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TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA JUNE 8, 2007

Arts Week

PAID TO PARTY

"It's a great job. I couldn't think of a better one. You're in a party atmosphere every time you play. Chicks want to blow you."

Reverend Bob Levy loves doing comedy, there's no doubt about that, and although his theory regarding a comic's scoring potential is arguable, at best, it's a revealing look into the persona that's been headlining The Killers of Comedy tour. The show is a collection of employees and frequent guests of *The Howard Stern Show*, where Levy serves as the co-producer/host of their occasional but brutal roasts.

His first appearances on the show followed performances by KOC cohort Jim Florentine and then-producer KC Armstrong, and by then Levy already had a history with the other writers. In his early days in comedy, it was former *Stern* writer Jackie Martling who awarded Levy the title reverend. Why? "Because," Levy explained over the phone, "I was a filthy fuckin' pig, and

he wanted to call me the opposite of what I was doing onstage." I ask him what we should expect from The Killers show.

"It's one-liners. I don't take my time with shit. I get the audience very much involved with the show," he says.

"People don't even try to go to the bathroom during the show, because I will tackle them."

Florentine came to prominence when his helmet-wearing *Crank Yankers* character began hanging out with Eminem. His prankful *Meet the Creeps* DVDs are filled with ridiculous chuckles and have sold quite a few copies. A Comedy Central pilot for a *Meet the Creeps* show was shot, but didn't work out.

"With censorship being so crazy nowadays, it's just too hard," says Florentine. "I mean, I'm chasing protestors outside of abortion clinics with a coat hanger on these things. It's too crazy."

Even with forces aligning against his harsh humour, Florentine has achieved many of his goals in comedy.

“At first I just wanted people to come see me do stand-up. And now it's happening, which is great, because you can get away with a lot more stuff that way. They already know what you're about. It used to be when I had long hair, I'd come in, and people would fuckin' judge me – 'Who's this fuckin' scumbag?' Getting on *The Howard Stern Show* was one of the best moments in my career. I used to work on construction sites – I would listen to that guy all the time, it would get me through the day. I made this *Terrorizing Telemarketers* tape; I thought I could just make a few extra bucks with it after shows, and then they played it on the *Stern* show. Then I sat in [on the show], and my career took off. Like a month later, *Crank Yankers* called and that was it. It just took me to a whole other level.”

He feels Stern is a slightly misunderstood genius.

“On regular radio, he was frustrated. They were taking away everything he

could say. You can't work like that. He's actually an unbelievable interviewer, but nobody really talks about that, even though to me that's way more interesting than a girl taking her top off.”

There will most likely be few girls in the crowd taking their tops off at the upcoming show, but fans should be interested to see these veterans perform alongside *Stern* mainstay Beetlejuice, and staff writers Richard Cristy and Sal “The Stockbroker” Governale. If you want to hear the most authentic usage of the phrase “Baba Booey” in Toronto, this is the only place to be.

NICK FLANAGAN

**THE KILLERS OF COMEDY
APPEAR JUNE 8, 7:30PM.
REPUBLIC NIGHT CLUB, 261
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OUT.**

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