

One Hot Tamale!

Betty Owens shows off a great pair of gams in her *Meanwhile Back On the Couch* costume. Resplendent in her Miss Suzy Snowflake banner and tiarra, Betty demonstrates why we ALL want to be just like her ~~when~~ if we grow up.



WE'RE TEARING UP THE PEA PATCH!



Now that the fall show has closed, it's time to set our sights for the annual kid show. This year Ellie is trotting out one of our favourites, *The Princess and the Pea*.

Auditions will be held on Friday,

October 24th at 7pm and on Saturday, October 25th at 1pm.

- Roles Available for 8 Women and 3 Men. Or maybe 9 women and 2 men.
- No prior experience or prepared material is necessary.
- You MUST be willing to take time off of classes and / or work to be considered for casting.
- You MUST be physically fit: there is quite a bit of running (and we do mean RUNNING) up and down the stairs in the theatre.
- Rehearsal schedules will be available at the time of auditions. Bring your calendar to auditions as you will need to note any conflicts with the rehearsal schedule.
- Performances are scheduled for January 10 and January 12-17, 2009. Weekend shows are at 11am and 2pm, weekday shows are at 9:45am and 11:30am.
- For more information, visit our website at <http://learn.southsuburbancollege.edu/theatre> or email Ellie at ssctheatre@southsuburbancollege.edu

HALLOWEEN'S TOP 6 SCARY CREATURES

from www.livescience.com



WEREWOLVES: Typically normal and well-mannered until a full moon kicks in, werewolves are cursed shapeshifters that have appeared in the legend set of nearly every culture going back to ancient Greece. Like witches, they were hunted in medieval times and blamed for community murders that couldn't be explained otherwise. Violent werewolf stories of old seem to have fallen off the radar, except in Hollywood.



JACK-O-LANTERNS: A standout among freaks and monsters, the nutritious pumpkin may be Halloween's most famous symbol. The practice of carving and lighting the gourd is a Celtic custom brought to America by Irish immigrants, who used the more-plentiful turnip back home. Glowing, frightening faces emanating from the pumpkins were meant to frighten off the evil spirits thought to roam the streets on Oct. 31, the Celtic New Year's Eve.

BATS: They're blind, they hang out in caves and they inspire masked crusaders. But how did bats become associated with Halloween? The winged mammals can thank vampires for that. Like their Draculian counterparts, a small number of bat species actually subsist on animal blood. Vampire bats have been known to attack humans on occasion, using sharp teeth to cut into the sleeping victim. Their nocturnal ways and connection to Ozzy Osbourne probably don't help either.



WITCHES: Forget the pointy black hat and warty nose. Those popular associations are relatively recent compared with the long and often tragic history of witches across the globe. In the past, witches were thought to possess magical powers connected with the natural world. Like all pagans, they were demonized as heretics by the Christian church, a hunt that reached its apex in medieval Europe and 17th-century America. Good luck picking them out of a crowd today: witch costumes frequently top the list at Halloween.

GHOSTS: Poke two eye holes in a bed sheet and you've got the easiest Halloween costume around. Becoming a real ghost is a bit more complicated. First you have to die, maybe tragically, then leave part of your soul hanging around earth to spook relatives and haunt houses. From a supposedly scientific angle, parapsychologists argue that energy, including what's in the body, can never be completely destroyed. Society seems to agree: various studies peg belief in ghosts at about 50 percent.



VAMPIRES: They want to suck your blood, and have for quite some time. Vampires have popped up in cultural folklore for thousands of years, though the fanged-and-coiffed version we know comes from the 18th and 19th-century myths of Eastern Europe. There, it was believed that someone who was born with deformities or died an irregular death could, after burial, rise again to terrorize the living. Vampires were considered "undead" and needed to feast on human blood to remain so.

• In Wichita, KS it is illegal to carry a concealed bean snapper.

• In Natoma, KS it is illegal to throw a knife at anyone wearing a striped shirt.

• Pour 2,347 boxes of Jell-O into an eight-foot-square padded box, add boiling water, chill for two days and wrestle!

• A teaspoon of Jell-O dissolved in a cup of warm water makes an inexpensive hair setting lotion.

Ponderisms: Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

KNOW YOUR LIGHTING INSTRUMENTS



This month's installment of lighting instruments presents the PAR Can. PAR stands for Parabolic Aluminized Reflector.

It is a self contained, sealed-beam lamp which includes a parabolic reflector, a filament and a lens. They are very much like car headlights. PAR lamps come in a number of different sizes between 16 and 64. A PAR's size is usually placed after the name, for instance the one pictured is an Altman PAR64. The 64 stands for 64 one-eighths of an inch wide barrel, or eight inches.

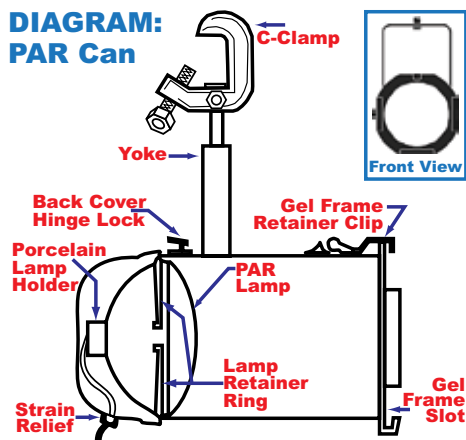


The PAR Can is one of the simplest lighting instruments in use today. Made only out of two parts (the lamp/lens and the case or "can"), the PAR is mainly used as a narrow to wide floodlight, depending on the lamp, which is easy to change. Even with an extremely low budget, a resourceful electrician can easily and cheaply build a PAR Can out of a coffee can and a lamp. We don't condone this, but it's been known to happen safely.

These rugged and efficient lamps, which gained popularity in the concert field, are typically used backstage for strong washes of down and back light. The size of the pool of light is determined by the throw and which lamp the designer chooses. The VNSP (Very Narrow Spot) produces a strong visible shaft of light which can be used to simulate shafts of sun or moon light.

If used in groups, PARs can create massive floods and color washes that other instruments cannot. On the other hand, efficiency is not the most prevalent feature of a PAR; most professional and Broadway theatres do not use them, but a PAR does give the best "bang for the buck."

DIAGRAM: PAR Can



MY NAME IS ANGELA AND I AM A HARRY POTTER GEEK by Angela Martin

I have been a fan of the Harry Potter books by J.K. Rowling for quite a while. I went to the midnight book release parties; I have dressed as Harry Potter characters for Halloween. I even listen to the Mugglecast and Pottercast podcasts. This summer I passed "through the veil" into total Harry Potter geekdom.

On August 7th, Harry Potter fans from all over the world descended on Chicago for "Terminus," a five day Harry Potter conference. Held at the Chicago Hilton on Michigan Ave., the conference featured lectures, a keynote address, a Quidditch tournament and much more. I knew I had to go.



The Harry Potter fandom is very large and there were a ton of people spending the entire convention in costume. Voldemort,

Lucius Malfoy, Luna Lovegood, Dolores Umbridge and Gildroy Lockhart were represented.



The first day of the convention was low key. Everyone was sorted into four different houses: Brubru, Kohilo, Matanuska (my house) and Pampero. Each house had a check point where fellow house members could meet each other. I went to an intersection for "mature" HP fans where I met a really nice couple from California.



At the opening night welcome dinner I met Shannon, Kari, Shari, Angela, Sarah, Tamy and Ashley, all from my house.

Prior to the conference's official opening, an all day "wrock" concert was held. "Wrock" is music written and performed by



bands about the Harry Potter books. Headliners included Harry and the Potters, the Remus Lupins and the Whomping Willows. During the Whomping Willows set, the fans were dancing and jumping so much the floor was moving! A chandelier was broken in the ballroom below us.

Terminus was also an opportunity for me to act like a total "fan girl" and [get pictures](#)



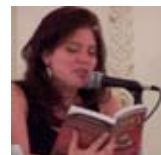
with some of my favorite people in the fandom. As my new friends and I were on our way to dinner, we saw two people

on Michigan Ave. carrying neon signs that said "Free Hugs." We realized one was Emerson Spartz, the creator of [Mugglenet.com](#). Naturally, we got hugs from him and his friend. Alex Carpenter, from the Remus Lupins took over the lobby of the hotel with an impromptu acoustic concert. We got kicked out and continued the concert in Grant Park. Two perfect fan girl moments.



Melissa Anelli, John Noe, Sue Upton and Frak, webmasters for the the [Leaky Cauldron](#), were on hand for a live recording of [Pottercast](#), the most popular Harry Potter themed podcast. There are several segments to the podcast, one of which is "Name That Book." A passage from one of the HP audio books is played; you are to guess from which book. Ashley and I made a sign that said "Frak Fan Girls" hoping it would help us get on the show. It worked!

You can hear me on [Pottercast #165](#) about 10 minutes from the end of the podcast. With a little help from Ashley, I got the quote correct and a piece of flair from Frak.



That same night, Melissa Anelli read from her new book [Harry, A History: The True Story of a Boy Wizard, His Fans and Life Inside](#)

the Harry Potter Phenomenon. The book comes out on November 4, 2008. Melissa read from the beginning of the book and when she was finished, she got a standing ovation. She was crying and so was half the audience. It was truly a magical evening.

Sunday night was the Farewell Ball, nicknamed "Prominus" by some of the conference goers. It was an opportunity to get dressed up and dance the night away. I am so glad that I signed up for Terminus. I met some amazing people and it was an experience I will never forget.



Even though J.K. Rowling has written her last Harry Potter book, the fandom lives on through wizard rock, websites, fan fiction, the movies and of course, the fans.

Why God Invented...



As Answered by
1st Graders

WHY DID GOD MAKE MOTHERS?

- She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
- Mostly to clean the house.
- To help us out of there when we were getting born.

WHY DID GOD GIVE YOU YOUR MOTHER AND NOT SOMEONE ELSE'S MOTHER?

- We're related.
- God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's mom.

WHAT KIND OF LITTLE GIRL WAS YOUR MOTHER?

- My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
- My guess would be pretty bossy.
- They say she used to be nice.

WHAT DID MOM NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DAD BEFORE SHE MARRIED HIM?

- His last name.
- Does he get drunk on beer and if he is a crook.
- Does he make at least \$800 a year and say NO to drugs.

WHY DID YOUR MOM MARRY YOUR DAD?

- She is too old to do anything else with him.
- My Grandmother says that she didn't have her thinking cap on.
- He makes the best spaghetti.

WHAT DOES YOUR MOM DO IN HER SPARE TIME?

- Pay bills.
- Moms don't do spare time.

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO MAKE YOUR MOTHER PERFECT?

- I think some kind of plastic surgery.
- Dye her hair, maybe blue.

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT YOUR MOM, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

- She has this weird thing about me cleaning my room.
- I'd make my mom smarter, then she would know that it was my sister that did it.
- Get rid of those invisible eyes on her back.

IN THE GOOD OLE OCTOBER TIME

The South Cook Chapter of the Singing Men of Note present their annual show of music and humor in the Barbershop Show style.

The Show Features



- Singing Men of Note Chorus
- The Convertibles
- Four Old Parts
- Rag Time Sue
- Track Five

**SAT., OCTOBER 25TH
AT 3 PM**

**Andrew High School
901 West 171st Street
Tinley Park, IL**



TICKETS \$10

Pre-Show Discounts Available
Group / Senior / Student

Dave Martin: 708-687-7028

October 2008 - Page 3

MEMORY LOSS WHEN IT'S NORMAL, AND WHEN IT'S NOT

"Senior Moments" or occasional lapses in memory can be a normal part of growing older.

Where did I put...

There are some differences between normal memory loss, however, and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. For instance, in normal aging you forget...

- Where you put your reading glasses, but you don't forget you wear glasses.
- Why you went into a room, but not where you are.
- People's names once in a while, but not their faces.
- Where you parked your car, but not that you drove your car.
- Specific words occasionally, but not what the word means.

Tips for improving memory:

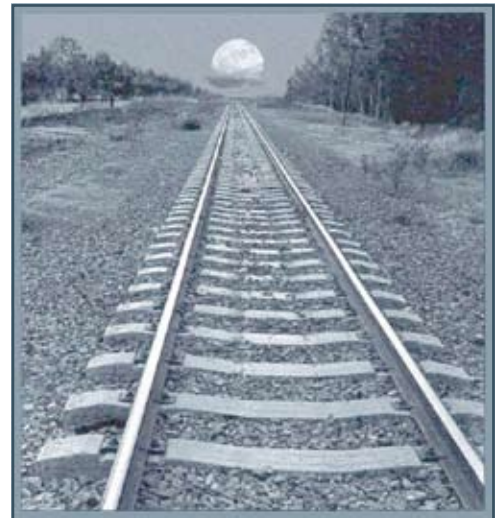
- Pay close attention to things when they first occur.
- Repeat things you want to remember.
- Think about information in a meaningful way and relate it to other things.



Just get Mom, okay?



Redneck Smoke Detector



ON A COLD OCTOBER NIGHT...

IN HONOUR OF STUPID PEOPLE...

I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back onto itself and for the sake of her life, could not figure out why her system would not turn on.

*Submitted by a deputy with the
Dallas County Sheriff's office*

Two peanuts walk into a bar, one was a salted!

I BELIEVE...

...that maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.

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

For free coupons and new product samples from Proctor & Gamble, go to www.homemakesimple.com

A Nifty Tip

After drying the sheets, put both sheets and one pillowcase in the other pillowcase. Fold neatly in a square. Next time you change sheets, you just take the one pillowcase and all the sheets and pillowcase are inside. No need to look for matches. Takes up less storage room too.

October 2008 - Page 4

PAC Rat Meeting Winter Schedule!

The next PAC Rat meeting will be Friday, November 7th @ 7:00pm in the PAC Lobby. (Location subject to change)

Bizarre Holidays in October

October is National Sarcastic Month

4th is National Golf Day
8th is American Tag Day
14th is Be Bald and Free Day
15th is White Cane Safety Day
18th is No Beard Day
22nd is National Nut Day
31st is Increase Psychic Powers Day

Instructions:

Walking with Baby



Things I've Learned From My Boys

CONFESSIONS OF A MOTHER IN AUSTIN, TX

- A king sized waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2000 sq. ft. house 4 inches deep.
- If you spray hair spray on dust bunnies and run them over with rollerblades, they can ignite.
- A 3 year old boy's voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
- If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 42 lb. boy wearing batman underwear. It is strong enough, however, if tied to a paint can, to spread paint on all four walls of a 20 x 20 room.
- You should not throw baseballs up when the ceiling fan is on. When using a ceiling fan as a bat, you have to throw the ball up a few times.



- The glass in windows, even double paned, doesn't stop a baseball hit by a ceiling fan.
- When you hear the toilet flush and the words "uh oh" it is already too late.
- Brake fluid mixed with Clorox makes smoke, and lots of it.
- A 6 year old boy can start a fire with a flint rock even though a 36 year old man says they can only do it in the movies.
- Certain Legos will pass through the digestive tract of a 4 year old boy.
- PlayDoh and microwave should not be used in the same sentence.
- Super Glue is forever.
- No matter how much Jell-O you put in a swimming pool, you still can't walk on water.
- Pool filters do not like Jell-O.
- VCRs do not eject "PB&J" sandwiches even though the TV commercials show they do.
- Garbage bags do not make good parachutes.
- Marbles in gas tanks make lots of noise when driving.
- Always look in the oven before you turn it on; plastic toys do not like ovens.



- You probably DO NOT want to know what that odor is.
- The fire department in Austin, TX has a 5-minute response time.
- The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earthworms dizzy.
- It will, however, make cats dizzy.
- Cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.



Michelangelo's David was on tour in the U.S. for two years.



After a two year visit to the United States, Michelangelo's David is returning to Italy...



His Proud Sponsors Were:



Did You Know That...

1. Side by side, 2000 cells from the human body could cover about one square inch.
2. Women blink twice as much as men.
3. The average person's skin weighs twice as much as their brain.
4. When you look at someone you love, your pupils dilate, they do the same when you are looking at someone you hate.