

A ONE-MAN SHOW

Self-styled 'party guy' blends humor with quizzadry

BY KEELY WEBSTER
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Life is just one party after another for Doug Sandler. He organizes parties, entertains at parties, under the name of D.J. Doug Fast Forward Entertainment — although he does more than spin disks. Sandler performs at corporate parties, but most often kids are Sandler's audience.

He has created a three-part program: One is his version of "Let's Make a Deal." Another he calls "High Energy." And the last he calls "Tricky Trivia." Sandler gets his ideas for the parties by asking a question such as, "How many kids have braces with removable rubberbands?" Or "how many girls have nuts in their stockings?"

Each person who responds gets a prize. High Energy is a game where the person with the highest score wins a prize. For the final portion, "Tricky Trivia," Sandler uses television and movie trivia, as well as trivia about the guest of honor which he asks by questioning the person knowing the party.

Sandler uses a lightboard controlled by switches that the contestants activate. When he asks a question, he hits the switch the person on the team who hits the switch the quickest will light up on the board. He tries to make the questions general enough that several people know the answer. "I don't want there to be only one winner," he says.

He began playing records in 1984 at the Straw Boss at the Holiday Inn in College Park.

"I feel sorry for the guy working 9-to-5 at a desk job," he says. Sandler transported equipment for other DJs for several years after he graduated from college in 1986. He then decided he wanted to be a DJ and bought \$2,500 worth of equipment in 1993 with the intention of working as a deejay.

But that only lasted for about a year. Sandler creates a rabbit with helping propel him into the party business. He was hired by his daughter's bat mitzvah and asked Sandler if he could do something. That's when Sandler created his program.

He may look like he's self-employed, but he has a boss: a boss named Fern, his wife. "Her name is Fern, that's my wife," Sandler says. Fern handles all the paperwork and scheduling.

"She's not my personal assistant, she's the president," Sandler says. For more information call Sandler at 410-581-9119 or e-mail him at DASandler@home.com.



STAFF PHOTO BY JEFF LEARD
Doug Sandler, of Owings Mills, is an entertainer for hire with his company D.J. Doug Fast Forward Entertainment. Although he does spin discs as a deejay, most of the three to four hours he works are organizing games, and usually at kids parties.