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America's Hottest New Comedians

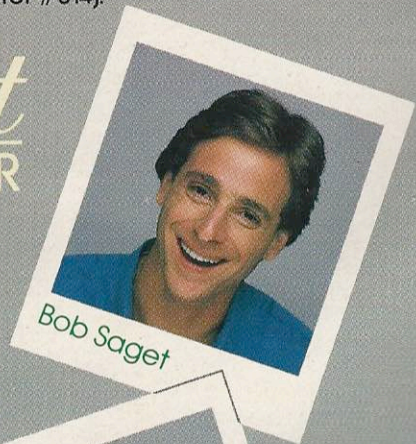
# Paramount COMEDY THEATER

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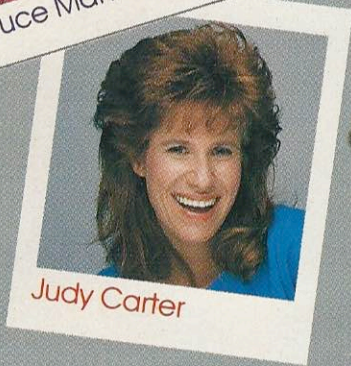
Howie  
MANDEL



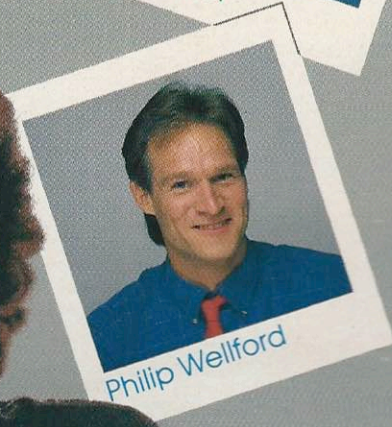
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# CONTENTS



**Circuits**  
A Look At Comedians In Local Clubs,  
on TV and Across The USA

**Jerry Seinfeld: Stand-up Confidential**  
With His Own HBO Special This Regular Guy is Ready to Break Out.

**Gilbert Gottfried: Title It As You Wish**  
The Comic's Comic reaches for commercial success

**COMEDY USA Health Plan**  
Comedian Arlen Dean Examines The Positive Benefits Of Laughter.

**Multiple Sclerosis Supplement**  
COMEDY USA Looks At The Disease And Those Who Fight It.

**Comic With A Cause**  
When His Sister Was Afflicted With MS, Tom Dreesen  
Decided He Could Make A Difference.

**What Should Letterman Do Next ?**  
Give The Late Night Writers A Day Off . Suggest  
Another Crazy Stunt That Suits David Letterman.

**Tracey Ullman**  
A Multi-talented Performer From Britain Storms  
America With Her Own Variety Show On FOX.

**Wayne Federman's Trivia Quiz**  
A Professional Comedian Plays Mind Games With His Audience.

## Letter From The Editor

COMEDY USA dedicates this special issue to our Crusade to Fight Multiple Sclerosis in the New York area. Multiple sclerosis has no known cause, cure or treatment. It affects young adults between the ages of 20 and 40 and hits women with a much higher frequency than men. MS affects each patient a different way so that some of its victims might live long lives and never know they had the disease while others might be restricted to a wheelchair or worse. COMEDY USA has joined the fight against MS in an effort to make the general public more aware of this disease so that necessary funds can be raised to beat it. On July 21, 1987, The COMEDY USA Crusade To Fight MS will unite all the clubs in New York City in our effort. Please visit any one of our clubs on that evening. You will enjoy a fun night out and the fight against MS will also benefit from your evening. Earlier that night, COMEDY USA in conjunction with the Manhattan Society For MS will present an all-star show as part of the Ultimate Summertime Cruise. Our show will star Jerry Seinfeld, George Wallace, Larry Miller, Carol Leifer, Jimmy Aleck and others. For Ticket Information contact COMEDY USA or the NY MS Society (212) 921-9199.

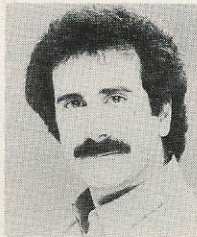
We hope you enjoy this special MS issue. Look for more COMEDY USA in the months to come and keep on smiling.

# NYC

## COMEDIANS

With deep regrets, *COMEDY USA* notes the passing of a number of fine comedians in recent months. **Ronnie Shakes**, a regular on the Tonight Show and a mainstay at Catch A Rising Star died suddenly in May. Ronnie was one of the most unique performers of our generation combining razor sharp one liners with a style that was all his own.

**Zack Carey**, one half of the Zack and Mack comedy team of St. Louis also passed away in April. **Dick Shawn** and **Jerry Allen** are two more comics who suffered untimely deaths in recent months. They will all be missed.



Ronnie Shakes

**Joy Behar** will host her own show on Lifetime Cable Network this summer...**Rhonda Handsome** will tour with **Anita Baker** July through August...**Rondell Sheridan** will spend the summer on the road with **Kool and the Gang**...**Randy Credico** plans a return to Nicaragua where he will once again perform in front of the American Embassy...**Rick Aviles** will be co-starring in a new motion picture "Throwback" starring **Ernest Borgnine** and **Beverly Deangelo**, directed by **Paul Morrissey**. Rick and **Colin Quinn** just finished a small film produced by **Charlie Sheen**; Colin will also appear in "Three Men and a Baby" directed by **Leonard Nemoy**...**Billiam Coronell** will be appearing at over 20 NACA college campuses this fall...**Mike Rowe** appears regularly at the Bottom Line as opener for music acts...**Mike Egan** is the host of "Rascals Live" every Thursday...**Peter Fogel** will appear in the long awaited "Teen Wolf Part II."

A Prom To Remember...The kids got their money's worth on a Monday night in June at Dangerfield's. Not only did they get to see **Rodney** himself, but **Sam Kinison** also did a set as did **Paul Mooney**. Mooney was in town to work with **Eddie Murphy** on a new script for Paramount entitled "Buck Superslave." And while he was on stage, the scene at the bar was quite entertaining. There was **Rodney** and **Sam** who was flanked by his entourage of beautiful blond twin sisters, talking with Dangerfield's partner **Tony Bevaqua** and friend **Joe Ancis**. Suddenly everyone was looking down at the floor. It seemed as if someone had dropped a lens when in reality, they were just trying to get closer to **Emanuel Lewis** (Webster) who dropped in for some laughs. Through it all, **Fred Greenlee** sat at the bar eating a club sandwich.

On Broadway...**Jackie Mason** won a special TONY award for his one man show..."Late Night Comic," a musical produced by **Rory Rosegarten**, written by **Brian Gari** and **Allan Knee**, and directed by **Phillip Rose** will open in October. The story follows a fledgling stand-up comic and his up and down relationship with a ballet dancer.

**Shirley Hemphill** seems curious about the possibilities as she admires **Tony "The Tongue" Camacho**. Most comics know the tongue man as co-producer of the show at Rascals in West Orange, NJ with **Rick Messina**. Shirley will be back in the area this summer while taking a break from production on "What's Happening Now!." Tony and The Tongue are available for Weddings, Bar mitzvahs, Wall Papering and any creative application you might propose.



# CLUBS

## **Bitter End**

**673-7030**

Shows on Tuesdays include Bill Scheft, Adrian Tolsch, Stu Trivax, Randy Credico, Jonathan Soloman, Colin Quinn, Fran Solomida, Charles Mount, Angela Scott and Jedda Jones.

## **Caroline's At The Seaport**

**233-4900**

Featuring headline performers at both the Seaport and Eighth avenue locations. Emo Philips, Judy Tenuta, Gilbert Gottfried, Jerry Seinfeld, Barry Sobel, Jeff Cesario, Carrie Snow, Wayne Cotter, Jeff Altman, Robert Townsend, Allan Havey and Bobby Collins are just a few of the names that appear at Caroline's two clubs.

## **Catch A Rising Star**

**794-9388**

Regular emcees include Lou Dimaggio, Garry Lazer, Fran Solomida, Colin Quinn and Bill McCarty. Joy Behar, Kevin Meany, Carol Leifer, John Mendoza, Brett Butler and Mario Joyner are also regulars at Catch.

## **Comedy Cellar**

**254-3630**

Bill Grundfest and Rick Crom host a cadre of comics including Ron Darien, John Manfrolotti, Ken Ober, Sue Kolinsky, Steve Skrovan, Billiam Coronel, Angela Scott, Joe Mulligan, Micheal King, Rondell Sheridan, William Stephenson, Marty Rackham, Rick Aviles, Steve Sashan, Eddie Feldman and Pat McGreal

## **Comedy U Grand**

**431-4022**

Soho's comedy club features Larry David, Brett Butler, and Barry Sobel when they are in town. Eddie Feldman, Suzy Soro, Bev Mickens, Lance Crouther, Paul Lyons and Mike Sweeney also appear regularly.

## **Comic Strip**

**861-9386**

Joe Vega, Joe Bolster, Dennis Wolfberg, JJ Ramirez, Dave Edison and Richie Morris appear at the Strip frequently.

Pat McGreal, Mike Sweeney, Jim Mandrinos Scott Blakeman, Barry Berry, Rob Weinstien, Eric Kornfeld and Scott Carter are others who work out here. Jedda Jones, Joyce Glasser and Anita Wise are a few of the ladies working the Strip.

## **Dangerfield's**

**593-1650**

Regular emcees at Dangerfield's include Mike Egan, Barry Weintraub, Scott Bruce and Hiram Kasten. Ben Creed, Brian Regan, Steve Rizzo and John Joseph handled the prom shows in the spring. Danny Curtis, Wayne Cotter, Mike Little, Al Romero, Rhonda Hansome and Mary Catalano also see stage time.

## **Original Improvisation**

**765-8268**

Mike Ivy, Angela Scott and Jerry Diner are steadies at The Improv. John Manfrolotti and Mario Cantone can also be seen there regularly. The Improv celebrated its 24th anniversary in April. Rodney Dangerfield, Robert Klein and Joe Piscapo were just a few of the alumni who dropped by to perform and say hello.

## **Stand-Up NY**

**595-0850**

Stand-Up features a new three person show every week. Mario Cantone, Fran Solomita, Angela Scott, Rick Aviles, Rob Ross, Anita Wise, Bill McCarty, Tom Kenny, Lance Crouther, Larry Amoros, D.F. Sweedler, Allan Havey, Brett Butler and Dan Rosen are all scheduled to appear this summer. Randy Credico, Adrian Tolsch and Bill Sheft also appear as regulars and emcees.

## **Who's On First**

**737-2772**

Featuring Who-Prov Improv Company on Saturday nights under the direction of Pete Spellos. Club regulars include Bev Mickens, D.F. Sweedler, Suzy Soro, Breslau and Tiederman, Allen Enlow and Rob Ross. Pete Spellos has had quite a spell of personal success in recent months, winning a large booty in Atlantic City and getting married on July 19.

# USCAR

## TV

Live From... is a tour featuring the trio from "Saturday Night Live," **DANA CARVEY**, **DENNIS MILLER** and **KEVIN NEALON**. 7/17 they'll be at the Chicago Theatre, 7/22-Westbury Music Fair, New York, 7/24-the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C., 7/25-Civic Center, Atlanta and 7/26-Sunrise Theatre, Ft. Lauderdale.

More SNL news--the show's been renewed for a 13th season. It's not bad luck as far as the cast is concerned--they're all coming back.



**ELAYNE BOOSLER** will be taping her third Showtime special on July 24 at the Ritz Theatre on Broadway. Scheduled for airing sometime this fall, it will show off the comedienne's heretofore unknown talents as a singer/dancer. (By the way, that's how she started in the business.)

**PAUL REISER**, fresh from "Beverly Hills Cop II" will be starring in the NBC sit-com, "My Two Dads," this fall. The show follows "Family Ties" Sundays at 8:30 PM. **GILBERT GOTTFRIED** and Reiser co-hosted "Friday Night Videos" on NBC in June. And, Reiser is slated to guest host "The Tonight Show" one night during the week of July 6. As if this wasn't enough, October 2 will be the premiere date of his new film, "Cross My Heart," co-starring Martin Short.

It has been announced that starting in September, **JAY LENO** and **GARRY SHANDLING** (both former *COMEDY USA* cover stories) will be the permanent guest hosts of "The Tonight Show." Leno will host every Monday night. Carson will now only work three days a week and his reported 15 weeks of vacation time will be split up between Leno and Shandling.



Who is **ROBERT SCHIMMEL**? America may soon find out. Schimmel was spotted by **IRIS MARCH**, VP at Broadway Home Video who immediately brought him to New York to be seen by the boss, **LORNE MICHAELS**. Schimmel blew Lorne away with his extremely blue act. Now he's at work on a Showtime Special, "Coast to Coast," which will be followed by his own one-hour comedy special to be produced by Michaels. Don't be surprised if Schimmel pops up on next seasons's "Saturday Night Live."



# COMEDY

## NEWS

The Bad Boy of Comedy, **SAM "THE BEAST" KINISON**, will be at the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles on July 18. Come October, he'll be pairing up with Rodney Dangerfield for the filming of "Caddy Shack II."



Look for **JAY LENO** to host the "Tonight Show" the entire week of August 10, after which he'll jet out to Honolulu for a concert at the Sheraton Waikiki on the 16. The following day, he wings east for a week at the Sands Hotel in Atlantic City August 18-23.

**JERRY SEINFELD** will hit the New York area on August 8 at Valley Forge, August 9 at Westbury Music Fair and September 4-6 at Governor's on Long Island.

How **JIMMY ALECK** spent his summer vacation: touring with **TOM JONES** throughout the U.S. and Canada.

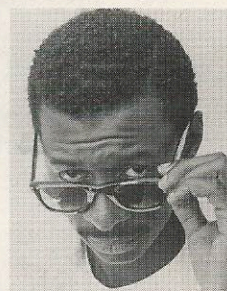
**BILL MAHER** can be seen every Friday night on Showtime in the new critically acclaimed "Hard Knocks." You can see him up close and personal at the Richmond Comedy Club in Virginia on July 17 and 18.

Look for "The **WILL SHRINER** Show" featuring the comedian of the same name. It's a syndicated talk show scheduled to premiere September 14th.

**JOAN RIVERS** is on the road celebrating her independence— July 4-7 she's at Caesar's in Las Vegas, then on to Caesar's in Atlantic City July 21-26, winding up at Caesar's Tahoe August 31-September 6.

The Giver Goddess **JUDY TENUTA** and poker-faced **STEVEN WRIGHT** will be two of the guest artists at the Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal July 16-18. Also, Wright will be at the Westbury Music Fair August 6-7. And, look for Tenuta's new album scheduled for a mid-July release.

**ROBERT TOWNSEND** is lighting up Hollywood with the success of "Hollywood Shuffle." Townsend wrote, produced, directed, starred in and financed the entire project which depicts the lack of opportunity for black actors in today's market. Townsend is sure to make more news this winter with the release of "Eddie Murphy Raw," which he also directed.



The new darling of Showtime, **GARRY SHANDLING**, got the go-ahead for three more years and 54 more episodes of "It's Garry Shandling's Show." Also in the works is "It's Garry Shandling's Movie."

The rapier wit of **DON RICKLES** will be slashing its way through Resorts in Atlantic City July 7-13, Harrah's Tahoe July 31 through August 6 and the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas August 13-18.

"The CBS Morning Program" lost **BOB SAGET** who left to co-star in the upcoming ABC sit-com, "Full House," with **JOHN STAMOS** and fellow comedian **DAVE COULIER**.

Comedian-ventriloquist **JAY JOHNSON** can be seen at the Pittsburgh Funny Bone from July 22-25 and at the Dallas Improvisation August 4-9.

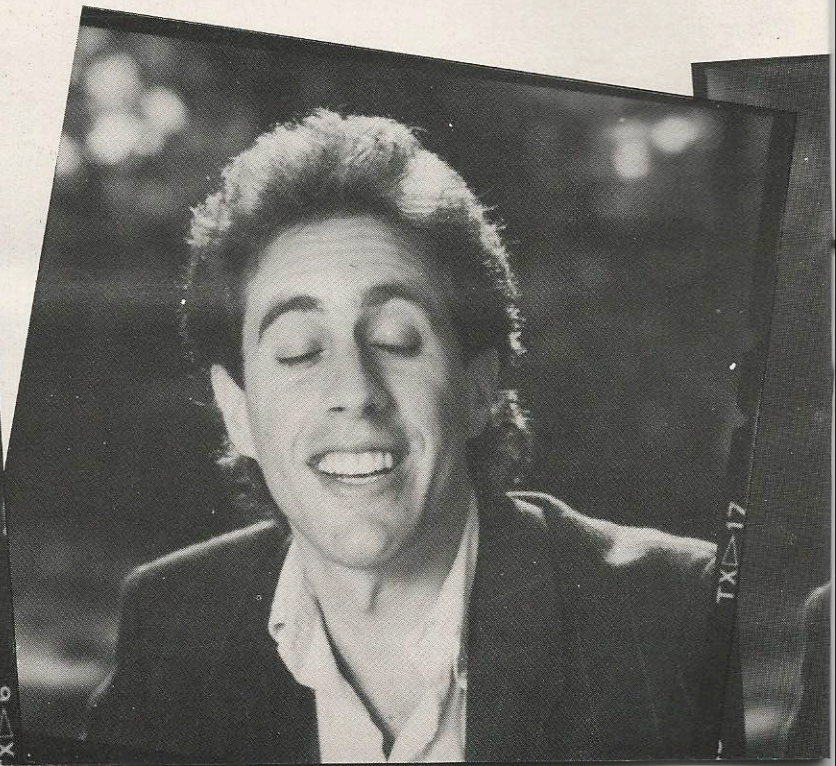
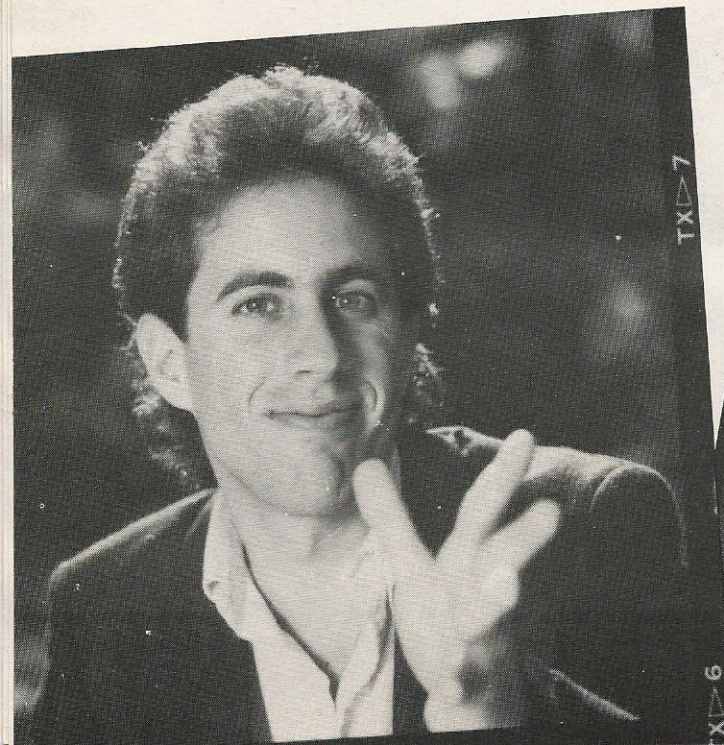
The uniquely bizarre **EMO PHILIPS** appears at the Comedy Stage in Milwaukee on July 1.

# JERRY SEINFELD

Jerry Seinfeld began his comedy career ten years ago in a little club off Times Square "at 2:00 in the morning to three people putting on their coats." A decade later he has broken Jay Leno's record for the largest salary paid to a club comedian. Seinfeld is quick to point out that his pal, Leno, who is now performing solely in concert arenas, "could come back to clubs and make any amount of money he wanted." But the fact remains that the record now belongs to Seinfeld.

Making the move into the concert circuit is not as easy as it seems. "There's nothing between clubs and concerts -- it's

kind of like swinging across a moat." The other side of that moat, however, is a lot closer when you've got a couple of dozen "Tonight Show" spots under your belt, and nearly as many "Letterman" appearances. Seinfeld doesn't like to talk numbers. "Comedians are obsessed with how many times someone has been on a certain show, as if they can get a gauge on 'How much work do I have to do to become that famous?'" He believes that each person runs his or her own race. "If you're Eddie





# MURPHY

## F E L D

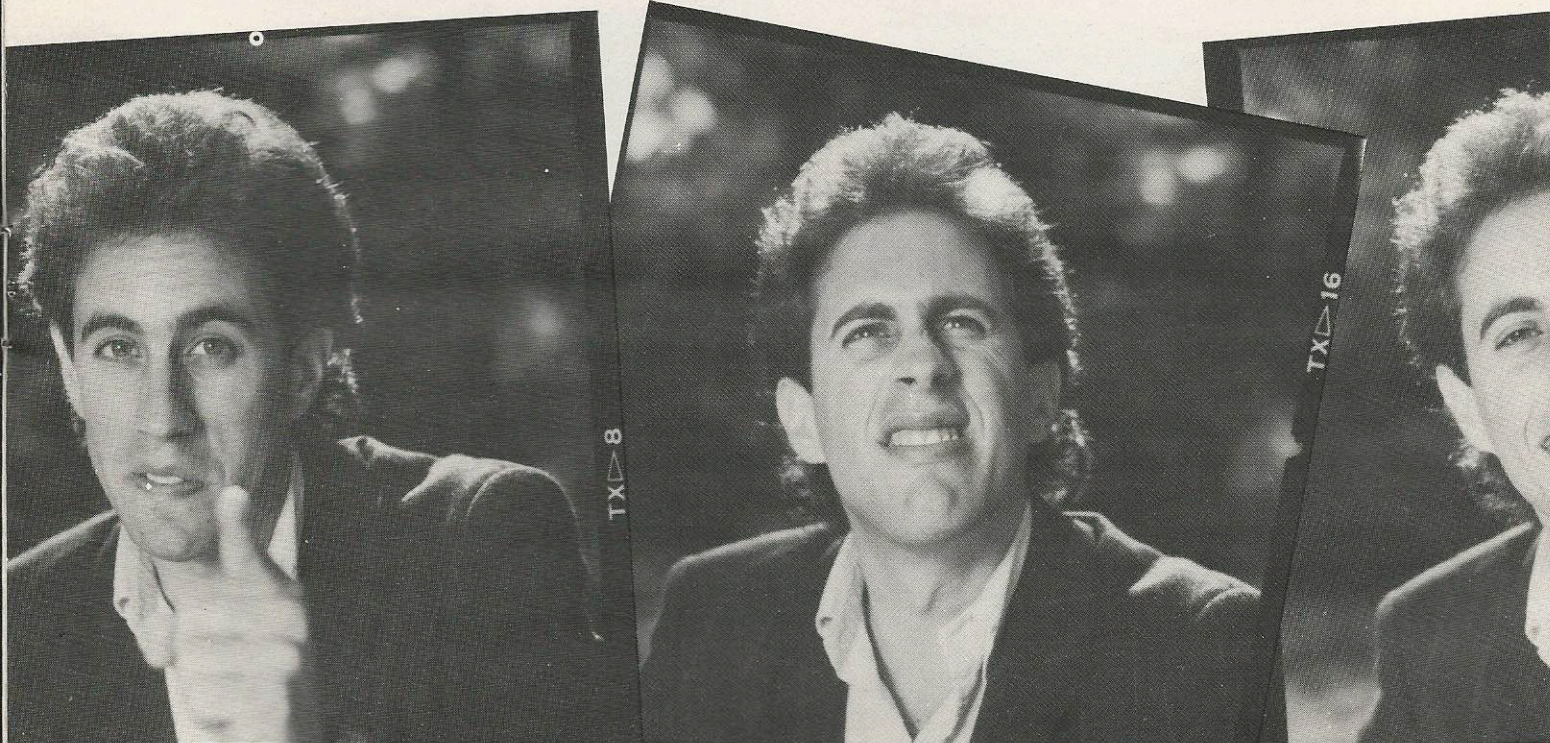
Murphy or Robin Williams, each appearance is increased in importance to the third or fourth power."

The road to fame was a bit longer for Seinfeld because, as he points out, "I'm a hookless act. There's nothing physically odd about me -- no screaming, no props, no strange clothes -- and my name isn't catchy either." All told, he found he had to work harder for his success than someone with an identifiable hook. "But some of my material is memorable, so that's helped."

His advice to comedians: "Stop counting shots -- you may not need as many, or you may need more."

And, what if one of these all-important shots doesn't go as well as hoped for? Does it really matter? "What matters always is what you think of it. If it damages your confidence, it matters. And nothing matters if it doesn't shake your belief in yourself."

Seinfeld fans may have noticed that his performance style has become more physical. The comedian made a conscious decision to move in a more open direction after "watching myself on TV and



## “ I MIGHT AS WELL TRY TO USE SOME OTHER PARTS OF MY BODY ”

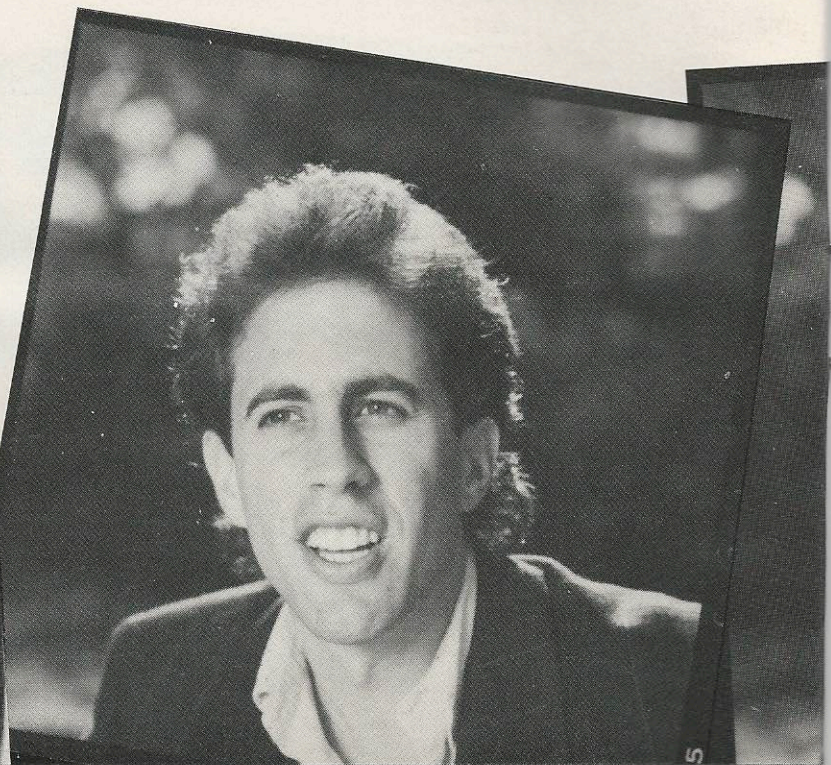
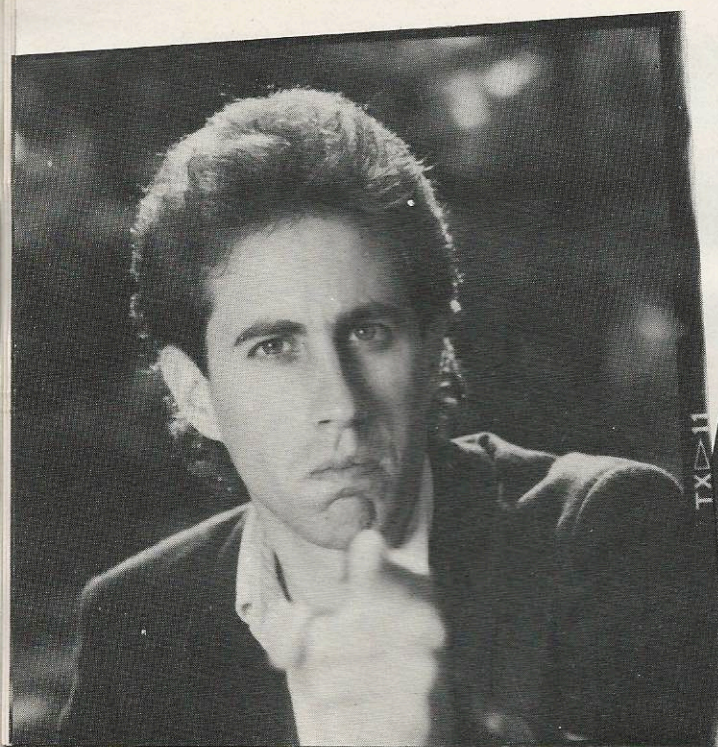
thinking, boy, is that dull. Here's a whole human being using just the area between the nose and the chin to express everything." He describes comedy as "human cartooning." This, he explains, is the art of making pictures and putting words to them. The better the picture, the bigger the laugh. "As long as I'm going to show up, I might as well try to use some of the other parts of my body that are here."

Amongst fellow comedians, Seinfeld has the well-deserved reputation of being an excellent comedy technician. He doesn't consider that odd since he believes that every top drawer act working in this country is a technician. "I've done it almost solely on technique. It's not like you just look at me and laugh. If I didn't have good technique, there'd be nothing

funny about me at all."

Seinfeld learned early on that comedy is a very detailed art. So, after graduating from Queens College he set out to learn everything he could about the business of making people laugh. Back in the early days, the people who made him laugh were Robert Klein and Jay Leno. In fact, they're still his favorites. He calls Klein "...the father of 80s comedy. I think 90% of the comedians you watch today are imitating Klein in some form or another - myself included." Klein's success, he feels, stems from his being "someone you'd like to be friends with", as opposed to Lenny Bruce, "who was hip, but not someone you could aspire to be."

According to Seinfeld, comedy is the art of being yourself. "If you think



something is funny," he says, "and you think that no one else could possibly think it's funny, that's exactly the direction you should go in." Adding almost as an afterthought, "assuming that it gets a laugh."

In the course of time, the laughs increase, the act grows and you slowly build a reputation and hopefully a following. The difference between building your own audience and opening for a name star in Las Vegas is, "the former is a career, the other is just a gig."

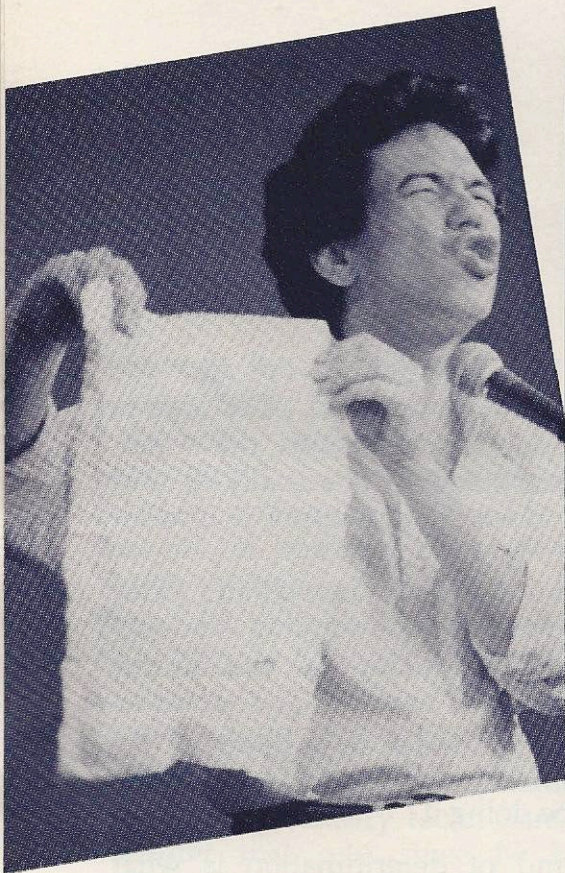
Seinfeld doesn't do "gigs" anymore because now he has a career and, an HBO special. It is scheduled for August and is entitled, "Jerry Seinfeld's Stand-Up Confidential." The show features comedians Larry Miller, Carol Leifer, Jimmy

Brogan and Joel Hodgson, who also co-wrote the special with Seinfeld. The idea is to show how a comic envisions the world differently from the way it actually is and how one gets material and turns it into an act.

Seinfeld is one comedian who apparently never stops working on his craft. "I'm always looking up and seeing how much further I have to go. I never look at someone else and think 'Why aren't I doing that?' If I were good enough to do that, I'd be doing it."

That kind of determination is what has helped Jerry Seinfeld break house records. "I don't really worry that much about my career. I'm too busy thinking about jokes." Jokes that will keep us laughing for years to come. ♪ DONNA COE





# GILBERT

**W**hen you talk about Gilbert Gottfried to other comedians, there's a feeling that he occupies a special place among them. It's a kind of shared assumption—the most obvious of show business clichés. Exactly the sort of thing Gilbert himself might make fun of in his act. Yes, he's "absolutely brilliant." Yes, he's a "complete original." Yes, he's even a "comic's comic." All of this is true, but none of it comes close to capturing the unique spirit of his comedy. For most comedians, Comedy (always with a capital C) is a serious business. It's something they went into for love. Then when they began to earn a living at it, some of the innocence was lost. ("Some?" would be the typical response from comedians.) Now, when they watch comedy, they watch it differently. They understand the tricks of the trade. They're familiar with everyone's act. They form likes and dislikes—usually based on what they'd like to do and what they wished (in a perfect world) they could do. They have favorites. And Gilbert Gottfried is certainly one of them. He's the guy, who on a slow weekday night—say, in the middle of a snowstorm—gets the back of the room howling with that high-pitched laughter particular to professional comedians. "He takes an audience to places it doesn't know exists," says comedian Dave Edison. "And as a comic, you love to watch that."

It's an interesting phenomenon; it's an insider's view—comics watching other comics. They might be sitting around the bar waiting to go

on. They'll be talking about comedy or baseball or movies or sex. They'll be talking about the talent coordinators from the various talk shows. About promises made, and more often than not, broken. Then it will come time for someone like Gilbert Gottfried to perform. And, one by one, many of them wander back into the room. To watch. "He's somebody you can watch day in and day out and never get bored," says comedian George Calfa. "Because he's constantly changing, trying out new things, doing old things differently." To watch comedians in the back of the room watching Gilbert on stage is to watch them undergo a kind of transformation from professional observer to fan. It's as if he keeps them in touch with why they went into comedy in the first place.

Gottfried has been doing comedy for over ten years. Began right out of high school. It's the only thing he's ever done. It's hard to imagine him doing anything else. Before being hired in 1980 for *Saturday Night Live*, Gilbert attracted an almost cult following at the Original Improvisation. And in those early days of showcase comedy (before the club explosion), this was unheard of—audiences coming to see a specific performer, as if he were a headline act.

"A lot of people came to see Gilbert," says Calfa. "I was one of them. This was before I was doing comedy. Gilbert performed, and I'd never heard laughter like that before. They laughed so hard, it was like they were being beaten." But apparently America wasn't ready for Gilbert Gottfried. Or Gilbert Gottfried wasn't ready for

# GOTTFRIED

TITLE IT AS YOU WISH

America. Either way, the show failed and the producer who hired him was fired. So, Gottfried returned to the comedy clubs where he dropped his old act and created a new one. Actually, it's an on-going process. So much so that it would be difficult to determine how much material Gottfried has. "Hours" is as close as most comedians come.

But he's been known to baffle audiences completely. How do you describe the comedy of a man whose eyes are closed throughout most of his performance? Who is generally oblivious to the audience he's supposed to be entertaining? Who changes points of view, like a jazz musician, two or three or four times within the space of a single joke? Who rants and raves, circling the microphone with his head down, screaming? Who clutches the mike with both hands? Who contorts his face? Who spits out the same phrase over and over, each time with a slightly different inflection, adding hand movements when the audio possibilities have been exhausted? Who then concludes his act with a simple, "That's all..." and abandons the stage?

Obviously, it's taken the public a while to catch on, but they finally are catching on. Some recent Gottfried: "A few weeks ago I was in Austria. And I stopped over and visited Kurt Waldheim. And I'm sitting there with Kurt. And Kurt said: 'A couple of years ago, I'm in Germany with my wife. And we decide to have our picture taken. Well, right as the guy is about to snap the picture, who walks right into the shot? Adolf Hitler! Go figure

the chances of that happening! I want a cute picture to send home to my wife--Hitler walks right into the picture! And I don't want him in the shot. So I figure I'll catch the photographer right before he snaps the shot. So I go, 'Wait!'" Gottfried thrusts his arm into the air in a heil-Hitler salute. "'Wait!'" Another salute. "'Hold it!'" Another arm thrust. "'Don't snap that picture.'" He has the arm and the leg going now. "'Wait 'til he gets out of sight!'"



Listen for just five minutes to any show business agent under 40 and you'll hear the word "brilliant" used at least half a dozen times. Unfortunately, there's a catch. To be considered "brilliant", you must also be "hot." (Mere brilliance isn't enough.) But with a recent Cinemax special, guest appearances on MTV, an upcoming comedy album, and a scene-stealing role in "Beverly Hills Cop II", it seems that Gilbert Gottfried is both "brilliant" and "hot". None of this is news to his fellow comedians, of course. They know the real thing when they see it. They know it's only a matter of time. So when he steps on stage again, they'll keep going back into the room. To watch. ☺

By Martin Pedersen

# Health Plan

**W**ell, now it's official. Medical scientists have determined that laughter has measurably positive effects on the human body. From stress reduction to enhanced cardiovascular function to helping Grandpa's gas problem, comic relief is good medicine.

For comedians this is good news indeed. Because it's high time we got some real respect, dammit. Armed with scientific evidence of our usefulness in society, we can lay claim to being not just comics, but healers in the deepest sense. Now, we too can become a truly powerful force in society with highly esoteric

practices and rituals. We could form an Inner Circle, complete with secret rites of pain for new initiates (as if bombing weren't enough), and magical incantations to turn hecklers into empty beer mugs.

To psych up before a set, we could sit in a corner of the room, rocking back and forth, burning incense, with our eyes rolled back in our heads. If, when asked what's going on, for chrissakes, we could mumble something about "summoning the healing energies."

Not to mention the incredible amount of new work that would probably come our way. Every holistic health center in

the country would have at least one staff comedian. Finally, even the most conventional medical institutions will admit that they don't know how they ever got along without us.

Neurotic yuppies will pay top dollar for one-on-one comedy therapy, while the more altruistic comics among us will donate an occasional ten-minute set to the nearest free health clinic. ("Touch me -- you're healed, you're well! You'll never have to worry about bad credit or fungus infections ever again!")

Of course there's a dark side to all of this: What happens if the AMA gets pissed because patients start leaving their physicians and analysts to dive head first into comedy therapy? Will the specter of dirty politics rear it's ugly head? Will the medical establishment lobby to have comics regulated somehow? ("Yeah, we've seen your act. We know you're funny. But hey, you're not board-certified! If we work you, we'll lose our liquor license for sure.") It can happen! There's nothing uglier than an unemployed doctor, with Condo and Mercedes notes due!

Vicious rumors and outright lies about comedy will be fabricated like the one about "some guy in Detroit who laughed so hard he blew his beer and his brains through his nose. Now, his next-of-kin are trying to sue." Conservative rags like *Reader's Digest* will run articles like "No Laughing Matter -- The Failures of Comedy Therapy." We must be prepared for this potential unpleasantness in order to combat it when the time comes!

But of course nothing can truly stop us, for destiny is ours! Let the song of the New Day be sung, screamed, belched and barfed from comedy clubs great and small. Comedy is damn good for you, America! Clearly, the Dawn of the Golden Age is upon us. New levels of weirdness beckon! ☺ BY ARLEN DEAN



THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR WORKING COMEDIANS WHO WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR TALENTS THROUGH PRINT. ARLEN DEAN IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE ROAD AND AT THE COMIC STRIP IN NEW YORK.

Comedy  
USA

S A L U T E S

# THE MANHATTAN SOCIETY

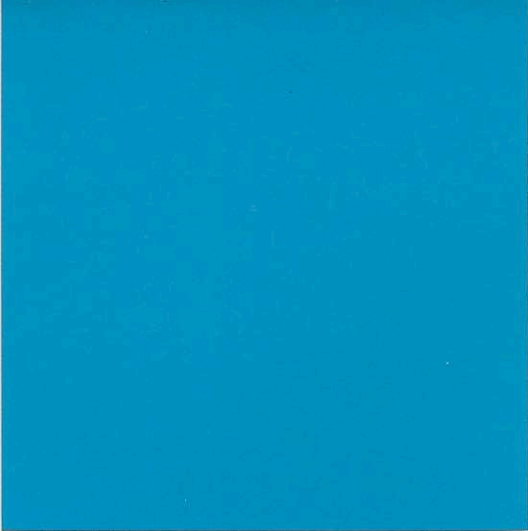
One of the most successful new fund-raisers is The Manhattan Society, which sponsors such low-priced (\$10-65 a ticket) events as wine tastings, boat rides and discotheque mixers." - Janice Simpson, The Wall Street Journal.

The Manhattan Society is a volunteer group of young professionals from the New York area, dedicated to raising funds to benefit the estimated 10,000 New Yorkers with multiple sclerosis. Since its inception just two years ago, The Manhattan Society has raised a tremendous \$170,000 in revenue, goods and services. The group's funds have been allocated to support the Chapter's physical therapy programs and the Columbia Presbyterian MS Care Center in Manhattan.

Throughout the year, The Manhattan Society creates fun, cost-effective special events at unique locations around the city. Among the group's biggest successes were a fabulous Red Tie Ball at Trump Tower, two sold-out Harbor Cruises-- a Wine Tasting at historic Grand Central Terminal and an eating extravaganza for 1,000, A Taste of Manhattan, at Roseland Ballroom.

For more information regarding The Manhattan Society, please call Martha Dorn at (212) 921-9199. ☺





# WHAT — IS — MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS? —

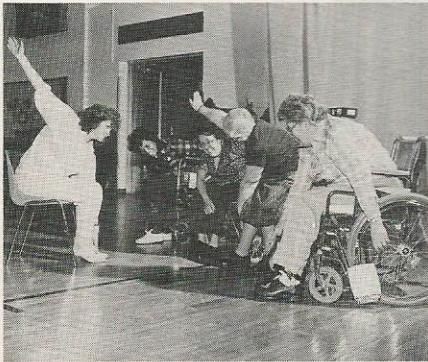
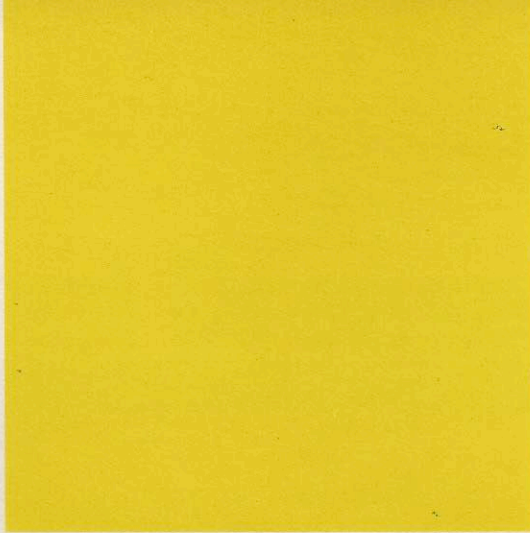
Multiple sclerosis is the most prevalent neurological disease of our generation. It primarily affects young adults between the ages of 20-40 and often leads to severe disabilities. It strikes more women than men: most frequently those living in the temperate zones of Canada, the U.S., South America and Europe: more whites than blacks. Nationwide, 200 cases are diagnosed each week. An estimated half-million people in the U.S. are afflicted with multiple sclerosis or related neurological disorders, affecting more

Americans than cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, myasthenia gravis and hemophilia combined. To date, there is no known cause, cure, or effective treatment.

The MS Society is the only national, non-profit organization dedicated to finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis, while providing critical services to patients and their families.

For information regarding chapter services and programs, call the MS Society at (212) 391-1770. ☺





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DR. CHARLES PLANK TESTS A PATIENT'S REFLEXES AT THE COLUMBIA PRESBYTERIAN MS CARE CENTER, THE MANHATTAN SOCIETY'S PRIMARY PROJECT.



MEMBERS OF QUEEN'S WEEKLY SWIM PROGRAM PREPARE FOR INSTRUCTION.

## THE ULTIMATE SUMMERTIME CRUISE: JULY 21, 1987

The Manhattan Society and the New York City Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society would like to thank the following individuals and corporations for their generosity: A&P Supermarkets, Carlsberg Beer, COMEDY USA, Dixie Products, Port Distributing Co., Ronald M. Soiefer. We would also like to extend our deepest appreciation to Fred Berrios and Barry Weintraub whose contributions helped make The Ultimate Summertime Cruise a huge success. ☺

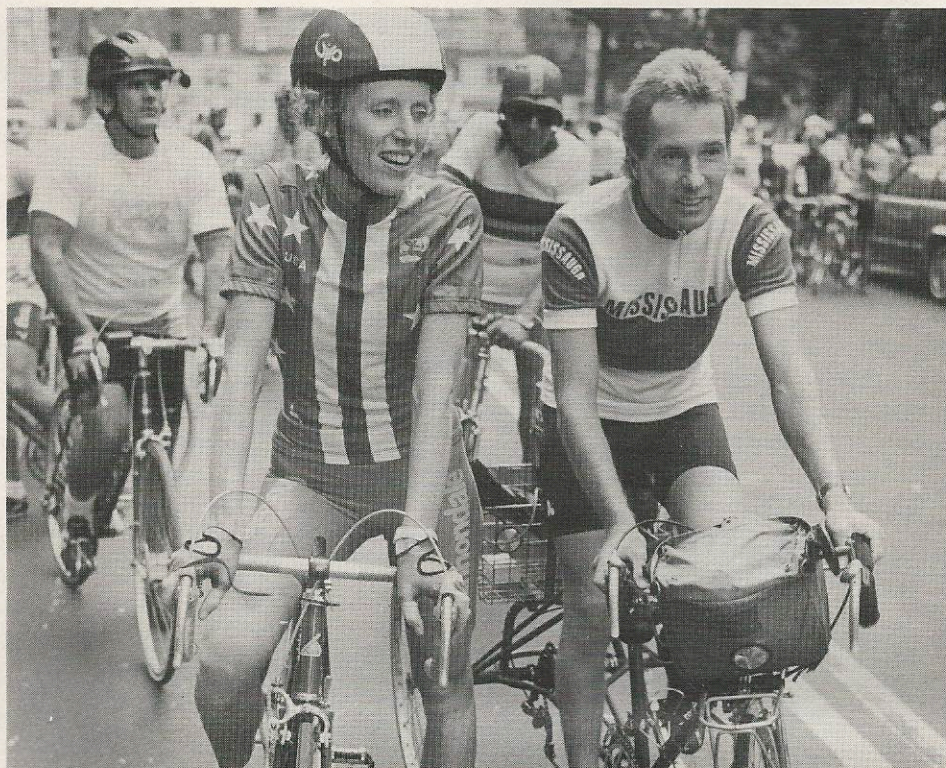


THE 1986 HARBOR CRUISE COMMITTEE CELEBRATES ITS SUCCESS WITH FRANK AND KATHIE LEE GIFFORD.

# COORS TOUR FOR MS

S E P T E M B E R 2 0, 1 9 8 7

CONNIE CARPENTER-PHINNEY, OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST AND NATIONAL MS BIKE TOUR SPOKESPERSON AND RICHARD BEECROFT, A CYCLIST WITH MS WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED A ROUND-THE-WORLD TOUR, LEAD OUT THE 1986 MS FALL BIKE RIDE.



One event The Manhattan Society supports is the annual MS Bike Tour. This year's event, Coors' Tours for MS, is scheduled for Sunday, September 20, 1987. The Tour will depart from South Street Seaport, cross the glorious, mile-long Brooklyn Bridge and head south toward

the beach. Upon completion of the tour, a huge party will take place at the Seaport for all bike riders and volunteers. Riders may register throughout the summer. For information about the tour, contact Martha Dorn at (212) 921-9199. (Photo credit: Bob Kalfus, NY Post)

# Tom Dreesen

C O M M I C W I T H A C A U S E



Comedian Tom Dreesen's body may have been running around the block in LA one morning in 1982, but his mind was with his sister, Darlene

Bethman, who was battling multiple sclerosis in a Chicago hospital. He remembered a recent visit. When she'd asked: "Why did God allow this? Tell me, Tom, I need an answer." He couldn't provide one. "And it just wasn't enough anymore for me to tell her how much I loved her," says Dreesen. "The words became empty. I knew I had to do something. But what?"

As Dreesen continued his run, an idea began to form. "I read a great deal about the mind," he says. "Our minds are like mini-computers. Whenever we ask it a question, whether consciously or subconsciously, it goes to work on an answer. Over and over I asked myself, 'What can I do for her?' That morning, the answer came out of the blue, and it was all clear." He decided to organize a run to raise funds to help fight multiple sclerosis. A Run For Darlene. "I've been running for six years now."

And his original idea has grown too. Last year in Chicago the "Tom Dreesen MS Celebrity Weekend" turned out over 40,000 people and raised more than a quarter million dollars for MS research. The event is now called "A Day For Darlene". It's a state-wide activity sponsored by the Illinois Jaycees, who are helping Tom turn the MS day into a nationwide event.

"You can't keep taking from the stream of life," says Dreesen, a veteran of numerous "Tonight Show" and "Late Night With David Letterman" appearances. "You have to put something back. I was very poor. And I accepted help from a lot of people. Now I'm in a better position than ever and I have to pay back. That's why I do every benefit I can. But this one's special."

Darlene is now bedridden after spending years in a wheelchair. "I try to make her laugh when I visit her," says Dreesen. "After all, if I can be onstage and make strangers laugh, I should be able to make my own sister laugh. Laughter also has great healing powers."

"We've been very close," continues Dreesen. "Darlene cried when I first told her about the run. You can't be that close to someone and love them so much without feeling the pain, the frustration, the anxiety. If anyone is undeserving of this disease, it's Darlene. She's lived her life for others. We can only believe that God works in mysterious ways. I want her to know that her suffering will not have been in vain."

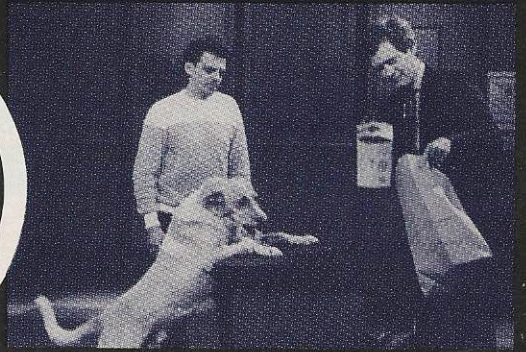
"That's why this is very special to me," he says. It's why I get my friends from the show business community to help. We have to raise enough money so research can go on. Then one day soon they will find a cure for multiple sclerosis. ☺  
**MARTIN PEDERSEN**



# WHAT SHOULD



# DAVID



# LETTERMAN

# DO NEXT?



In the past David Letterman has thrown watermelons off a five story building, worn a velcro suit and stuck himself to a wall, he's even tossed a dozen raw eggs into a giant fan. Now COMEDY USA want's you to decide what Letterman should do next. Simply fill out the accompanying form and add your suggestion. The best ones will be presented to the Letterman show. If they like your suggestion, perhaps you'll get to see it on the air real soon and read about it in a future issue of COMEDY USA.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Matital Status \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you go to Movies/Month \_\_\_\_\_ Restaurants \_\_\_\_\_

Sports Events \_\_\_\_\_ Concerts \_\_\_\_\_ Theatre \_\_\_\_\_ Nightclubs/Comedy \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own a stereo? \_\_\_\_\_ How many records do you buy each year? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you fly \_\_\_\_\_ What Airline \_\_\_\_\_

David Letterman Should... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Comedy USA, 401 East 8!st St. NYC. 10028

# TRACEY

ULLMAN

Tracey Ullman? Isn't she that Swedish actress in all those Ingmar Bergman films?

No. She's that wacky Brit who's making waves at FOX Network with "The Tracey Ullman Show" (Sundays at 9:30 PM).

Chances are you've seen her before. She's a regular guest on both "The Tonight Show" and "Late Night With David Letterman." You'll have a hard time recognizing Tracey in her new show, however. She portrays a host of characters ranging from a dippy mid-American housewife to an aggressive Russian masseuse and everything in between. Ullman is amazingly facile with dialects. Add to that top-notch costumes and make-up, and she's so lost in her character that there's no trace of Tracey.

Ullman made her film debut in Paul McCartney's "Give My Regards to Broad Street." In 1984, she had a hit single in the U.S. with "They Don't Know" in which her pal, McCartney, made a cameo appearance; and she co-starred with Meryl Streep in the film "Plenty."

In her own country, Tracey has been in the West End productions of "Grease" and "The Rocky Horror Show." In 1981, she won the London Theatre Critics Award for Most Promising New Actress. She then went on to star in two BBC sitcoms and won a British Academy Award for Best Light Entertainment Performance in 1983.

Tracey returned to the stage to perform in the workshop production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Starlight Express." Her singing career has led to four top-10 singles on the British pop charts, and her album, "You Broke My Heart In 17 Places," went gold.

It was while doing a TV pilot in England that Ullman met television producer, Allan McKeown, who became her husband. Last year, the couple's most successful collaboration produced their daughter, Mabel Ellen.

At the tender age of 26, Tracey Ullman has already conquered audiences in Great Britain. The FOX Network is hoping she can duplicate that success here in the Colonies. Thus far, critics are raving about Tracey and her new show. Bets are on that she will succeed in filling a variety show void that has existed since the departure of "The Carol Burnett Show" at CBS. ☺ DONNA COE

ISN'T SHE THAT SWEDISH ACTRESS IN ALL THOSE INGMAR BERGMAN FILMS?



## COMEDY ON RECORD TRIVIA QUIZ by Wayne Federman

1. On what album is Steve Martin's *King Tut* heard?
2. The *Button-Down Mind* referred to what comedian?
3. Who produced Bill Cosby's first album? (Hint -- he recorded one of the biggest-selling comedy singles ever.)
4. The Smothers Brothers album title is *Curb Your Tongue*, \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Eddie Murphy recorded his first comedy album at what New York City comedy club?
6. Before going solo, George Carlin cut an album as half of a comedy team. Name Carlin's former partner.
7. *Basketball Jones* was a hit for what comedy team?
8. Robin Williams' album is \_\_\_\_\_, *What A Concept*.
9. What comedian (now deceased) made a guest appearance on Albert Brooks' *Comedy Minus One* ?
10. Robert Klein recorded three solo comedy albums. Name two.

BONUS: What comedy routine is considered to be the first ever recorded?

ANSWERS: 1. *A Wild & Crazy Guy* 2. Bob Newhart 3. Allen Sherman (*Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah*) 4. *Knave* 5. The Comic Strip 6. Jack Burns 7. Cheech & Chong 8. *Reality* 9. George Jessel 10. *Child of the Fifties*; *Mind Over Matter*; *New Teeth* BONUS: *Cohen On The Telephone*; circa 1915



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Carol Leifer

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