

Coroner by day, club manager by night

Two jobs keep man happy

By VIRGINIA MARSHALL
Staff Writer

Imagine telling a little girl her father has just died in a car wreck, knowing several people will be sad over his death. Then, imagine dealing with a comedian later that evening, knowing he will make a whole audience happy that night.

This is what Charlie Vassy, a Richland County coroner and manager of The Punchline Comedy Club on Harden Street, chooses to do with his life while still managing to stay happy and keep his sense of humor.

"You can let it stress you out or take on the challenge," Vassy said.

Although "spare time is a joke" and he rarely gets more than three hours of sleep a night, Vassy finds both jobs equally rewarding.

"Comedy is excellent medicine, especially because of people's anxiety over things going on in the world," Vassy said.

As a coroner, Vassy sees the anxiety people experience from

death. Seeing other people's problems has made him thankful for the life he has led.

"I've lived the most perfect life I could ever want," Vassy said. He feels all his happiness relates back to "love and stability in the home."

Since Coroner Frank Baron gave Vassy a job in December 1988, he has felt the biggest challenge is dealing with other families and letting them know of a death.

"If it's in your heart, you know what to do," Vassy said. "It's the most awful thing in the world to witness that much pain."

Perhaps this is what makes him "genuine," as described by a Punchline employee. "He's everybody's friend," said Kris Tomsic, a former USC student and Punchline employee.

As for The Punchline, Vassy finds another family needing his attention. He comes home to his employees, not just the evening show.

"He really cares about his em-

ployees and will do anything for them. He's the best boss you could ever have," said Lynn Roberts, a USC junior.

Vassy got a job with The Punchline through friends on May 7, 1983, when only 70 professional comedy clubs were in the United States. "Now there's one on every corner," Vassy said.

Since then, The Punchline has helped make Vassy a "workaholic."

"It came close to burning me out and would if it weren't for the people here," Vassy said.

Vassy can remember a situation when his two jobs conflicted. He felt it inappropriate to wear a particular Punchline t-shirt when he arrived to pick up the body of a boy who committed suicide. "I put on a coat to cover it up," Vassy said.

Aside from two time-consuming jobs, Vassy also finds time to work as an electrical contractor at Forest Acres in Columbia. At 37 years old, Vassy has not decided which job he will

choose to devote his full-time, but he plans to choose eventually.

Even though Vassy has three jobs, making money is not his main concern in life.

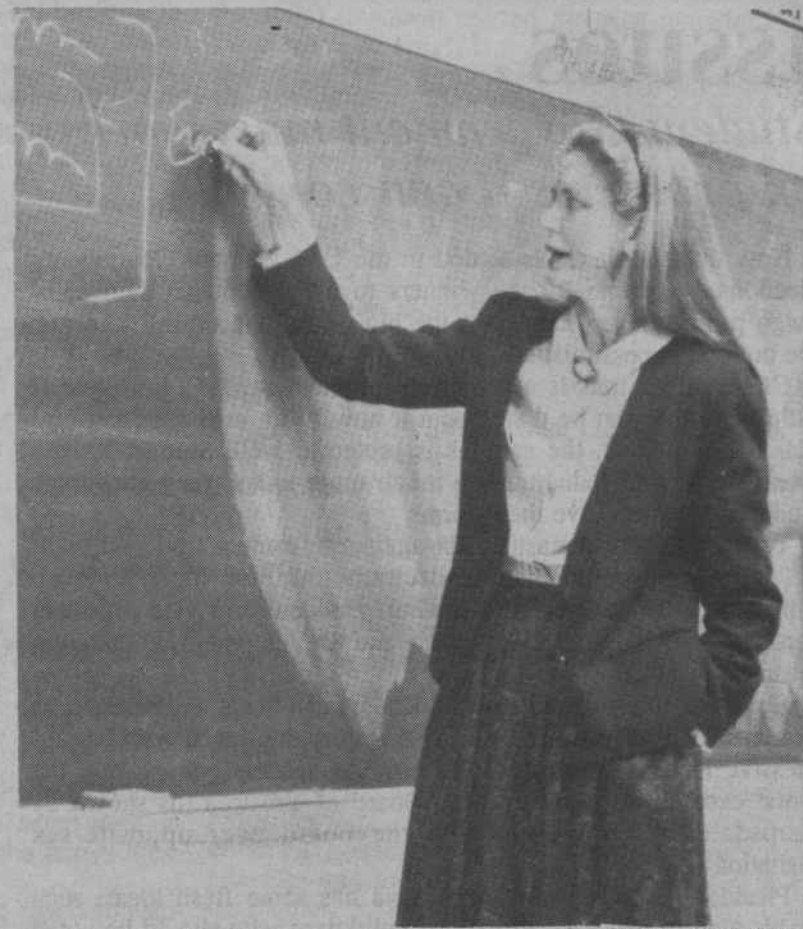
"I measure someone's wealth by the measure of their happiness," Vassy said. This philosophy is evident in his choice of idols; Walt Disney and Sam Walton, owner of the Wal-mart chain.

He believes Disney was a genius for making so many people happy, and even though he met failure, he never quit trying.

"Think about what the world would be like without fairy tales," Vassy said.

He respects Walton for remembering "the simple things in life" even though he is a billionaire. Vassy takes pride in driving a pick-up truck as does his idol, Walton.

"I hate Donald Trump. I am light-years happier than he is," Vassy said.



Eric Glenn/The Gamecock

Dr. Jan Love, a GINT professor, will be featured in an NBC documentary about faith around the world.

Professor's work featured on NBC

By NICOLE SUBRIZI
Staff Writer

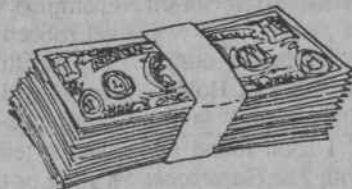
An NBC news crew followed government and international studies professor Janice Love from the capital of Australia to the capital of South Carolina for a documentary on the World Council on Churches.

NBC will broadcast this documentary May 19 at noon as part of its religious programming. It will be a 60-minute piece entitled "The Face of All the Earth."

Although the NBC documentary is about the council, it will focus specifically on the social justice aspect. Love played a primary role in this area during the Seventh Assembly as co-moderator of the council's justice and service unit. NBC wanted to talk to her to profile someone involved in social justice.

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