

# Comedian loves radio, writing and funny bone

By JANICE BRADBEER

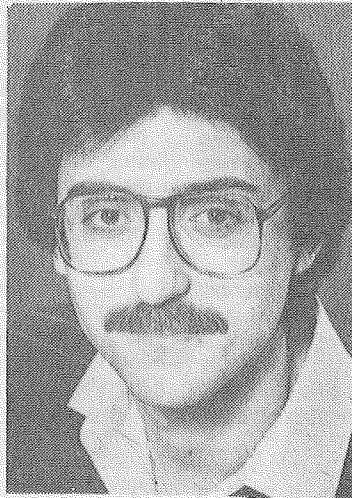
What is a Larry Fedoruk? The comedian and radio disc jockey must have pondered his existence at one time or another. In one of his pieces of promotional literature, he takes a stab at filling one's head full of laughter and an explanation: "A new brand of Ukrainian hat, an insult in a Slavic tongue, or the sound a balloon makes when you let the air out of it really quickly," is the way he comically describes a Larry Fedoruk, adding, "One could definitely answer, 'I don't know.'"

The public may not know that the 29-year-old Mississauga resident exists, but Fedoruk is doing his best to change all that.

He has just completed a stint at the well-known comic club Yuk Yuk's, at 1280 Bay Street in Toronto. That will be his third feature as a regular, having headlined there for over 2½ years. Fedoruk has also tried his luck as a stand-up comedian at other clubs, including Yuk Yuk's in Montreal, the Funny Bone and Alister's in Toronto, and the King Edward Hotel in Guelph.

The former Winnipeg resident who moved to Mississauga three years ago, "because we were told that it was more like Winnipeg than any part of Toronto. It was more open and greener," is sharpening his comedy regularly to keep from rusting.

You can listen to Fedoruk's clear, crisp voice (that still manages to sound soft to the eardrums) on the well-known AM rock station, 680 CFTR, three times a week, 1 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Friday and on his special call-in show on



**Larry Fedoruk works at CFTR as well as writing comedy skits and performing at places such as Yuk Yuk's in Toronto, where he has just finished his third appearance as a stand-up comedian. His routine includes jokes about marriage and "Ukrainians who make fun of Ukrainians."**

Saturday night from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., where listeners phone in to "tell outrageous stories and make dedications."

Fedoruk enjoys the chance to kid around with the listeners, play some music and says that "radio keeps your act and material tight," something he needs to know for the stand-up comedy business.

He also enjoys writing comic material for other DJs in Toronto, Cincinnati and Boston. "All the material I write that doesn't fit into my act I can sell to others," he explains.

Comedy has been as natural to

Fedoruk as breathing. He grew up alongside Saskatchewan's wheat and even then he joked as a kid and fooled around in school. It came so naturally to him, the fact was that he never thought of himself as comical until someone pointed it out to him at one of the radio stations he worked at.

He worked in Winnipeg for four years and it was while doing a morning show at CKRC that he wrote and performed in stage shows, including one called *Beer and Skits*. Getting his taste of comedy on stage, Fedoruk decided that he wanted to try his hand as a stand-up comedian.

Walking into CKRC one morning, he quit. "I didn't know that I was going to quit the morning I went to work. I had wanted to quit for a long time and I thought that today would be a good day," he explains jokingly.

He called his wife (who worked at the same station), told her the news, and before no time at all they were headed out east with a U-Haul trailer in tow.

That was three years ago and Fedoruk has been plugging it out in the comedy business ever since. Not that he doesn't find it easy; but to listen to him, he never expected it to be.

"I still have stage fright, with butterflies in my stomach. It stays through the first few jokes, until, hopefully, the audience responds," he says.

"You have to be in control," he adds. "The audience has to play your game instead of you playing theirs. Some nights you die and other nights are so good that you expect Johnny Carson to call you; and then maybe the next night you die again."

Fedoruk says that his comedy routine includes jokes about being married (he has two children, a girl three years old and a boy, seven months, of whom he speaks warmly); being Ukrainian ("I make fun of Ukrainians who make fun of Ukrainians"); and "just being," he says.

It was probably the fact that his work is light and "very, very clean" that led him to perform in Kitchener a few months ago to 2,500 members of the Golden Age Travel Club, who were over the age of 65.

"They loved it," Fedoruk says happily, adding that, "They were great people. One woman came up to me and said that she didn't want to laugh harder because she might have another heart attack."

He says this with concern, reflecting a quiet side that often leaves people surprised when he tells them that he's in comedy.

"Somebody said that there are two types of clowns. One happy and one sad," says Fedoruk. Although he doesn't know which one he is, he confesses to being a moody, and kind of quiet, but generally happy person.

Part of his happiness can be traced to the fact that he is doing the three things that he enjoys most — radio, comedy and writing. Offering up someone else's wisdom once more as an example, he says. "You might as well enjoy what you're doing. You're going to be working more than not."

In the meantime, in between his musical loves, he will be enjoying another trio — his family life in his newly bought townhouse in Mississauga.