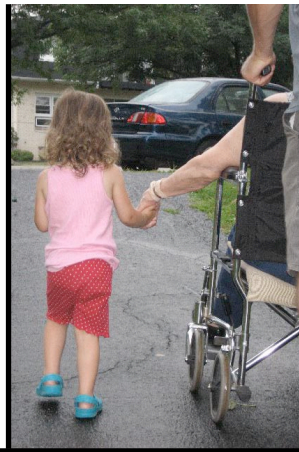


August 2007

Scanning the PAC for all the news that's NOT fit to print!



## PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

**LEFT:** 2 year-old Ramona walks her Great Gramma to the car. Submitted by Pamela Biesen.

**RIGHT:** Christopher all decked out at the Renaissance Faire. Submitted by Heather Young.



## PAC Rats Theatre Company

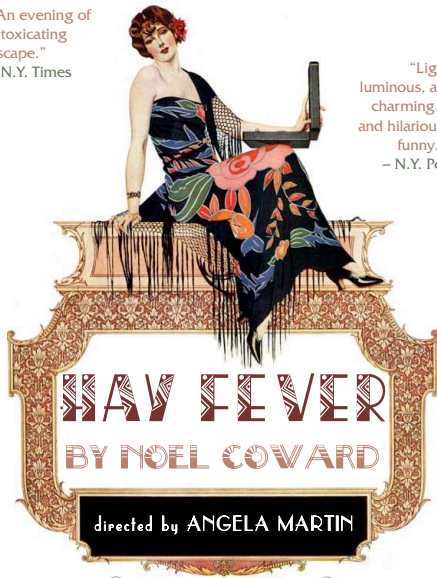
# OPEN AUDITIONS

**WHEN** AUDITION DATES, 2007:  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 24: 7pm to 10pm  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25: 1pm to 4pm

**KINDIG PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE  
15800 State Street • South Holland, IL

**WHERE**

"An evening of intoxicating escape."  
- N.Y. Times



"Light, luminous, and charming... and hilariously funny."  
- N.Y. Post

**Roles Available:**  
4 men, 5 women, aged 18 and up.

No prior experience or prepared material is necessary.  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

For more information, visit our website at:  
<http://learn.southsuburbancollege.edu/theatre>  
or email: [ssctheatre@southsuburbancollege.edu](mailto:ssctheatre@southsuburbancollege.edu)

## ABOUT THE SHOW

*Hay Fever* is set in the hall of the Bliss family home. The eccentric Blisses – Judith, a recently retired stage actress, David, a self-absorbed novelist, and their two equally unconventional children – live in a world where reality slides easily into fiction. Upon entering this world, their unfortunate weekend guests are repeatedly thrown into melodramatic scenes wherein their hosts profess emotions and react to situations that do not really exist. The resulting comedic chaos ends only when the tortured visitors tip-toe out the door.

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

### THE FAMILY

**Judith Bliss:** The non-traditional matriarch of the Bliss family. She is a well known actress who had temporarily retired. She is vibrant, eccentric, and is unable to keep from slipping into dramatic characters at any moment. When life does not create excitement for her, she creates her own.

**David Bliss:** The Patriarch. He is an absent-minded novelist who shuts himself in his room to write, he is oblivious to his wife and children. He is less melodramatic than his wife, but is just as self-centered as his wife.

**Simon Bliss:** The adult son of Judith and David. Simon is an artist. He is also is prone to his parents' unorthodox behavior.

**Sorel Bliss:** The adult daughter of Judith and David and the only Bliss family member who feels any remorse

for her family's outrageous behavior. She tries to make a concerted effort to change her ways, but fails in the end.

**Clara:** The Bliss family maid. She is a "hot, round, untidy little woman" She was Judith's dresser when she was an actress. Clara puts up with all of the Bliss's demands.

## THE GUESTS

**Sandy Tyrell:** Judith's guest. Sandy is an amateur boxer with a crush on Judith. He is fresh-looking with an unspoiled youthful sense of honour.

**Jackie Coryton:** David's guest. She is a shy flapper up for the weekend to inspire David's new book. She is shy and ill at ease from the minute she arrives at the house.

**Myra Arundel:** Simon's guest. She is a snobbish socialite who rebuffs Simon's advances. Myra is utterly frustrated by the way the entire family's odd behavior takes events out of her control.

**Richard Greatham:** Sorel's guest. He is a well known diplomatist that is intrigued by Sorel and her family's unique lifestyle. He is instinctually polite and kind.

Reading copies of the script are on reserve in the SSC library.

The rehearsal schedule and more info is posted on the theatre website, at:  
<http://learn.southsuburbancollege.edu/theatre>

Or, you can email the director (Angela) at: [theatregirl25@gmail.com](mailto:theatregirl25@gmail.com)

- Kentucky state law stipulates that a person is considered sober until he or she "cannot hold onto the ground."
- In Hartford, CT it is illegal to educate a dog.

- A crumpled-up piece of Reynolds Wraps makes an excellent pot scrubber if you're camping.
- Use a piece of crumpled-up Reynolds Wrap to polish the chrome on car bumpers.

## Ponderisms

- Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?
- Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

# DOG RESCUERS STILL NEED HELP

In June 2006, Paul Korniczky of New York, a long time Kuvasz breeder, died of natural causes, leaving 17 German Shepherds and 49 Kuvasz dogs, kenneled, alone, fending for themselves. No one came to feed and water them or provide the basic care that all dogs need. The dogs were traumatized and starving. Some died. During the months to follow, many of the remaining dogs were rescued and placed in new or foster homes.



Fast forward to August 2007. Ten dogs still need to be placed in permanent homes. Along with his housemates, Maggie, Bob (and sometimes John), Steve Kovacs



has been caring for the remaining dogs. He was able to open kennels on the farm property he now rents. In a year's time, these "Big White Dogs" have gone from scrawny and scared to healthy and more confident representatives of their breed.

Feeding and veterinary care for 10 dogs is very costly. Funds from Kuvasz rescue groups have long since dried up and, after a year, interest in the situation has waned. In an effort to generate awareness, a new website (<http://www.kuvaszrescue.us>) has been launched.

There you can read the complete story of their extraordinary rescue, see photos of each dog, chuckle at stories of their antics and "wish lists" of toys, food and blankets. You can also see recipes for the special rescue diet the dogs need to continue to thrive.



If you can donate to this worthy cause, there are several options available. There is a Pay Pal button at the website where you can use a credit card. Checks, money orders or fleece blankies can be sent directly to: Steve Kovacs, 38 Browns Road, Westtown, NY 10998-2601. Or, you can email Steve at [steve@kuvaszrescue.us](mailto:steve@kuvaszrescue.us) for more info. Every dollar donated will be used for providing for the dogs.

## WORD DEFINITION — CRAPALANCHE —

crap•a•lanche [krap-uh-lanch, -lahnch]  
—noun

1. a large mass of stuff, usually outdated and useless items, collected in a pile that is in grave danger of sliding or falling suddenly downward.



2. the prop room before it was cleaned and reorganized. **See photo.**



## SECRETS OF SCREEN ACTING PREMIUM PODCAST (subscription fee required)

[www.secretsofscreenacting.com](http://www.secretsofscreenacting.com)

This site is the vehicle where Patrick Tucker, of BBC fame, tells the secrets that make you that actor who's wanted by everyone and, more importantly, gets reemployed.

## T-SHIRTS!

Get your theatre t-shirt order in ASAP! Email Angela Martin at [theatregirl25@gmail.com](mailto:theatregirl25@gmail.com). Make sure you include, size, design and colour in your email.

## MOST POPULAR MYTHS IN SCIENCE

as reported on [www.livescience.com](http://www.livescience.com)

### ANIMALS CAN PREDICT NATURAL DISASTERS

There is no evidence that animals possess a mysterious sixth-sense allowing them to predict natural disasters. Their keen senses of smell, hearing, and sharp instincts alone are enough to send them scattering for the hillsides during a hurricane or tsunami. And even so, animals often die during natural disasters, so if they do have some sort of sixth sense, it's not worth much.



### LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES THE SAME PLACE TWICE



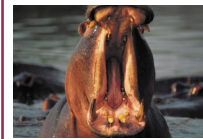
In fact lightning favors certain spots, particularly high locations. The

Empire State Building is struck about 25 times every year. Ben Franklin grasped the concept long ago and mounted a metal rod atop the roof of his home, then ran a wire to the ground, thereby inventing the lightning rod.

### A FALLING CAT WILL ALWAYS LAND ON ITS FEET



Studies have demonstrated that, when dropped from most heights, cats will land gracefully on their feet. Results change only with cats dropped upside-down from a height of one foot or less. We're not suggesting you try this at home.



### YAWNING IS CONTAGIOUS

Empirically, this is tough to deny; perhaps you'll yawn while reading this. The real question is whether there's actually something physiological at work here, and the answer is likely yes: even chimpanzees mimic each other's yawns.

### EATING A POPPY SEED BAGEL MIMICS OPIUM USE



Purveyors of this urban legend call on a popular Seinfeld episode for support. It turns out there's truth behind the comedy: tests suggest ingesting just two poppy seed bagels may produce a positive result for opiates on a drug screen.

# How To Forward Email Correctly

**Do you know how to forward e-mails?  
50% of us do; 50% DO NOT.**

**Do you wonder why you get viruses  
or junk mail?**

Every time you forward an e-mail there is information left over from the people who got the message before you, namely their e-mail addresses and names. As the messages get forwarded along, the list of addresses builds, and builds, and builds and all it takes is for some poor sap to get a virus, and his or her computer can send that virus to every e-mail address that has come across his computer. Or, someone can take all of those addresses and sell them or send junk mail to them in the hopes that you will go to the site and he will make five cents for each hit. That's right, all of that inconvenience over a nickel!

**How do you stop it?**

**There are several easy steps:**

(1) When you forward an e-mail, DELETE all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top). You MUST click the "Forward" button first and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message.

(2) Whenever you send an e-mail to more than one person, do NOT use the To: or Cc: fields for adding e-mail addresses. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the e-mail addresses. This is the way the people you send to will only see their own e-mail address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC: and that's it!

(3) Remove any "FW:" in the subject line. You can re-name the subject if you wish or even fix spelling.

(4) ALWAYS hit your Forward button from the actual e-mail you are reading. Ever get those e-mails that you have to open 10 pages to read Undisclosed Recipients the one page with the information on it? By forwarding from the actual page you wish someone to view, you stop them from having to open many e-mails just to see what you sent.

(5) Have you ever gotten an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name and address and to

## HOW TO FORWARD EMAIL (cont.)

forward it to 10 or 15 people to your entire address book.

The email can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and email addresses. A FACT: The completed petition is actually worth a couple of bucks to a professional spammer because of the wealth of valid names and email addresses contained therein. If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter or to the intended recipient.

Your position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and email address on a petition.

(6) One of the main ones I hate is the ones that say that something like, "Send this email to 10 people and you'll see something great run across your screen." Or, sometimes they'll just tease you by saying something really cute will happen. IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN!

(7) Before you forward an Amber Alert, or a Virus Alert, or some of the other ones floating around nowadays, check them out before you forward them. Most of them are junk mail that's been circling the net for *YEARS!* Just about everything you receive in an email that is in question can be checked out at Snopes. Just go to

<http://www.snopes.com>

(Now I know how it must have felt to write the scripts for those old "School Informational Movies" we all used to have to watch!!!)

***I Believe...***

***...that it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.***



**WHY BOTHER WITH HELMETS???**

**REMEMBER TO CONTACT US** with any article, photo, want ad or idea at:

✉ [RatRagStaff@yahoo.com](mailto:RatRagStaff@yahoo.com) ✉

I monitor this email daily and will respond to all. – Ro

# Weird

THESE ARE ACTUAL NEWS  
ARTICLES FROM THE CHICAGO  
SUNTIMES

## **MAN BEATS STRAY PEACOCK HE MISTOOK FOR VAMPIRE.**

A peacock that roamed into the parking lot of a fast-food restaurant was attacked by a man who vilified it as a vampire, animal control authorities said.

Beaten so fiercely that most of its tail feathers fell out, the bird was euthanized, said Richard Gentles of the city's Center for Animal Care.

"it's just unbelievable" Gentles said.

## **COUPLE LOCKED KID IN ROOM TO WATCH PACKERS**

A Greenfield, Wisconsin couple have admitted to locking their 7-year old boy in his room with a loaf of bread, a jar of peanut butter, a jar of jelly and a bucket to use as a toilet, so they could go to the casino to watch a Packers game.

"What do you do?" the couple's defense attorney asked, "Maybe this coming football season, lock them in a room with a bucket and make them watch Bears games."

## **FROM THE POLICE BLOTTER**

MONDAY | 1:15 A.M. | WEST SIDE

A man died after he and his companions crashed into a light pole with a reportedly stolen car, police said.

The driver fled on foot after the incident, in the 4800 block of Division. Two men and a woman in the car were injured, including the man who died.

## **IN HONOUR OF STUPID PEOPLE...**

On a Japanese food processor:  
"Not to be used for the other use."

*(Somebody out there has to help me with this one!)*

## **OPEN AUDITIONS**

The Chicago Heights Drama Group will hold auditions for the musical *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* on September 10 and 11, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Drama Group Studio Theatre, 330 West 202nd Street, Chicago Heights, IL.

Roles are available for 14 men and 7 women, aged 18 to 50. For more info, email director Billy Vitucci at [billyvitucci@dramagroup.org](mailto:billyvitucci@dramagroup.org)

# Fun Websites

<http://morsecode.scphillips.com>

This is fun!!! Type in any word or phrase to hear and see it in Morse Code.

[www.The-gay-quiz.com](http://www.The-gay-quiz.com)

Do you think you might be gay? Would you like to know for sure but don't know how? You can find your answer at this website. Just take the free gay quiz.

## A Nifty Tip

To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water and drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets.

## Bizarre Holidays in August

August is National Check Out Bizarre American Holidays Month

- 1<sup>st</sup> is Raspberry Cream Pie Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> is Wiggle Your Toes Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> is Lazy Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> is Potato Day
- 24<sup>th</sup> is Knife Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> is World Sauntering Day

## Off To School

TIPS FOR GETTING THERE SAFELY

### BUS RIDERS:

- Line up facing the school bus door.
- Don't play in the street.
- Never reach under a bus.
- Get out of traffic and onto the sidewalk.
- Wait for a signal from the bus driver before you cross the street.
- Walk at least 10 steps in front of the bus.

### FOR WALKERS:

- Always walk with a friend.
- Wear brightly colored clothes.
- Use crosswalks.
- Know the meaning of traffic lights and signs.
- Don't wear headphones.
- Never run into the street.

## Do You Know Your State Motto?

- Alabama:** Heck Yes, We Have Electricity  
**Alaska:** 11,623 Eskimos Can't Be Wrong!  
**Arizona:** But It's A Dry Heat  
**Arkansas:** Literacy Ain't Everything  
**California:** By 30, Our Women Have More Plastic Than Your Honda  
**Colorado:** If You Don't Ski, Don't Bother  
**Connecticut:** Like Massachusetts, Only The Kennedy's Don't Own It Yet  
**Delaware:** We Like The Chemicals in Our Water  
**Florida:** Ask Us About Our Grandchildren  
**Georgia:** We Put The "Fun" In Fundamentalist Extremism  
**Hawaii:** Haka Tiki Mou Sha'ami Leeki Toru (Death To Mainland Scum, Leave Your Money)  
**Idaho:** More Than Just Potatoes... Well Okay, We're Not, But The Potatoes Are Really Good  
**Illinois:** Please Don't Pronounce The "S"  
**Indiana:** 2 Billion Years Tidal Wave Free  
**Iowa:** We Do Amazing Things With Corn  
**Kansas:** First Of The Rectangle States  
**Kentucky:** 5 Million People, 15 Last Names  
**Louisiana:** We're Not All Drunken Cajuns, But That's Our Tourism Motto  
**Maine:** We're Really Cold, But We Have Cheaper Lobster  
**Maryland:** If You Dream It, We Can Tax It  
**Massachusetts:** Our Taxes Are Lower Than Sweden's (For Most Tax Brackets)  
**Michigan:** First Line Of Defense from the Canadians.  
**Minnesota:** 10,000 Lakes... And 10,000,000,000 Mosquitoes  
**Mississippi:** Come And Feel Better About Your Own State  
**Missouri:** Your Federal Flood Relief Tax Dollar At Work  
**Montana:** Land Of The Big Sky, The Unabomber, Right-Wing Crazies And Little Else  
**Nebraska:** Ask About Our State Motto Contest  
**Nevada:** Prostitutes and Poker!  
**New Hampshire:** Go Away And Leave Us Alone  
**New Jersey:** You Want A #@\*&% Motto? I Got Your #@\*& Motto Right Here  
**New Mexico:** Lizards Make Excellent Pets  
**New York:** You Have The Right To Remain Silent; You Have The Right To An Attorney

Cont.

- STATE MOTTO cont:**  
**North Carolina:** Tobacco Is A Vegetable  
**North Dakota:** We Really Are One Of The 50 States  
**Ohio:** At Least We're Not Michigan  
**Oklahoma:** Like The Play, Only No Singing  
**Oregon:** Spotted Owl, It's What's For Dinner  
**Pennsylvania:** Cook With Coal  
**Rhode Island:** We're Not REALLY an Island  
**South Carolina:** Remember The Civil War? We Didn't Actually Surrender  
**South Dakota:** Closer Than North Dakota  
**Tennessee:** The Educashun State  
**Texas:** Si' Hablo Ing'les (Yes I Speak English)  
**Utah:** Our Jesus Is Better Than Your Jesus  
**Vermont:** Yep  
**Virginia:** Who Says Government Stiffs And Slack Jawed Yokels Don't Mix  
**Washington:** Help! Nerds And Slackers Overrun Us!  
**Washington D.C.:** Wanna Be Mayor?  
**West Virginia:** One Big Happy Family... Really!  
**Wisconsin:** Come Cut The Cheese  
**Wyoming:** Where The Men Are Men and The Sheep Are Nervous

## According to Salon.com...

The biggest time waster at work is surfing the Internet. Followed by socializing, running errands, spacing out and personal phone calls.

## Did You Know That...

If you put a Buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner.

The reason is that a Buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, it will not attempt to fly.

## PAC Rat Meeting Fall/Winter Schedule!

The next PAC Rat meeting will be Friday September 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm in the PAC Lobby. (Location subject to change)