

Dwarf event is 'revenge'



Dwarf Edward McAvoy shows off the tools of the dwarf bowling competition — a bowling pin, a helmet and a creeper.

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think laughing at yourself is sometimes the best medicine for everybody — and that's one of the reasons we're out here tonight," Johnson said.

"We think the mass of tension that has been focused on this has been blown out of proportion," he said.

Baier and Johnson compared the event to women who perform as topless dancers, arguing that Fast Eddy has a right to participate if he chooses.

"All issues involve someone's personal choice," said Baier, a.k.a. Dick the Bruiser. "We cannot be held responsible for everyone in his peer group."

MOMENTS INTO the event, shouts such as, "When is Eddy going to go," and "Put the dwarf on the board," began.

Johnson billed the event as "revenge of the dwarfs" toward the Grand Rapids dwarf-tossing incident.

Any disappointment in the event was "half the joke," Baier said.

"If they came out here to see something other than this, then this is like a morality slap in the face," he said.

"People tell Polish jokes all the time, but I don't feel degraded if

someone tells a joke," said Jim Grubbs of Hamtramck. "I don't think there is anything wrong with it. A dwarf must consent to it first. He knew what he was doing."

"I follow Dick the Bruiser and I guess I just got caught up in the humor involved," said Dick Fidler of Plymouth.

"If you pay someone any amount of money, they'll do anything," said Fred Caswell of Birmingham. "You can always find someone to do it."

THE DWARF who took part, McAvoy, said he called the radio station and asked to participate because it seemed like fun. He would not disclose the amount he was paid.

"They have treated me great," he said. "They even drove me here in a limo. The Morning Crew has treated me the best."

"My peers told me to do it," McAvoy said. "I'm not a handicapped person. I can do anything anyone else can do."

Southfield resident Ruth Langan, mother of Mary Langan, said her family thought the bowling tournament would make dwarfs "feel good about themselves."

The Langanes are "not the kinds of people to ever do anything to hurt anyone," said Andy Maruski of Southfield. "It's all in fun."

1 dwarf opts out of bowling promotion

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

Roger Pouliot, originally set to take part in the first dwarf bowling tournament at Langan's Nor-West Lanes Wednesday, backed out the morning of the event.

The Royal Oak dwarf said WLLZ radio disc jockey Jim Johnson and George Baier first asked him if he would agree to be pushed down the alley on a "dwarf dolly."

When Pouliot said no, they decided to have the dwarf push them.

"Just the name 'dwarf bowling' leads you to believe the dwarf will be the bowling ball," Pouliot said a few hours before the evening event.

"If the event were a reversal of Grand Rapids, I still think it is a poor way of trying to prove that little people are productive members of society. Little people don't have to resort to stunts such as this."

— Roger Pouliot
opposed to event

POULIOT DECIDED not to participate after media announcements and after concern developed, making him unclear of his role. He thought the event would work as a reversal of a Grand Rapids dwarf-tossing contest.

"If the event were a reversal of Grand Rapids, I still think it is a poor way of trying to prove that lit-

tle people are productive members of society," Pouliot said. "Little people don't have to resort to stunts such as this."

Pouliot worked with Johnson and Baier when he participated in a St. Patrick's Day event as a leprechaun for the Farmington Hills radio station.

"A leprechaun is a fictional char-

acter. A dwarf is what I really am," he said. "I would be exploiting myself and many people who are dwarfs (by taking part in dwarf bowling)."

The event is not going to help dwarfism as a whole," he said. "The media have not done a whole lot to help us. They go back and forth. Are they or aren't they going to help us?"

LITTLE PEOPLE of America recently won legislation in Florida prohibiting dwarf tossing or dwarf exploitation.

Marge Carlisle of Flint, District Five director, said Little People of America is working toward legislation to prohibit dwarf exhibitions in Michigan.

"We have always been working for equality and job rights," Carlisle said. "We are thought of as having small bodies and, therefore, we have small minds."

"I'm a school teacher," she said. "I'm supposed to be an authority figure to my students. We are not objects of sport. We are contributing members of society."

LCC says bowl tourney violated liquor license

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

Langan's Nor-West Lanes owners violated their liquor license when they failed to obtain an entertainment permit to allow a dwarf bowling tournament Wednesday, state Liquor Control Commission officials said.

Rosalie Polad, LCC Enforcement Division duty officer, said the Farmington Hills bowling facility didn't receive approval for the WLLZ-sponsored event from local law enforcement agencies, such as the city council and police department — the first step in obtaining a permit.

Violating a LCC law may result in

a \$300 fine and suspension or revocation of a liquor license, he said.

"To my knowledge, we have not received any violation," co-owner Mary Langan said Friday. "The event was done all in good taste and I don't see how there could be any problem."

Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said he contacted Langan's the day of the event and advised the owners about entertainment permit requirements. He said he would not have recommended approval for the event.

LCC officials informed Langan's about permit procedures the day before the event, but the event went on as scheduled anyway, Polad said.

MARY LANGAN felt confident before the event.

"I have complete trust in WLLZ and I am sure the event will go as planned with no problems. We would not have an event that would jeopardize WLLZ or the bowling alley."

Both the Farmington Hills police and LCC investigators watched the dwarf bowling tournament at Langan's. Whether a dwarf was pushed down the lane or not was not the issue in the violation, Polad said.

"There is nothing in the liquor law that prohibits this type of entertainment," Polad said. "However, if they do not follow the proper procedures to receive the proper permit, they will be cited."

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est building in the district.

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