

Students invited to free show

By John Fulwider
Staff Reporter

Stand-up comedians Katsy Chappell and Pablo Francisco will give a free comedy show tonight at 7:30 at the Culture Center.

Admission to the University Program Council event is free for students and \$3 for the general public.

Kim Spurlock, UPC event director, said both Chappell and Francisco were hilarious when she saw them in Omaha at the National Association of Campus Activities conference.

Spurlock said Chappell jokes about being "big" and going into clothing stores where the outfits are too small. Chappell also jokes about issues facing black women, Spurlock said.

Chappell has had a number of film and TV roles. Recently, she played Jamie Lee Curtis' office friend in the movie "True Lies." She also has appeared on the TV show "Roseanne."

Chappell also performs for the U.S. Armed Forces. She won a Bob Hope Entertainer of the Year award from the United Services Organization for her performances, described as "bodacious, vivacious and totally outrageous."

Francisco's comedy deals with his everyday life as a Hispanic man, Spurlock said. Francisco employs bizarre sound effects to enliven characters from his life.

Francisco, originally from Tucson, Ariz., got his start in comedy in high school when he snuck into a local comedy club for a comedy competition and took first place. He has appeared on HBO's "Loco Slam" and the Comedy Channel.

Murmurs gig to deliver raw emotion

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

Dreams of becoming an actress carried Liesha Hailey away from Nebraska almost five years ago. And this weekend, music will carry her home.

Well, sort of.

Hailey, who sings for the Murmurs, graduated from Bellevue West High School in 1989. She and partner Heather Grody will play at the Hurricane, 1118 O St., Saturday.

Hailey and Grody teamed up at New York City's American Academy of Performing Arts, Hailey said, but writing music together was just a hobby.

The duo's first appearance was at a theater company, she said, and it felt good. Soon they were playing

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LIESHA HAILEY
Murmurs' singer

in New York subways, parks and coffeehouses.

It would be almost three years before the Murmurs members, with their rainbow-colored hair, would gain recognition for the song "You Suck" off their second self-titled album. But Hailey said the sounds produced in the studio were not what fans would hear Saturday.

Hailey described the acoustic sound of the Murmurs as "really raw and full of a lot of emotion." In the studio, she said, the duo got lost.

There were so many things that could be done to the music, she said, and just as many opinions about what it should sound like. The result, she said, was more what producers wanted than what the band wanted.

Hailey said she was proud of the



Courtesy of MCA Records

The Murmurs, Heather Grody and Leisha Hailey, will appear at the Hurricane Saturday.

current album, but she described it as slick — not raw.

"When you really get us is when you get us live," Hailey said.

The duo has been on the road touring for the past six months, Hailey said. Opening for the Lightning Seeds and Joe Jackson has provided them with a lot of exposure and some interesting experiences.

"Every city has a completely different feel," Hailey said. "And every night it's like a totally differ-

ent story."

Hailey said when the band played in Salt Lake City as part of a group show, the crowd was moshing and body surfing. That was crazy, she said, given the Murmurs' sound. When the duo opened for Joe Jackson, she said, the crowds were older, and often just sat at tables and listened intently to every word.

The Murmurs will begin touring with Bush next week.

But even with all the concert dates and interviews, Hailey said

success was still a distant reality. There's still too much to do, she said.

Getting back to Nebraska, however, is an important stop along the way, Hailey said. Maybe it's ironic that her favorite Murmurs song is "Carry Me Home," on which she sings:

"I've been around the world/ seen a lot of faces/I know a lot of people/I've been a lot of places/I still want to know what it's like to be a butterfly ... Carry me home."

Author's tales a cultural bridge

By Elizabeth Gamboa
Staff Reporter

Author Lev Raphael will give a free reading from his works at the Wick Alumni Center tonight at 8.

"I see my writing as building bridges between different communities — Jewish and non-Jewish, gay and straight, academic and non-academic," said Raphael, a former English professor at Fordham University.

Raphael said he knew he wanted to be a writer since the fourth grade. "I loved storytelling and hearing stories told," Raphael said. "I loved reading so much and I wanted to write the kind of books that I would like to read."

Raphael writes stories about recognizing one's sexuality, deal-

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LEV RAPHAEL
Author

ing with parents and growing up Jewish.

His work often seems autobiographical. Like some of his characters in "Dancing on Tisha B'Av" and "Winter Eyes," Raphael grew up in New York City, the son of Holocaust survivors.

This aspect of his family history has had a big impact on Raphael's writing and on his identity as a Jewish man, he said.

"It's made me more committed toward seeming Jewish in general and more determined to carry

on my Jewish culture," he said.

Homosexuality also is an important topic in Raphael's writing. Raphael began telling people he was a homosexual in the 1980s, and said he had been gradually coming out more and more every year.

"It gives me a lot more time for everything else in my life," Raphael said. "I'm no longer hiding or worrying a lot."

Although he draws from his

See RAPHAEL on 10

Lincoln legend moves to P.O. Pears' stage

By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

Live music sensation Paul Phillips is back on stage, but he has changed his performing venue.

Phillips had been playing at the Watering Hole, 1321 O St. He will now perform at P.O. Pears at 322 S. Ninth St. every Thursday night in March.

Bob Jergensen, owner of P.O. Pears, said his bar and grill was not stealing Phillips away from the Watering Hole.

"Actually, Paul worked here before the Watering Hole even opened and started playing here first," he said.

"It's a real lucky break for us that he's coming back."

Phillips' audience-involving performance has become well-known by Lincoln's bar crawlers.

"Paul's a tradition in Lincoln," Jergensen said. "He's just grown and grown and grown."

Phillips has been singing for audiences ever since he was a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"He serenaded my wife when she lived in Sandoz Hall," Jergensen said. "And that makes it a long time ago."

Jergensen said Phillips' music was so appealing because he let audiences sing along.

"It's music that even if you are inebriated, you can remember the words to the songs," he said.

To honor Phillips' return, Pears will offer a bus ride back to campus if enough people request one, Jergensen said.

"It's only Thursday nights to start with," Jergensen said. "People can call us and ask about it, and we'll get it hooked up and running."

Pears also features dollar drinks and food items on Thursday nights and has no cover charge.

"There's never a cover at P.O. Pears," Jergensen said.