

## The Scandalous Scallion

By MEGAN LEE

Wow what a beautiful October: the colors, the produce, the pepper rings, the onset of autumn, the twitterpation of the impending holiday season... the Market magic. Infamous **Balloon Bender Mr. Twister Thomas** said he saw the **first rainbow** he'd ever seen right in the Market. It hung over **Steinbrueck Park** for a just a few moments. **James Harvey and the gang** over at **Pike Place Flowers** proffered "Pumpkin trees," from Africa, to decorate for the season (allegedly edible). We maintain the belief, *If you want it, it can be found here.* There is a little bit of everything. And, again, it is **the people** – the icing on the cake of the Market – who keep it all going and make the Market the never-ending spectacle it is.

In preparation for the big celebration of **All Hallow's Eve Marketeers** went all out decorating their spots. **Sandee, at Pike Place Bar & Grill**, defiantly was the most elaborate ambiance adder. (It included moving spider, jumping bat-like creatures and one Crystal Skull.) **Kathy Casey's Dish D'Lish** had old-school plastic masks, which were very well received and sold out early. **Madame Lazonga** spiced things up on Western with glittery and festive decorations, and an old fashioned **Saturday Night Halloween Party**.

The ferociously fun folk at **The Athenian** made their annual valiant attempt, (were the cobwebs part of it?). The big news at the Market's "last bastion of 1907-ness" was: **they cleaned the outside windows** for the first time since the 1920s and then there was the **new menus (possibly the first update since 1950)**. But it is still one of Seattle's most comprehensive menus; everything from **clam hash to Escabetseng Apahap** to (the Elvis' favorite) **Louise's WOW-de-WOW**.

As most of you know **October was National Donut Month**. Down at the **Daily Dozen Donuts**, in the **Economy Market Arcade**, next to **Simply the Best**, the sweet holiday was embraced with vim, vigor and lots of sugar. **Dedicated Donut-o-nian J'sin Cread Barnett** says the whole experience was **very uplifting and renewed his faith in donuts and the refined sugar industry at large**.

**The Heritage House, 1533 Western Ave., celebrated its 15th Anniversary Oct. 15.** The unique, assisted-living facility, adjacent to the **Market Foundation's Heritage Center**, has positively influenced many lives. The staff estimates that in their one-and-a-half decades they've served over a million meals. Stop by

for more information, or if you are interested in helping decorate for the holidays contact **Eileen McCloskey (382-4119)**.

**Jack van Kinsbergen** is documenting many Market buskers and personalities in DVD. The



retired Silicon Valley man is compelled by the enchantment of street music and is putting his energies into **creating individual souvenir DVDs** for performers to distribute. The collectable DVDs consist of panoramic Market photographs fading in and out over the music of **Jim**

**Hinde and other favorite Market voices.**

Speaking of Market Buskers, many were immortalized in doors on the **Third Floor** of the new **Max Hotel**, formerly the **Vance Hotel**, 620 Stewart Street. Local photographer **Joan Broughton** was honored when her photographs of Buskers/Street Performers, a project she began in 1998, was recognized this way. (Other floors were dedicated to other photographers, such as **Charles Peterson's Fifth Floor** recognizing the Seattle Grunge Era.)

In addition to the life-size photographs, **many Market Buskers** were invited to perform for the Grand Opening Gala and stole the show. Our favorite **Ballistic Balloon Bender Mr. Twister Thomas** stole the show – and the **dance floor** – with his balloon crowns, roosters and ornate chandeliers. He had droves of people (especially girls) around him all night.

The gospel singers **Brother Willie and the Market Crew** put on several great shows. The one-man-troubadour-show a.k.a. **Emery Carl** (a.k.a. Boot Boy) entertained guests, as did the magnetic magician **Tom Frank**, including a special display for young **Max**, himself.

Besides **organizing the performers for the Max opening extravaganza**, our infamous Market Busker **Artis the Spoonman**, and his 25-pound bag of spoons, went on tour with **Chris Cornell's Audio Slave**. The Market magic man was honored to accompany the group on stage with spoon solos in **Portland, Vancouver** and in his (post-Ballard) alma mater of **Everett, Washington**.

The memorably made-up men of the **Moon Penny Opera** returned from escaping to New York with the circus. Traveling with **The Circus Contraption** the euphonious boys are back

**Twister Thomas** also made an appearance

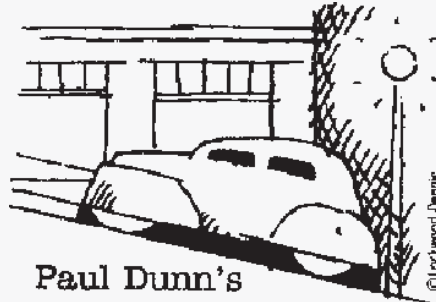
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## AN AUTUMN RETURN

Every seven or so years since the early '70s **Passages** has returned to Iowa to visit its former workplace and monitor growth and progress in a state where citizens' common sense and calm behavior prevails. This year's visit at harvest time found all was well.

Walking and talking with Iowans in coffee shops, cafes and malls refreshes the

of respect for the rule of law by recounting the various reactions of Americans to several contentious, divisive opinions by the Supreme Court over the last 200 years. He noted the desegregation cases in the '1950's, war protests in the '1960's, abortion rights in the '1970's, and in 2000, Gore v. Bush. Any of those decisions could have resulted in riot and chaos had Americans not been confident in and observant of the rule of law.



Paul Dunn's

### Post Alley Passages

knowledge with assurance that one can discuss any idea current in America and get a reasoned, informed response.

Des Moines, the capital city, has grown, displaying new and healthy urban activity. There is abundant new development downtown, including an edgy new Public Library designed by London-based David Chipperfield Architects. An extensive Saturday Farmers Market on the edge of downtown is only one of five markets in the city. (Statewide, Iowa has almost 100 farmers markets supported by an active Department of Agriculture.) The city boasts a new hockey stadium, encourages a live music culture and supports a variety of ethnic food restaurants.

Two public events highlighted this sabbatical visit.

The Des Moines Art Center, a private institution, has one of the top Midwest collections. It recently reconfigured its extensive collection in all three of its wings – the original Saarinen building and the I.M. Pei and Richard Meier additions. The galleries are now thematic with titles such as **Small Miracles, Performing Objects, Figure Studies, Exquisite Theater and Contemplation**. This approach made for a thought-provoking and exciting visit, seeing artworks grouped by context rather than chronology, where Rembrandt, Picasso, and Hopper might share the same wall.

The second event nourished the mind and not the eye. Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer delivered a public lecture at Drake University one afternoon. It was a grand experience. Fifteen hundred people from all walks of life gathered in the gymnasium on a weekday afternoon to listen to a Supreme Court Justice. This secular devotion was rewarded with a sermon about democracy from the text of the Constitution. Intelligent, friendly and with great personal magnetism, Justice Breyer delivered a riveting explanation of our constitution and its connections to our democracy, offering a new perspective.

Justice Breyer spoke for 40 minutes, seemingly without notes. He made three salient points: the rule of law is not automatic, but respect for and observance of it is an American trait; our democracy is tested, modified, and strengthened by open public debate; and the Constitution creates institutions and process, but the Bill of Rights creates separate, individual rights.

He spoke of the application and history

We have a democracy of a 'certain kind', he said. Our rights of speech and assembly have fostered problem-solving debate. We carry on important constitutional debates in our homes, clubs, churches, schools and countless other venues, in public and in print. This debate leads to modification and resolution. When a debate cannot be resolved, the courts step in with their ground rules.

His third point was that the Constitution's first seven sections created institutions, but not individual rights. Those came in the Bill of Rights, which empower individuals. They are there 'to keep the system on the rails of democracy'. Justice Breyer repeated de Tocqueville's 150-year-old question: Why does it work? Breyer answers: Because people practice. The Constitution, he says, not only permits individuals to participate in the democratic process; *it foresees that they will do it.*

### Civil discontent alive and well at home

Comparisons to the Pike Place Market intruded even before the lecture was over. On return to Seattle, **Passages** finds debate still active on the 2006 PDA budget, Mayoral appointments to the Council, direction and disruption in the farm community over CSA prospects, and renewed tensions in the PDA Council over the Market Historical Commission.

One of the many Market characters long ago compared the governing structure of the modern Market to our national government. He saw the PDA as the executive branch, the Constituency as a Congressional stand-in, and the Historical Commission as the judicial branch.

A better analogy would be a parliamentary democracy. The PDA Council, or parliament, which chooses the executive or Prime Minister, is composed of members chosen from three sources, the Mayor, the Council, and the Constituency. The Historical Commission represents an independent judiciary. But like most armchair civics comparisons, this ignores more than it explains.

It was Breyer's remarks about debate and democracy that brought the Market to mind, because here in the Market the similarity to the American genius of democracy he described rings true. The Market's real vitality lies less in its governing structure than in the vigor of its internal debate and the ratio of talk to action which goes on, year in and year out. We do not have direct government like an Athenian agora or a New England town hall here in the Market, yet we have a vibrant democracy, stuttering, staggering at times, but strong and sustaining.

It is always nice to come home to un-peace and non-quiet.

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