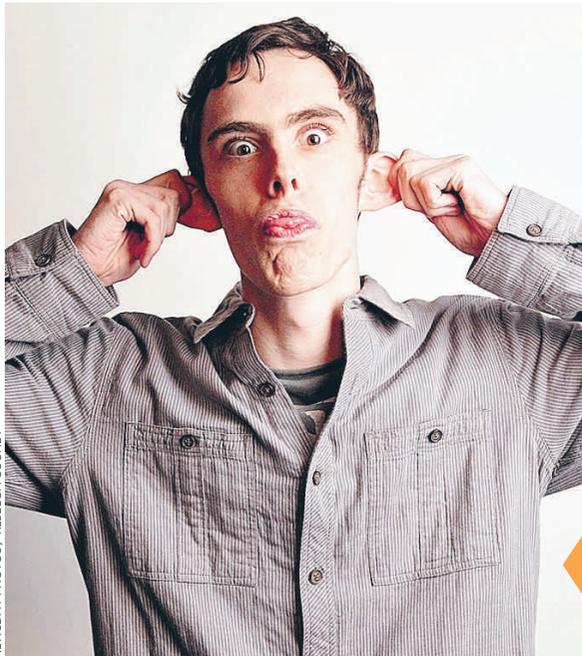


packing a punch line

LOCAL KIDS LEAVE 'EM LAUGHING

BY BETH WHITEHOUSE
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NEWSDAY PHOTOS / REBECCA COONEY

Lots of kids fancy themselves the “class clown.” These five Long Island kids go further — they perform stand-up comedy onstage. Most write their own five- to eight-minute kid-appropriate routines about growing up — high school gossip, Sweet 16s, wooing a boyfriend or girlfriend. This weekend, for instance, Conor Williams and Eric Kurn, high school sophomores from East Northport and Jericho, respectively, perform at Gotham Comedy Club’s “Kids ’N Comedy” event in Manhattan.

Here’s how the kids come up with material and their advice for budding comics:

PERFORMING SUNDAY

◀ **CONOR WILLIAMS, 16, EAST NORTHPORT**
Sophomore at Holy Trinity High School in Hicksville

Advice “Try to find the funniness in any situation.”

When Conor switched from public to Catholic school last year, he walked around with a paper and pen taking notes. One joke revolves around a school rule that boys can’t grow hair past their shoulders or have any facial hair. “Have they seen a picture of Jesus?” he says during his act. Conor is currently contemplating spoofing Sweet 16s. “It should be a topic ripe with material.” But don’t be afraid to poke fun at yourself, he says.

◀ **ERIC KURN, 15, JERICHO**
Sophomore at Jericho High School

Advice “Join a class like Kids ’N Comedy, which helps kids craft an act.”

Kurn watched Comedy Central on TV and was hooked. “Some kids watch a rock concert and say, ‘I want to be a rock star.’ I liked the idea of getting up onstage and making people laugh.”

WHAT Kids ’N Comedy
WHERE | WHEN 1 p.m.
Sunday at Gotham
Comedy Club, 208 W.
23rd St., Manhattan
INFO \$15 a person, plus
one-item minimum;
212-877-6115,
kidsncomedy.com

He’s working on a new act that includes his community-service efforts during a summer camp program in Hawaii. The hardest part of hoping to do stand-up as a career: “It’s hard to convince your mom ‘Doctor might not be it.’”

