

Open mike to offer new outlet for comedians

By Layne Lakefish
Emerald Contributor



Brett Hurlimann

It's all over. No more bouncing new lines off roommates. No more being a class clown just because you can't find an appropriate audience.

Now you can. With up-and-coming comedians in mind, a new open mike event will offer up an outlet and an audience for all those filled with funny inclinations. Starting on Sunday, Nov. 24, at Harpos Blue Note, 211 Washington St., the open mike will be available for comedians-to-be from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$2, and no one under the age of 21 will be admitted.

"I'm doing this to help somebody find out that they like comedy," said Brett Hurlimann, the show's organizer.

Hurlimann himself has been doing live comedy for the past two years, but said he ran into his own trouble getting people to let him perform. "When I was up in Portland, I had chances to perform three to four times a week," he said. "But in Eugene, there aren't places that do that. Even at Scandals and The Black Angus, it took me two years to get a spot."

Hurlimann is using this first show as a trial. If it breaks even, the show will continue on a weekly basis, starting up again in January. If not, it will be a one-time thing.

For the first show, Hurlimann has contacted two comedians who will headline the show. The first, Scott Malone, is from Portland, and the second, Tony St. Claire, is from L.A. and

currently doing the Last Laughs circuit.

Both headliners, along with some unannounced guests, will perform at the end of the show. Hurlimann will open the show, and the open-mike comedians will take to the stage between the two.

"This is going to be one hell of a show," Hurlimann said. "Tony St. Claire alone is well worth the \$2 admission price."

All interested comedians need to contact Hurlimann prior to the show at 345-4361. Open mike spots will run for 5-10 minutes, and all interested comedians will be allowed to perform.

Hurlimann said he sees no need to audition comedians. "I don't have guidelines," he said. Anything that somebody wants to do will be all right.

"If you have any kind of inkling whatsoever, get up and give it a shot," he said. "There's nothing like the feeling of when you do something well. ...There's nothing like getting up there and hearing people laugh."

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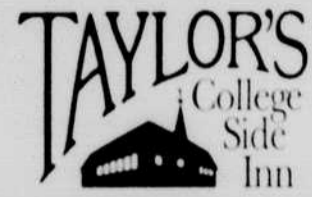
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