

ENTERTAINMENT

Word Of The Week:

sinsemilla - a very strong form of marijuana obtained from unpollinated female hemp plants.

The old time soda shoppe offered several classic flavors. They offered either sinsemilla or sasparrilla. The former was the more popular choice, but most of its consumers died.

Behrend students to act in an Erie Halloween play

By Connor Sattely
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For up-and-coming actors and actresses in college, the chance of being able to act with local experienced actors and directors is very slim. However, two Penn State Behrend students have found that very opportunity, and will be acting in the Director's Circle Theatre this week in a new premier play, "The Mummy an' the Armadillo."

Alanna Stecura and Prema Bangera, two students at Behrend, have been given this very opportunity.

The show, written by Hollywood playwright J.S. Cardone, follows a young woman who stops at a café along old Route 66 in the middle of a terrible thunderstorm. Joseph Spusta, the play's director, says that that's when things go from bad to worse.

"She shows up at the café," says Spusta, who has been directing at the Director's Circle Theatre with his wife for three years. "and, without giving too much away, things definitely don't go how she expected."

The result, Spusta claims, is the perfect environment for a Halloween show. "The Mummy an' the Armadillo" is what the cast calls a "gothic suspense thriller." The theatre where it is being performed is a small venue, which makes the performance of the show even more personal and scary.

Stecura and Bangera play two girls who meet the owner of the café at a bar and head back to the small roadside building to hopefully continue the party. When they get there, though, they find that things are not exactly as they seem, and continually get darker, and more sinister.

Stecura, a sophomore at Behrend and a political science major, says that the way she got the part was rather unique. "Joe contacted me on Facebook," she said. "I called him right

away, and sure enough, they had a part for me." Bangera, in her senior year at Behrend, sought out Spusta to get her part.

Both of the actresses have been working on the show since early September. However, Spusta claims, it was not originally licensed as a play.

When J.S. Cardone wrote the script, he released it as an independent film in 2004 and won a variety of awards. When Spusta tried to perform the script as a play, the rights were not available. He ended up going through a long process that ended with speaking with the famous playwright himself.

"I wrote a letter to Mr. Cardone explaining the situation and asking if it would be possible to do the play," Spusta says. "Then, just a bit after New Year's Day this year, he personally called me and gave permission."

Cardone, having worked with actors such as Wesley Snipes, gave Spusta full rights of production.

"It was great even having a call from him," recalls Spusta. "I mean, he's so accomplished, and for him to give full rights to something he wrote... it was great."

The show promises to be a perfect outing for a Halloween night in Erie.

"It's a great play for Halloween, if you're looking for something to do when you go out," says Bangera. "It's not only scary, but addresses some interesting issues too. And of course, every actor is fabulous."

Stecura, who has done several plays with Behrend but none with the Director's Circle, is amazed at how fast the production came together. "This is a great show," she says. "One of the best I've ever been in. You gotta come see it. It's non-stop action, and it's like a puzzle you fit together as the suspense builds. It's a really exciting, really intense play."

The Directors Circle Theatre is located at 1001 State Street in downtown Erie. It's in the Renaissance Center, on the second floor. The show runs on Thursdays through Saturdays from Oct. 25 to Nov. 17, with the curtain opening at 8 p.m.

"It's pretty much the only chance you'll get to see this play," Spusta says. "Since nobody else has the rights, and it's already become a motion picture, it's really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The show's cast plans to help audience members have a thrilling, unforgettable Halloween night.

Drew Carey new host of *The Price is Right*

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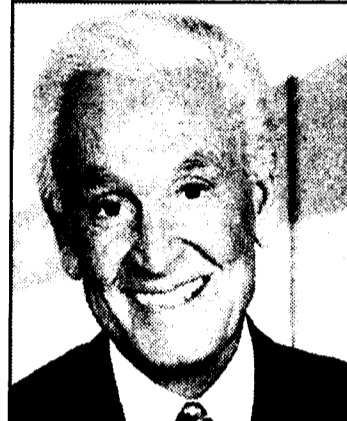
It is no lie that many people were disappointed to see Bob Barker retire from *The Price Is Right* on June 6, 2007. Barker initially began hosting the CBS show on Sept. 4, 1972. In 1987, after over a decade of hosting, Barker made the decision to discontinue using hair dye and allow his hair to go gray. Although this was initially a shock to television game show hosts, others such as Alex Trebek and Monty Hall decided to allow their hair to do the same.

On Oct. 31, 2006, after 35 years of hosting *The Price Is Right*, and over 50 years on television, Barker announced his decision to retire. He also publicly shared that the company that owns the show, Fremantle Media, had been searching for a new host for about three years. Although Barker had previously considered retirement, he said that he had decided to continue to do the show because he had so much fun doing so.

On July 23, 2007, the announcement was made that comedian Drew Carey would take Barker's place as the new host of *The Price Is Right*. Carey previously hosted the comedy show *Who's Line Is It Anyway?*, and many were skeptical as to whether or not Carey would be able to make the transition from one show to the next.

Carey began his new hosting job on Monday, Oct. 15, 2007. His first day proved to be an interesting one, after one overly excited contestant did a cartwheel on stage, and later fell to the floor after winning "It's In The Bag." Aside from energetic contestants, Carey has proven

himself to be an excellent host thus far. Many avid watchers of *The Price Is Right* were worried that the change of host would also change the feel of the show, but so far, this has not proven to be the case whatsoever. Just as Carey told Ryan Seacrest on his radio show, everything is basically the same. The wheel and games are still the same as they have been for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Comedian Drew Carey, right, replaced Bob Barker, who had served for 35 years as the popular host of *The Price is Right*.

years, along with the theme song that has been around for years.

The prizes on the show are still the same, and although this may make them boring compared to the prizes of today's game shows, it keeps the genuineness of the show. Basically, the only aspect of the show that has really been modernized is the host.

Carey has proven to be witty and quick with jokes, but also a friend to the contestants on the show. Although he may not have remembered all of the rules of the show, he still managed to catch his mistakes and continue on with the show without any major blunders.

The Price Is Right is currently ranked sixth in the list of longest running television programs, but with Carey as the new host, the show might be able to beat some of its competitors, and jump up a spot on the list. It has had its 11 a.m. time slot for the past 25 years of airing, and is shown every weekday on CBS.

Hollywood writers' contract nearing end

By Samuel Levine
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If you love television, you're probably dreading what could happen at the end of the month. Or you should be.

At the end of the month (Oct. 31 for those of you without a calendar), there is the possibility that some of your favorite shows will be forced to go into reruns. This is the direct result of when the contracts between television networks (as well as movie studios) and the Writers' Guild (a labor union for many writers for television, movies, and other forms of visual media) ends at the end of this month.

The worst possible outcome would be a full-scale writer's strike, lasting until some of the writers' demands were met and negotiated on for new revisions in a new union contract. Network executives are working with the Guild in hopes to prevent a strike however there does not seem to be an end in sight. Although there's no definite or immediate plans for the union to strike, the major television networks are already dreading it and writers within the guild are considering all of their options if they don't get good news by the 31st.

Are you scared yet? A strike from the union would be a major blow to the quality of programs on the air for the major networks. The shows first hit would be programs that are produced on a day-by-day basis, shows like *The Daily Show* and *The Late Show with David Letterman*. Eventually, these shows would have to stop production altogether. If a strike were to take place, their productivity would be sev-

ered and they'd be thrown into a mortifying rerun limbo. But that's only the beginning.

The same applies to all the other network primetime television shows. However these repercussions would not occur until later, well into 2008. Primetime shows may end up with shorter seasons and lesser quality. If the strike happens at all, also expect some lesser quality movies coming out in 2008 and more and more reality shows, which don't require writers to produce.

The largest issue that may (or may not) come into play is that of the increasing sales of television shows on DVD and more and more shows appearing for sale online through media such as iPods. Another problem the writers have lies in the payment they receive from DVD sales. Guild members say that they get four cents per purchase of their DVD sales. Now they want eight cents. Patric Verrone, the president of the Writers' Guild comments that, "We [writers] make less money than the person who makes the box when it comes to DVDs."

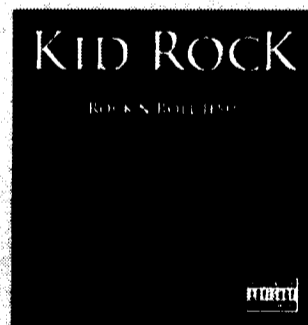
The last time this kind of strike happened was 19 years ago and television executives and Guild writers are doing what they can to hush talk of a union strike. But the possibility is still there.

As we draw closer and closer to the Oct. 31 deadline, network executives and Guild members scramble to find acceptable common ground for negotiations.

What will we watch next year if a writer's strike does take place? Horribly written Reality TV with redundant plots? One would pray not. For what it's worth, the talented media writers of today deserve more respect within the Hollywood community.

Top 10 Billboard Albums

1. Kid Rock - Rock N Roll Jesus
2. Bruce Springsteen - Magic
3. Rascal Flatts - Still Feels Good
4. LeeAnn Rimes - Family
5. matchbox twenty - Exile On Mainstream
6. Kanye West - Graduation
7. Reba McEntire - Reba Duets
8. Sara Evans - Greatest Hits
9. High School Musical 2 Soundtrack
10. Josh Groban - Noel



Beacon
Random Fact:

2003 Annual
global sales on
toilet paper
exceeded
\$19 billion.

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"Where tradition comes to life!"

Our mission: To awaken all people to their need for a life-changing encounter with the living Lord Jesus Christ, and encourage and equip each one to become His fully-devoted follower.

Faith & Life Weekend

Friday, October 19, 2007 — 7:00 p.m.
and Saturday, October 20, 2007 — 9:00 a.m.

Featuring
Bart Campolo

son of well-known author and preacher Tony Campolo

Bart will articulately and candidly share about his wrestling and grappling with God to understand grace, forgiveness, and calling.



For more information, call 486-4243, or visit our website:
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