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Hello and welcome to my blog, Seriously Funny.

My name is Patrick Hanks, and I am a senior studying Communication at the University of Washington. This is my first year going to classes on campus at UW as I am a transfer student and the last year was all online due to a little thing I'm sure you've heard about called the COVID-19 pandemic. My first years as a college student were at Bellevue College. I did not join any clubs or partake in many school activities due to living at home and having long commute times back and forth between school. So, this year I've decided I need to get out and socialize in order to blitz through some of those classic college experiences I've missed out on.

The purpose of this blog will be for me to process my participating in the UW Comedy Club. What is this club about? It's about standup comedy. Does that mean you will perform stand up? Yes it does. Have you ever done stand up before? There's a first time for everything.

Little interesting fact, one of people's greatest fear is public speaking. Getting up in front of crowd and speaking terrifies most people. I remember having that same terror as a child. But I was a young Mormon kid so my parents forced me to suck it up and get up to the pulpit and say my little part in the children's program. Then it was giving talks as a teenager. In school I had to take drama class and perform in a play. My teacher told us to image members of the crowd in their underwear. But, once again I was Mormon and that seemed very sinful, so I didn't do that. Somewhere along the way the fear turned into a sick pleasure where you're nervous as hell before but then you crave the high it gives you after.

Many people have probably watched standup comedy before and thought “that was nice”. I’m the person whose insane enough to standup and think “hey I could do that”. So, why not give it a go? Once I graduate I hope to make a career in creative writing for film and television and hopefully act as well. I think some of the funniest and most talented writers are those that have experience performing live. It helps you fine tune a sense of what regular people find funny and how to build and execute a joke. So, that’s my reason for joining Comedy Club; to practice writing and performing. There’s also that socializing and making friends stuff, but we’re still in a pandemic and the Seattle Freeze is colder than ever so let’s not be unrealistic.

Last week I was able to perform a small set I made about Awareness Months/Weeks/Days and “community”. This post is already fairly long, so I won’t go into detail, but I was really happy with how it turned out. The takeaway from the meeting came from a fellow club member who said the jokes we laugh the hardest at when writing always end up getting the least laughs. I think there is an element of truth to that. The best laughter I got was from a joke I thought people wouldn’t laugh at. Perhaps I will do an extra post to go into more depth about that meeting.

Stay tuned for next week. At this week’s meeting I will be doing a set on politics, and I’ve signed up for the club’s Halloween Comedy night on the 25th.

Comment your mother’s maiden name and your favorite childhood teacher below!

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