

ONCE UPON A CASTING CALL

Auditions for the SSC Playhouse musical *Once Upon A Mattress* will be held Thursday, February 12, 2009 from 4 pm to 9 pm and Saturday, February 14, 2009 from 11 am to 4 pm in the SSC Performing Arts Center. Come prepared to sing a 2-minute song of your choice (no accompaniment needed), to move, to dance and to improvise. Audition times vary, so be prepared to wait a bit or to be called back. There are 11 luscious roles in the 25 to 30-member cast.

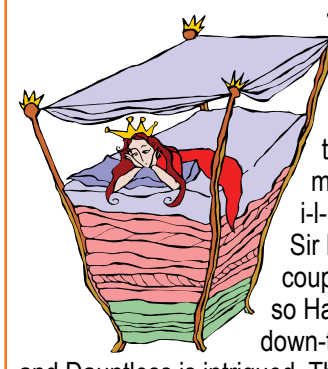
Auditions are open to everyone – no experience is needed. On the day of your audition, please bring ALL of your conflict dates/times: class, work, home or otherwise. Minor schedule conflicts will be worked out. Participation is free, but for onstage or backstage participation, students may choose to sign up for three (3) course credits.

REHEARSAL INFO: Rehearsals are held Monday through Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm and Saturdays from 10 pm to 2 pm. Rehearsals start the last week of February; rehearsals will be held during spring break. All rehearsals are mandatory unless a prior agreement is made, so please check all rehearsal and performance dates prior to auditioning.

SHOW DATES: *Once Upon A Mattress* runs for a total of eight (8) shows with performances on April 29 at 8pm, April 30 at 11am and 8pm, May 1 at 11am and 8pm, May 2 at 2pm and 8pm and May 3 at 2pm only.

- IN IDAHO**
- Boxes of candy given as romantic gifts must weigh more than 50 pounds.
 - Fishing from the back of any animal is illegal.

- ABOUT THE SHOW -



Rumor has it that Queen Aggravain refuses to let anyone in the kingdom marry until her compliant son, Prince Dauntless, takes a wife. The Queen doesn't want to let her baby go, and so by means of all possible sneaky games, tests and challenges, she disqualifies his every possible match. In the meantime, there are oodles of royal couples s-t-i-l-l waiting around to get married, and not getting any younger. Sir Harry, Dauntless's brother, and his Lady Larken are one such couple. Unfortunately, they didn't wait, and now Larken's late, so Harry dashes out to find his brother a wife. He returns with the down-to-earth and lovable Winnifred. She is different in a good way, and Dauntless is intrigued. The queen, however, is not amused.

To ensure Winnifred's defeat in the princess situation, and to keep Dauntless for herself, the dastardly queen has concocted a most absurd series of tests to ensure that this newest candidate fails. Aggravain's first scheme spins the kingdom into a whirl as she makes everyone learn a fast and furious little dance, The Spanish Panic. Her idea is intended to make poor "Princess" Winnifred (but call her by her nickname: Fred) drop dead of exhaustion. When it doesn't work, Aggravain insists upon a show-of-strength contest, and then a drinking match. Finally, poor Winnifred passes out. The couples of the kingdom are in despair because, they learn, the REAL test has just begun. The sly queen is out to test the princess's sensitivity: one tiny pea has been placed under a HUGE stack of mattresses the queen has Winnifred sleep upon. A genuine princess would feel the pea and never for a moment rest.

The following morning when everyone, including the Queen, sees that Winnifred hasn't slept a wink, the truth about Winnifred's true princess nature is revealed. Dauntless is thrilled because he loves Winnifred and has won. All the court couples may now marry and everyone is greatly relieved, but Mama still isn't satisfied and voices her disapproval. Dauntless has had enough. He turns to Mama and from the bottom of his feet he bellows, M-M-Ma-ma & SHUT UP! The kingdom is stunned and amazed! Dauntless has silenced his mother, and in so doing has freed his father from his own long-suffering silence. Dauntless has become a man. The prophecy is revealed: the mouse devoured the hawk.

The songs are comical: "There's an Opening for a Princess," "The Swamps of Home" and "SHY!" and also sweet: "In a Little While," "Yesterday, I Loved You" and "The Nightingale Lullaby" in which the unpretentious and unrefined Winnifred, the adorable, no sham gal unshackles the kingdom's frustrated couples-in-waiting, frees the silenced King Sextimus from his Queen's overbearing ways, but mostly shows that she really and truly loves Prince Dauntless, the subject of the song.

- Mix a heaping tablespoon of Cascade with hot water, put it in popcorn popper (pot or pan), and let soak overnight.**

Ponderisms: Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out.?"

FREE CONCERTS AT SSC

February 20 and 21 8am-5pm
SSC's Annual Jazz Festival

High school and junior high bands from the Chicago area perform at this



year's festival. Guest artists and clinicians are Steve Houghton, drums and flutist Nicole Mitchell. The guest artist concert begins on the 21st at 5:00 PM and features the SSC Jazz Ensemble and SSC Jazz Orchestra. The complete Fest schedule is available on the [SSC Band Home Page](#).

Friday, February 27 7:30pm
Faculty Showcase

South Suburban College music faculty perform in a concert to benefit music scholarships. The duo of Linda Kelley and "Big Al" Jackson should be the delight of the event.

Friday, March 6 7:30pm
Symphonic Band Concert

The South Suburban College Symphonic Band presents a concert. Directed by Andy Hoefle.

Wednesday, March 18 8am-Noon
SSC's Choir Day

Area high schools join together for a day of song. SSC faculty member



Victoria Lowczyk sings, and well-known composer and conductor Keith Hampton serves as principal adjudicator. Photos of participating schools will be featured on the [SSC Choral Homepage](#).

Friday, March 27 2:00pm
Piano Recital / Lecture by Mark Valenti



Valenti has performed in recital live on WFMT classical radio. He has also done extensive work in the Jazz field including performances with Gregory Hines, Frank Foster and Al Grey and has appeared on television with Joe Sudler's Swing Machine and singer/actor Christopher Durham.



WHAT HAPPENED TO DECEMBER AND JANUARY?

You didn't miss anything - there wasn't a Rat Rag in December or January. Your plucky editors Ellie and Rochelle foolishly stepped into Esmeralda's TARDIS and got lost on the way back to the theatre. That's our story and we're sticking to it.



APPLY NOW FOR MUSIC, THEATRE & ART SCHOLARSHIPS

South Suburban College offers several scholarships for students in the Fine and Performing Arts.

— MUSIC OR THEATRE —

- Frank J. Pavelin Memorial
- J. Albert Kindig Memorial
- Smith V. Brand
- Terrence Wright Memorial

— MUSIC —

- Dean Sayre/Vanguard Tour Service
- Don Kramer Memorial Music

— ART —

- Visual Arts - Sponsored by UPS

To be considered for one of these opportunities, you need to have:

- A completed application form.
- A personal statement of 250 words or less stating why the scholarship is important to your personal career goals
- One letter of recommendation from a faculty member.
- Current transcript of grades.

Letters of recommendation may be requested from: [Bobbie Saltzman](#) for theatre, [Andy Hoefle](#) or [Al Jackson](#) for music and [Joe Rejholec](#) or [Jack Kirkpatrick](#) for art.

For details on the application process or more information about the scholarships, head over to SSC's scholarship webpage at: <http://tinyurl.com/SSCScholarships>.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 5, 2009. Scholarship announcements will be made by May.

GOT GEEK?

Toys from www.thinkgeek.com



This **TARDIS**, or **Time And Relative Dimension In Space** is the vehicle of **Esmeralda** the Time Lord.

The little blue box, really an immense multi-dimensional starship capable of ludicrous speeds, sits benignly on your desk, acting as a mere conduit of digital information for your computer. It has four USB 2.0 ports along the base. Press the panel on the face, and the blue-glowing light pulsates and the TARDIS' engine fires up. Don't worry, the TARDIS is time-locked so it stays put - you don't want any accidental paradoxes, do you?

SSC REDESIGNS WEBSITE

The TV Geeks, who seem to get suckered into everything, have redesigned the South Suburban College website. The layout is much slicker and more user friendly. Check out the new design at

www.southsuburbancollege.edu.

Along with the new design comes new locations, or URLs for most of the college's content. This means that Ellie has been frantically fixing and updating the theatre and music web spaces and will start soon on the choir's web space.

While she was in there, Ellie finally posted photos from [Curious Savage](#) and [Robin Hood](#). [Princess and the Pea](#) photos are also posted. Coming soon will be photos from [Meanwhile Back on the Couch](#).

Take a look around the [theatre pages](#) and if you find any wonky links, please email Ellie.

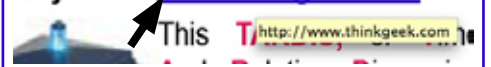
The burning question is will more [Excalibur](#) and [Musical Comedy Murders of 1940](#) photos ever make it? Someday!

Clickable Links

Don't forget: If you're reading the Rat Rag online as a PDF, all websites and email addresses are clickable. The text will appear as **blue**, **bold** and in some cases, underlined. Position your cursor over the text and you should see a popup that shows the web address. Click on it and off you go!

GOT GEEK?

Toys from www.thinkgeek.com



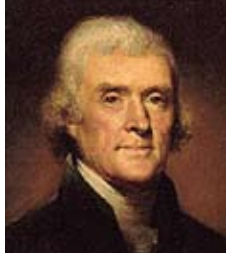
Of course, if you're reading the printed version of the Rag, this is useless info.

NEW RAT RAG EDITOR

The Rat Rag has taken on a new editor. Newman Nicodemouse, shown here dictating a recent article, will be keeping a close eye on the rodent beat.



Quotes from a great mind...



Thomas Jefferson

“When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe.”

“The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.”

“It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world.”

“I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.”

“My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.”

“No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.”

“The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.”

“The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.”

At birth, a Dalmatian is always pure white.



There is one in every family.

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SPRING CLEANING:

It's right around the corner!

QUICK STEPS TO CUT DOWN ON CLUTTER

- 1. Label empty boxes with categories** such as “Keep,” “Throw Away,” “Recycle” or “Move to Another Place.”
- 2. Start with things that will clear the biggest space the fastest.** If newspapers or toys are strewn all over a room, pick them up and put them in a single pile first.
- 3. Keep only items that you absolutely need or really love.** If you are in doubt, ask yourself if an object is really worth taking up precious space.
- 4. Resist the urge to read saved magazine articles or fill out lost forms.** Put them in their pile but don't get sidetracked.
- 5. Finish one corner of a room before moving to the next.** Wait until you are done sorting to transfer your items in your “Move to Another Place” box. Flitting from one room to another is a good way to get sidetracked.
- 6. Place the things you plan to keep in like groups,** whether it's clothes, CDs, books or paper clips. Use clear containers for storage.
- 7. Set a specific date to sell or take the things you are not keeping** to a charity, a dump, a recycling station or other outlet.

Gratuitous Space Filler #8837965
Oh, yes. We keep track.



Two cows are standing next to each other in a field.

Daisy says to Dolly, “I was artificially inseminated this morning.” Dolly says, “I don't believe you.” “It's true,” exclaims Daisy. “No bull!”



I ated Tinkerbell.

ONLY IN AMERICA...

Do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

FOOT AWARENESS

Three-inch spiked heels may be fashionable, but they change the way a woman normally walks, as well as cause knee and back problems and contribute to sprained ankles and varicose veins.



A piano covers the full spectrum of all orchestra instruments, from below the lowest note of the double bassoon to above the top note of the piccolo.



IN HONOUR OF STUPID PEOPLE...

My husband and I arrived at a Ford dealership in Canton, Mississippi to pick up our car. We were told that the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic feverishly working to unlock the drivers side door. As I watched form the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked.

“Hey,” I announced to the mechanic, “it's open.”

He replied, “I know, I already got that side.”

I BELIEVE... that no matter how badly your heart is broken, the world doesn't stop for your grief.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT US

with any article, photo, want ad or idea at:

✉ RatRagStaff@yahoo.com ✉

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

Fun Websites

www. WWW.

E-cards have gotten less corny. You can find witty and well-designed cards at www.hipstercards.com, vintage cards at www.cardcow.com and photographic cards at <http://ecard.digiart.ee>.

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A Nifty Tip

To reduce static cling, pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy dress or skirt. Same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing pantyhose.

PAC Rat Meeting Winter Schedule!

The next PAC Rat meeting will be Friday, March 6th @ 7:00pm in Lecture Hall A. (Location subject to change)

Bizarre Holidays in February

February is International Twit Award Month

- 4th is Create a Vacuum Day
- 8th is Kite Flying Day
- 14th is Ferris Wheel Day
- 15th is National Gum Drop Day
- 18th is National Battery Day
- 22nd is Be Humble Day
- 29th is National Surf and Turf Day

Instructions:

Playing with Baby



MORE AWARD-WINNING CONSTRUCTION W.T.H.* PHOTOS

*WHAT THE HECK?!

The Nominees are:

1)



2)



3)



4)



and the winner is...



Did You Know That...

- The Hooded Pitohui of New Guinea is the only documented example of a poisonous bird.
- Adult male platypuses have a poisonous gland in their hind legs. They can eject poison out of a hollow spur on their ankles.
- The dorsal and pectoral fins of many species of catfish are edged with poisonous spines. These spines can inflict severe wounds.



PAINT THAT CAR!!

COMMON TOOLS EXPLAINED

submitted by
Mary Lee Seward

To the uninitiated, the scene shop can be an intimidating place, full of tools you may not know what to do with. To help, here's a helpful explanation of common tools and their uses.



DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted vertical stabilizer which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

ELECTRIC HAND DRILL: Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.



CIRCULAR SAW: A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

PLIERS: Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.



BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

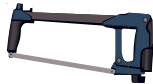


TABLE SAW: A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD



EXTRACTOR: A tool ten times harder than any known drill bit that snaps neatly off in bolt holes thereby ending any possible future use.



BAND SAW: A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminum sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER: A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws.



HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.



UTILITY KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.



DAMMIT TOOL: Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the scene shop while yelling "DAMMIT" at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.

Now you are ready to lend a hand with set construction for *Once Upon a Mattress!*

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UPCOMING AUDITIONS AT NEIGHBOURING THEATRES

— SPOTLIGHT THEATER —

The Importance of Being Earnest
by Oscar Wilde

WHEN: February 16 and 17, 2009 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm

WHERE: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4955 158th St., Oak Forest, IL 60452

MORE INFO: 708-798-1188 or

www.spotlight-theater.com

— JOLIET DRAMA GUILD —

Musical Comedy Murders Of 1940
by Ken Ludwig

WHEN: February 17 and 18, 2009 at 7:00pm

WHERE: Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park Theatre at 201 W. Jefferson, Joliet, IL.

MORE INFO: JDG at 815-722-1001 or

www.jolietdramaguild.org

— BEVERLY THEATRE GUILD —

Twentieth Century by Ken Ludwig

WHEN: February 22, 2009 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm and February 23, 2009 from 7:30pm to 9:00pm

WHERE: Salem United Church of Christ, 9717 S. Kostner Ave., Oak Lawn, IL 60453

MORE INFO: 773-284-8497 or

www.beverlytheatreguild.org

— PALOS VILLAGE PLAYERS —

Don't Drink The Water

by Woody Allen

WHEN: February 22-24, 2009 from 7:30pm to 9:00pm

WHERE: All Saints Lutheran Church, 13350 La Grange Road, Orland Park, IL. Enter from back parking lot.

MORE INFO: www.pvp.org or

loripvp@gmail.com

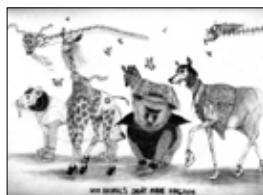
AVANT-GARDE ART FOR SALE

Chicago artist **RICK THERRIO** is offering prints of his recent works for sale. Each print will be individually scanned from the



original pencil drawing and further enhanced, making each work a unique item. The

prints will come on glossy paper and will be signed and dated by the artist. Each print will cost \$100.00. For more samples of Rick's work, head over to <http://www.myspace.com/ricknoise> and click on "View my pics." You can contact Rick directly via his MySpace page.



GROUCHO MARX



"I didn't like the play, but then I saw it under adverse conditions - the curtain was up."

"I won't belong to any organization that would have me as a member."

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."