

# Legendary comedian headlines Asheville's comedy club

By Josh Robinson

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Bobcat Goldthwait, the crazed comedian of 1980s *Police Academy* fame, settled in to unsettle Asheville at Funny Business Comedy Club in a two-night headlining performance last weekend.

"Honestly, until I heard that he was coming to town, I thought he was dead," said show attendee Dan Jacobson, 32.

Far from dead, Goldthwait, more commonly remembered as Zed, the incompetent *Police Academy* gang leader, spent more time directing than acting in recent years.

Goldthwait, who directed three films during the past decade, released his most recent writing and directing endeavor in 2009, *World's Greatest Dad*, featuring longtime friend Robin Williams.

"I'm a huge Bobcat fan. I've seen all of his movies, so when I

heard he was going to be here in Asheville, I jumped at the chance to come see him," said 36-year-old Florida native Sarah McCormick.

"I went to see Jerry Seinfeld when he came to Asheville and paid \$100 for my ticket. Obviously, Bobcat Goldthwait isn't Jerry Seinfeld. When a big name like that comes to town, it's unbelievable that the tickets were only \$20 a piece," she said.

There is certainly a difference between the two types of comedians that showed up for Goldthwait's performance Saturday night. There were those who went in expecting a rehashing of the mid-pubescent Peewee Herman-sounding routine Goldthwait did in the 1980s, and those who were more aware of Goldthwait's evolution as a comedian.

For those not in the know, Goldthwait does not use his trademark voice anymore, although his comedy is as dark as ever.

There was definitely a look of surprise on a number of audience-member's faces when he sounded normal speaking his first words

into the microphone.

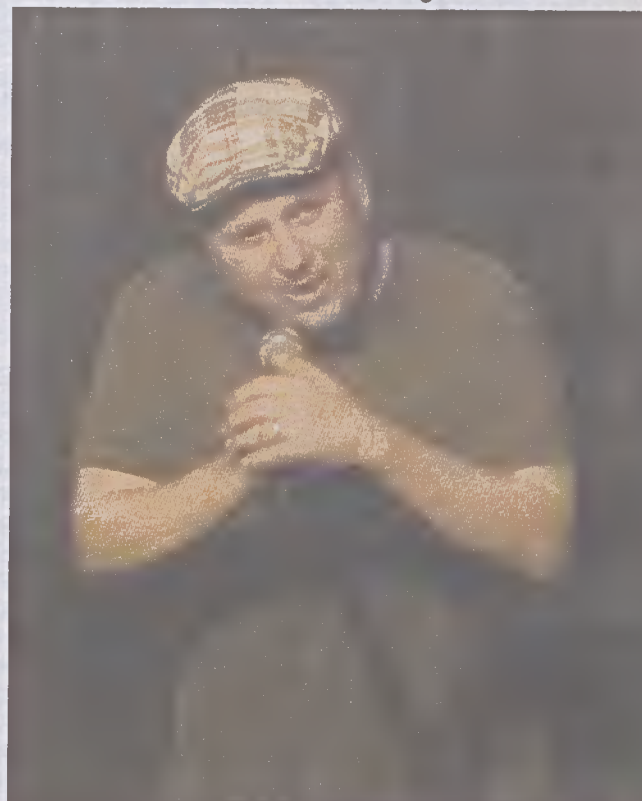
"To those people who haven't kept up with him, they should know that his style of comedy has definitely changed," McCormick said. "I'd still place it in the same genre of comedy, but Bobcat has grown as a comedian and doesn't need that gag voice to get the laughs anymore."

Apparently, that gag voice was enough to help him place 61st on Comedy Central's list of 100 best stand-up comedians.

"I didn't know whether I'd like him or not," said attendee Jeff Hartsford, 22. "I remember seeing one of his movies when I was younger, but I'm a little young to really have lived through the *Police Academy* phenomenon."

Hartsford said he thought it might work to his advantage if he went to the show having no preconceived idea of what Goldthwait's comedy styling would be like now.

"Really, I just decided it would be a good opportunity to see somebody who, maybe not now, but at one point in time, was a big celebrity," he said.



Ian Shannon- Photography Editor

Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait, famed by *Police Academy*, performed a two-night stand-up routine at Funny Business Comedy Club last week.

# Residents choose local food vendors in Asheville community

By Katherine Walker

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After 12 years of farming experience in Madison County, Carl Evans knows the value of buying local produce outweighs the importance of eating organic food.

Evans and his wife, Julie Mansfield, run Mountain Harvest Organics, a farm near Hot Springs. They sell all naturally grown vegetables and flowers, and conduct most of their business at the North Asheville and Historic Haywood Tailgate Markets.

According to Evans, there is a significant difference between consuming local produce and eating organically grown food.

"I do feel that there are many times when buying local, even if it's not organic, is preferable to getting things shipped all the way across the country. When both happen, that's great, but I definitely believe that supporting local is as important, if not more important, as organic."

Due to his emphasis on locality, Evans chose not to get his farm certified organic when the federal government took over the process.

"The use of the word organic is now controlled by the federal government,"

he said. "Even though we do everything we did when we were certified before it became the USDA's program, we are not certified now."

This is where knowing your farmer comes in good use, according to Evans. He said he talks to most of his customers at the tailgate markets to clarify his growing processes.

Local vendors like Evans supply food to many area restaurants, including Early Girl Eatery, which buys most of its produce, eggs, cheese and meat from neighborhood farms.

"We believe that buying local creates jobs in this area," said front of the house manager Georgia Smith. "It cuts down on the negative aspects of shipping, and it puts the money right back in the community."

According to Smith, Early Girl Eatery's buying practices create a healthier community.

"We have a commitment to healthier food, which is definitely going to be food that hasn't traveled far or been picked when it wasn't ripe," Smith said. "In terms of meat, our fish has never been frozen, so that's a lot more nutritious and better tasting."

Like Early Girl Eatery, Moose Cafe buys as much as possible from local Asheville growers that sell produce at



Megan Dombroski- Staff Photographer

UNCA biology student Mary White, 19, shops for locally produced fruits and vegetables at Greenlife Grocery in North Asheville.

nearly markets.

The restaurant, which opened 19 years ago, often purchases from the WNC Farmers Market on Brevard Road, according to Michelle Jackson, a Moose Cafe employee.

"The man that opened the business was actually a produce vendor at the market, and he saw this open building and figured he could use it to market the farmers