

DAVE GOLDSTEIN

8.30 p.m today • Jack Baker's Lobster Shanty • Wharfside Patio Bar, 81-83 Chanel Drive, Point Pleasant Beach • (732) 899-6700 • www.wharfsidenj.com

CRUSTACEOUS COMEDY

'Naked cop' Dave Goldstein makes humans laugh and lobsters nervous

STAND-UP

By **ED KAZI**
Comedy Correspondent

Dave Goldstein's comic star is on the rise, thanks in no small part from his exposure on Conan O'Brien's show. And friend, when I say exposure, I mean that literally. Sensing the nation's need for more naked law enforcement officers, Goldstein stepped up and assumed the career-defining role of the naked cop directing traffic in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Jersey native was quick to point out the rigorous preparation he had to undergo: "Of course, a lot of abdominal and core work. High protein, low fat and carbohydrates," Goldstein explained. "Mostly, though, just a complete and utter lack of embarrassment and self-awareness at standing in front of one of the world's great museums on Fifth Avenue in New York City in nothing but a cop hat, socks, shoes and a flesh-colored Speedo."

A more modestly attired Goldstein can be found tonight at Jack Baker's Lobster Shanty Wharfside Patio Bar in Point Pleasant.

ED KAZI: Dave! This is big news! You're going to be the audience warm-up guy for Drew Carey's new game-show pilot for CBS! I've never warmed an audience up. Can you give me some tips?

GOLDSTEIN: Well, actually, we'll see. It's exciting. I did the warm-up the day we shot the first two pilots that CBS looked at, but it's been a little up in the air about the schedule for the rest of the season. It's a tough gig. You don't have time to get in a flow. Basically, whenever there's a break in the filming, for even a few minutes, it's the warm-up guy's job to get on set and try to keep the audience occupied while cameras are reset, lights are lighted, and the host has his make up buffed. After a



four-hour taping, you've exhausted every improv bone in your body.

KAZI: You're playing Jack Baker's Wharfside Patio Bar tonight. Will you also be warming up the lobsters?

GOLDSTEIN: If by warming up the lobsters, you mean will I be eating all the lobster I can possibly hold, then yes, I'll be warming up the lobsters. And the potato salad.

KAZI: Can people laugh while they're eating lobsters? Do you have any concerns?

GOLDSTEIN: I'm hoping we start the show once people are done eating. Drunks I can handle, but gluttons are tough.

KAZI: Laurel and Hardy or Abbott and Costello?

GOLDSTEIN: Pryor and Wilder.

KAZI: At what age did you realize you were funny?

GOLDSTEIN: Somewhere around 12, but I went to camp and grew up with a lot of really funny people, so it didn't seem that unusual. I thought every kid sat at home with a tub of barbecue chips listening to Bill Cosby and Steve Martin albums.

KAZI: Who or what influenced you to become a comedian?

GOLDSTEIN: I'm not exactly sure. I guess like most comics, the satisfaction of pleasing family and friends just isn't enough. I've got to please 500 strangers on a dock in Point Pleasant, New Jersey.

KAZI: Do you remember the first joke you ever told onstage?

DAVE GOLDSTEIN: No, but it was either something about phone sex or the Revolutionary War. I'm very well read.

KAZI: What is the absolute worst gig you ever had?

DAVE GOLDSTEIN: Birmingham, Alabama. The club is beautiful and huge, but luckily for me, Birmingham's most popular comic just happened to have some time off, so they thought, "What a great idea, let's have him go up before the Jewish guy from West New York, New Jersey." At the end of his set, he rammed his fist in the air and said, "Don't let nobody tell you different. I'm proud to be a Southern man." I remember just sitting in the green room thinking, "I'm dead."

KAZI: What is the absolute best gig you ever had?

GOLDSTEIN: Doing the Count Basie Theatre last year with Dennis Miller in front of 1,500 people has got to be right up there. Plus, the biggest Yenta I know, my buddy who's a chiropractor here at the Shore, happened to be at the show. By the time I was done, he'd already called everybody we knew. I couldn't have scripted it better.

KAZI: At what point in your life did you think to yourself, "Hey! I can make a living doing this?"

GOLDSTEIN: I'm just in it for the lobster.

E-mail AsburyKaz@aol.com