



Monday, October 4, 2004

Three local comedians grace FNL stage

By **Kalee Iacoangeli**, OU Student Writer

Some of the top comedians from all over the United States have made appearances on the Friday Night Live stage at Oakland University. On Oct. 1, Residence Halls Programming presented three homegrown talents for a more personal feel to the comedy series.

Starting off the night was newcomer and current OU student Dan Stepanian-Bennett, who has just started performing in the comedy circuit.

"I give Dan a lot of credit going up there and doing that," said senior Sarah Buckland. "It's hard enough to do stand-up comedy let alone in front of all of your peers."

After his comedic debut, Stepanian-Bennett, a junior at OU, handed the stage over to Detroit native Melvin Bender. Bender, who was returning to OU for the second time, demonstrated why he is one of Detroit's up-and-coming talents.

"The show was one of the best I've ever seen," said Sandra Prucnal, a visitor to OU. "His Enrique Iglesias impression was the greatest, absolutely hilarious."

Bender's special guest performance then gave way to featured artist J. Chris Newberg. Newberg, who is originally from Birmingham, has been experiencing success in the national spotlight performing for such venues as "The Bob and Tom Show," Comedy Central's "Premium Blend," and also on "Jimmy Kimmel Live." He also boasts a 2004 Comedian of the Year nomination by Campus Activities Magazine.

Newberg's combination of smart and edgy humor along with his unique music and vocals creates an act that is unprecedented. One of FNL's favorite performers, Newberg made his fourth appearance just as memorable as any of the past. He even recorded the show to put on his new DVD. He said he chose Oakland because it's one of his all-time favorite schools to perform at.

"He is one of my favorites," said senior Kristen Kosuda. "The way he looks on stage is so funny, and the way he does improv songs and audience requests was really great too."

The **fall programming series** continues Saturday, Oct. 9, with Saturday Night Sounds guest artist Seth Horan. The show begins at 8 p.m. in Vandenberg Dining Center and is free to all OU students and guests.

SUMMARY

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