

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, Newspaper, 30251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.*

• **MAINSTREET**
Downtown Tony Brown will perform Wednesday-Thursday, Nov. 29-30, and Ric Shrader will perform Friday-Saturday, Dec. 1-2, at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-9080.

• **HOLLY HOTEL**
Ted Norkey will perform along with Bill Bauer and Steve Billalizer Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 30 through Dec. 2, at Holly Hotel, 110 Battle Alley, Holly. Show times are 8:30 p.m. with additional 10:30 p.m. shows Friday and Saturday. For information, call 634-1891.

• **LOONEY BIN**
Downtown Tony Brown, Mark Hamilton and Lisa Golechwill perform Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 30 through Dec. 2, at the Wolverine Lounge and Looney Bin Comedy Club, 1655 Glengary, Walled Lake. Show times are 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8 and 10:15 p.m. Saturday. For information, call 669-9374.

• **MISS KITTY'S**
Carl Strong and John Decosse will

perform Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 30 through Dec. 2, at Miss Kitty's Comedy Club, Long Branch Restaurant, 595 N. Lapeer Road, Oxford. Show times are 8 p.m. Thursday; 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 628-6500.

• **LOONEY BIN TOO**
Tim Butterfield will perform Fri-

day-Saturday, Dec. 1-2, at the Looney Bin Too at the Rony, I-94 and Haggerty, Belleville. For reservations, call 699-1829.

• **RICHARD LEWIS**
Richard Lewis will perform 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Royal Oak Music Theatre. Tickets are \$18.50. For information, call 546-7610.



Richard Lewis is on hiatus from his ABC-TV sitcom, "Anything but Love," working on his stand-up routine.

Lewis: Anything but rest

By Bob Sadler
special writer

It's tough to catch Richard Lewis when he's not working.

Technically, when we caught up with him last week, he was "on hiatus" from his ABC series "Anything but Love." However, the scenario painted by the frenetic comic could be more realistically titled "anything but rest."

"I'm at some mountain retreat," Lewis said, somewhere in California off the beaten path. That sounds restful enough, but what is the man really up to?

"I'm planning the rest of my concert tour because I've been working so hard on the sit-com," he said. "I'm pouring over millions of ideas because I'm doing Detroit, Philly and Carnegie Hall."

That sounds more like it. Although constantly referring to his series as "the sit-com," it's obvious that Lewis is giving his all to the project, despite its overwhelming impact on the rest of his life.

"When I do the sit-com, I have no time for stand-up. I'm working Monday through Friday, and on Saturday, I'm a goner."

"When I was writing a screenplay (a recently finished piece for HBO called "No Life to Live"), having a relationship, doing concerts and the sit-com, it was really almost unfair," Lewis lamented in characteristic fashion. "It was almost like, 'let's see how long this guy'll live.'"

"Anything But Love" is in its first full season on ABC and Lewis is excited about its possibilities.

"ABC believes in the show, me,

her (co-star Jamie Lee Curtis) and the rest of the cast. I'm happy with the writers and the cast. We all get along."

NOT SURPRISINGLY, Lewis' character on the show, a magazine writer named Marty Gold, does bear a strong resemblance to himself.

"I have many more problems than he does," said the ever-neurotic comic actor.

"Not recently," he said. "A mountain stream. I understand, is therapeutic. I understand things to be therapeutic, I just haven't experienced them."

On stage, where it took him more than a decade to be discovered, Lewis is perpetual motion, tossing his twisted observations at the audience while sporting a slouched comedic stance more suited for a professional fighter.

"I see my posture improving around the year 2008," he said. "I don't want to stand up straight. I think it would be bad for the act."

His career did not start its steady upward climb until old friend David Letterman got a late night talk show (they worked together on the old comedy circuit, particularly the New York Improv).

"My whole career was resurrected by Dave's show," Lewis said. "I'd been in stand-up 10 years prior to getting on 'Late Night.' Letterman knew that stand-up wasn't my best act form on network television because you only get four minutes. Fortunately, he got a show, and 45 guest spots later, I have a following."

The frequent Letterman spots pro-

pelled the Lewis-coined "from hell" family of phrases into the American consciousness. There have been dates from hell, actresses from hell, kitchen appliances from hell — you name it. The whole idea was something Lewis generated about 10 years ago.

"In that time of my life, I wasn't a hellish person, but I felt victimized by all these people. They're from hell, not me. I guess I just picked the darkest metaphor possible."

Lewis' style has often been compared with Lenny Bruce, and his material has been likened to that of Woody Allen. Lewis admires both, but has an especially deep reverence for Bruce.

"I ADMIRE how prolific he was, but more importantly, I admired his courage," Lewis said. "He was way ahead of his time. No one could come close as a social critic. Young people just seem to think that he opened up the doors for profanity (in comedy). People who really want to listen to what this guy said."

Audiences in Detroit will have an opportunity to hear what Lewis has to say, and Lewis will hopefully have whittled his millions of ideas to a few thousand by then.

"I'm really psyched about coming to Detroit," he said. "There's got to be a lot of people who aren't going to be at analysis at that time. I am banking on that."

Richard Lewis appears Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets, or charge by calling 645-6666.



Ted Norkey appears Thursday through Saturday at the Holly Hotel.

He helped bring the cup home

Continued from Page 1

Cup were so high, things "got a little tense," he said. Winds in Freemantle were light for the kind of racing Connor was used to.

"We lost a number of races," he said, "and the team got a little tense then. It wasn't so much the forecasts as the winds. They were just too light. But because it had to do with the weather, the team took it out on the meteorologist."

But everyone on the team was a team player, he said, and he was soon working with the crews on boat design, sails and navigation. New forecasts were made; new races won.

Bedford found himself in San Diego for four months after his stint in Australia, again at the behest of Connor.

HIS MOST recent work includes forecasting in Newport, R.I. for boat races there and in July for the

Pert Huron to Mackinac races.

Just-completed tasks were a little more exotic, he said.

Selected last year as the meteorologist for the U.S. Olympic yachting team, Bedford spent 1½ weeks in Barcelona, Spain.

But lest those less fortunate protest his good fortune, consider this: A typical office day means arriving at 6 a.m. to look at maps for the actual sites of his weather forecasts.

"I really didn't have much time to myself in Australia," he said. "I was up between 4 and 5 a.m. and I'd finish at 9 p.m. pretty much seven days a week."

In fact, Bedford said, he had a total of seven days off between September and January while preparing for the Cup races.

"We even had to work Thanksgiving Day," he said. "It's a concentrated effort to win."

Bedford said he took a "quick" trip across southwest Australia and spent 11 hours on layover in Sydney, one of the country's largest and most populated cities.

When he's not elbow-deep in maps and charts, he's flying, he said. Still in flight training school, his habits are hard to shake.

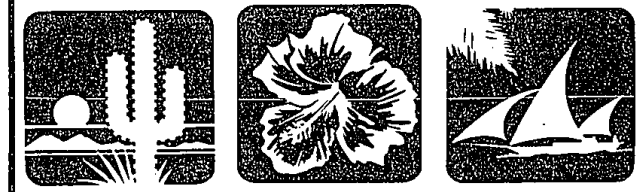
"MY INSTRUCTOR gets mad at me," he said. "I spend most of my time looking at the clouds."

He has no intentions of trading his illustrious career for one more subdued. Television weather reporting holds no attraction because, he said, television forecasters represent "competition, not science."

"I enjoy this field," he said. "The thing I like most is being on-site. You're there, they call you after the race and tell you how you did. You have to live up to that forecast."

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