

Chapel Hill comedian calls being funny real challenge

By JENNY BEEMER

Last week comedian Happy Cole kept Wesleyan students smiling and laughing in their seats for almost two hours as stress and worries of students and faculty were replaced with tears of joy. The event was sponsored by Nu Gamma Phi and CAB during Rush Week.

Happy was born and raised in Birmingham, Ala. He first got interested in comedy by performing in Amateur Night and while doing MC jobs. The person that helped him the most was Sinbad from *A Different World*.

"Sinbad saw me performing one night and he taught me the basics of comedy. He taught me how to feel the stage and relax and also have fun," he said. From then on, Happy has performed in shows such as *Star Search* in 1989, *Nickelodeon*, *Evening at the Improv*, *Comic Strip Live on Fox Television*, *Showtime*, and *Clarissa Explains It All*.

How did Happy get his stage name? Simple. As a young boy, Cole's father said that he was always cheerful and always had a smile on his face wherever he went. And ever since then, he has kept that name.

For most stars, travelling from city to city can be stressful and tiresome. But for Happy, it is a challenge every night.

"You have to come up with different material that will make everyone laugh. And since there are so many different regions of the country, it is hard to find what will make people laugh at," he said. Happy's favorite issue for his performances are the differences between men and women. He also uses others that others can relate to, such as sports.

"The one issue I stay away from is politics. Things are always changing and nothing is ever stable. I like to use men and women issues because everyone can usually relate to them," he said.

Throughout a show, Happy's main goal is to write material that is funny and to get people to relax and have fun. As Happy continues his career, he hopes that he can make a decent living where he could support his future family.

"Stardom and fame are not that important to me. I just want to be able to make a decent living and to be able to support a family someday," he said.

Even though Happy has met famous people like Sinbad and Michael Jordan, the person who has influenced him the most is Jerry Seinfeld. "I have always like Jerry Seinfeld as long as I can remember," he said, "and he has always made me laugh." When Cole is not travelling from city to city, he enjoys relaxing in his home in Chapel Hill.

Junior Pam Evans truly enjoyed the show. "Happy was awesome. I would love to see Happy and other performers come to our school more often," she said.



COMEDIAN HAPPY COLE ENTERTAINS STUDENTS.

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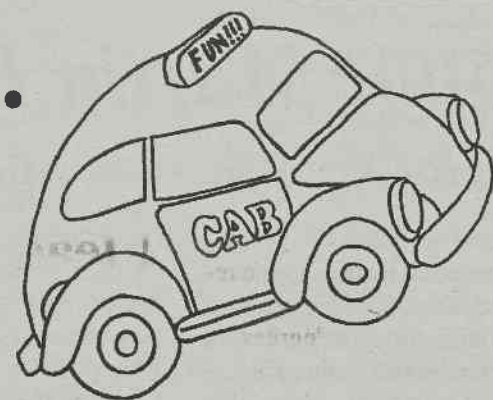


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CAB CORNER...

Spring '93 Update



Fasten your seatbelt for the semester of your life! We have some fun stuff ready to go! A tentative overview of the entertainment scheduled:

February 4: Delusionist/Magician, *Joe Martel*. Come see if you can make heads or tails out of the unbelievable!! Joe will perform in the SAC from 9-10:30 p.m.

February 24: Comedienne Extraordinaire, *Wanda Sikes Hall*. You'll be busting at the seams with this crazy lady!! She'll be wound up, ready to unleash her wit and charm for you. Wanda will perform in Doc's at 9 p.m.

March 17: Psychic/Illusionist, and a Wesleyan favorite, *Craig Karges!!* Come let Craig figure out just what really is on your mind. He'll be full of mind-boggling fun stuff. Craig will perform in the SAC at 9 p.m., so get here early because he uses student volunteers!

March 30: A Capello group and humorists, *"The Blenders."* Kick back with a mocktail, and listen to this unique blend of voices which creates tunes of the times. These guys will perform in the SAC starting at 9:30 p.m.

April 22: Guitarist and singer, *Daryl Rice*. Come listen as the blues resonate throughout Doc's. Showtime is 9 p.m. See you there!