

The amateurs did a great job, however. Their topics ranged from *Lord of the Rings* to reasons for not showering, from the old days at UPEI to the location of Anne's grave. The audience got a lesson in linguistics and several performers had some things to say about being Catholic.

The priest was in no way offended and everything went off smoothly....well, sort of. The aforementioned

Islander was a Souris

Stewart tries his hand in comedy

boy. The professional comic,

Mark Crandall, was from New Brunswick.

Crandall made a few jokes about Souris, the Souris boys waited for

him after the show...you get the picture. A few punches in place of punch lines and a quick response from The Wave staff and the other comedians, and neither Souris nor Crandall were any worse for the wear.

The rabbi, witness to the spectacle, didn't even spill his drink. And me, well I watched the show and I still don't get the whole chicken thing. I did laugh quite a bit,

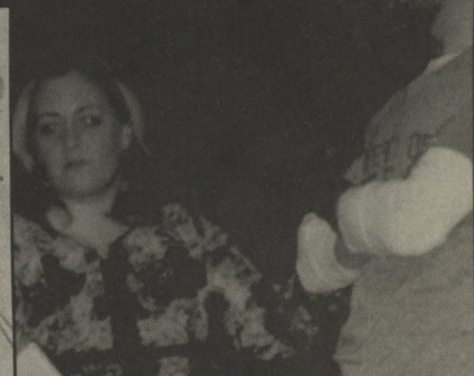
though, and I even talked to some of the performers afterwards about what makes a good comedian. I thought maybe they'd have some insight on the chicken thing...

Says Matt Stewart about being a comic, "People who come to these events want an excuse to laugh. They want to laugh until you give them a reason otherwise. The idea is just noticing the little things in everyday life. People don't even

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Robert MacPherson Gets a lesson In Love Linguistics

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notice it or else everyone would be laughing all time. All you as a comic do is point it out."

If I saw a chicken cross the road, I'd point it out. I'd even swerve to avoid hitting it! But what the heck is he doing there?

Lennie MacPherson might not know why any farm fowl would be wandering over the highway but he does have his own theories of comedy as well.

"Here's the trick to stand up comedy," divulges Lennie. "You get 75 percent of the audience to be your friends and family and the rest just laugh along."

I guess I'm just going to let my comedic aspirations lie fallow, and take on MacPherson's advice. I mean, as least my mother thinks I'm funny. She happens to make some mean chicken soup, too, but that's beside the point.