

ENTERTAINMENT: Sunnyvale supervisors bring stand-up show to 19 on Park

Out of the trailer park and headed for Stouffville

BY JIM MASON
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The Trailer Park Boys may not have been everyone's cup of tea. Make that tumbler of rum and Coke.

Or maybe they were? And still are. Whitchurch-Stouffville finds out two weeks from tonight when the trailer park supervisor from the TV show/movies, Jim Lahey (John Dunsworth), and his assistant, Randy Bobandy (Patrick Roach), roll into the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park. It's a fundraiser for WhiStle Radio.

If you're not a fan, Mr. Lahey is bisexual, an ex-cop and often appears drunk in fictional Sunnyvale Trailer Park on the show. Randy, the lover of all things cheeseburger, is his boss' male lover. He's far from svelte but always shirtless.

The show, which ran from 2001-08 on Showcase, was packed with profanity, marijuana-growing, shoplifting and other criminal activity. Yet, it was a hit with everyone from lawyers to small children. Still is.

"We pander to the lowest common denominator - which is everybody," Mr. Dunsworth said before a show in northern British Columbia earlier this month.

It was another in a line of sell-outs at taverns and community centres across the land.

And the critics?
"There are so many more vile things out there," he said. "And there really are people out there like (Randy and Mr. Lahey). A little bit of us isn't that bad."

Thanks to international syndication, the phenomenon grows. A show at Massey Hall featuring other stars of the series this year drew a large number of Americans, who are seeing the show for first time on cable.

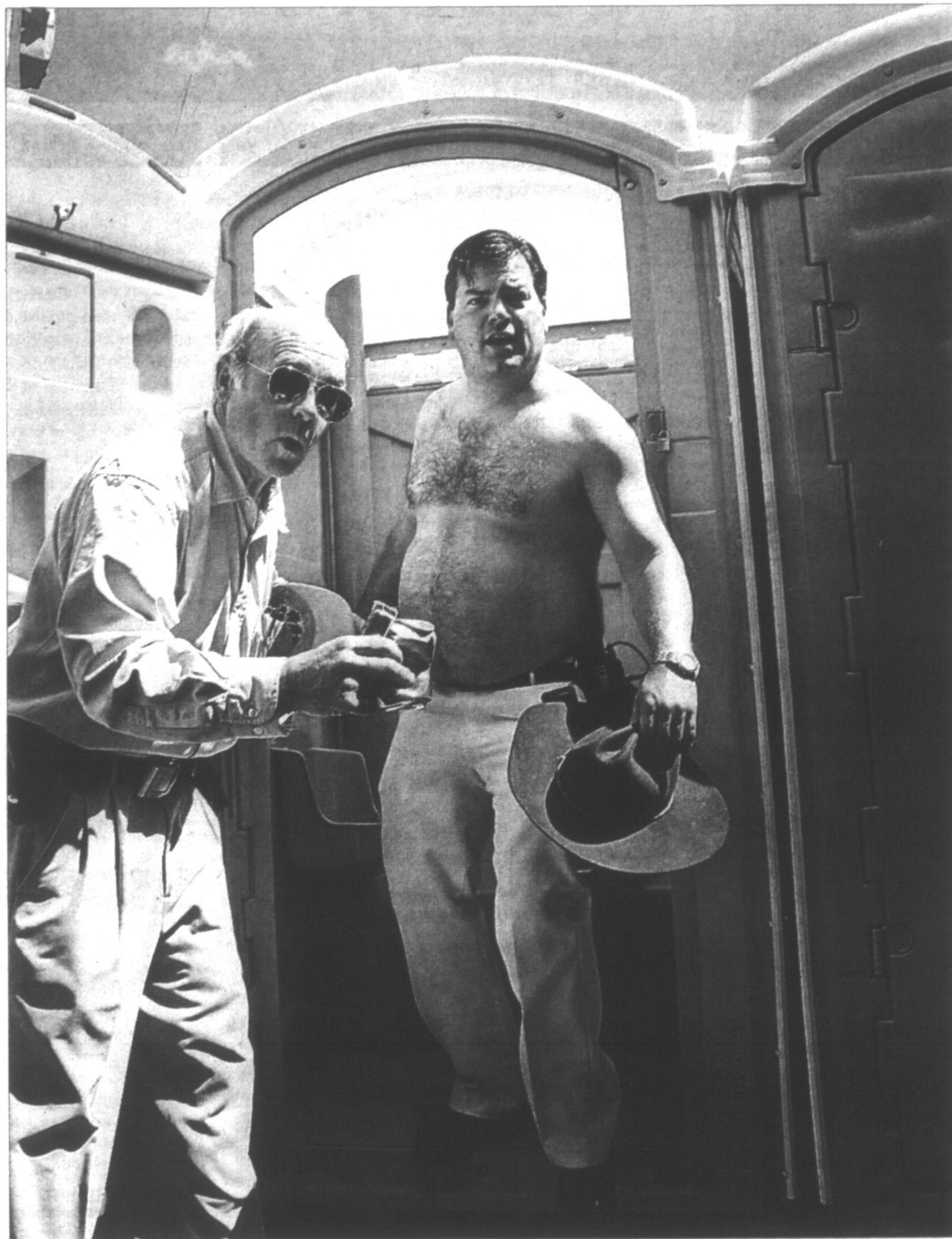
"And up here, it's playing endlessly on Showcase," he said. "We get people bragging about how many times they've seen an episode. It's really incredible."

It's not uncommon for 30 youngsters to line up outside a show's venue for autographs.

"Of course they can't get into the show, but we come and talk to them," Mr. Dunsworth said. "They are the future."

Mr. Dunsworth "always wanted to see all of Canada".

"Now, I've seen every corner of it in the last five years touring," he



Mr. Lahey and sidekick Randy of Trailer Park Boys fame appear at Nineteen on the Park on April 29.

said. "On tour, I watch and Randy drives."

It's hard to separate character from actor, save for the expletives that fly when Mr. Lahey enters the

conversation.

For the record, Mr. Dunsworth rarely drinks. But if someone offers him a shooter during a performance, he'll down it.

"Can't disappoint the troops, but I think I'm naturally high all the time."

"And I don't want to be the poster boy for alcoholics."

That leads Mr. Dunsworth into a rant against the binge drinking by young people he sees too often on the road.

During the interview, he railed against casinos ("Little old ladies spending their RSP money"), *Avatar* ("biggest hoax ever"), the war on drugs, gasoline prices, 3D TV, the growing rift between the haves and have-nots in Canada and the lack of credit the show got for Canada winning the gold medal in men's hockey at the Vancouver Olympics.

"Sidney Crosby is from Cole Harbour, which is where Sunnyvale was located," he said. "Ricky (another star of the show) taught him every dirty trick he knows."

Married for 40 years, Mr. Dunsworth has four children and lives in Nova Scotia across the bay from Peggy's Cove.

A one-time NDP candidate, he works with granite and sails when not playing the role of Lahey.

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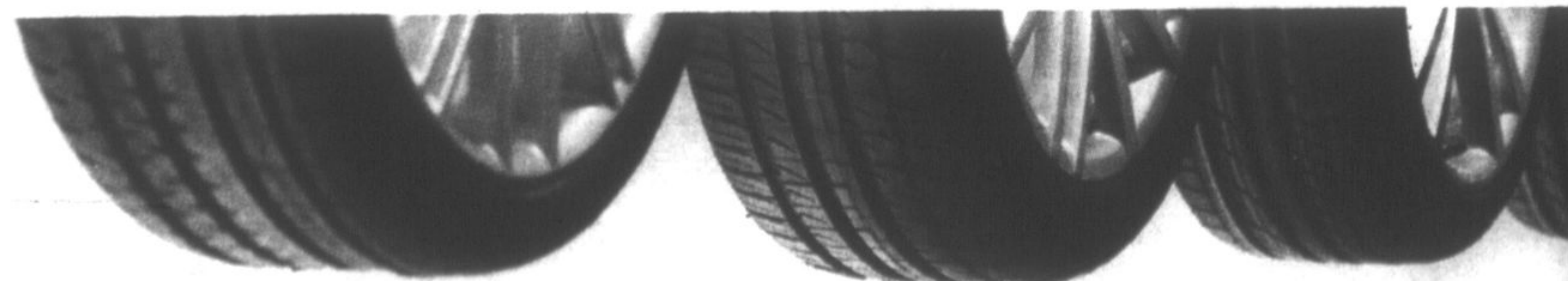
He's worked regional theatre and is anxious to get a look at year-old Nineteen on the Park.

Fans could end up on stage themselves at the Stouffville show. Audience participation is encouraged.

So are props. Mr. Lahey has been sporting "a pope hat" at recent shows.

In Winnipeg last weekend, Randy and Mr. Lahey locked and handcuffed an escape artist in a vat full of beer at a fundraiser for the local food bank. He escaped.

Randy and Mr. Lahey perform on April 29 at 8 p.m. at Nineteen on the Park. Tickets are \$35 and \$28 (standing room) and are available at the box office or by calling 416-735-4496. For more information, go to townofws.com/Nineteen.asp



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