

Living



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INSIDE TODAY

Free AND cheap!
Inexpensive events around the metro area this weekend on accessAtlanta.com



'Office' help

Brian Baumgartner, a regular on "The Office" comedy hit, signs on for an Actor's Express fund-raiser.

F2

Bright ideas

Ingenuity is part of our American soul. And that's what ABC reality show "American Inventor" (tonight at 8 and 9) celebrates. The show's contestants have proven to be a polyglot of ages, creeds and colors, not just the

stereotypical nutty professor. Tonight, the show's judges will pick 12 inventions they think are most marketable. Here's the world of invention in a nutshell:

How to get an invention to market in five not-so-easy steps

- 1 Your idea must be for something new, useful and sufficiently different from anything else.
- 2 Do a patent search online or hire a patent agent or attorney.
- 3 Fill out a patent application for the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.
- 4 Wait. It might take 18 months to get a response and another 18 months to get a decision.
- 5 With a patent on your invention, you can sell the rights outright, license it for a royalty fee or produce it yourself.



"Anything that won't sell, I don't want to invent."
— Thomas Edison

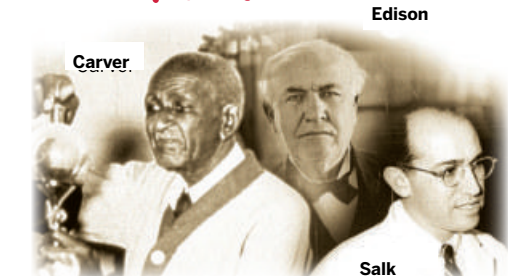
5 greatest inventions ever

- 2005 Gallup Poll**
1. Electricity, 27 percent
 2. The automobile, 13 percent
 3. The computer, 11 percent
 4. The wheel, 7 percent
 5. The telephone, 6 percent

Notable inventions from the past 50 years

- 1959: Barbie doll, microchip
- 1971: VCR
- 1974: post-it note
- 1978: artificial heart
- 1979: cellular phone, Walkman
- 1985: Microsoft Windows
- 1988: Prozac
- 1990: www. protocol for the Internet
- 1998: Viagra

3 Titans



Thomas Edison: phonograph, lightbulb
George Washington Carver: crop rotations, 325 peanut-related products
Jonas Salk: polio vaccine

181,302

U.S. patents granted in 2004

20th

Georgia's ranking among states (1,492 patents)

Top U.S. corporation

IBM, with 3,248 patents granted in 2004

Top Atlanta-based company

BellSouth, with 185 patents in 2004

What invention would you like to see in the future?

Tell our blog at ajc.com

Illustration by WALTER CUMMING / Staff Text by RODNEY HO / Staff

4 TV and movie inventors

Dexter
"Dexter's Laboratory" on Cartoon Network
The Accelerager, which makes him old enough to watch a late movie.

The Professor
"Gilligan's Island"
A bamboo lie detector

Doc
"Back to the Future" movies
A time-traveling DeLorean

Kramer
"Seinfeld"
A coffee table book about coffee tables



Kramer (Michael Richards)

APPRECIATION

FRANK WITTOW • 1930-2006



Frank Wittow's Academy Theatre was the first professional theater in the South to be integrated.

Theater pioneer fearless

By WENDELL BROCK
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In 1956, a newly discharged, 25-year-old Army psychologist named Frank Wittow started an acting ensemble in the living room of his home near downtown. A half century later, that moment is considered the birth of Atlanta theater as we know it today.

Over the decades, the legendary Wittow and his Academy Theatre became to the city what John Houseman and the Juilliard School were to New York. The Academy was the first professional theater in the South to be integrated — and it launched the careers of Broadway director Kenny Leon; film star Bill Nunn; the writing duo Larry Larson and Eddie Levi Lee; and Atlanta actors Brenda Bynum, Carol Mitchell-Leon and Chris Kayser.

By the time of his death Monday at age 75, the stern, unblinking godfather of local theater was credited with spawning at least four important Atlanta theaters established by former students: Leon's True Colors Theatre; Jeff and Lisa Adler's Horizon Theatre; John Stephens' Theatre Gael; and

► Please see THEATER, F3

Passover a good time to reflect

By GRACIE BONDS STAPLES
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The Jewish holiday of Passover started Wednesday night and continues tonight, with Seder meals marking the Exodus of the ancient Hebrews from Egypt more than 3,000 years ago.

"It's timeless," said Sherry Frank, executive director of the Atlanta chapter of the American Jewish Committee. Not only does it recall the story of liberation, she said, "it calls on you to make it relevant for the day."

The eight-day family-centered holiday is a time of sharing — memories, especially — with friends and family.

"It's a fabulous holiday, and it grows in relevance every year," said Elaine Blumenthal of Vinnings, who celebrated Wednesday with her three children, their spouses and children, and a host of other relatives and friends.

► Please see PASSOVER, F7