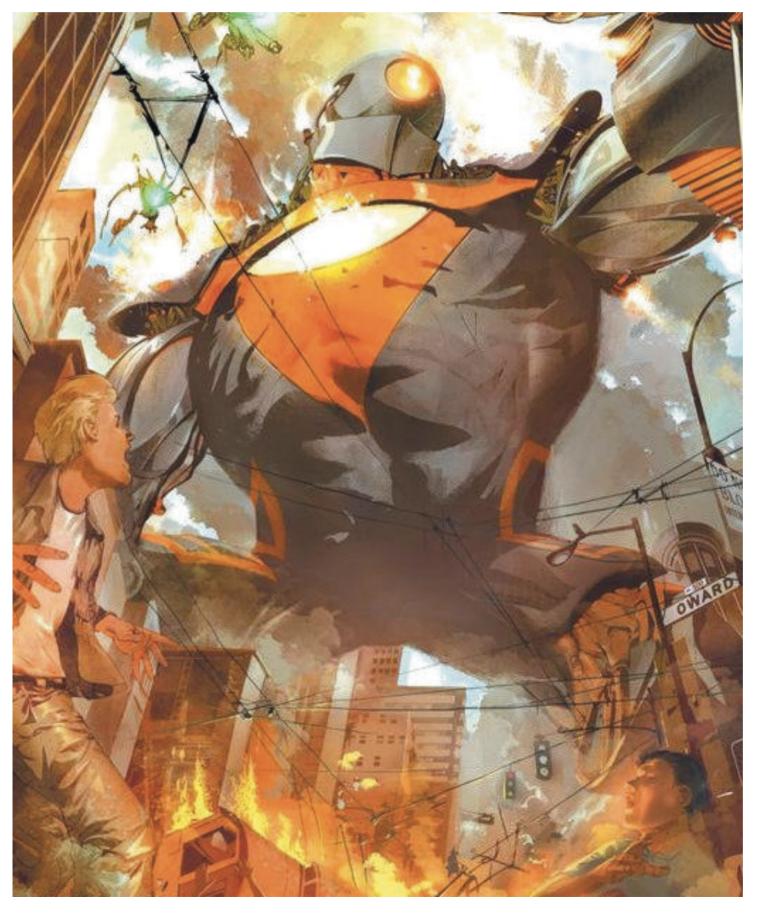
The Bay Area's Premiere Newspaper #101

Astonishing Six Defeats Metal Menace



Heroes Thrash Dr. Death's Machine:

The battle raged just outside the packed Los Angeles Sports Coliseum, as ball game spectators had front row seats to a true Major League fight. Dr. Death, believing his durable android body to be safely ensconced within his massive construct, came rocketing in to land just outside the Sports Coliseum, announcing that the baseball enthusiasts were all his hostages. Several small robots exploded from the back of the larger creation, ready to exterminate any resistance. But before the android gang could make a move, the entire Astonishing Six appeared, smashing into the metal foes. When the smoke cleared, the smaller robots were destroyed, the steel colussus lay in ruins, and Dr. Death was safely in custody. Invincible was quoted as saying, "Whenever creatures of evil threat-Pg. A4

President to Award Medal of Freedom to Astonishing Six

Invincible. Kininja. Lancer. Patriot. Shockbolt. The Lioness. Names familiar throughout the world. A group of heroes dedicated to protecting humanity from the depredations of the psychopaths, war mongers, and ne'er-dowells hiding in the shadows. Today, awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to each member of the Astonishing Six, President Hartman thanked the heroes for their selfless acts, and Pg. A2

Stories In The Works



Jewelry Store Robberies: Supers Involved?

A spate of jewelry store heists are keeping the police on their toes this last week. Three stores in the last fives days have been hit, and while the owners of the stores have no comment to make regarding the property stolen, an anonymous source has reported that the majority of the jewelry taken contained rubies. Cases containing several hundred carats of diamonds were ignored while the less valuable red stones were carted off. Insurance claims are expected to be in the millions.

At a press conference, when asked about the possibility of the involvement of Super criminals, Police Chief David Wolfe responded, "While I cannot comment regarding an ongoing case, there is a high probability that the perpetrators possess enhanced abilities. With that in consideration, we have assigned Detective Terrence Ellers, head of the San Francisco Super Human Investigations."

The Walking Dead?

San Francisco Coroner's office reports that three bodies have disappeared from the morgue. Police have few leads, the San Francisco Police Office commenting, "There is no apparent break in, and other than the remains of the three people, nothing of value was taken or tampered with. The remains were not evidence in any ongoing investigation."

The City coroners are all considered "persons of interest" at this time, though no charges have been filed and none of the employees are facing disciplinary action. City Hall is considering transferring the other bodies from the morgue to the City morgue in San Jose until the culprit is found.

Gator Attacks Surge: True, or a Croc?

Florida: Cities up and down the Gulf coast are reporting a surge in alligator sightings and attacks. Everglade tours, scuba classes, and even some golf tournaments have been closed or put on hold while the wildlife authorities look into the attack.

The recent capture of one of the marauding reptiles has wowed local zoologists, as the size of the creature is extraordinary for the area and time of year. Said researcher Albert Foster, "You just don't see gators this size in these parts. It's unheard of. The big daddies are much deeper in the wilds, away from humanity, not strolling across golf courses or eating pets."

Man's Best Friend

Researchers are now preparing a study seeking to confirm that dog slobber, by itself (and not just the psychological advantages of playing with and petting a dog), might provide human health benefits (such as relief from asthma, allergies and inflammation).

Specialists from the University of Arizona and University of California San Diego point to existing evidence of the comparative healthiness of dog-owning families and suspect that canine saliva, like yogurt, may have unusual probiotic value.

Cherry Picking

For Leonard Debenedetto, 57, a suc-

cessful maraschino cherry supplier in Manchester, New Hampsire, the inspection by the district attorney's office was to be routine, concerning possible pollution of local waters from discharges of cherry syrup. Debenedetto was cooperative until the investigator discovered odd shelving "attached" to a wall with magnets, revealing a "secret" room, and then the smell of marijuana -- at which point Debenedetto calmly left the room and shot himself in the head. Ultimately, police found that the 75-year-old company was merely a side business to Debenedetto's substantial marijuanagrowing operation in the basement. The company has been shut down for an indeterminate time.

Overnight Gas Theft Leaves Police Baffled

In a bizarre and daring overnight theft, the underground gasoline tanks at the Zip-N-Go were completely drained of their contents. Owner Amir Halabi was quoted as saying, "We had just received a delivery two days ago. The tanks held nearly twenty thousand gallons last night, and then this morning they are as dry as a bone! How could anyone make off with twenty thousand gallons of gasoline?"

Police have very little in the way of leads, as a source informs us that the electronic surveillance in the immediate area was temporarily without power last night. Police have no suspects at this time.

