

Entertainment

In search of a better flame



By Thad Kreisher
Entertainment Editor

Imagine if you will a cold dark cave. Inside a dozen or so of our hairy forefathers huddle around their fur clad shaman as the pale Autumn sun fades below the horizon.

With patient determination the old magician rubs two sticks together. A thin wisp of smoke twists into the air and the stick glows red. Quickly he piles dry tinder upon the ember. There is a crackle and suddenly, flames burst forth.

An "Ooooooh, Aaaaahh" escapes the tribe. The shaman has once again created the miracle of fire.

Ancient man was dependent on fire. It gave him heat to cook with and warmth during the cold winter months. It gave him light in the dark and kept the nocturnal man-eating beasts at bay.

Now however, we rarely have to worry about keeping nocturnal beasts at bay. Cooking is done electrically, and few are dependent upon fire for heat. No longer do we rub two sticks together to produce flame.

Now we have the lighter. Yes, that convenient little thing that is so simple that it makes you say "Why didn't we think of this before?"

Yet, have you really ever

considered the lighter before?

When you think about it, the lighter is a very interesting object. It always reminded me of one of those nifty devices found in sci-fi novels. Can't you just hear Han Solo saying "Luke, make sure to bring a blaster, a set of hydro-spanners, and oh, don't forget the lighter."

Even the construction of the lighter would support this. Let us take the Bic for example.

It is streamlined, small enough to carry with you, and just the right size to fit in the palm of your hand. It's easy to operate and it has that little dial that adjusts the flame complete with instructions. You know, the ones that have the little arrows with a picture of a small flame on one end and a large flame on the other. How much more simplistic can you get?

Not only are lighters science fiction like, they're also fun. They have a myriad of uses, both practical and amusing.

Obviously the lighter can be used to ignite all kinds of tobacco products. As a matter of fact, it would seem to me that the quest for a better flame was stimulated by this particular of man's habits.

But wait. There's more. You can use a lighter to do cheap "flaming hand" magic



Entertainer Calvin Walker (center), and band perform in CC Mall.

Photo by Dan Wheeler

tricks. More daring "lighter magicians" can use this device to amaze their friends by spitting fire.

You can play cruel jokes with a lighter by standing nonchalantly behind someone while heating the seat of their pants, always a favorite in my book.

If you've ever bought a bottle of coke and had no opener then you will probably agree with me when I say that it is quite aggravating. However, by bracing the butt of your Bic under the cap and thrusting firmly upwards, this problem can be eliminated forever.

As you can see, the lighter is a very versatile device. And now that you have been enlightened, I'm sure that you too will soon be enjoying all the options available in the fun world of lighters.

Benetar still strong

By Amy M. Kern
Staff Writer

Portlanders on hand at the Portland Memorial Coliseum last week were treated to a long-awaited appearance by female rock vocalist Pat Benetar.

Returning to Portland after a three year respite, Benetar proved that, although she has been about of the public eye for some time, her ability to put on a great performance was stronger than ever.

While the smooth, robust voice, the trademark of the singer, hadn't changed, there was a difference, a noticeable change in Benetar's style. Not just in her songs but in herself as well.

This was a new Pat. The most likely reason for such a change? Undoubtedly becoming a more mature person had an impact on Pat, but the main reason for such change was Pat's becoming a mother.

But don't put Pat Benetar on your list of favorite easy-listening performers. Pat still knows how to belt out those rock tunes like no other female vocalist around.

While Benetar continues to make leaps and bounds in the music industry, one thing is certain. No matter what her style, Pat Benetar will always be capable of keeping her faithful audiences satisfied.

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