By Kevin Tobin
Staff Writer

"A gang member will kill you, a hillbilly will keep you!" To some this statement might not mean much, but those who saw the comedy show presented by the Student Entertainment Council (SEC) would recall the talented and humorous jokes told by several stand-up comedy acts.

The Student Center Theater roared with laughter last Friday night as comedians Tammy Pescatelli, Tanya Saracho and Saturday Night Live (SNL) own Dean Edwards took to the stage.

The headline, Dean Edwards, who made appearances on HBO, Comedy Central and, of course, SNL, made invaluable suggestions regarding male sexual advice for one college age woman, discussed oversized boxes of condoms and how to respond to a tuition bill of $28,000.

Although all of the comedians touched upon humor and sexual content, they all also generated humor using sarcasm, sexual motions, and types of horny dogs (no ladies, not guys; real dogs).

Edwards said that one of his jokes regarding Michael Jackson was one of the first he ever told. He also explained that the secret to becoming a successful comedian is to understand that comedy is an "evolutionary process" and that some jokes may not work too well the first time.

"Either try something new or change it around to make itfunnier," he said.

Another comedian from the show, Tammy Pescatelli, agreed, adding her thoughts on what jokes to perform.

"There's a difference to what you and your friends find funny and what an audience will find funny," said Pescatelli.

In reference to her rise to stardom, Pescatelli told her story of how she won a radio contest and was even offered her own show, which she gladly accepted.

Edwards participated in SEC feature presentation: 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding'

By Lacey Korevec
Assistant Features Editor

Only one movie in 2002 was so well received by audiences that it is currently being made into a television comedy series.

Released last April, My Big Fat Greek Wedding is a refreshing, romantic comedy that raised the bar for independent film success. It will be playing in the Student Center Theater Feb. 6 - 9, at 7:30 p.m.

The film, directed by Joel Zwick, begins with Toula (Nia Vardalos), the young, ruddy-cheeked, daffy daughter of Greek immigrants Gus and Maria Portokalos (Michael Constantine and Lainie Kazan), waiting tables in her family-owned restaurant. After changing her look, Toula catches the eye of a handsome costumer, Ian Miller (John Corbett of SNL), and the two are engaged. However, when Toula catches the eye of a handsome costumer, Ian Miller, it is only a matter of time before the families who have the most to lose begin to question the union. After signing autographs for audience members, Edwards said that the best advice he could give to aspiring comedians is to practice.

"Just get on that stage!" he said enthusiastically. "It's all about getting up there and getting your name out there. It isn't for everyone, but it's all about trying and seeing what works."

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Golden Globe winner ‘entertaining’ and ‘chaotic’

By Michael D. Lovullo
News Editor

Overweight, balding, middle-aged writer Charlie Kaufman (Nicolas Cage) is experiencing difficulty in his love life, his relationship with his brother and his writing in Adaptation.

Resolute not to succumb to the norms of Hollywood writing, Kaufman finds difficulty adapting Susan Orlean’s (Meryl Streep) book The Orchid Thief, a true account of the livelihood of John Laroche (Chris Cooper). The difficulty with adapting this book is multiplied by the expectations many have of him to repeat the success of his previous work Being John Malkovich.

If great expectations aren’t enough to contend with, his brother and roommate Donald (Cage, again), who has recently decided to be a Hollywood screenwriter, is forever simplifying Kaufman’s craft. Saving the fact that Donald and Charlie are identical twins, they are polar opposites. When Donald laughs, Charlie cringes. Donald has sex and Charlie masturbates.

Donald sees using Hollywood industry jargon as a step in the right direction and Charlie scolds him for using the term “the industry.”

Vexed by all of the external forces crowding around him, Kaufman unintentionally writes himself into the screenplay of The Orchid Thief. Now, with himself intertwined with Orlean and Laroche, and his agent nagging him to complete the screenplay, Kaufman seeks the help of his brother to get to the middle of the story and discover the chaotic intricacies of the Orlean-Laroche relationship.

As if the story behind this story isn’t enough for anyone to admit pure originality on behalf of Kaufman, there’s the vision of director Spike Jonze to contend with.

Once again Jonze has found the angle for audiences to laugh at the pathetic realities of the timid Kaufman and yet sympathize with his plight as a writer to whom things come with much difficulty. His use of gray and shaded light are as evident here, in his sophomore effort, as they were in Being John Malkovich. Yet he is not afraid to let the sun shine through and assure the audience that brighter days are ahead for the film’s protagonist who drives off with the first chords of The Turtles’ “Happy Together.”

Carter Burwell, whose previous experience includes working with the Coen Brothers, composed the remainder of the soundtrack. His harmonic tunes and romantic compositions put the audience at ease yet make it easy for them to be immersed in the emotions of Kaufman throughout the film. But it is Jonze who throws all this together to create a film that is entertaining, chaotic and, in a way, truthful all at once. Long gone is the man who directed such video classics as “Buddy Holly,” “Sabotage” and “Praise You.” Here is a composer, in his own right, whose vision has not gone unnoticed.

Adaptation took home the awards for best supporting actress (Streep) and Best Supporting Actor (Cooper) at the Golden Globe Awards so look out for it at the Oscars.

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SNL’s Dean Edwards headlined a stand-up comedy show in the SEC Theater.

Various open mic nights, but reached his pinnacle of success when he was presented with two shows that wanted to recruit him: MadTV and SNL.

After careful consideration, he chose the latter.

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Writer, Susan Orlean (Meryl Streep) chats on the phone with John Laroche (Chris Cooper), the star of her book, in the film Adaptation.

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Toula Portokalos (Nia Vardalos) and Ian Miller laugh about surviving their families during their wedding, in the film My Big Fat Greek Wedding.

By Lacey Korevec
Assistant Features Editor

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