

Local troupe makes Fridays fun

Faye Dodds

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

One of the funniest, most gut-splitting events in P-Town that anyone could possibly end up a participant of is simply identified as "ComedySportz."

Most people haven't experienced comedy as a sport, nor have they encountered sports that involve comedy—unless tennis counts. This all must change.

Here is a proposal of an entirely new Monday night event ... only; one might find him or herself out in the cold and rain if they went on a Monday. But the laughs provided on a Friday or Saturday will last through Monday night and beyond.

Snuggled neatly into a small building at 1963 Kearney Street in Portland is the lovely ComedySportz Arena, as it is called. Anyone can enjoy the night of their life; and potential week-long lung and stomach ailments, after attending an event. Shows are scheduled for Friday nights at 8 p.m. and Saturday nights at 7 and 9 p.m. Attendees should be prepared to call 9-1-1 in the event that laughing too hard causes someone's ticker to fail.

Following Friday night shows, at around 10 p.m. they feature a "free-wheeling and long-form improv and sketch," for further entertainment.

Usually, two teams of "comedians" face off in events very similar to the television show "Who's Line is it Anyway?" A referee awards points and keeps subject matter within boundaries of offending

people. Shows are considered an interactive improvisational experience and audience suggestions are a gas, sometimes literally.

The troupe's website, www.comedysportz.com describes an average live show as "interactive, hilarious, different, clean, fool-proof, fast-paced, positive and fun." To that, they offer a guarantee which over 2,000 past performances can support.

ComedySportz often focuses on entertaining college students. Performances have been located at many campuses nationwide, including Georgetown University, Brigham Young University, Duke University, UCLA, Stanford University and many more.

Tacoma (Wash.) Community College called a recent performance a "slam dunk chuckle fest!"

Another opportunity offered by ComedySportz is classes. Their classes use comedy to focus on team-building among major corporations. Businesses such as Apple, AT&T, Kaiser-Permanente, Kinko's, Microsoft, Oscar Meyer, Pillsbury, Union Pacific and the White House Communications Office have all stumbled upon the benefits of ComedySportz, not only for the team-building program but for entertainment and fun as well.

The Portland location of ComedySportz has been performing since 1993. National competitions are held as well, where 18 teams from various U.S. cities compete for a national title of comedy. Portland brought home the award in 1999 and has been keeping up with the competition



INTERNET PHOTO

ComedySportz's special brand of improvisational humor is guaranteed to leave its audience in stitches well into Monday night. Don't let the laughter interfere with work.

ever since, hence the growing fan population.

On Feb. 13-14, the Portland chapter featured a quite historical (or perhaps hysterical) version of

the "Battle of the Sexes."

Monday nights can still be spent thumbing through the delicate pages of Ladies Home Journal or even something grand-

pa can go to, like bowling. But the only way to make sure Friday's paycheck is well spent is by attending ComedySportz in Portland. For reservations call (503) 236-8888.

Audience crazed leaves band unphased at The Aladdin

Jadon Triplett

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Pop-punkers Mest played Portland at the Aladdin Theater last Tuesday night, keeping the kids jumping pogo-style.

The band played a great set, sticking to their more punk numbers and completely forsaking the two songs that brought them closest to mainstream recognition in the past: "What's the Dillio" and "Mother's Prayer."

The highlight of Mest's show came when

some idiot climbed onto the stage at the end of one of their songs and decided to dive onto the crowd. Just as the moron was about to run and jump, Mest lead singer/guitarist Tony Lovato told him to wait until the next song started. He explained he was going to count to 1-2-3 ... and then the guy ran to jump again, and barely stopped in time when Lovato yelled, "Wait!"

When Mest finally started the song, the guy ran, jumped and hit nothing but floor when the crowd parted to let him get what he deserved.

As far as songs go, the best the band performed included "Rooftops," "Hotel Room," "F*** the Greyhound Bus," "Yesterday," "Jaded," "Cadillac" and "F***** Up Kid." The band dedicated the last of these to "every person who is in a band of their own, and music is your life."

Before Mest took the stage, Fallout Boy played a tight 40 minutes of emo-pop. While this band played a good set, what really stole the show had

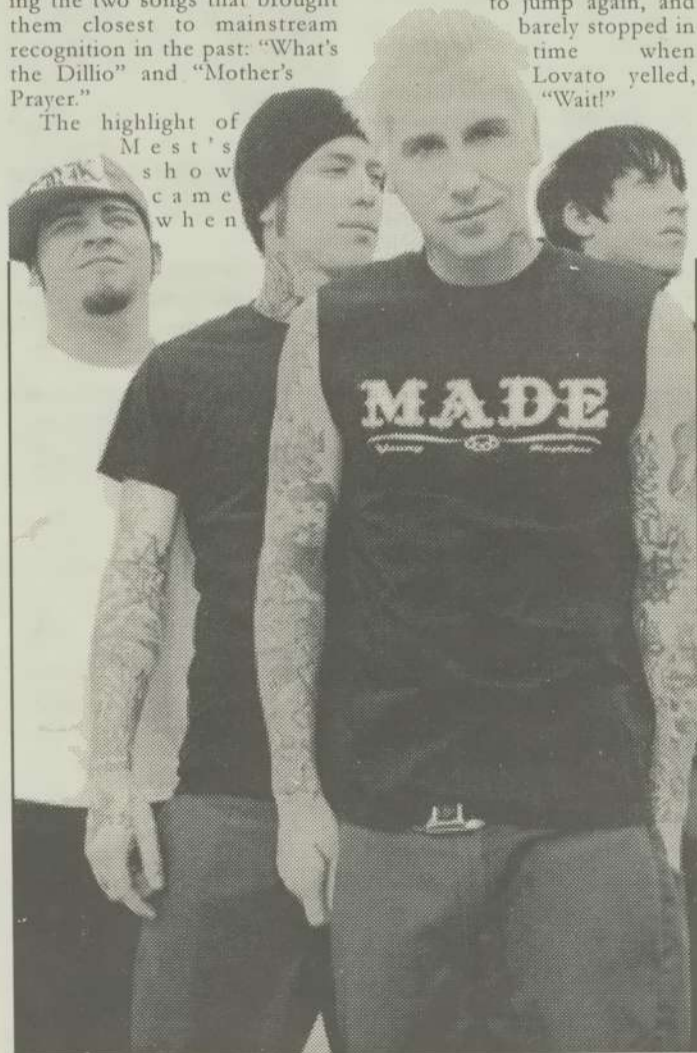
nothing to do with the music whatsoever.

About halfway through Fallout Boy's set, two girls crowd-surfed to the stage. The first girl grabbed the second as they were about to head off stage and immediately commenced in an intense display of mouth-to-mouth action. It was one of those random, unexpected moments that make a simple, pop punk show a night to remember.

After the show, Mest drummer Nick Gigler was signing autographs by the merchandise table. When I went over there I noticed a homemade CD entitled "Starving Artist" by some-

one called Stomach Ache. This turned out to be Gigler's solo rap debut, featuring songs about food, Nintendo, and his cell phone. I was curious about it, so I asked Gigler to rap the song about Nintendo. He did, and it was, for lack of a better word, the shiznit. Look for a review in a future issue.

Mest may be little more than corporate pop punk in the vein of Good Charlotte and Simple Plan, and I may only be giving this a good review because two girls happened to swap saliva, but the show rocked. This show gets 3 out of 4 stars from me because it was a great all-around experience.



INTERNET PHOTO

The lads of Mest (from left: Nick Gigler, Matt Lovato, Tony Lovato and Jeremiah Rangel) rocked The Aladdin.

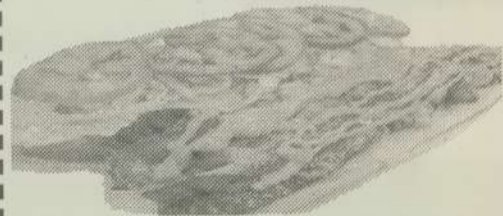
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