



The Scandalous Scallion

By MEGAN LEE

So this is summer....and what have we here....(silently hum the song, to the tune of John Lennon's "So This Is Christmas," as you read through this, really go it, if you think you can handle it..) Another winter over and the busy season just begun. The sun it is a shining and the fish it is a flying, without any fear. So this is summer.

Summer season started with the 33rd annual **Market Festival** — a **huge, mellow success** (all the super-turbo hyper hippies seemed to gravitate toward Folk Life). Attendees happily enjoyed the "just rightness" of it all. The Market Foundations inaugural oversight was grrrrreat!!! People paraded around, poked about and piled through, **drinking in the unique sights and sounds of the Market in accelerated motion**: more performers, more food, more people, more cruise boats, more, more, more...with more to come. **Kudos to Marlys, Michele, Erica, James, Rainelle and all the fabulous foundation folk** who worked so hard to make it all work! Woo hoo!

Throughout June it seemed *everyone* turned up at the Market at one time or another: The Opera Man, the human video game man, the cowboys, celebrities, cruise boat couples, a balloon-blowing-clown from Florida; the Cat Man, Japanese tourists photographing the oldest Starbucks, that one guy who walks around talking loudly to himself in the mornings; Horse-Drawn-Carriage Guy, the ducks, the dazzling dancing Diamonte, magicians; Midwesterners seeing fish fly for the first time, Boot Boy, Plankton, my brother, a several-hundred-person Utah Choir and you!

(Keep humming)

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Further Down Under, loads of beautiful people turned up for **la Fiesta de Aniversario primero de Cintli**. Owner/designer **Beto Yarce** threw a proper, one-year anniversary celebration complete with champagne, strawberries, beautiful little snacky things,



Kristian Dews on the harpsichord and all his amazing jewelry. His mother Maru was there from Guadalajara. Stop by Cintli, third floor DownUnder next to Christopher's Lamp, and explore the amazing collections: everything from *la virgen en silver* to any necklace you could imagine.

Also Down Under, **Magic Shop Marvel Mr. Ruben Barron is in the running as Seattle's Best Local Celebrity**, nominated by Seattle Weekly. This comedy magician does it all: comedy clubs, magic shows, tours, festivals, corporate events and more. **VOTE FOR RUBEN**, category #12, Best Local Celebrity, at <http://www.seattleweekly.com/bestofseattle/>. (Keep humming)

* * *

...And the buskers!!

Artis "The Spoonman" is headed to Europe, on a brief tour including shows in Germany and Sweden...*mycket brD!* Hopefully, we'll see a few shows at the Market before he goes. (Will **special Spoonytoons' spoons** make it through airport security?) Artis helped organize a wee tribe of buskers to walk **resent in the Fremont Solstice Parade** — he said the experience was AWESOME. He said it was a great rush walking the route and playing spoons on the human surfaces of the crowd.

The hell-a swella fellas of Au capella, a.k.a. A Moment in Time, unveiled their most recent DVD. The film is a collection of shots of the group playing around the Market. In front of **the world's most famous Starbucks** and all over. Ask Levi or one of the gang for more melodious information.

With all the diverse talent, the **FOURTH** annual Busker's Festival, the week of September 18 will be awesome!

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In TV News: Regis Philbin's hit TV show "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" asked the question, "What US city is it where they 'throw the fish'" ...and the contestant, a lady from New York City, answered it right... **Seattle! Of course!!!**

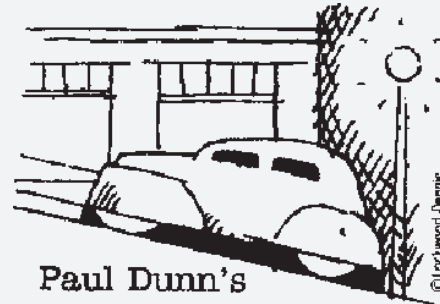
The amazing **Miss Sheila Lyon's new book "Palms Up: A Modern Guide to Palmistry"**, will be released July 7, Penguin Publishing. Besides the book and the shop, Lyon does her famous ghost tours, performances at corporate events and an elusive "night job." Miss Lyon is working on a possible deal with the (cable television) Food Network to do **CHOCOLATE READINGS**. To do a reading, **the person having their chocolate read blindly picks a piece of chocolate from a source and Miss**

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A SUMMER SAMPLER

Return of the Pedestrian Count

After a four-year hiatus the Market Pedestrian Surveys returned last year to compile more or less accurate visitor numbers. These surveys make it possible for the Market



Paul Dunn's Post Alley Passages

to trumpet the annual visitor counts with some factual back-up data, short of selling and counting tickets. The most recent counts seem consistent with the traffic patterns of the past, even with the increase of more than a quarter million cruise passengers docking nearby. Pike Place Market still hosts more than 40,000 people on the best summer days and less than 20,000 in the dark of winter.

These surveys provide some pocket change for the Seniors who do the counting at eight standard corner sites. Passages feels there are four entry points not covered and one counting site that should be relocated.

There is no counting site on lower Post Alley. This entry from the South once yielded over 900 daily entries when Harbor Steps was assessing its building plans to the South. Similarly, the open entrance from the South Arcade into the Economy Atrium misses another steady trickle of visitors. The entrance to the Pine Street Stairs on Western is not a counting site, but surely many still enter the Market through this forlorn doorway. Lastly, the elevator off Western deposits a steady supply of Market shoppers.

Arguably the counting site at Western and Virginia should be moved to First and Virginia, or at least to Virginia at Post Alley. With three or four more counting sites, the Market could capture lost visits and boost the annual numbers to an impressive ten million in time for the Market Centennial.

Another Market Survey

In an unrelated marketing survey, Market managers engaged Vance Corum of Farmers' Markets America, down in Vancouver, to run a "Rapid Market Assessment" in mid-May (visitors that day: 19,448). Four questions were posed, the first being the only straightforward query: *Where do you live?* The answers (via ZIP Code) showed only 35 percent of the visitors were from King County. That is the same proportion of non-King County residents who attend any Mariner game at Safeco Field.

But, Corum's questions brought together

two Market PDA Councilmembers who seldom see eye to eye. In this case, Question # 2: *What would you most like to see more of at Pike Place Market?* brought Bruce Lorig and Theresa Alexander into agreement that any answers to that question were meaningless. They agreed the question was two questions (what did you like most and what do you want more of) with no way to determine which was answered. Defenders of the survey pointed out that the responses showed general proportions of Market attractions that appeal to the visiting public. The survey analysis found 27 percent want more 'events & entertainment'. It is unclear if the theatrical Pike Place Fish stand was in the food or entertainment category.

Questions # 3 & 4 asked where respondents did their produce shopping and their reasons for coming downtown. The universe of choices for the participants produced dubious results since the numbers disclosed no clear revelations of customer preferences or destination attractions.

Benches under the Pergola

A late June community meeting called by the PDA's departing Catherine Stanford to gain more ideas for the use and design of the North End Pergola was well attended, mostly by leaders or representatives of interested community organizations. Regular Passages readers (Passagers?) will recall last year's column on that bench removal "for repairs."

Since then Market and community groups have met and formed ideas to resolve the seating, security and information needs identified at the North End of the Market and in Steinbrueck Park. This most recent meeting dealt mainly with the redesign and use of the North End Pergola. Some new and interesting information surfaced.

The pergola was originally a trolley shelter built in 1915 by the Puget Sound Traction, Light and Power Co.

The pergola, a descendant of the original shelter, was constructed in the mid '30's and had come to need up to \$70,000. in repairs. Its replacement cost is not known.

The PDA plans to "staff" the new pergola with information and/or security between 10a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (except in winter).

The Market's craft space overflow uses will be considered in the design.

Most of the community leaders expressed preferences for public seating to be part of the solution. Comments are welcome from the public to the PDA before July 15. A draft report will be issued over the summer and a designer hired in the fall, when the PDA will offer design solutions to the Market Historical Commission. Costs will be shared with the city matching grants and dedicated funds in the PDA 2006 budget.

So, benches out in May 2004 may be replaced in early 2006. Thus is another example of Seattle Process placed before the city.

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