

Students try comedy improv

New performance group will tentatively have weekly comedy improvisations

Katie Curry
for the Index

Truman students soon might find themselves getting tagged with comedic variety.

A group of students is forming a new improvisational comedy at Truman called TAG.

"TAG's a fun word," sophomore J.C. Scholfield said. "It kind of implies what we actually do. It's a simple game where you just pass it along to one another. It's not a planned game, so you can change it."

Scholfield, who heads the group, said he hopes to have comedy performances every Thursday night from 8 to 9:30 p.m. He said the performances would showcase a variety of comedic talents.

"I wanted to make an improv comedy group that you would say looks like 'Whose Line is it Anyway?' but that's just because that's what improv comedy looks like," Scholfield said. "But also we want to have some sketch comedy there with some stand-up too."

Scholfield said he thinks Truman needs more entertaining on-campus activities during weeknights and believes TAG can fill that void.

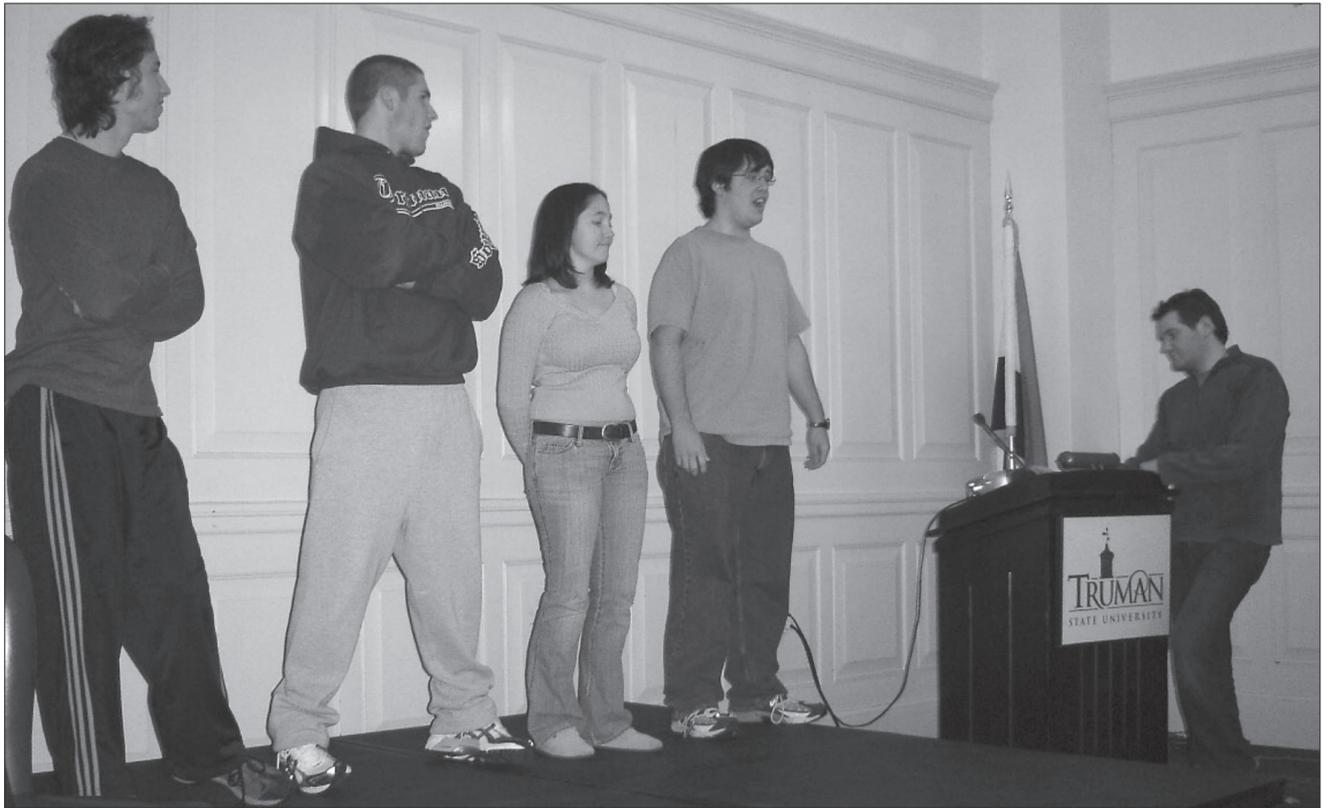
"People always go crazy for the comedians here," Scholfield said. "But even if no one showed up, I'd still want to do it, though it helps that other people might laugh."

Scholfield said he is looking for people who aren't afraid to take risks on stage to be potential performers in TAG.

"There's no limit in improv," Scholfield said. "If we can find a unique group of people that can challenge themselves every second they are on stage, that would be my ultimate hope."

TAG had tryouts Dec. 2 in the SUB Alumni Room, and about 15 potential candidates ran through four different types of improvisational situations to test their comedic abilities, including musical improvisational skits and improv using props.

"It's about how you can respond under the pressure, how funny-on-the-fly, how witty can you be when we just throw this at you," Scholfield said.



Sophomore J.C. Scholfield leads a group of students in a game called Ho-Down during the tryouts for the new comedy improv group, TAG, on Dec. 2 in the SUB Alumni Room. Nick Corich/Index

Although only a few will get to perform, Scholfield said TAG will offer several levels of membership, so anyone could be involved. About 10 will perform regularly and have office positions. Other active members would help the group practice and generate ideas for performances. Also, Scholfield said fans of the group who didn't necessarily want to perform could become associate members and would receive information about the group through e-mails and newsletters.

"We want people that like TAG to be part of it still, not just watch us," Scholfield said.

Right now Scholfield is financing everything, but he said a cover charge will

never exist for TAG. It will accept donations at performances, however, which will go to advertisements for the group and refreshments at performances.

Freshman Clint Worthington, one of TAG's founding members, said he hopes TAG brings something to the campus that Truman students need.

"I think it's important to laugh at life," he said. "Having a good sense of humor is really important, and it's a plus if you have an extra sense of wit and come up with stuff on the fly. I'm not saying that I or the other members of TAG have that, but at least now there is an outlet for people to do that."

Worthington said it was important they find just the right kind of people to help accomplish these goals.

"The main two factors are that you have to be able to think funny and think fast," Worthington said. "If we have people who are just going to freeze up and have that awkward silence, it's

not going to make for an entertaining show."

The biggest factor for the group's success, however, will be if it manages to generate an audience, Worthington said.

"Our success will depend greatly on people showing up," Worthington said. "If a lot of people show up, and a lot of people participate and cheer us on, it will inspire us to keep going. Hopefully it will end up being a good thing that everyone can enjoy."

Sophomore Brian Kaelble tried out for the group.

"I did a little improv, a small summer class, and it was kind of fun," Kaelble said. "I just came here to see what was going on."

Kaelble said he felt good about his experience with the group.

"I like to laugh, and I hope to have fun with this," Kaelble said. "I was nervous at first, but they seem like a friendly group of people."

TAG

What: Comedy improv group

Formed by:
Sophomore
J.C. Scholfield

Tentative performances:
8 to 9:30 p.m.
every
Thursday night

Why: Scholfield said he wanted an improv and sketch comedy group at Truman

INDEX Classifieds 660-785-4319

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Announcement

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