

Encore!

# University students join search with Carson Hall comedy show

By Layne Lakefish  
Encore Reporter

She was diagnosed as having leukemia in March of 1988. She has been searching since then for a perfectly matched bone marrow donor, but none has been found.

Now, the University and other local businesses have combined efforts to help Kathy Guard in her search.

On Wednesday night, University students will join other sponsors to present two comedy shows to benefit Guard, a Eugene businesswoman who is in dire need of a bone marrow transplant. It will be a night of good comedy for a good cause.

The first show will headline comedian Brad Upton and will take place in Carson Hall from 9-10:30 p.m. Then from 9:30-11, Rod Long will take the stage at Scandals Nightclub, 2222 Centennial Blvd.

The *Seattle Times* has said that Upton "has an inventive comedy mind." He has performed all across the country, from Atlantic City to Seattle to Houston. He has also performed on Showtime and recently opened a show for Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton.

Long won Seattle's 1987 International Comedy Competition and has appeared with Burt Reynolds in the movie *Breaking In*. He has performed on Showtime's *Comedy Club Network* and on Showtime's *Comedy Club Network All-Star Special*.

"We decided to do comedy shows because they're not done a lot in the residence halls and they're not usually professional," Cathy Johnson, University Housing program assistant, said.

Guard was picked as the donation recipient because she represented an "immediate need here in the local community," Johnson said.

Both comedians have volunteered their time to help raise money for Guard.

"They (Upton and Long) are the top names in the Northwest and we decided to start at the top when picking the performers," Johnson said. "They're big enough performers that they aren't as concerned with money."

Linda Ellis, coordinator of Friends for Kathy Guard, said

that, at best, the chances of finding a perfectly matched donor for Guard are 1 in 20,000. "But that's still *one* and it could be the next person who walks through the door," Ellis said.

The money that's raised from the benefit shows will pay for tissue typing blood tests. This test usually costs \$75 and the benefit money will allow free tissue typing tests to be given to anyone interested.

"If the benefit shows raise \$75 that's good, and if they raise \$75,000 that's good too — anything will help," Ellis said.

Guard has a very rare tissue type and she needs to find a donor "as soon as possible," Ellis said. Last summer she had a blast crisis, where the cancer cells mass produce, and the only way to ensure that she doesn't have another one is to find a donor right away.

There are other available options for Guard to take in fighting off the cancer, Ellis said, but finding a donor is the best of those options. "Having the transplant is the best avenue for cure," she said.

This is where the University comes into the picture. "She (Guard) has contributed to Eugene and now it's time for Eugene to give back to her," Johnson said.

As of now, students within the University's residence halls have donated \$500, and Johnson said she hopes to raise \$2000 from the two comedy shows' admission costs.

This event has brought many sponsors together. University housing will provide refreshments for the Carson Hall show. Local businesses have donated \$10 door prizes for the shows, and KSND and Scandals are sponsoring the show at Scandals. Many other local sponsors are also involved.

"We are completely absorbing the costs," Johnson said. "Everything we raise goes to Kathy."

Tickets for the Scandals show are \$7 at the door and a \$1 donation is being asked at the Carson Hall performance. Proceeds from both performances will go to Life-Savers Foundation of America in care of Kathy Guard. All donations are tax deductible.

"This is an opportunity for people to hear good comedy,



Brad Upton

have a good time and help a good cause all at the same time," Johnson said.

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