

Comedy

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they remember.
Senior Danielle Ramirez said the vocabulary test jokes were always a big hit with the students.

"Every Friday that's what we would look forward to is the vocabulary tests," she said.

Ramirez remembers hearing Moore tell jokes about how boys dance, and McCraw always liked his jokes about being a boxer named Johnny the Piñata — he claims to have a record of 0-4-1, with his one draw coming against his wife.

Comedy and teaching have a lot of similarities, Moore said, and he still uses some of the lessons he learned doing stand-up. If he feels his students slipping away and getting disinterested he asks them questions, much like a comedian does with his audience.

If his students are losing interest in class, telling a joke often gets their attention, Moore said. McCraw and Ramirez say you can always tell when Moore is going to tell

a joke, because his lips start moving while he's thinking about it.

Teaching a lesson plan involves much of the same timing that comedy requires, Moore said, and if he gets interrupted while he's talking to his students, Moore thinks his days as a comedian help him keep his focus.

"I think comedy helped me that way," Moore said. "Any time you're standing up in front of an audience, you've got to be an entertainer. Somehow, you've got to interest them."

It has been years since Moore has gone on stage to do a comedy routine at a club. Over the holidays he sometimes does comedy at company parties. Recently, he got an opportunity to showcase his skills as an emcee at a student talent show.

"Every once in a while somebody hands you a microphone, wants you to be funny," Moore said.

Moore recalls that Jerry Seinfeld — a comedian who

greatly influenced him — once said that comedians don't really take the time to laugh. They just say, "That's funny."

But that hasn't happened to Moore, he said. Nowadays the former comic prefers to let other people make him laugh, such as his students or his three daughters.

"It's so pure and honest. It's a lot better than when someone's trying to make you laugh," Moore said.

Every once in a while Moore still writes down jokes as if he's preparing for a show, but he doesn't know if he'll ever actually do stand-up again. The preparation is a lot of work, and he devotes most of his time to his job and family.

But Moore said he wouldn't mind doing a little comedy again at some point if he had the time for it.

"I would do it, probably here and there. I would jump at it, really," Moore said. "It's one of those things you never want to let go of completely."



English teacher John Moore reviews Cristian Valdez's notes during class.

KIMBERLY RYAN
NEWS-SUN

Pink Ladies

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year. The auxiliary donates money made from the vending machines and the hospital's gift to nonprofit organizations and provide nursing scholarships.

"The Pink Ladies and Red Men always bring a smile, caring and friendliness. They're very helpful. They give completely from their hearts. They volunteer their time to make the patients experience a better one," said Dave Trudell, director of business development at Lea Regional Medical Center.

Pullings became a Pink Lady after her friend Billie Watson invited Pullings to come volunteer at the hospital 10 years ago. Watson, who was a Pink

Lady at Good Samaritan, showed her the ropes.

"I felt like it was something I could do," the 73-year-old Hobbs woman said. "Once you get 70, people think you're senile and opt to sit in a rocking chair, but this is something I can do where I feel like I'm contributing."

There are many perks of being a Pink Lady or Red Man, Pullings said, claiming the hospital spoils them. The hospital grills them in patient privacy, but they are given a free lunch when they work.

Pullings said she enjoys the hugs from the doctors and residents who come to the hospital. She and her fellow Pink Ladies visit with patients and

buy gifts at the gift shop for the newborns.

"The people you see like to see a smile. I like being with the other Pink Ladies. It's like visiting with sisters," she said about why she volunteers. "We welcome anyone. We have three different places where you could fit in."

The only payment Pullings and her fellow Pink Ladies receive are the pins they wear on a blue ribbon below their name tags. A gold star means 100 hours. Once they get five stars, they turn it in for a bar. Last year Pullings volunteered 300 hours.

"We love the work. It's our way of contributing to the community," she said.



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