



Thursday, September 2, 2004

## Residence Halls Programming presents 'Greatest Hits'

By *Kalee Iacoangeli*, OU Student Writer

Summer is over and now it's time for lecture halls and exams – and also loads of laughter as the Friday Night Live comedy series returns Friday, Sept. 3.

The fall "FNL's Greatest Hits" series features a solid lineup of eight outstanding comedians who are all veterans to the Oakland stage.

Making his third appearance at OU, national award-winner Buzz Sutherland kicks off the series on Friday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m. His ability to instantly develop comedic characters, along with his hilarious facial expressions, has made Sutherland one of the most in-demand comics on college campuses across the nation. His lively act has earned him numerous awards including NACA's 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 Comedian of the Year; APCA's 2000, 2001 and 2003 Comedian and Entertainer of the Year; and Campus Activities Magazine's 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 Comedian of the Year.

Other Friday Night Live performances this semester include comedians Mitch Fatel, J. Chris Newberg with special guest Melvin Bender, Michael Anthony, Michael Dean Ester, Auggie Smith, Mike Birbiglia and Kivi Rogers.

The Friday Night Live comedians are not the only ones returning to the Oakland stage. The second season of the Saturday Night Sounds series also is set to kick off Sept. 25 with more talented performers, including Krisdagong, Seth Horan and Duwende.

All of the FNL and SNS programs are free to OU students and guests and take place in Vandenberg Dining Center. Friday Night Live programs begin at 7 p.m. and Saturday Night Sounds concerts begin at 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

#### Sept. 17

Comedian Mitch Fatel will return to OU for a second time. Fatel's friendly and innocent demeanor combined with his witty and unexpected comments has landed him top spots on several college campuses and also many appearances on CBS's "The Late Show with David Letterman" and NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

#### Oct. 1

The FNL fall series continues, featuring J. Chris Newberg with special guest Melvin Bender. Newberg, an OU favorite, has been named by the "Detroit Free Press" as "one of the most original talents to burst on the Midwest scene in years." His improvisational songs and lyrics have pushed him closer to national stardom as he performs with the Second City Comedy Troupe, the Motor City Improv group and most recently on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend."

Bender, making his second appearance at OU, also has performed in many local comedy clubs, including Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle. His high-energy and fast-paced act has made him another one of Detroit's rising stars.

#### Oct. 15

Michael Anthony, recognized as one of the world's greatest hypnotists, returns to OU for the fourth time, promising to leave the audience rolling with laughter. His hypnotic abilities and playful characteristics make for a hilarious and unforgettable performance.

#### Oct. 22

Comedy pro Michael Dean Ester returns to Oakland for this fourth FNL performance. As one of the most recognized talents in campus comedy, Ester has developed an extensive comedic resume. He has more than 1,500 live performances at campuses, cruise ships and comedy clubs across the nation, along with 30 NACA Showcases,

including three national conferences, which led to his 2002 NACA nomination as Comedian of the Year.

**Nov. 5**

Auggie Smith, a 14-year veteran of the comedy stage, returns with his energetic performance, which features a quick-witted breakdown of today's pop culture icons. These original, yet relatable topics will leave audiences begging for more.

**Nov. 19**

Winner of the "Funniest Person on Campus Contest" hosted by Victoria Jackson, Mike Birbiglia revisits the FNL stage to showcase his award-winning talents. He has been seen on CBS's "Late Show with David Letterman," NBC's "Last Call with Carson Daly," NBC's "Late Friday" and Comedy Central's "Premium Blend," and has opened for comedy stars such as Jay Mohr, Margaret Cho and Dave Chapelle.

**Dec. 3**

Kivi Rogers returns to finish up the final fall FNL performance of 2004. A partial list of guest appearances includes "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," "The West Wing," "Everybody Loves Raymond," "VIP," "Diagnosis Murder," "Dharma and Greg" and "Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion." His unique talents also led to his most recent performance at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen, Colo., where he landed a development deal with Castle Rock Entertainment to star in his own sitcom.

**SATURDAY NIGHT SOUNDS**

**Sept. 25**

The Saturday Night Sounds series begins with musician Krisdagong whose original blend of Hip Hop beats and vocals, along with his Rock n' Roll guitar, creates an energetic live show that keeps the audience moving with the beat.

**Oct. 9**

Former Vertical Horizon bassist, Seth Horan, makes his debut SNS performance featuring songs from his sophomore album "Notwithstanding." His playing style along with his passion for music will leave audiences amazed at his melodic talents.

**Nov. 13**

Duwende, six voices without backing tracks, drum machines or instruments, makes for a one-of-a-kind sound that is infectious. The group's originality has earned them recognition out of 1,200 bands as one of the "Top Six Indie Acts in the Northeast" by the editors of "Billboard Magazine."

Another special program in the fall lineup is Wendi Fox with the Alcohol Insanity Tour, debuting on Sunday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m. Fox comically shares her thoughts and opinions stemming from her own personal experiences relating to alcohol to demonstrate the dangers of alcohol abuse and the problems with addiction in today's society.

**SUMMARY**

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