

Hot Diggity Dog End of a Year, Begining of an Era.

By: Kim Bending

You've tasted the rest, now taste the best. (Ha, ha, ha!) Okay, so maybe not the best...maybe not even good, but it keeps calling us back time and time again. I'm referring to the one and only Top Dog in Wilkes Barre.

For those of you who have never been fortunate enough to visit this establishment, let me give you an idea of what it's like. As a friend so eloquently said, "It's the epitome of tackiness in restaurant etiquette." At first glance, and for that matter second glance, its far from a clean eating environment. It's rather dark, it smells kind of funny and the food is not very good.

So it would lead you to wonder what keeps drawing us back. Could it be the fact that everything on the menu is thirty-nine cents? Could it be the arcade right in the restaurant? Or could it be the friendly service? To be honest with you, we don't even know, but we love it and frequently recommend it to others. So, give it a try. What have to got to lose...? (Except your lunch.)

I began this year the day before classes started. The arrival of two devastating hurricanes, Andrew in Florida and the little known Lester in Southern California and Mexico, lengthened my stay in Arizona with flashflooding and heavy winds. One might say that these two storms were an omen for what was to come. The semester began as many had before, new faces and new attitudes. My missing the orientation started me off as an outsider, but I didn't intend to stay that way. I found that people seemed to be afraid to talk to me. When I mentioned this fact to sophomores, they dismissed it as being away from home for the first time.

The campus was hopping this year with the club sponsored activities; some of the more successful events included Casino

By: Stephen O. Mazlum

night, Halloween Dance/Comedian and the Talent contest.

The weather this year; if it had a theme would be "Stay inside!" Two floods, Two massive snow storms, and a fog that was like the proverbial pea soup. And it all started with two hurricanes, one on each coast.

This year was racked with scandal as the Student Government elections were being campaigned. One candidate dropped out as a fierce battle ensued between the remaining candidates. After the voters chose their new leader, the fences were promptly mended.

So here we are, looking at what we did and saying we want more. There are a few more weeks left this year, and a few more activities to go. And for the freshmen there is next year. What memories will we make?

By Randy Levin

Whether your campus has a modest population of 5,000 or a "Small City" of 24,000, every school has a common problem--apathy and lack of attendance for student activities. Perhaps your college newspaper has even carried editorials written by a frustrated activities chairperson trying to fight the apathy.

Allow me to present a totally different perspective on activities. Did you know that the college circuit is the second highest paying venue in show business? Generally speaking, many solo performers that appear on your campus--from musicians to comedians to jugglers--are making anywhere from \$40,000 to \$100,000 + per year. No one makes that kind of living unless he is good. These performers aren't just starting out.

In fact, many are a step away from major commercial success. Billy Joel, Simon and Garfunkel and Robin Williams are just a few of the many performers that went from the college circuit to stardom. Imagine seeing them before they were. Just think about that the next time you see a poster advertising an act that you never heard of. Even if that act doesn't become the next Billy Joel or Robin Williams, at least you'll see a great show. And you can't beat the price. During break or over the summer, you and your friends may travel half an hour to a club. Pay a cover charge, possibly with a two drink minimum, buy munchies and before you know it, you've dropped \$50.00 to see the same performer you could have seen for free on your campus.

Here is another point for your consideration. The students on the activities committees do not merely pick up the phone, call an agent, and book a performer. They volunteer their time to go through a very long and sometimes tedious procedure. First there is the paperwork. The budgeting, selecting, negotiating and contracting a performer follows. Then there is all the leg work of promoting, advertising and fulfilling many requests of the performers' contract. Let's

not forget travel arrangements, hotel reservations, and any miscellaneous needs of the performer. In the outside world, this job description would bring an excellent living and the title of producer. On your campus, it is one of your peers spending countless hours to try and bring entertainment to you.

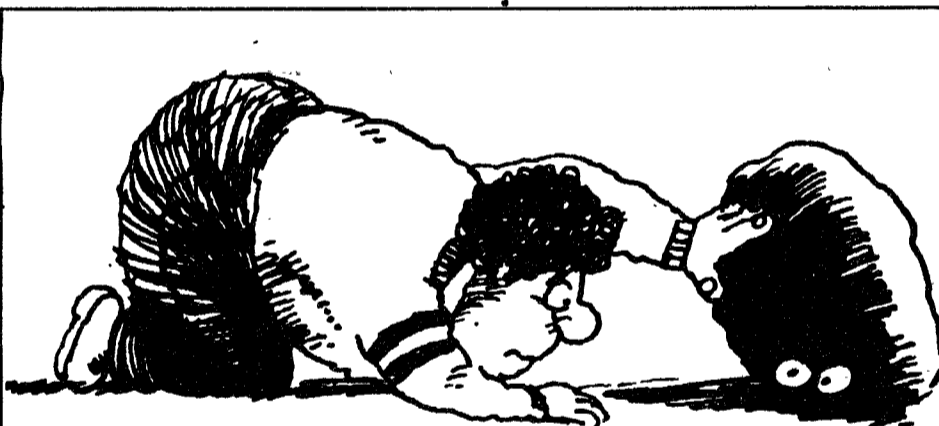
What thanks do they get? Hardly anyone showing up to events and everyone saying "how come nothing is ever going on here?"

We are all in

agreement that college is more than just academia. Social learning is equally as important as is any course of study. But to fall into the same routine of parties, beer blasts and bar hopping is unfair to yourself, the activities committee desperately trying to bring you a show, and the performer who traveled 2,000 miles to play to six people.

Give activities a chance. They are designed and selected for you. Five years down the road, wouldn't it be fun to turn on the TV and say to a friend, "See that guy? I saw him at my school before he made it big."

Randy Levin is a comedian on the campus circuit with over 600 college performances in the last ten years. From New York City, Randy's credits include several television commercials, appearances on cable and network programs and film work.



How Come Nothing's Happening Around Here?

This article has been published in several student newspapers and speaks to concerns of many in the campus activities field. Maybe your school can share with others on your campus.