



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

# The Actuary

March 1998 – volume 32 - Issue 4



## on the lighter side

### Lights! Camera! Actuary!!

by Kelly Mayo  
SOA Public Relations Intern

Acting and the actuarial profession are an unusual combination. But not for Susan Pantely, associate actuary for Milliman & Robertson in New York.

After a full day of risk assessments, Pantely can be found running to an audition on one of New York City's many movie sets or to studios for work as an extra. "I have always wanted to act," says Pantely, "but it wasn't until about a year ago that I decided to pursue roles."

Susan has snagged several parts since she began taking her hobby seriously. She appeared in the movies *Cottonwood*

*Club* and *Childhood's End* and was also the object of Ben Stiller's fantasy in the film *Flirting with Disaster*. She was featured in a commercial for the New York State Lottery, and she is pursuing print advertisement work as well.

Pantely's most recent success is a lead in a staged reading of a script called "Garbage." "A staged reading is a play that someone wants to make into a movie," she explains. "The idea is to present the reading with the hope of obtaining supporters for the movie version." If "Garbage" is made into a movie, Pantely's experience will be a plus when the cast is chosen.

Pantely says that some parts are more enjoyable than others. She played an extra in the movie *I'm Not Rappaport* starring Walter Matthau and Amy Irving. She especially liked the wardrobe for her scene, a flashback set in late-19th-century America. "We had to wear these costumes that were made up of long wool skirts and wigs. It was neat to wear something out of that era, but not for a 14-hour day in July!" Pantely recalls.

"Being 'on the set' isn't as glamorous as it sounds," Pantely says. "In addition to the sometimes strange hours, a lot of time is spent setting up scenes, changing lighting, and shooting the stars' lines one at a time.



Susan Pantely shows her versatility.

I learned very quickly to take along a book." Lately, Pantely has been thankful for the breaks in the action. "I've been bringing my FSA study guides. This 'down time' gives me time to study for my exams."

Will Pantely ever quit the actuarial profession for acting? "It's doubtful," she says. "This is just a hobby. The odds are pretty slim on getting a lead in a major film." As an actuary, she ought to know.

Kelly Mayo can be reached by e-mail at [kmayo@soa.org](mailto:kmayo@soa.org).

### Upcoming SOA meetings and seminars

April 30-May 1	Actuarial Appraisals in a Sizzling Merger and Acquisition Heatwave	Omni Chicago, Chicago
May 4-5	Managed Care in a Time of Transition	The Marquette, Minneapolis
May 4-5	Corporate and Chief Actuaries Open Forum	Four Seasons Hotel, Philadelphia
May 28-29	Advanced Equity Index	Marriott Westshore, Tampa
June 15-17	Spring Meeting/Maui 1 (Financial Reporting, Product Development, Reinsurance, Nontraditional Marketing)	Grand Wailea Resort, Maui
June 19	Strategic Planning for Insurance Companies	Grand Wailea Resort, Maui
June 22-24	Spring Meeting/Maui 2 (Health, Pension)	Grand Wailea Resort, Maui

For updates on all seminars, watch future SOA mailings. Seminar information will also be posted on the SOA Web site ([www.soa.org](http://www.soa.org)) under Continuing Education.