

# Lincoln's live laughs live on

## Duffy's, Huey's offer star comedians to Star City

By Mike Kluck  
Senior Reporter

It's no joke.

Just because comedy clubs were experiencing a downcycle in popularity doesn't mean Lincoln residents can't enjoy seeing a live comedy performance in the capital city.

Huey's, 245 N. 13th St., along with Lincoln radio station 102.7-FM (KFRX) plays host to a "Joke Jam" the first weekend of every month. Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St., offers a Comedy Workshop every other Monday night.

Huey's usually brings in a top-name headliner for its Joke Jam while Duffy's gives local comedians a chance to practice their comedy skills on a stage. Reg McMeen, Duffy's owner, said that in the early 1980s the tavern has been putting star comedians into the Star City, but turned to the Comedy Workshop in the late 1980s.

"We're the only format in Lincoln where we allow somebody to get up on the stage and try their stuff for three to five minutes," McMeen said. "If they're not that good, they are going to get booted off the stage pretty quickly."

Mark Gross, a professional comedian for the past seven years, started his career performing at Duffy's and has moved to a national circuit. "Duffy's a great place to start," Gross said. "It has to be the toughest room in the country."

"Usually there are about 30 to 50 people in there and they are looking for the car crash. They are hoping you crash and burn."

Although Duffy's is a difficult place to perform, Gross said, it prepared comedians for going on the road.

That road narrowed in the late 1980s when stand-up comedy hit a recession, Gross said, which many comedy club programmers blamed on televised comedy on HBO and the Comedy Channel.

“

*A lot of really shitty guys are out of work. Most of the comedians that are working the good clubs, generally are good.”*

MARK GROSS  
professional comedian



During the recession, he said, the reduction in comedy clubs yanked some of the bad comics off the stage.

"A lot of really shitty guys are out of work," Gross said. "Most of the comedians that are working the good clubs, generally are good."

Mike Miller, general manager of Huey's, tries to pull in those good acts for the first Friday and Saturday nights of each month. Most of his slots are filled with national acts.

In October, Huey's will feature T. Marni Vos, who sold out her performance in February at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Miller said Huey's usually had a big crowd for its Joke Jam, and it has comedians booked for the next six months.

"People enjoy comedy but with the all clubs in town before, the business was overkilled," Miller said.

The club programmers pitched their live laughs by saying that a night at a comedy club doesn't cost any more than going to a movie.

And, besides, who knows when a comedian like Tim Allen, who performed at Huey's in the fall of 1987, might show up?

So you wanna be a Rock 'n' Roll Star?

Live KARAOKE with Shithook  
Every Thursday

featuring \$2.50 Pitchers

Duffy's 1412  
Tavern O' ST.

"Who said size doesn't matter?"  
Every Tuesday is Bomber Night  
Big Bottles (22oz.) as low as \$1.75

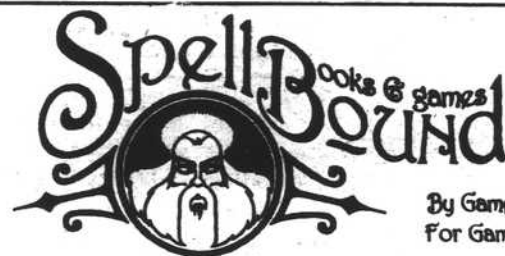
"BIGGER IS BETTER!"

\$1.00 PINTS

Woody's  
PUB

THURSDAYS

1301 O Street - Lincoln, Nebraska



Magic, Miniatures,  
Role Playing, and More.

2639 Randolph St. • Lincoln, NE 68510 • 476-8602



The way wings were meant to be!

- Buffalo Wings...11 great sauces
- Daily Lunch Combos
- Daily Happy Hour 3pm-9pm
- NTN Interactive Television

5 Free Wings!

with a purchase of 12

expires 12/31/96

1328 "P" St.

## The Great Boston Acoustics® Sub-Sat Speaker Sale



The best value in 3 piece satellite-subwoofer speaker systems just got a whole lot better

Sub-Sat 7  
\$499

MSRP \$750

Sub-Sat 6 II  
\$349

MSRP \$499

Limited Offer  
Save up to \$250  
On Boston's Sub-Sats

Compare to competing speakers costing up to \$900

CUSTOM ELECTRONICS  
56th & "O" Lincoln 402-486-3311

HIGHWAY



All roads lead to one or another of MDA's 230 clinics helping people affected by neuromuscular diseases.

MDA  
Muscular Dystrophy Association

1-800-572-1717