

COMEDY REVIEW

Comics shine in triple bill at Pine Knob

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

At his worst, Dennis Miller can come off as a smarmy, smart alecky self-absorbed comedian.

At his best, Dennis Miller can be an insightful, biting social commentator whose sling shot never strays far from the target.

Either way, the guy is funny. Miller was certainly the highlight of last week's comedy triple bill at The New Pine Knob. And appearing with St. Clair Shores native Dave Coullier and WRIF contest winner Jim McLean, that's no easy feat.

One reason is simple; Miller doesn't swerve around issues in his topical commentary. Abortion, animal rights and censorship are only a few topics in Miller's no-holds barred routine, which is largely a saltier outgrowth of his "Weekend Update" sessions on "Saturday Night Live."

"There is a political correctness in this country right now," said Miller, underlying the tone of his routine. "If you don't go along with it, these people will go after your livelihood. It's like McCarthyism."

"I think the number one endangered species in this country are those who still have their personal freedom."

OBVIOUSLY, Miller feels the freedom to say what's on his mind. Some samplings:

• Abortion: "The Supreme Court has now turned the issue of abortion over to the states. Hey, the states can't even pave the roads."

• Savings and loan crises: "They say the S&L crises is going to cost every man, woman and child \$134 billion. Can you really grasp that figure? Let me put it into layman's terms. If there was only one guy in this country, he'd have to kick in \$134 billion."

• Animal rights activists: "It's a chilling moment when people start saving animals rather than their own species... I've seen people in New York who stop over someone lying on the sidewalk in their own urine to spit on someone wearing a chainchilla."

• Born again Christians such as Manuel Noriega and Charles Colson: "I don't have anything against born again Christians... I wish I had this ecclesiastical whitout."

But what separates Miller from other comedians is his ability to whip a metaphorical frenzy on such mundane things as flying. His material is well written and well spoken.

WHEREAS MILLER is a wordsmith, Dave Coullier is a master of voices and impersonations. The star of ABC-TV's "Full House" and "America's Funniest People" brought out all his friends before a receptive hometown audience: the crazed paper boy; the family golden retriever; and da hockey commentator, eh.

Coullier's finest moment came when Johnny Harmonica took the stage. Not only did the comedian play a mean harp, he brought out his band Harmonicats to the delight of the audience, playing a full range of instruments with his voice including bass and trumpet.

Coullier also found time to delve into fatherhood and flatulence with particular aplomb. Opening act Jim McLean burned through nearly a half hour of fraternity style humor on such things as childhood, Canadians and getting drunk. A majority of it was quite hilarious.

During one bit McLean talked about seeing singer Toni Childs on MTV with a chain running from ear to nose. "What she have up there? A Harley Davidson wallet?"

The comedy triple bill also establishes The New Pine Knob's status as another first-rate venue for comedy.

TWO VIDEO displays on each side of the stage allows the audience further away to better view facial expressions and gestures, which is vital when watching comedians. Also, a new lawn speaker system is designed to enhance sound quality for those on the grass.

Overall, the face lift with new concession stands and more restroom facilities makes the experience more enjoyable. Comedian Bill Cosby christened the renovated outdoor theater, which is now managed by The Palace.

Other comedy acts planned for Pine Knob include Red Skelton, June 30; Budd Friedman's "Night at the Improv" with Louie Anderson, Joe Nipote, Mike Binder, Bobby Collins and Ron Peason, July 1; Don Rickles, July 9; Jay Leno, July 24; George Carlin with guests America, July 25; Alan King with guest Paula Poundstone, Aug 7.



Dave Coullier entertained a hometown audience with his multitude of voice impersonations recently in a comedic triple bill that featured Dennis Miller and Jim McLean at The New Pine Knob.



Mama Mia
DINNER FOR 2
Choice of
Tenderloin Steak
Broiled Boston Scrod
Veal Parmesan
Fettucine Alfredo
\$10.95
Banquet Facilities Available
LIVONIA 427-1000 REFORMA 537-0740

15 NEW MENU ITEMS!
T.S. MARTIN'S
Restaurant & Tavern
THE BEST RIBS IN TOWN!
ALONG WITH DELICIOUS DAILY SPECIALS
27189 GRAND RIVER East of Inkster Road
(313) 537-6610
PRIME RIB 12 OZ. \$12.95
SATURDAY Now Appearing for Tatchell, Friday & Saturday

Mr. Z's STEAK HOUSE
27331 Five Mile Rd. (Corner of Inkster) 537-5600
New Sunday Hours 2 p.m.-10 p.m.
KARAOKE SING-A-LONG
Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Evening
FRI. & SAT. Dance to the Jeff and the Atlantics
Watch All Pistons Games Here
PARTY NIGHT
Wed., May 29th - 8 p.m.
Appearing in Person
COORS LIGHT GIRLS
SIX PACK GIRLS
FREE RAFFLES
EARLY BIRD DINNERS
4-7 p.m. Daily \$5.95 (except Sunday)

A Summer Adventure - Ann Arbor Summer Festival 91

Right Here At Home! June 22 - July 14

DANCE
Doug Varone and Dancers
June 24, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$18, \$15, \$11
"Movement of exuberant, even reckless physicality..."

Lar Lubovitch Dance Company
Two New Works!!!
June 30, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$20, \$17, \$13
"This is thrilling stuff..."
New York Times

People Dancing - Whitley Setrakian & Dancers
July 9, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$13, \$11, \$9

MUSIC
Sonny Rollins
June 29, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$20, \$17, \$13
Queen Ida and the Bon Temps Zydeco Band
July 5, 8:00 p.m., Power Center All Seats \$15

Sweet Honey In The Rock
June 23, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$20, \$17, \$13

The Lettermen
July 10, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$23, \$20, \$16

Martha Reeves with special guests The Contours
July 13, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$20, \$17, \$13

Preservation Hall Jazz Band
July 6, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$23, \$20, \$16

Ramsey Lewis Trio Reunion
featuring Eldee Young and "Redd" Holt
June 27, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$20, \$17, \$13

Capitol Steps
June 28, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$20, \$17, \$13
Dorothy Donegan
July 2, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$20, \$17, \$13
The Ark Presents **Riders In The Sky**
July 3, 8:00 p.m., Power Center All Seats \$15.50

CHILDREN'S EVENTS
Red Grammer
Star of Nickelodeon & Disney Channel!
June 23, 2:00 p.m., Power Center Adults \$10, Kids \$5

Wild Swan Theater
presents
Charlotte's Web
June 30, 2:00 p.m., Power Center Adults \$5, Kids \$3

Fred Garbo
Sesame Street's "Barkley The Dog"
July 7, 2:00 P.M., Power Center Adults \$10, Kids \$5

THEATER
Eric Bogosian "Talk Radio" (film)
July 10, 7:00 p.m., Michigan Theater All Seats \$7
Celebrated monologist, actor and writer.

"Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll" (live)
"...Brilliant show, his funniest and scariest yet..." Obie & Drama Dest Award Winner.
July 11 & 12, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$18, \$15, \$11

The Alchemedians
New Vaudevillian madness and fun
June 26, 8:00 p.m., Power Center \$18, \$15, \$11

CLASSICAL MUSIC
Mozart Piano Works with Louis Nagel
June 25, 8:00 p.m., Power Center Rehearsal Hall All Seats \$11

Virtuoso Organ Series
June 28 Brass, Bells and Pipes
July 5 Petr Plany
July 12 Gottfried Preller
9:00 p.m., First Congregational Church All Seats \$5

ALL DAY SUNDAY BUFFET
ALL YOU CAN EAT BRUNCH
9:30-4 **\$7.95**
DINNER
4:00-9 **\$8.95**
BANQUET FACILITIES and CATERING SERVICE AVAILABLE!
Leather Bottle Inn 20300 Farmington Road (Just S of E. Van Dyke) Livonia 427-8540

MITCH HOUSEY'S
Open 11 A.M.
LUNCHEONS \$3.95
from 11:00-12:00 P.M. EVERY THURSDAY
DINNER FROM \$7.95
FASHION SHOW
12 NOONS TO 2 P.M. EVERY THURSDAY
Presented by TOUCH OF CLASS
COCKTAIL HOUR 4-7 P.M. ENJOY WEDNESDAY COCKTAILS \$3.95 PER DRINK
Fabulous Prices
COMING MAY 29
THE SHOWCASEMEN
NOW HOTTER! HANGOUT '91
REHEARSAL HALL FOR THE MICHIGAN UNION
28500 Schoelcraft
(Opposite Ladbroke DRG)
LIVONIA • 425-5520
AMPLE LIGHTED PARKING
DAILY MON-SAT. at 11:00 a.m.
NOW OPEN SUN. 4:00 p.m.

Last 3 weeks of advance sale!
Visit the Michigan Union Ticket Office at 530 S. State Street in Ann Arbor or any Ticket-Master outlet, including Hudson's. To charge by phone, Call
313-763-TKTS