



## The Scandalous Scallion

By MEGAN LEE

It's a fortnight since Horse Racing Season began, still we survive. The unpredictable Market days are sunnier than they are rainy, and the calendar promises summer is on the way... so much to look forward to... cow lilies, calamity, cavorting, cravings and coriander...with local view-decks and perches serving as grandstands – complete with **wahoos and yahoos!**

Along with “the Ducks,” organic farmers and sunshine, the eagerly anticipated **Pike Place Market Street Festival returns, to kick off this sizzling summer season!!** The four-day extravaganza expects to draw **record crowds, vendors, spectacles and buskers.** Check out the four-page pull-out guide in this issue of your *Pike Place Market News.*

### Buskers ready for another round

And speaking of the beloved buskers, April 15 all reported in for **Pike Place Market Performers' Guild Permit** renewal time . . . this year's style plastic with an '06 expiration date. The sunny day brought back some old familiar faces: Chad, with his newly shaved head, singing modern rock, Tommy Dean, and the *other* Balloon Blower...etc. April 22 was the deadline for poster art for the **PPM's third annual Buskers' Festival**, in September... look for the unveiling of this year's design to be featured on the posters, T-shirts and assorted “**Merch Table**” items. For more information contact the Pike Place Market Performers Guild or check out [festival@pikemarketbuskers.org](mailto:festival@pikemarketbuskers.org)

### Star power

**Giada DeLaurentiis, Food Network “Rock Star,”** visited the Market April 12, for a two hour book signing at Sur La Table, promoting her new book: “**Every Day Italian.**” Chefs, cooking enthusiasts and the interested eagerly queued, filling the burgeoning shop, all ready with cooking stories and tricks... The word is that DeLaurentiis later made an impromptu appearance at Sarafina, among other places.

**Patty Summers Cabaret** – the only Market venue to boast hosting opera, jazz, punk rock,

rock, fish-boy-death-metal, pizza, etc. – **will be closing.** Marking the end of an era, Summers is working with a lawyer to find a buyer and expects the deal to go down in early summer. Saying *sayonara* sucks . . . but memories can't be kicked out, or sold . . . and she may open a new place. Look for exciting closing parties with loads of entertainment!! Summers is in the process of **compiling a book of “Summers' Stories,”** expected to be just as amazing, eclectic and salacious as Summers' projects tend to be.

### Never on Sunday?



**The (ever scandalous) Athenian** announces that for the first time...[drum roll please]...that they will be **open Sundays!** It may be the **first time since 1907** (besides that July 4 about ten years ago). Beginning Memorial Day Weekend, the **Seafair Pirates' favorite, Athenian's** nearly-century-old doors will

**creak open for Sunday breakfast, lunch and dinner . . . a sort of rent party.**

### Agent “B”

Remember “**Babe,**” the **Stewart House Cat,** a story the Scallion reported in March. (The cat fell from the fourth-story deck and was miraculously saved by a visiting gymnast from Oklahoma). Now sources indicate that **during the scuffle “the real babe” may have been taken and replaced** – the *real* Babe becoming the **secret agent “Spy Cat”** featured on the cover of the April 4, Weekly World News. **The cats look suspiciously familiar** and the owner says, “anyone who knew Babe knew he could talk and write poetry.” If so Agent “B” (a.k.a. PFC Burgess, Pussy First Class) is now spying in enemy territory, infiltrating via parachute and moxie. [Editor's note: *Huh?*]

### Elvis sighting

**Elvis Update:** The Market's former **cab-Elvis, a.k.a. The Reverend David Vernon Groh,** is now licensed to perform his unique **Elvis weddings in Waikiki...**The tall, re-blonded reverend may be espousing himself, as well.

Filming continued below Western Avenue. **The gang at Downtown Food Bank** is making

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## Eight Western libraries

Over the past six years while Passages traveled around the West visiting cities and relatives, library visits became a favorite diversion. At home in Seattle, as the contention and doubt involving the central

size and cost per square foot; and acceptance by the public, users and librarians.

A bad or compromised site can defeat a great building, discourage use and diminish civic equity. Funding and governance often control the site decisions. Since Andrew Carnegie is no longer building libraries, cities must step forward. The control of library decisions in each city is a product of that city's history. No one entity can be held accountable for the form of government or sources of financial support that has devolved over time. It can, however, be judged on how well it manages its governing structure to provide a quality central library and library system.

Size and cost per square foot are easily quantifiable measurements, yet these tell us nothing about quality, function or design. Still, everyone wants to know the cost: So here they are: (year of construction & **cost per square foot**) Phoenix (1995 **\$98**), San Francisco (1996 **\$212**), Vancouver, B.C. (1995 **\$216 estimated Canadian**) and Seattle (2004 **\$271**).

Acceptance by users and librarians is crucial and can be learned from direct observation as well as newspaper accounts and reviews. Function is a simple measurement of needs met. If there isn't enough shelf space for the original book collection (as is the case in San Francisco) some critical function is missing. Are there sufficient modern devices to keep up with the information storage and retrieval demands of the community of users?

The Phoenix Central Library's isolated site is explained as “suggestive” of Monument Valley, as it dominates a deserted urban clearing. Inside it boasts that its Great Reading Room, “the largest in North America,” covers more than an acre. Ingeniously full of natural light and environmentally in balance, it is an award winning “green” structure. However, all users need to drive to it and park on surrounding surface lots.

San Francisco, Seattle and Vancouver libraries are sited near government or financial districts, appropriate locations for such institutions. Seattle is built on a sloping city block. Vancouver, B.C. and San Francisco are both built on flat, full city blocks. Vancouver incorporates retail and government offices which give its entrances a commercial tone of civil activity. The San Francisco Main Library has the same DNA as the structure it replaced near city hall, both of them resemble WPA post offices. A big drawback of the new building is a sound amplifying central atrium that distributes sound up to all levels and all library users must listen to common disputes, bells, and disconcerting noises

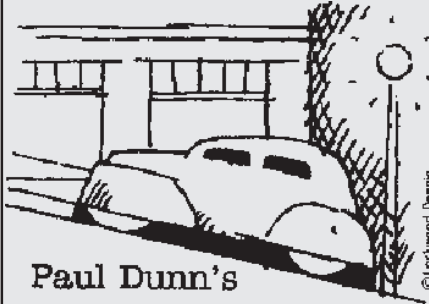
### The Passages choice

*The New York Times* exclaimed that Seattle's Central Library was “bling, bling,” and *The New Yorker* called it “high-tech bibliophilia.” Architect Rem Koolhaas won the prestigious Pritzker Prize with this commission in which new construction techniques were pioneered and proved successful. Passages, which has previously reviewed the new central library in these pages, not only uses and appreciates the new library, but often leads tours for select visitors.

But with delightful built-in patron features, sufficient size with room for expansion, environmental innovations and high-dollar value, in the opinion of Passages, the best library in the West is the Burton Barr Central Library in Phoenix.

But Passages is not about to trade Post Alley for Monument Valley.

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### Paul Dunn's Post Alley Passages

library replacement grew, libraries in other cities took on increased significance. With a backlog of pictures, notes, brochures and newspaper clips from other Western cities and two columns on Seattle's Central Library, some summarizing observations seem in order.

Eight Western U.S. city libraries were visited: Phoenix and Denver in 1999, San Diego in 2001, San Francisco in 2003, Los Angeles, Portland, Vancouver and Seattle in 2004. (San Diego will not be discussed further since it has neither replaced nor renovated its central library, which sadly seems abandoned by that city.)

The remaining city libraries form two groups: renovated/enlarged and new. The renovated libraries in Denver, Los Angeles, and Portland are discussed first because comparison between them and new structures is not apt.

### The renovated libraries

An architectural throwback, the Los Angeles Public Library is sited in a harsh, modern setting. It had to overcome destructive fire damage and spent the most of the libraries we are discussing on its renovation.

Denver spruced up its original Carnegie library building with a postmodern Michael Graves addition. The junction of old and new creates some dead ends and confusing directions. The expanded library, with landscaping and parking lots, dominates a government and museum district, which is defined by high-volume traffic arteries.

Portland takes the prize for best renovation. It retained the original structure without overpowering additions, as in Denver, and refashioned the interior for patrons to use multi-media resources. Yet it retained all the charm and grace of the great rooms of the original structure and enhanced the natural light-filled spaces with authentic woods and material consistent with the original building. Portland's Central Library, part of the Multnomah County Library System, is sited comfortably adjacent to downtown commerce and other renovated structures. No assessments of the functioning of these three libraries were made

Passages' impression was that one would prefer to spend an afternoon browsing in Portland rather than Denver or Los Angeles.

### The new libraries

Evaluation criteria for the four new Western libraries are: access and location;

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**MARKET NEWS CLOCK AND CARTOON:**  
At Random

The *Market News* is published monthly by the  
**Pike Place Market Merchants Association,**  
93 Pike St. #312, Seattle, WA 98101.  
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