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City struck by demise and grief

Tim Talkalot, Central Park - Mayor Goodman's passing three days ago affects Samaritan deeply. Wednesday afternoon a lot of citizens came to the park to witness the public unveiling of the statue of Mr. Blonde. Funded by the FBD, the statue depicts our hero in all his glory as a reward for his benevolent deeds.

The ribbon the mayor was going to cut ceremoniously was however sabotaged with electricity, which led to his dead. This

was the main lead for the police the last days when trying to figure out who committed this vile assassination.

'Our main suspect is electricity villain Voltaire,' commissioner Bluecloth explains on behalf of the police. 'Apparently he is the only villain who works with these materials and currents. He has an alibi since he was spotted at local villain bar Connelly's at the time, but we think he placed the booby trap earlier.'

'Mayor Goodman's death is not just a *political* tragedy; So many heroes and *not one* could save him!'

Meanwhile the town is in chaos. Alderman Bob Kane has been promoted interim-mayor yesterday, after a lengthy debate in city hall. Kane is the former leader of the conservative party, where Goodman started his own political career. Kane has the support of many citizens, though some opt for a more progressive mayor. 'In times of trouble you need an iron fist,' citizen Sara Sugar explains.

The political drama also continues on another level. Many citizens think Goodman's death could have been prevented by one of our heroes. 'It's ridiculous,' retired heroine Cindy Salmon explains. 'In our time, someone like Voltaire wouldn't have gotten away with this.'

The FBD immediately opted for a directive. The foundation now sanctions and registers all hero behaviour in Samaritan, see page 3. <

Criminally insane Hawking 'unaccountable'

Terry Johnson, Justice Newsroom - Public outrage hit the streets today as attorney Brick Meadowmill announced his client, professor Stephen Hawking, to be unaccountable for his crimes. Psychiatric reports indicated the still-paralysed and catatonic mastermind behind the Museum of Science heist was suffering from severe delusions and sociopathic disorders, forcing the District Attorney to plead for a lifelong commitment to the Moorbridge Asylum. Hawking will be transported there next Tuesday in an armoured vehicle under strict surveillance.

'This is a disgrace, how much longer can villains like Hawking get away with their

crimes by hiding behind a mental illness?' Says DA Sheridan, 'I will speak with the interim-mayor about tightening the legislation. This is unacceptable. It's just too convenient that a person like Hawking slips into paralysis at the moment of his capture.'

The defense was unavailable for a comment on this accusation. Judge Emmerson responded by calling his verdict 'fair' and 'by the book'. The psychiatric reports were verified by two unrelated teams and according to Emmerson there was nothing to indicate Hawking was faking his debilitation.

For obvious reasons, Hawking himself posed no comment either. <



'My honorary statue!' Mr. Blonde about the incident

Ursula Earington, Central Park - After his statue was destroyed Mr. Blonde cannot help but feel unappreciated. The Daily Samaritan pays him a visit. Past Wednesday Mr. Blonde's statue was hailed with a grande opening. However, after the electric execution of our mayor, the damaged statue was again covered up. Blonde's few moments of glory passed all too quickly.

'My honorary statue! Yes, that was a painful sight, to see someone so handsome as myself being electrocuted. And the mayor too, of course. I wish I could have helped both of us, but I spurred to the crime scene too late. I will always blame myself for that.'

Blonde explains that he had a lot of fan mail on the topic. 'Some of them were pretty harsh, they criticized me for not

saving the mayor. The FBD was pretty cruel too. They said I ruined their image because I couldn't save the mayor. I suppose I shouldn't tell you this, really. But we all did our best. It's very upsetting, really.'

Blonde explains some people

are still at his side. 'Mr. Boss and our loyal fans agree that the incident was unfortunate. And the FBD hasn't disposed of me too, they came up with different solution: registering us.'

Despite recent chaos Blonde still receives the sport car FBD had promised him after he had won their award. 'Well, that's at least some comfort for my poor, and very handsome, soul.' <

Mayor Goodman cuts electrified ribbon



Newsflash!

Joe's Diner got another red card by Paul de Manger, critic for Haute Cuisine Contemporaine. 'Filthy, rotten and cheap,' De Manger concluded.

A new play titled '**The Good and The Bad**', discusses the crime wave in our city.

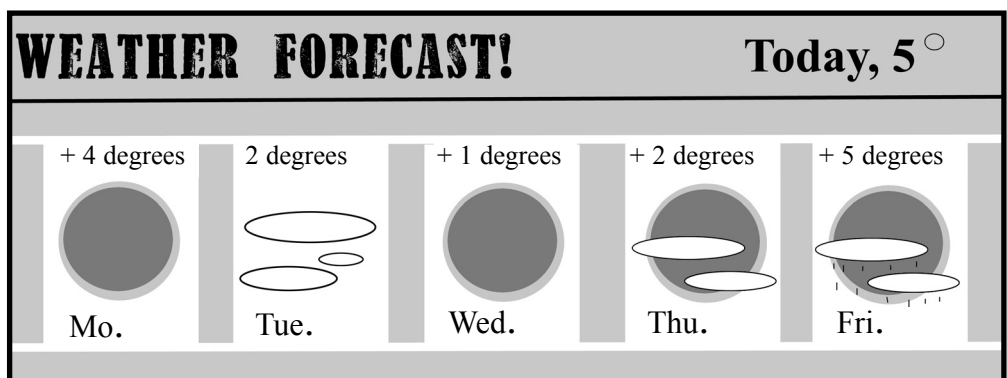
Marie Menzel's arrival at the public funeral of Mayor Goodman caused some ruckus. Menzel, claiming to be his mistress for several years now, openly wooed Goodman's passing. Biographers and media (aside from *Gossip Weekly*) think it highly unlikely she had any attachments to Goodman.

Telephone booth increase at 9% the last month - T. Knowit, *Research and Development*.

The Shrink analyzes Mr. Doom

Rose Winterstall, Suburbs - The Shrink made her second appearance. She saved the hostages Mr. Doom had taken during his heist at the *Scrunchy Cinema* in the suburbs. 'Friday night at the cinema is a busy night,' Mr. Doom informed the press when he was taken in. During his arrestment the somewhat spastic Mr. Doom seemed quite at ease. 'We had a long talk,' The Shrink tells our reporters. 'It all comes down to his *mother*, she mentally abused him, called him names. It takes some work, but he'll be fine eventually.'

The Shrink is a fairly new persona in our vivid city, notable for her intelligence and ability to fly. 'I discovered my powers fairly recently, two years ago or so, but I had a pretty busy job and such. I needed to get a good control over my energy flow too. It was a rough ride, but now I'm ready to make myself useful for our town and do what I love most: helping people.' <



Heroes ordered to register at FBD

Robert Randell, city hall - As of March 1, heroes are obliged to register at the FBD, the *Foundation for Benevolent Deeds*. The registration is a direct effect of the assassination of Mayor Goodman, which led to the public degradation of heroes all over town. 'We have decided to take an active stand and regulate hero behaviour a bit more,' said FBD spokesperson Paul Quinton.

The new FBD booklet distributed to all citizens clearly explains the benefits of registering: 'Keep track of villains; order special gadgets and be informed at times of peril.' The benefits compensate for the obligatory fee the heroes have to pay and the registration that tracks their activities. To keep their identities hidden, heroes

can subscribe under their pseudonyms.

The registration meets quite some opposition. A survey among citizens proved that 32% was against these measurements, depicting them as too rigid. In general the heroes are not amused. 'There were officials present when Goodman was assassinated,' The Flame explains: 'His security guards and extra police were present. There were heroes on the scene too, such as Mr. Blonde and myself. Security doesn't think of examining a very thin ribbon, no one does!'

In the Telephone Booth heroes mock the new policy. Charade decides that 'surveillance is never a solution to anything.' The Shrink adds: 'More bureaucracy and forms neither.' <

'Millstone should get a taste of his own goo!'

Rose Winterstall, Millstone Inc. - The environmental activists continue to chain themselves to Millstone Inc. To make Millstone Inc. revise its policy, the activists have lobbied the factory for several weeks. The activists claim Millstone Inc. ruins the environment and suspects it of producing more than chemicals.

'We got a tour there once,' Johnny Tree explains. 'Mostly to ease our minds, but hah, that didn't really work. There were a lot of rooms we couldn't enter, a lot of technical stuff left unexplained. Oh, and all kinds of machines to polish and shape all kinds of metals with. I wouldn't be surprised if Millstone is responsible for half the weapons in this town and actually *provides* the villains he publically tries to fight. This whole factory *begs* to be overthrown.'

Corporate director Millstone himself is also heavily criticized by activists: 'Everyone with half a brain knows Millstone's bribing the city. Did you recently see him at the funeral of Goodman? The guy goes buddy-buddy on all the renowned politicians. That speech of his at the funeral about him and Goodman, being friends for years, was complete nonsense. And he has a big say in the FBD now. Maybe the new policy to register heroes is a way of him to keep providing them with Millstone Inc. weapons or so.'

While the activists keep conjuring up new conspiracy theories about Millstone Inc., Millstone himself still remains a public favourite. His speech at Goodman's funeral was applauded to and rumour has it that DA Emmerson described it as 'nearly presidential'.

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Cynical confessions

#26 Mega Cindy's

Magical Musical Mess!



Jacques Blabberhoven, columnist

Two weeks ago I got approached by our lovely city's musical director Gerald Boxoffice, begging me to come check out his latest homage to our city's most respected Oldie. Though the title Mega Cindy's Magical Madness proved to be inviting enough, the show itself lacked more than words can describe. Of course I shall try to do my best to cover what little worth I saw on this trite.

For starters, transforming Cindy into a contemporary heroine is a disgrace to her persona as we know it. The audience knows full well that our Mega Cindy had her highlights ages ago and that many of her feats featured old-fashioned stuff. Giving Cindy an I-pod instead of a heavy old radio, and a GPS instead of a compass, ruins the legends we associate with her. And an epic entrée where she flies, throwing fireballs, cannot be described as remotely accurate either.

The music isn't worth the trouble as well. The overture is the best piece of the musical, given the fact that it's the *only* part in which there is no singing. The musical techniques vary from atrocious throat-sounds to vowel screeches some people try to pass off as vocal accomplishments. The horrible instrumentation of some songs seems a dissonant mixture between ancient composers and our city's failed guitar hero Bandwidth. The instrumentation only matches the mood of the song in *I can smell you in the dark*, during which the bassoon solo quite accurately depicts the sounds of flatulence.

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Troubles in town

Continuation of page 3

The speech dealt with the hope and virtue in these 'times of darkness' and discussed the 'solemn hour', at which the citizens were forced to choose between 'heroes and the heroic'. Millstone will visit the city town-house again Tuesday to discuss recent matters in a briefing with the politicians. Call him what you may, he's at least engaged with

the town's welfare. 'Concerns of famous citizens as Millstone can help us paint a clear picture of the town during the interim period,' Anna Fiedel describes, secretary of interim-mayor Kane. 'We should be thankful. The opinion of marginal groups in our town, such as the activists, matters a great deal. However, we have to keep things up and running now, rather than create more chaos.' <

Continuation of page 3, *column*

What amazed me as well is that the first 20 years of her professional career got treated in only two songs: *It's my time now* and

I'm going up, up, up. On top of that the second act features the infamous tripping incident our Cindy had shortly after her 25th anniversary as a superhero. The actual story is renowned: with her seize, back in 1981, Cindy managed to break a few villains ribs' by falling on them. The question still remains whether she tripped on purpose. The musical manifests the trip scene

with lots of spectacle where Cindy, as a last resort, squashes a few kidnappers in her body suit.

Basically the only thing accurate about this homage is the 'madness' in the title. If you want to have a good, magical show visit old dear Cindy herself and listen to her stories, festered with Alzheimer's uncertainty. It still provides much more humour, joy and relaxation than this 90 min. extravaganza of stupidity could ever provide.<

Advertisements contact now!

Joe's carwash - For all your superhero vehicles. Suburbs, Dandy Street 21, Joe's Diner. No insurance or refund for damaged gadgets.

Mr. Doom looks for his mother, ex-villain Miss Terror, last spotted on a plane to Canada to avoid an angry mob.

Need mutated rabbits and several electric chairs for great experiment/heist.

Want to team up? The disbanded Four Fags want to recruit new members for the *Five Frooties*. Meet us in the Telephone Booth and bring your *resume*.

Lola Starlight is looking for a *new pianist*. Come to Connelly's at Saturdays.

Need *gadgets*, where to get them? Especially need a big slingshot, marbles and exploding lipsticks.

The Mechamaker! Build your own mecha within 24 hrs from *scrap!* No refunds! Recommended by villains as Metal Maniac and heroes as Bubble Boy and The Flame.

Still looking for a *sidekick*, please come to the Moorbridge at midnight.

Adopt the handsome ~~and kidnapped~~ dog, Scruffy, a capable and qualified aid during every heist. Very cheap! A great addition to your team! Not hostile at all!

Looking for a tank filled with *swordfish*, preferably with actual swords on top of their heads.

Star at bay: strange sightings at night

Kent Brockman, Samaritan docks - A bright light has been sighted near the docking bay by Moorbridge, just above the boat *Thelexiepeia*. 'It could've been aliens for all we know,' a local resident describes. 'Or some crazy scientist conjuring up another abomination!' No official report about the strange sighting has been brought forward by the police.

The *Thelexiepeia* is an old, beaten war cruiser now owned by the former Lieutenant Lancer, a retired soldier, supposedly suffering from shellshock. Lancer has been spotted in town a lot recently, notably at the bar Connelly's. 'He seems to fancy Lola a lot,' the bartender confesses. 'Many of them do, she has the voice of an angel, I tell you!'

Interestingly, Connelly's is a renowned meeting place for villains. It is quite possible that Lancer is up to something, which could explain the strange sighting. Or maybe the guy just needs a drink every once in a while. <

This newspaper is a special edition related to *Heroes and Villains*, an OpenMinded special (2009).

Register now!

Foundation for Benevolent Deeds

The *Foundation for Benevolent Deeds* (FBD) helps **heroes** all over the city. With their special **funds** the FBD encourages heroes to save citizens and fight the **forces of evil**.

Are you a hero? **Get your FBD card now**, a license to show to the authorities when you are at the scene of the crime. The FB officials can help you in many ways. Keep track of villains; order special gadgets and inform you when peril's at hand.

Award winner 2008, Mister Blonde: 'The FBD mostly gives, but we can also give to the FBD.'