

Takes semester off to perform

UNL student on the road to Turkey

By Deb Pederson
Senior Reporter

Oct. 20 for a two month United Service Organizations tour to countries around the Mediterranean Sea.

UNL student and comedian Craig Anton is scheduled to leave Nebraska

Anton, a 23-year-old theater major,

auditioned for the comedy tour last June at Gabby's, the comedy club at the airport Holiday Inn.

"I didn't know what would happen," Anton said. "I didn't really care. I had my summer set. I knew I was coming back to school in the fall."

But Anton's plans changed when he was asked to go on the tour.

'Ankara. I've never heard of the place.'
— Anton

"They called me and asked me if I wanted to do it and I said 'well, I'll let you know,'" Anton said. "I was a little unsure with the (comedy) company. They're kind of a new company starting out and I just didn't trust them. And I had to check with Mom and Dad."

Anton decided to accept and he took the semester off from school.

Anton said he has been working a number of clubs in Omaha and Lincoln and will perform in Las Vegas clubs for four days before leaving on the tour.

Anton's professional experience includes performances at Stanford and Sons in Kansas City, Mo., Comedy Works in Denver, Omaha Brewery Comedy Shoppe and Shenanigans Comedy Club in Lincoln.

The comedy tour will include stops in Germany, Turkey, Greece, Italy and Spain. His first performance is set for Ankara, Turkey.

"It's going to be good to get back in Turkey," Anton said. "No, I've never been there. Ankara. I've never heard of the place. I've never heard anything about Turkey. It's going to be interesting."

Anton said he moved from mime and juggling to comedy when he was a teenager.

He teamed up with Dave Sullivan during his three-and-a-half years at Kearney State. He was a business major at the time.

Then Anton transferred to UNL where he switched from a minor to a major in theater.

For Anton, it's a toss-up between



Dan Dulaney/Daily Nebraskan

Anton and Rocky Raccoon

acting and comedy.

"I'm not a die-hard actor as far as actor-mentality goes with pounding on doors, auditioning for every show," Anton said. "That just does not appeal to me. I find a show and if I like it and see a role that appeals to me, I'll audition and see what happens."

"Theater's fun but I've been doing

comedy so much any more and there's money in it, so there's an advantage to it."

Doing professional comedy is a matter of credibility, good material and establishing contacts, he said.

When he gets back from the tour, Anton said he doesn't know whether he would go into comedy full-time. He said the business was an emotional rollercoaster.

"I want to finish school," Anton said. "Then, perhaps, I'll get a secure kind of job. I like doing workshops. I've done workshops for kids and lectures and things like that."

"I'm not really sold on the entertainment or comedy business — yet. It's just you're away from your family, your loved ones, whoever, too long and you really have to have an ego. You really have to be a good self-motivator to write material that's timely and fresh."



Courtesy of Anton.
Anton

Setting it Straight

Student art is exhibited in the Student Art League Gallery, Richards 205, on a first-come, first-served basis, according to league member Mark Gregory. There is no qualitative selection process, he said.

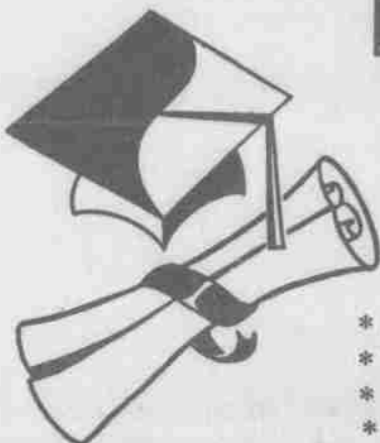
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