

Foundations Save August Wilson Center

A coalition of local foundations have agreed to buy the financially struggling August Wilson Center, reports Mark Belko in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



The August Wilson Center for African-American Culture was opened in 2009 to present visual and performing arts reflecting the history and contributions of the

region's people of color. It is named after Pulitzer Prize winning playwright and Pittsburgh native August Wilson (1945-2005). The center was one of the initiatives launched in the 1990s under former mayor Tom Murphy.

Had the foundations (with city and county support) not come up with this deal, there was a good chance that a New York investment firm would have acquired the center and built a luxury hotel above it.

"It's the best resolution that we can come to under the current conditions," the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*'s Natasha Lindstrom quotes Judith K. Fitzgerald, the receiver charged with resolving the center's \$10 million in debts. "This preserves the mission of the August Wilson Center, which was really our primary motivation."

Belko explains that the foundations have pledged \$5.2 million and local governments over \$1 million although "it's unclear how the additional money will be obtained." Grant Oliphant of the **Heinz Endowments** tells Belko that "the foundations intend to set up an African-American-led non-profit to own and operate the building."

Not everyone is pleased. Unsecured creditors who are owed roughly \$1 million will go unpaid. This includes one of the local

chapters of the **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE) whose members are owed \$40,000 for completed work. "There's just something morally wrong here when people go to work in good faith and they don't get paid," IATSE's Shawn Foyle explained to Lindstrom.

Riverhounds To Leave Bankruptcy

Pittsburgh's professional soccer team expects to exit bankruptcy before Christmas, reports the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*'s Brian Bowling.



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Bowling's article explains that the **Riverhounds Acquisition Group** is being reorganized to make it easy for the company to continue operating while address their debt. "We are definitely headed in the right direction," Terrance C. "Tuffy" Shallenberger, the majority owner told Bowling.

Some of the creditors intend to challenge the plan.

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Clear Channel Rebranded iHeartMedia

Recognizing its evolving business, Clear Channel Communications announced on September 16 that it has changed its name to **iHeartMedia**.



The company owns six radio stations in the Pittsburgh market.

In a press release, iHeartMedia explained that the change “reflects the company’s success in becoming a one-of-a-kind multi-platform media company with unparalleled reach and impact.”

Ben Sisario writes in the *New York Times* that “the rebranding is also an effort to reshape perceptions of the company for the digital age, when radio’s dominance is being challenged by digital

newcomers like [online streaming companies] **Pandora** and **Spotify**.”

“iHeartMedia reflects our commitment to being the media company that provides the most entertainment to the most engaged audiences wherever they go, with more content and more events in more places on more devices,” said Bob Pittman, Chairman and CEO of iHeartMedia, says in the press release. “We have massive consumer reach and influence across our platforms because we know how to program the live content people want to hear, see and share right now, we are the largest mobile media company in existence -- more than 60 percent of our broadcast usage is out of

home, compared to just 30 percent for other mobile devices – and we deliver more live programming than any other media company today, built on the national and local on-air personalities who are the heart of our powerful broadcast radio franchises. Combined with Clear Channel Outdoor’s reach of over half a billion people worldwide across 30 countries and five continents, it’s clear that no other company can match our reach or broad spectrum of media platforms.”

Every division will embrace the change, except the billboard and outdoor advertising company (which has publically traded stock) which will remain **Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings**.

Grant For New Playhouse

On September 26, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett formally announced a \$5 million to **Point Park University** toward a new Pittsburgh Playhouse.



The Pittsburgh Playhouse began as an independent theater company in the 1930s before merging with the university (then Point Park College) in the 1970s. However, with Point Park based downtown, the theater complex was something of a geographic anomaly. In 2013, the university announced that it will be relocated to the city center and become part of the Point Park Academic Village.

“This is a Downtown Pittsburgh renaissance that’s based upon theater, based upon education, based upon private industry,” a press release quotes Corbett. “I can’t think of a better investment to make.”

According to a story written in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* by Mark Belko, the new Pittsburgh Playhouse “will be built on a 1.5-acre tract. The state-of-the-art complex will feature a new five-story, 92,000-square-foot addition and incorporate into” existing structures.

Read the full press release at <http://www.pointpark.edu/news.aspx?id=1320>

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Audiences, Critics Take To “The Chair”

More than 500 people filled three theaters at the SouthSide Works Cinema on September 6 to enjoy the premier of the Pittsburgh-made reality series “The Chair” on the flagship cable network of **Starz, Inc.**



“The Chair” is the latest initiative of the **SteelTown Entertainment Project**, a nonprofit that seeks to secure Pittsburgh’s place in the entertainment industry.

The premise of “The Chair” is to follow two young filmmakers as

they strive to make their first feature using the same script and shot entirely in Pittsburgh. TV viewers vote at the series’ conclusion as to who gets the \$250,000 prize.

“Pittsburgh isn’t doubling for Gotham City or New York,” Steeltown’s Tim Colbert told Kate Benz of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* at the premier. “All of us should feel great pride that we’re being perceived nationally as a production center for film and television.” A video record of the event can be seen by clicking http://vimeo.com/105788925?utm_campaign=9%2F11&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Newsletter+9%2F11

So far, the reviews have been largely positive. “The series may lack the money and pizzazz of a broadcast network competition series,” wrote *The Hollywood Reporter’s* Allison Keene, “but part of both its charm and its irritation is how indie it genuinely feels.”

David Hinckley of the *New York Daily News* calls it “strangely addictive television.”

Check out the official web site at <http://www.starz.com/originals/thechair>

TVGN To Become POP

The TV Guide Network is finally being rebranded, **CBS Corporation** has announced.



In Pittsburgh, CBS owns three radio and two television stations, most notably KDKA.

TV Guide Network was launched as an electronic program guide for cable systems in 1981. It has gone through multiple owners and name changes since and was finally acquired by CBS in 2013, when it became simply TVGN. (The channel ceased being connected to the iconic magazine TV Guide, since 2009. It is now co-owned with **Lionsgate Entertainment Corporation**.

A press release announces that TVGN “will rebrand as POP, a multi-platform destination dedicated to celebrating the fun of being a fan.”

The channel’s president, in the same press release says that “A strong brand differentiates a network from its peers. The inspiration for POP is simple --- when something stands out from the rest, it pops. It’s what everyone is talking about. It’s an exceptional talent. It’s a one-of-a-kind maverick. When something is so good that it earns a culture of fandom, that’s POP --- and that’s what we want our channel to symbolize, a fresh new media personality that puts us firmly alongside the audience.”

TVGN officially becomes POP in early 2015.

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RAD Funds To Rise

RAD's 2015 planned budget will benefit from a welcome \$2.5 million increase, reports Natasha Lindstrom of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.



Established in 1993, the **Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD)** is a special purpose unit of the county government that uses part of the county sales tax to finance civic and cultural institutions.

"It's unlikely to continue at that rate, but some substantial auto sales in spring and summer created the growth spurt," RAD Director David Donahoe told Lindstrom.

Public transit will be among the beneficiaries, which includes nearly 90 government and non-profit organizations.

A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for October 27. More information is available at www.radworkshere.org



Non Profit Landowners To Increase City Support

In an interview with editors and reporters of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto says that he plans to complete a new contribution agreement with the city's major nonprofit institutions.



Non-profit organizations are tax exempt, even property owners like the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust**. These entities instead contribute funds to the city's budget. The "Big Four" are **Carnegie Mellon University, Highmark, the University of Pittsburgh** and **UPMC**.

Peduto is aiming for a ten-year agreement that would see a sizable increase on what is now about \$5 million annually. So far, members of "The Big Four" sound receptive.

"We say all the time the city is our campus," Reynolds Clark told the *Tribune-Review's* Bob Bauder. "We want to look for ways that we can collaboratively help the city administration move forward in significant arenas."

Read Bauder's complete article at <http://triblive.com/news/allegheny/6846154-74/peduto-nonprofits-pittsburgh#ixzz3EomI32Ue>



Images Celebrate Pittsburgh's arts & entertainment history and community.



This is a photograph of actress Lynne Wintersteller, who is appearing at the O'Reilly Theater in a new production of "The Glass Menagerie."
 — Pittsburgh Public Theater

To have an image considered contact Jim Richards at jim@james-richards.com

Show Jim That You Support Him!

Jim Richards does many things for Pittsburgh arts community --- most for free --- despite limiting health issues. So show your support in one or more of the following ways:

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Carol Burnett Coming

One of television's biggest stars, Carol Burnett, will be feted at the annual Harvey Awards.



The awards are named after the title character of the 1944 play and 1950 movie that starred regional native Jimmy Stewart (1908-1997). Proceeds benefit the **Jimmy Stewart Museum** in rural Indiana, Pennsylvania.

"I think Carol Burnett's name has always been there at the very top of the list because she's such a perfect person to receive the Harvey Award," Stewart's daughter, Kelly Stewart Harcourt, told Barbara Vancheri of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. "I wrote a note to her saying we are so touched and honored that she's accepting this award. I just wish Mom [who died in 1994 -ed.] and Dad could know. They would love it,"

The event will be held at a country club on October 3. For more information, visit www.jimmy.org

QED Doc Wins Emmy

An unusual documentary won a Regional Emmy for **WQED Pittsburgh** at this year's ceremony in Philadelphia on September 20.



That documentary is "Change of Habit," an in-depth look at the region's nuns. The program details the history of these religious orders and their ongoing missions. It also features interviews with people who have been helped by the sisters and the challenges of keeping these orders in operation. The prizes were awarded to producer Michael Bartley and photojournalist Paul Ruggieri.

"This project was dear to my heart, given I was educated by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters who I fondly remember as ultimately dedicated to the well-being of neighborhood kids throughout western Pennsylvania," Bartley explains in a press release.

The documentary is available on QED's web site (www.wqed.org) under "on demand".

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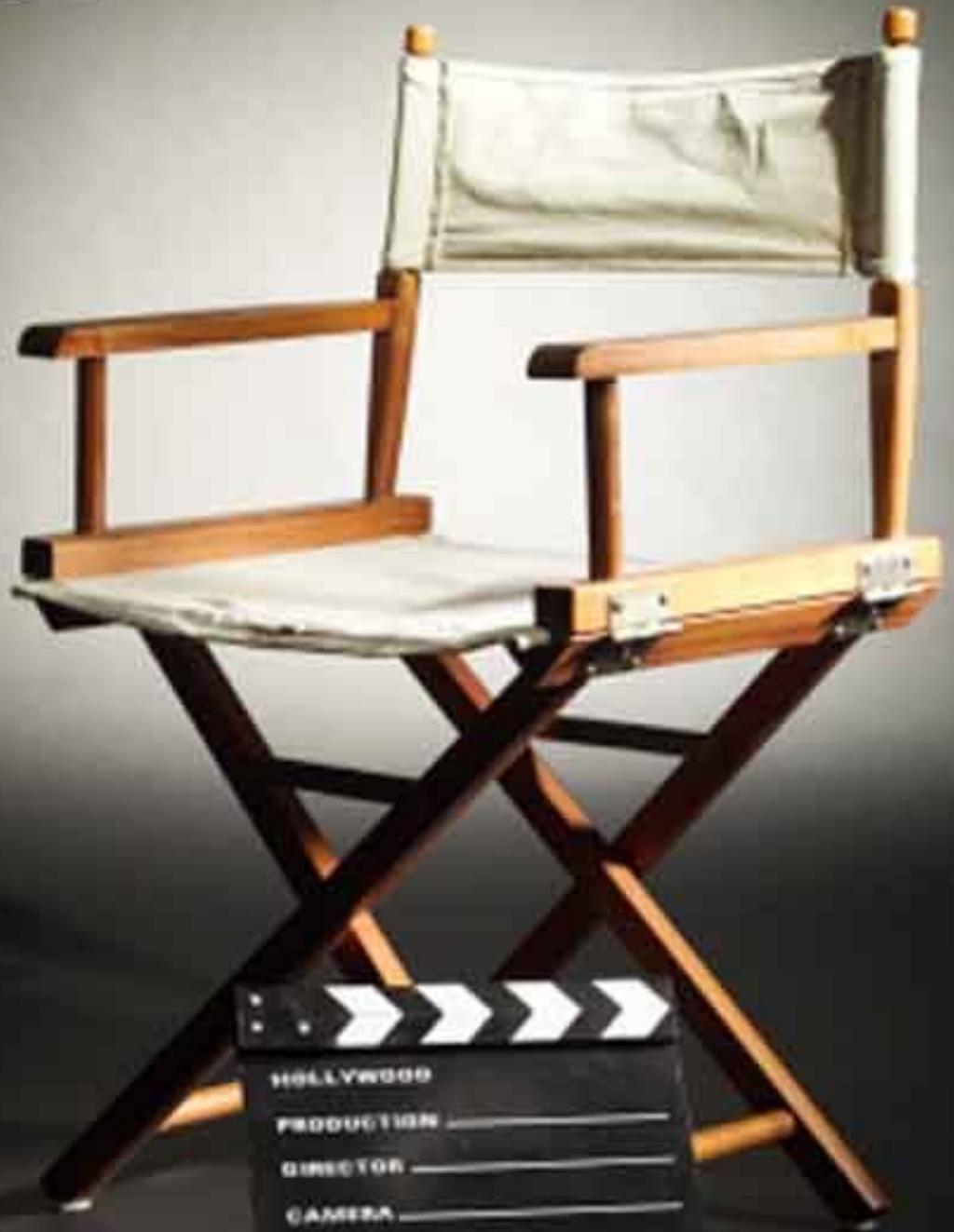
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National/World A&E News Round-Up

Major Museum Leaving Museum Mile

In an attempt to redefine itself, the **International Center of Photography** has decided to move to New York's historic Bowery district, reports Randy Kennedy in the *New York Times*.

Established in 1974, the International Center of Photography (ICP) is a combination museum, school and research center specializing in photographic images. It has been part of New York's city famous Museum Mile --- a section of Fifth Avenue featuring a concentration of museums --- since its founding.

"This [new] location provides a real frontage so that we can have a direct dialogue with the street, and that's key to our mission going forward," The ICP's Marc Lubell told Kennedy. "There's openness to experimentation and ideas in that part of town."

Read the full article at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/25/arts/design/international-center-of-photography-plans-move-to-the-bowery.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&r=0>

Cos' Collection

Actor and comedian Bill Cosby is also an art collector, and the **Smithsonian Institution** has announced that many of his pieces will be going on display starting this November.

Lonnae O'Neal Parker of the *Washington Post* says that Bill Cosby and his wife Camille "began what has become arguably the most renowned private collection of African American art in the world more than four decades ago as an imperative to preserve cultural history."

Among the artists featured will be Romare Bearden (1911-1988), who attended high school in Pittsburgh.

The museum has posted a video interview with the Cosbys which can be seen at <http://africa.si.edu/pressrelease/conversations/>

The Big Steal

Say it ain't so: a solid bronze statue of columnist and showman Ed Sullivan (1901-1974) was stolen from outside the **Academy of**

Television Arts and Sciences, reports TheWrap.com's Jason Hughes.

Sullivan is best known for his groundbreaking variety series, which ran on CBS for an impressive 23 years.

The 18-inch-tall, 20-pound figure was part of an outdoor exhibition spotlighting some of television's most notable pioneers. The local police are asking area residents for their help in locating and recovering the statue.

More Out Of The Closet

The number of characters in primetime television who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) has increased, reports *Variety* in a staff-written article.

According to the annual report composed by the **Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation** (GLAAD), the number of LGBT characters has risen from 3.3 to 3.9%.

Details are available at <http://variety.com/2014/tv/news/glaad-report-finds-gains-in-lgbt-characters-on-broadcast-cable-1201318331/>



Keezer Marks 20 Years

A milestone was reached by the **Pittsburgh Film Office** (PFO) on September 24: it marked the 20th anniversary of Dawn Keezer becoming the PFO's second executive director.



Formed in 1990, The Pittsburgh Film Office is a non-profit economic development agency dedicated to the mission of marketing the southwestern Pennsylvania region to the film industry.

"I am honored to be a part of the Pittsburgh Film Office for 20 years," Keezer says in a press release. "I have enjoyed working with the board of directors, staff, city, county and state officials to bring these vital film productions to the southwestern Pennsylvania region and creating thousands of local jobs."

The PFO credits Keezer with bringing in 94 film and television productions generating \$635 million in regional economic activity.

Deb's Tips

Local film and television casting pro Debra Docherty recently gave an interview with the online magazine **Burgh Vivant** (<http://www.burghvivant.com>) offering tips on the audition process.

During the 30-minute interview with Brian Edward, Docherty explains what she looks for in casting, what actors should expect (especially those new to the process).

Docherty says that she especially respects actors who "work at their craft."

The entire video interview is available at <http://www.burghvivant.com/podcast/deb-docherty-president-docherty-agency/#more-1280>

Grant For National Aviary

A \$20,000 grant has been awarded to the **National Aviary** by **Duquesne Light** to support the institution's educational programs.



THE NATIONAL AVIARY

The National Aviary began as a municipal asset in 1952 and was spun off into its own entity in 1991. Today, it's the country's only independent indoor nonprofit zoo dedicated exclusively to birds

"This is an exciting day. Thanks to Duquesne Light, our formal education programs will provide

opportunities for students to understand important conservation and environmental concepts through engaging studies of birds from across the globe," the Aviary's Patricia O'Neill, says in a press release. "Every interaction with a child is a chance for us to spark a passion that can lead to a career in science or a lifetime love of animals and the natural world."

The National Aviary's education programs supplement public and private school curriculums, and include an interactive presentation, live bird encounter and activity-based tours of the exhibits.

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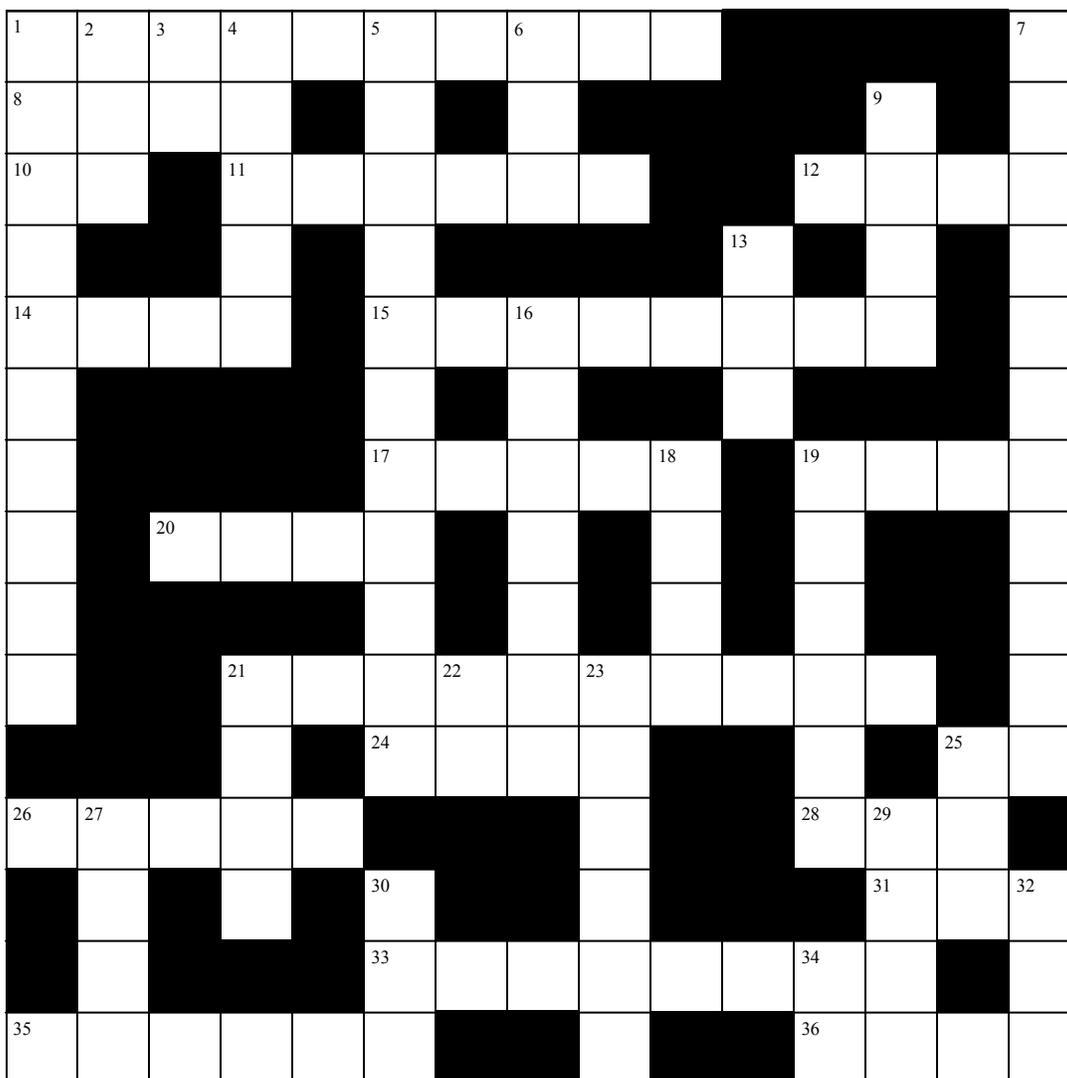
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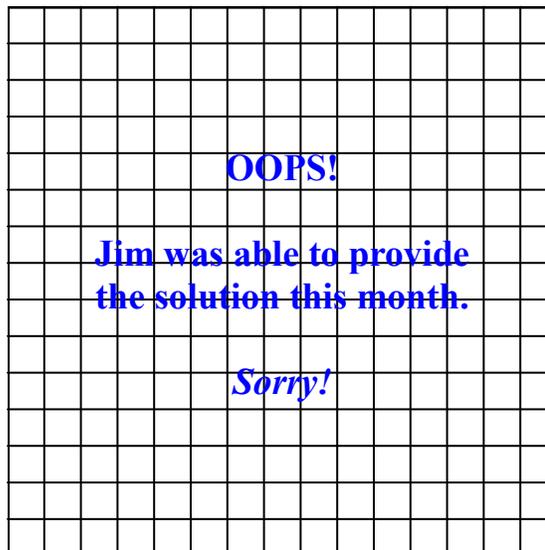
ACROSS

1. He wrote the novel
8. Not difficult
10. Lithuania's internet extension
11. See 20 Across
12. See 28 Across
14. Praise
15. Dracula's aide
17. "___ me"
19. Austin Powers has a lot of this
20. He directed the 1979 film
(with 11 Across)
21. Dracula's enemy
24. "Going, going ___"
25. The 26th Prez, informally
26. Dracula's title
28. He played Warhol's Dracula
(with 12 Across)
31. Dined
33. See 35 Across
35. He played Dracula in the 1979
parody (with 33 Across)
36. Dracula's target

DOWN

1. He played Dracula in 1931 film
2. Food for 15 Across (maybe)
3. American Samoa's
internet extension
4. "Oops!"
5. He directed the 1931 film
6. Korean car company
7. He played Dracula in the 60s
(with 13 Down)
9. Type
13. See 7 Down
16. See 23 Down
18. A bath usually has these
19. Friedrich who directed the
unauthorized 1922 film
21. Grapes grow on one
22. Santa's favorite word
23. He played Dracula in the 1995
parody (with 16 Down)
25. Little kid
27. Type of horror story monster
29. Comedian Cook
30. Not He
31. Antlered animal
34. 1966 Swedish movie about
a 26 Across

Last Month's Solution



Pittsburgh Applause Editorial

Saving The AWC: Just Step One

By James A. Richards

Like everyone else in Pittsburgh's arts/entertainment world, I am thrilled to see that the August Wilson Center for African American Culture has been rescued by a coalition led by the Heinz Endowments.

Now comes the hard part.

I know that sounds strange. After all, wasn't rescuing the institution from demise the hard part? Actually, no it wasn't.

The Wilson Center suffered from less than stellar planning long before it opened. Its entire business model (such as it was) could not conceivably support an organization like the Wilson. As a result, the center's financial health was

problematic before it first opened the doors.

That's what the hard part is: re-designing the model to make the Center sustainable as an independent entity. That Grant Oliphant and the Heinz Endowments is leading the effort is a good sign, but no guarantee of success.

If they don't succeed, the Wilson Center will likely end up in the same precarious position it was before.



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