

COMEDY CLUBS

Here are some listings of comedy clubs in our area. To let us know who is appearing at your club, send the information to: Comedy Listings, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 30251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

● **BEA'S COMEDY KITCHEN**
Jeff Branaa will perform with Rubia and Downtown Tony Brown Friday-Saturday, Oct. 20-21, at Bea's Comedy Kitchen, 541 Larned, Detroit. Show times are 8:30 and 11 p.m. For information, call 961-2581.

● **CHAPLIN'S EAST**
Roger Feltz will perform Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 18-21, at Chaplin's East, 34244 Groesbeck, Fraser. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 792-1902.

● **CHAPLIN'S PLYMOUTH**
Ally Ball will perform with Skip Darby and Nick Tarede Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 18-21, at Chaplin's Plymouth in the Plymouth Radisson, 14707 Northville Road, Plymouth. For information, call 454-4680.

● **CHAPLIN'S WEST**
John Rigli will perform with Mike Casper and Tony Manion Tuesday-Saturday, Oct. 17-21, at Chaplin's West, 16890 Telegraph, south of Six Mile, Detroit. For information, call 533-8866.

● **HOLLY HOTEL**
Craig McCarl will perform along with Marlo and Sean Hunter Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 19-21, at Holly Hotel, 110 Battle Alley, Holly. Show times are 8:30 p.m. with additional 10:30 p.m. shows on Friday and Saturday. For information, call 634-1891.

● **JOEY'S LIVONIA**
Peter Fogel will perform Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 19-21, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Show times are 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday. For reservations, call 261-0555.

● **KOMEDY KORNER**
Darwin Hines will appear Wednesday through Saturday, Oct. 18-21, at the Komedy Korner, Riverside Drive, east of Oquett, Windsor. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8 and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call (619) 252-6848.



Comedienne Rita Rudner will appear for a special engagement Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 25-26, at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase in Ann Arbor.

● **LOONEY BIN**
Gary Harkwick will perform Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 19-21, at the Wolverine Lounge and Looney Bin Comedy Club, 1555 Glogory, Walled Lake. Show times are 9 p.m. Friday and 8 and 10:15 p.m. Saturday. For information, call 659-9374.

● **LOONEY BIN TOO**
Alvaro Shelton will perform on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20-21, at the Looney Bin Too at the Roxy, I-94 and Haggerty, Belleville. For reservations, call 699-1829.

● **MAINSTREET**
Peter Berman will perform Wednesday-Thursday, Oct. 18-19, and Kirkland Teeple will perform Friday-Saturday, Oct. 20-21, at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor.

Also Rita Rudner will appear for a special engagement Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 25-26. Tickets are \$15. For information, call 936-9080.

● **SECOND CITY**
Second City Touring Company will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$12.50 and \$15. For information, call 99-MUSIC.

His layoff turned into laughs

By Susan Steinnmueller
staff writer

Darwin Hines was good for laughs in grade school, where he'd stand in front of the class and tell jokes to the teachers and other students. Looking back, the 33-year-old Detroit resident said that was the beginning of his career as a stand-up comedian, although he credits a Richard Pryor comedy album for the inspiration to become a comedian.

"In 1975, I was listening to Richard Pryor and I said, 'If this guy can say these things that I think about... if he can be a comedian, I can too,'" Hines said. "If it hadn't been for the album, I probably would never have tried comedy at all."

Five years later, Hines was laid off from Ford Motor Co. Encouraged by friends, he tried his hand at stand-up comedy.

It went well, and Hines has been going for the laughs ever since.

HIE HAS appeared around the country at clubs like Dangerfield's and Comic Strip in New York, and locally at Comedy Castle and Laff Factory in Detroit and Benny's in Westland. He has been featured in USA Today and Jet magazine, and on all the local television news stations. Hines has also opened for George Benson at the Pine Knob and B.B. King at the Premier Center. He will be at the Komedy Korner in Windsor this week.

Hines writes his own material. "A lot of material are things that happen to me," he said. "A lot of times my comedy comes from being angry."

HINES DESCRIBES his style of comedy as "controversial." Two of his favorite targets are racism, and male-female relationships.

"I see no reason to be prejudiced," he said, "and there are a lot of prejudiced people in our society. All you are really doing is hurting yourself if you are."

Hines does encounter racism while doing his act. But he said after seeing him perform, people will sometimes change their tunes.

One man, he said, made racist remarks at the beginning of his show, and at the end, stood up to lead a standing ovation.

One of his quips on racism is: "I like prejudiced people because you can mess up their whole day just by showing up."

While he may make fun of relationships, Hines, who is single, said, "the most important thing to me besides being famous, is being married."

ONE OF the tough parts of being a comic is that in a room of 300 people, "there is nothing I can say that won't offend someone," Hines said.

"When people go to comedy clubs, they should keep in mind that comedians are just out to make them laugh," he said. "They should keep an open mind. The comedian does not know that this particular subject may upset you. If you start taking out material that would make you upset, there'd be nothing to joke about."

Another tough aspect of life as a stand-up comedian is that "on this level you have to travel a lot," Hines said.

"There is a lot of competitiveness, things of that nature," he said. "The business end of it is really rough."

IT'S ALSO hard to make a name for oneself.

"On the level of comedy, people go out to see comedy, they don't go to see an individual," he said. "Usually, TV chooses that."

That's TV as in "major TV."



Darwin Hines was good for laughs in grade school, but it wasn't until he was laid off from Ford Motor Co. that he tried his hand at stand-up comedy. Hines has been going for the laughs ever since.

"You have to do it two to three times a year for people to start knowing you," said Hines, who has done cable television comedy shows. "You have to have a really unique act, something that really stands out."

To really make it in the business, a comedian should also live in Los Angeles, said Hines, who plans to head for the West Coast one day.

Hines has no plans to give up what he calls his first love. Even if he did make a name for himself on a sitcom or on television — which helped Eddie Murphy and Bill Cosby household names — comedy would always come first for him, he said.

Darwin Hines will appear at the Komedy Korner in Windsor Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 18-21.

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For more details contact:

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Recent reader questions on Michigan Lottery instant games are answered in this column.

Q. When will the Lottery have a new instant game?

A. "Jokers Wild" was introduced at all 1,000 instant game retailers on September 11.

Q. Does this mean "Fame & Fortune" will end?

A. No. The very successful "Fame & Fortune" will continue for an indefinite period, as players will find two scratch-off games being sold at the same time.

Q. What's different about "Jokers Wild"?

A. All "Jokers Wild" prizes are cash and are paid by one retailer selling instant games, while "Fame & Fortune" features tickets showing three TV entry symbols offering a chance to appear on the weekly "Let's Get Ready to Rumble" show.

Q. How is "Jokers Wild" played?

A. Play in "Jokers Wild" is similar to that of previous instant games. A panel on tickets covers up hidden playing card symbols. (Although Ave plus-odds. When scratched off, any three matching symbols win a cash prize. As the name states, Jokers are wild cards and combine with any two matching symbols to win.

Q. How much can I win in "Jokers Wild"?

A. Prizes range from \$2 up to \$100 with odds better than one in seven that a ticket will be a winner.

Q. Has the Michigan Lottery ever sold two games at the same time before this?

A. Only in isolated instances after a new game was introduced and retailers continued to sell tickets on the previous game until their supply ran out.

Q. Why are you starting it now?

A. While most instant players seem to like the chance to appear on statewide television, others prefer games in which they can win prizes immediately. So now, as lotto posters indicate, we are offering them a chance of "Win for the Money, and One for the Show."

Q. Who decides what kind of games will be offered?

A. It would be said that players do. Lottery officials constantly monitor sale of various instant games here and in other states while exploring new products. They discuss on the type of games to be offered are based primarily on indicated player preferences.

Q. Can we look forward to more new instant games?

A. The Michigan Lottery tries to keep all its games as fresh and exciting for players as possible. This undoubtedly will lead to continued periodic changes in its instant games.

For submitting the first question leading to this column, Marie Burdard of Eastlake will receive 50 "Jokers Wild" tickets. Note: When duplicate questions are received, that with the earliest date stamp upon arrival wins. In cases of a tie, the winner is selected by random drawing.

If you have a question not yet covered in these monthly columns, send it to "Winners Circle," Michigan Lottery, P.O. Box 30477, Lansing, MI 48901.

On the Town DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

They named a street after Budget Rent a Truck.

"You know, I've had to send a lot of players packing in my time. So I always try to soften the blow by suggesting that they look into a Budget One-Way Truck. Budget Rent a Truck has a special fleet of 15- and 24-foot diesels and cargo vans that are priced just right for that one-way move to Miami or San Francisco. And they come equipped with automatic transmission, power steering, AM/FM stereo and air conditioning. Like I tell my players: there's only one way Budget rent a truck."

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