



A college tradition: studying with David

Many a Late Night spent with Dave

By MARY COX
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Late Night with David Letterman has saved many of my nights when my dates were boring. I've gone out with a couple of guys who were about as romantic as Larry 'Bud' Melman himself. On these 'nights of delight,' I'd just lay on the floor in front of the TV, pretending to be asleep while I was really watching David Letterman. While my date planted his exciting self on my couch, I would laugh silently at all of David's so-stupid-you-just-have-to-laugh jokes.

That's when I discovered David Letterman was sort of attractive. Seriously, he's a heck of a lot cuter than some of the dates I've had in the past. The gap between his teeth doesn't even bother me so much. I would gladly trade some of the Larry 'Bud's' in my life for a man who has such a quick wit with a small orthodontic problem.

One thing about the show is that it seems like everybody has so much fun. Some of the things that go on are such nonsense, but you can't help but laugh. Apparently, Late Night

keeps lots of other people laughing, too. In 1984, the show's writers were honored with an Emmy for Outstanding Writing in a Variety or Music Program. And ol' Dave has won three himself. High ratings are also something for the cast of the show to brag about. In a recent survey, college students were recorded as one of the show's largest audiences. Does that mean that there's lots of us out there that prefer David's humor to that of our dates?

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David Letterman has hosted this show for over four years, and he's done about 500 original shows. Letterman's ad-libbing keeps the show going strong. One of his favorite segments on the show is "Stupid Pet Tricks." With two dogs of his own, Bob and Stan, David says he really loves pets.

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How do they get their pet guests? The same way they get a lot of the people for their "Stupid Human Tricks" segment — they advertise in the New York area newspapers. The ad for the stupid pets reads, "Have you taught your pet to do something odd?" What a question. The first ad for the

stupid humans asked the reader if he could do something odd. Of course, that ad had to be rewritten because of all the obscene phone calls they got. It now says, "Can you do a unique trick?"

While the show hosts lots of weirdos, they do have an impressive list of "normal" type entertainers. In 1984, they had guests like: Bill Cosby, Bob Dylan, Burt Reynolds, Robin Wil-

liams, Phil Donahue, Cyndi Lauper, Brooke Shields, Jane Pauley, Jane Curtin, George Carlin, Lily Tomlin, Liberace, Bob and Ray, and Boy George.

It doesn't matter if the guests are funny or not. David will outwit anybody. And most of the time if the guests get too funny, David has a way of making them look dumb.

The Host of Humor just celebrated his 38th birthday this month. David graduated from Ball State University in Indiana

cane, he congratulated the storm on being promoted. The station manager didn't think it was as funny as David did.

In 1975, David made his debut at the Comedy Store in Los Angeles. Then, he appeared on his first network television show on the "Mary" series, starring Mary Tyler Moore. He has blessed Johnny Carson with his presence 17 times on "The Tonight Show" and he's been the guest host 50 times. "The David Letterman Show" won David two of his Emmy's but the NBC bigwigs thought David needed a later time slot for his antics. Thus, the story of Late Night's David Letterman.

This smartassed, low-keyed guy handles his success with modesty. He had this to say about his show's popularity:

"I think things are going better than I would have guessed they would be going three years into it," he says. "I know the network as a whole is doing better, and I think that helps everybody. And then maybe we've just worn people down to the point where they say 'Oh, all right, we'll watch the damn show.'" ♪