

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Sai Ranade's FOB humor on new CD

Houston's first desi standup comedian, Dr. Saldas Ranade, has released the third CD of his comedy routine called *Sai Ranade is FOB*.

The 33-minute CD shows Ranade at his irreverent best as he takes pot shots at various Indian regional groups like the Maharashtrians, Punjabis, Gujaratis, Bengalis, Telugus and others. Some of the material is fresh and is made up mostly of clips from his performances before various groups.

Ranade does have a cynical, comical way of looking at ordinary things. ("I won't catch the attention of the Telugus unless I mention that it is an outsourcing conference!")

"India and the U.S. have a lot in common... both are democracies, both were former British colonies... both have convenience store clerks... But in India some store of them speak English."

Ranade says his English accent once caused the "closure" of DFW airport. Officer Ashcroft thought his accent was "suspicious"

"You guessed right," he says of his accent. "It is from the west coast ... of India."

His jokes in the 11 tracks take swipes at a variety of issues. "As a chemical engineer I got laid off so often that I think companies should have drills before they lay people off... they should be called



*Sai Ranade (right), Houston's "local global comedian," was one of the performers at "An Evening with Nick Lampson," a fund-raising event organized by Asian-Americans for Nick Lampson. The program, held on July 29 at the Phoenix Seafood Banquet Hall, was coordinated by Ling Luo and attended by about 150 people including Neeta Sane (Democratic Party candidate for Ford Bend County Treasurer), former councilman Gordon Quan, and Nick Lampson (second from right) who is the Democratic Candidate for the 22nd Congressional district. Others in the picture are Boyd Richie, Chairman of the Texas Democratic Party, and Ling Luo, the event organizer. Photo: Bryan Bankston*

'Fired Drills.' The alarm goes off, you hug each other and you leave."

A description of a visit to the doctor's office is hilarious. At the end, having waited for an hour because he is told "someone will be with you shortly," Ranade sees the doctor who finishes the job in seconds. When leaving, he is given a bill and he writes on the check "Someone will pay you shortly!"

Ranade, who holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Houston, is a two-time finalist in the Houston's Funniest Person competition and a

winner of Ed McMahon's Next Big Star Comedy Competition three years ago.

He has also participated in the Boston International Comedy Festival and has written spec-scripts for television situation comedies *Becker* and *King of the Hill*.

Ranade also has released two DVDs — a network-clean version called "Comique Sans Frontieres" and a cable-clean version called "Comedian without Borders." For a copy of the CD or to inquire about Ranade's live performances, visit [www.mirthmystic.com](http://www.mirthmystic.com).

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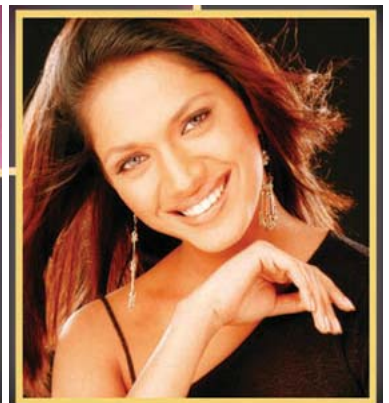
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