

Moving Day

BY CHRISTINE DEROSA

Celebrate with some comic relief!

Regardless of how much planning goes into "the big move", sometimes things just go amazingly and unpredictably wrong: the moving truck's flat tire (and, yes, it's too late to sign up for the extra insurance), scratched furniture, broken fragile items, and endless boxes to unpack. And, though you've certainly earned a break, the surprises can seem to keep on coming even after the moving van(s) have pulled away!

When you think your day can't get any longer or any more frustrating, it's time to give yourself that break and get out for a night of comedy!

Comedy clubs abound in the area and here's a sprinkling of where to go and what you'll find. The Sahara Club and Restaurant located at 34 Bates St. in Methuen, MA, offers an array of entertainment including some of the best comedy in the Merrimack Valley area. The hilarious antics of comics from throughout Massachusetts can be enjoyed every Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. for \$10.00, followed by a disc jockey spinning tunes for dancing until 2:00 a.m.

Seasoned comics Dave Rattigan and Steve Guilmette organize and host this medley of approximately eight different comics every week for an entertaining hour and a half of comedy: from headliner and Wilmington, MA's own Steve Bjork, seen on Comedy Central and MTV; to Tony "The Fireman" Pike of Orleans, MA; to rookie comedians Matt Demko and Barb Westerman of the Merrimack Valley area, just to name a few. Laughing is inevitable.

Since the line-up of talent changes every week, there are always new bits to give you whole-hearted chuckles. The Sahara also offers an open mic night for new comics every Thursday, as well as jazz on Tuesdays and Sundays and a Middle Eastern theme night every Saturday. For more information, contact the Sahara Club at (978) 683-9200.

Comic Kris Earle, also a performer at the Sahara on occasion, brings us to our next stop on the circuit, EVOS Arts (formerly Smithwicks) located at 98 Middle St., Lowell, MA. Earle coordinates and hosts the open mic night every Tuesday at 9:00 p.m. (admission is free). The Gallery

Grill Room of EVOS is the place where you can hear completely new material and meet the newest, up-and-coming talent in the business; or throw your own hat into the ring and try your hand at comedy! Earle books approximately seven to 12 comics weekly and there are two to three spots that remain open to walk-ins on a first come, first serve basis. The show lasts approximately 90 minutes.

Earle stated, "The show will continue into the spring and summer, as long as we have an audience ... there hasn't been a week that has disappointed yet."

At EVOS, there is never a dull moment—there is so much night life to experience. Visitors can enjoy not only great comedy, but also live music, theater events, gallery exhibitions and three bars serving up your favorite imported brew.

If you're looking to venture north of the area, then check out the Chateau Hospitality Complex located across the MA state line at 201 Hanover St. in Manchester, NH. Home of the "Best of North Shore Comedy," the Chateau offers comedy every Saturday night at 9:00 p.m. with advanced tickets for \$12.00 and tickets at the door for \$15.00. Not only have Rattigan and Guilmette graced the stage, but other comics who have performed on Comedy Central, MTV, An Evening at the Improv, the Letterman Show and Star Search are often headlining at the Chateau. It's for this very reason that reservations are recommended. A hint: arrive early and enjoy dinner at their Tenderloin Room Steak House or refreshments in the Martini Lounge!

For more information about the places and people mentioned (as well as schedules of events), visit the following websites and plan a night out away from those moving boxes:

www.chateaunh.com/northshorecomedy
www.daverattigan.com
www.EVOSarts.com
www.krisearle.com
www.steveguilmette.com

And, remember, those boxes can wait until tomorrow, so laugh and enjoy!