

# People recall accent

By Pat Schutte  
staff writer

Comedian Jeff Foxworthy has a special feature that sets him apart from other comedians. No, it's not a giant set of ears or a big 'ole Jimmy Durante nose, which most people don't find very funny anyway. Nope. With Foxworthy, it's his accent, his voice. He's from the South.

"I swear that ya'll talk like a bunch of news casters up here," joked Foxworthy of Michigan accents. "You guys talk out of one nostril."

Early in his career, when Foxworthy would appear with a number of other comedians at a laugh-off, which one do you think the people most easily recall after the show?

"That would have to be me," said Foxworthy. "They'd say 'who was that guy with the southern accent? He was pretty good.'"

Foxworthy, 31, a native of Atlanta, inherited his penchant for making folks laugh from his parents.

"My dad was the 'King of Dirty Jokes,'" bragged Foxworthy. "He was the only guy I know who could tell a joke at a truck-stop and have truckers say 'Hey, not so loud, can't you see there's mechanics here?'"

Influenced at an early age by the likes of Bill Cosby, George Carlin and Richard Pryor, Foxworthy was sometimes called upon by his mother to do a little routine for their house guests.

"MY MOM WOULD have me stand there in my PJs, in front of a living room full of guests and recite the likes of Cosby, Carlin and Pryor," said Foxworthy. "It was great."

After a three-year stint at Georgia Technological University, Foxworthy took a job at IBM as a dispatcher. That's where Foxworthy's career jumped the median from Respectable Street over to Comedy Lane.

"I had a pretty good idea that I was funny, but Georgia Tech was not a very funny place," said Foxworthy. "So once I got to IBM and started working with some other guys that were pretty funny, it wasn't long before I began to think that I was in the wrong field."

Assigned a job as a dispatcher at IBM, Foxworthy got to a point where he could imitate boss-type people to such a likeness that he could actually send unsuspecting employees on a frantic trip across the state for a non-existent meeting or trick an employee into doing something stupid.

"My favorite one was when we

used to call this not-so-bright receptionist and tell her that 'This is the phone company, we'll be blowing the dust out of the lines in a minute, so we suggest that you put the receiver into the wastebasket for a while,'" Foxworthy recalled. "Then we'd watch her put the phone into the garbage can and just howl."

Foxworthy split from the well-paid, secure job he had at IBM and bit the road, displaying his talent in such comic meccas as Spartanburg, S.C., and Eufala, Ala. His first major taste of fame came at the 1985 "Great Southeastern Laugh-Off," which he won. Within six months Foxworthy graduated from an emcee to a feature act.

LIKE A SPARK in a fireworks factory, Foxworthy's act gained momentum in a flash. He captured the "Zanies/Pepsi Cola Laugh-Off" in 1986 and the "Coors Laugh-Off" in 1987, and just recently won the American Comedy Awards "Comedy Club Comic of the Year."

If you're looking for a bunch of filth, linked together with swear words to make your evening more enjoyable, plan on spending the evening in a locker room somewhere.

"If my family was to sneak in and sit in the back of the club, and I didn't know it, I don't think they'd be offended," he said. "Cosby does it so well, being funny without being filthy."

Although they wouldn't be offended, Foxworthy's family is the brunt of some of his material. Like his cousin Roseanna, who's so fat, "when she walks across the room the radio skips," Foxworthy quipped.



Or his overprotective mother — "She sent me to the 7-Eleven this one time to get some milk. Call me when you get there, call me when you get there, she'd say. I took a side trip to a buddy's house for about a half an hour, and when I got to the 7-Eleven my picture was already on the back of a milk carton."

Appearing at the Mainstreet Comedy Showcase in Ann Arbor will be Foxworthy's second trip to Michigan.

"Ann Arbor... what a cool place," Foxworthy said. "I walked around and just checked things out the whole time I was there."

Jeff Foxworthy gave up a budding career at IBM to take up the life of a comedian and from the success he's been having of late, it appears he made the right decision.

Jeff Foxworthy will perform at the Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, on Friday and Saturday, April 27-28. Show times are 8:30 and 11 p.m. on Friday, and 7, 9, and 11 p.m. on Saturday. For more information and reservations call (313) 956-9080.

## 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, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

● **Chaplin's East**  
John Ferrante along with Tim Butterfield and Ken Brown will perform Wednesday through Saturday, April 25-28, at Chaplin's East, 34244 Groesbeck, Fraser. Show times are 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 792-1802.

● **Chaplin's West**  
Drew Carey, along with Tony Brown and Sean Brown will perform Tuesday-Saturday, April 24-28, at Chaplin's West, 16890 Telegraph,

south of Six Mile, Detroit. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 533-8866.

● **Chaplin's Plymouth**  
Rico Diaz will perform Wednesday-Saturday, April 25-28, at Chaplin's Plymouth in the Radisson, 14707 Northville Road, Plymouth. Showtimes are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 454-4688.

● **Comedy Castle**  
Rip Addotta will perform with Brent Cushman Tuesday-Saturday, April 24-28, at the Comedy Castle, 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak. Show times are 8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 8 and 10:45 p.m. Friday-Saturday. For reservations, call 542-9900.

● **Joey's Allen Park**  
Todd Jordan will perform Wednesday-Saturday, April 25-28, at Joey's Comedy Club and Sports Emporium, Southfield Road, Allen Park. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 382-7041.

● **Joey's Livonia**  
Hobson will perform Wednesday-Saturday, April 25-28, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road, east of Levan, Livonia. Show times are 8 p.m. Tuesday and Friday and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday. For reservations, call 261-0555.

● **Holly Hotel**  
Steve Iott will perform Thursday-Saturday, April 26-28, at Holly Hotel, 119 Battle Alley, Holly. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Thursday and

8:30 (no smoking show Friday only) and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 634-1891.

● **Miss Kitty's**  
Ken Evans will perform with Joe Jares Thursday-Saturday, April 26-28, at Miss Kitty's Comedy Club, Long Branch Restaurant, 595 N. LaPeer Road, Oxford. Show times are 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 8 and 10:15 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 669-9374.

● **Looney Bin**  
Jef Brannon will perform with Steve Mitchell and Karl Anthony

Friday and Saturday, April 27-28, at the Wolverine and Looney Bin Restaurant and Comedy Club, 1655 Glenary, Walled Lake. Show times are 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 8 and 10:15 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 669-9374.

● **Bea's Comedy Kitchen**  
Darwin Hines will appear with Harold Worham and Steve Bills, Friday and Saturday, April 27-28, at Bea's Comedy Kitchen, 541 Larned, Detroit. Show times are 8:30 and 11 p.m. For information, call 961-2551.

*On the Town* DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

● Local news you can use ● Local news

## Get 12 Weeks of Investor's Daily (60 issues) PLUS... a helpful FREE gift, for only \$29.50

America's New Business Newspaper



can match the array of "actionable" market data and research that you get in each issue of Investor's Daily, in easy-to-use tables, charts and graphs.

"Smarter" Stock Tables -- Monday-through-Friday, Investor's Daily gives you a virtual "databank" of exclusive information in its stock tables... NYSE, AMEX, OTC/NASDAQ. At a glance, you'll spot all of the day's gainers & losers and every stock that hit a new high or fell to a new low.

PLUS, Investor's Daily gives you 3 key measurements to track and compare over 6,000 listed stocks daily... on price performance, per-share earnings growth and changes in a

stock's daily trading volume, to alert you to unusual buying or selling.

Whether you currently invest in common stocks, mutual funds, stock options or commodities, subscribing to Investor's Daily can give you an edge.

And subscribing to Investor's Daily will save you time. In just minutes of reading time each day, Investor's Daily will update you on all of the important business news you need to know... from Washington, Wall Street and across the major capitals of the world. Accurately. Concisely.

SUBSCRIBE NOW...

**YES**, please enter my subscription to Investor's Daily. I understand that I will receive an audio tape... "A Guide To Investor's Daily."

☐ 12 weeks (60 issues) \$29.50 ☐ Payment enclosed ☐ Bill me (please attach photo card)

☐ Six Months (30 issues) \$14.95 ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Am Express

☐ One Year (240 issues) \$119.00 -- Your Best Buy

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Floor/Apt. \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Investor's Daily, c/o Reader, 1113 La Grange Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90033 261105

Make sure to provide to Investor's Daily. Please print at the Commercial U.S. & Canada only. Foreign rates include postage.



We want you to try Investor's Daily for 12 weeks...to prove to you that reading Investor's Daily will keep you abreast of business better and help you to invest your money smarter...so, we're offering you a valuable gift...FREE:

"A GUIDE TO INVESTOR'S DAILY" ...an instructive audio cassette, showing you how to use the professional market data in Investor's Daily. You'll learn how Investor's Daily helps you to spot and track the "real" growth opportunities in the market...in common stocks, mutual funds, stock options and more.

You CAN make money in the market...If you have an intelligent strategy and the right investment tools...reading Investor's Daily can help.

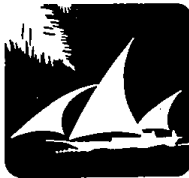
The EXCLUSIVE Market Data You Get In Investor's Daily

No publication in America -- not The Wall Street Journal, not Barron's --

## THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

### PRESENTS THREE 1990 VACATIONS

• Tour with others in your community • Visit exciting places • Make friends



## TOURS INCLUDE:

- Round trip airfare via scheduled airlines
- Inner Island flights (Hawaii)
- Professional native escort
- Fine resort hotels
- Sightseeing (see brochure)
- Airport hotel transfers
- To-your-room baggage handling

## CARIBBEAN CRUISE AND FLORIDA TOUR

15 DAYS \$1189

DEPARTS OCT. 17, 1990

Includes: Epcot, Disneyworld, MGM, Everglades Air Boat Ride, Miami Beach Front Hotel, 7 Nights on CARIB with ports of St. Thomas, St. John, San Juan and Puerto Plata.

## HAWAII

15 GLORIOUS DAYS Visiting all 4 main islands

DEPARTS MAY 8 AND MAY 15, 1990

\$1374

## CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO LOS ANGELES BIG SUR COASTLINE TV TAPING AND MORE!

9 DAYS DEPARTS JULY 10, 1990

\$674

For additional information or descriptive brochures, call our TRAVEL DESK at: 278-4102 or 1-800-736-7300