## For promoter, Comedy Castle controversy isn't funny

For the public, it's a laugh a minute in West Bloomfield these days. Currently there are two houses of comedy, two miles apart along Orehard Lake Road.
Comedy Castle has relocated from Friday's in Pine Lake Mall to the barquet room of Stafford's Restaurant in Orchard Mall. Tuesday was opening night.

night.
Comedy continues at Friday's, where owners Cory Hanson and Timothy Busch have taken over their own comedy bookings. "We're booked for the next couple months," a Friday's spokarson said.

next couple monts," a rroapy s pos-esperson said.
But for Mark Ritdley, the promoter of Comedy Castle, the situation's no joke.
Last week he won a temporary in-junction in Oakland County Circuit Court to stop Friday's owners, Cory Hanson and Timothy Busch, from capi-talizing on the Comedy Castle name.
They were continuing to advertise as Friday's Comedy Castle. Following the temporary restraining order, the res-taurant answered to Friday's Comedy.

RIDLEY'S ATTORNEY, Arnold Weintraub, said the suit against Busch and Hanson is for trademark infringement. "It is my position that he is owner of all exclusive rights to the name 'Comedy Castle,' " Weintraub said

weintraub said he will base his case weintraub sain ee wiii oase ins case on the following analogy: "What if Hughes and Hatcher's vacated the Pontiac Mail? Would the Pontiac Mail then be allowed to take over that store and call it 'Pontiac Mall's Hughes and Hatcher's?"

"I think it's pretty clear — the name is Mark's. The real problem is what the public is going to think if there's 'Comedy Castle' and 'Friday's Comedy Castle?' It's public deception and it's ludi-

"There's nothing inherently wrong for them to run their own comedy out of there. I just want them to change their name," Weintraub said. "There's their name," Weintraub said. There's plenty of room for competition. I haven't seen West Bloomfield hit by the

ecession."

He believes the township can support wo comedy houses, just as it could

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STAFFORD'S RESTAURANT owners Ted and Dennis Vatsis are taking a two-week gamble with Ridley.

"Mark really got into a squabble. He was looking for a place temporarily. He tells me he's in the process of purchasing his own place," said Dennis

support two bowling alleys or move houses.

Tuesday afternoon, neither Hanson or Busch could be reached for comment.

STAFFORDS RESTAURANT own-

"We're going to lose a few seats," acwe're going to lose a rew seats, ac-knowledged Comedy Castle spokesman David Gladstone. "But we've been tak-ing lots of reservations." Stafford's banquet room holds 100 compared to Friday's 200. Also, Staf-

Orchard Mall: 851-9150

ford's has only a tavern license to serve beer and wine compared to Friday's li-quor license. Going from two to three shows on Saturday night might add to the gate. "All the local comics are behind us," Gladstone said. "Mark's heart is in it."

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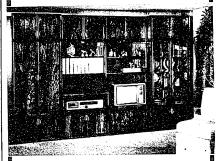
"All the local comics are behind us,"

Gladstone said. "Mark's heart is in it, the treats performers as artists, not



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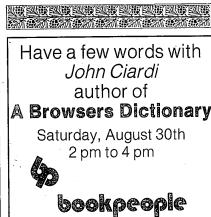
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