale **or close it altogether**," wrote Vega (bold and underline emphasis, mine).

That the Hearst Corporation has considered the altogether closing of an institution like The Chronicle as being even a remote possibility is, in this reporter's mind, unacceptable, unforgivable and even un-American. But perhaps it should come as no surprise. It underscores just how far apart Hearst, the corporation, is from Hearst, the man. It reminds us that Hearst Communications, Inc. is not led by a living and breathing newspaperman like Mr. William Randolph Hearst - but by a corporate entity.

I would like to publicly request that the Hearst Corporation replace The Chronicle's "close it altogether" ultimatum with another option: give the newspaper's name to us. If the Hearst Corporation indeed cannot sell The Chronicle and is seriously considering "closing it altogether" because it believes the newspaper carries an infinite negative business value, why not then give control and ownership of The San Francisco Chronicle name to a group that still sees value in it?

Whether this group could be defined specifically as the Chronicle Unit of the California Media Workers Guild, which could take over by right of first refusal, or whether the Voice of the West could be kept alive by a newly formed group of past and present Chronicle employees and others in the community who still believe in its value, let the conversations and suggestions begin - without fear.

It may only be a symbolic move at first, but it could be the first step forward into a new era of American newspaper journalism.

In the past year, many of my colleagues and supervisors have told me that we are all lucky just to have a job. But what's luck got to do with it? If this country heads into another Great Depression, does anyone truly believe that it will be because of bad luck? No. It will be because of people who did bad things and made bad decisions. And when this country bounces back to prosperity, it won't be because of good luck. It will be because of good people who did good things and made good decisions. I believe that in my lifetime we will once again see newspaper journalism rise and thrive in our everyday lives. While nervous newspaper executives continue to do what they do best and wait for someone else to solve the problem for them, I believe that it is time now for newspaper people to begin saving our institution's soul.

I would feel better knowing that the legacies and identities of The San Francisco Chronicle (and the Rocky Mountain News and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and the...???) are in the hands of people who believe that waiting for someone else to figure things out or otherwise giving up is absolutely not an option. I do not pretend to have all of the answers. But I do have a lot of questions, which once upon a time was the most important part about being a newspaper reporter.



Chronicle Co-Founder
Charles deYoung



Chronicle Co-Founder
Michael deYoung

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Dedicated San Francisco Chronicle Newspaperman (2000 - ????)

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