

## Stern regular brings laughs to Levittown with comedy club

By **PATRICK BERKERY**

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Rev. Bob Levy, businessman?

Loyal Howard Stern fans might laugh at the notion. Just like the crew on Stern's Sirius Satellite Radio show often has a laugh at the south Jersey-based comedian's expense (Levy also appears regularly on Kidd Chris' WYSP morning show). They like goofing on Levy's dated black leather jacket, his drinking, his non-performing role in a porno movie, his inability to spell, his inability to say certain words (shrimp, in Levy-ese is pronounced "strimp"), and his bad song parodies.



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Levy laughs right along with Stern and crew because he knows it's good for business. Being the butt of a joke equals airtime. That airtime translates into free - and extremely valuable - publicity for the veteran comic's stand-up dates and his very funny "Miserable Men" show on Sirius, a tales of male woe round-table Levy co-hosts with fellow comics Shuli and Jim Florentine Sunday nights at 7:00.

Now Levy, who's been booking his own shows (and the Stern-centric Killers of Comedy tour he headlines) for years, is using his business acumen to bring comedians to Bucks County. Levy is booking and running Levy's Comedy Club at the Ramada Inn Levittown (6201 Bristol Pike, Levittown), which has its grand opening this weekend with two shows headlined by Levy.

We caught up with Levy as he was running errands while renovations were being done to the house he shares with his ex-wife. As Stern and company often like to mention, Levy resides in the basement.

**Are you wearing the leather jacket right now?**

What do you think?

**Tell us about the new comedy club - why the Ramada Inn in Levittown? What about the Days Inn in Gloucester City?**

Gloucester City's not good for much - especially not comedy. I'd been looking to do something like this for a while. A friend of mine owns the room. I'm running the operation and booking the comedians. It's a really good location, and I swear, it's a really, really nice room. Classier than you think. You can get dinner there; they're

going to have a really nice menu. We're going to have packages where you can see the show and spend a night in the hotel for one low, low price, too.

**Will the comedians be staying at the hotel, too?**

Oh, yeah.

**So, will there be any extra charge for, say, Beetlejuice or the Iron Sheik accidentally banging on your door in a drunken stupor at 4:00 am?**

On the house.

**Can we expect some big names associated with the Stern show playing the room?**

Yeah, but I can't talk about it yet. With the comedians associated with the Stern show and Kidd Chris, plus locals, we'll have a nice mix.

**You've discussed pretty openly your desire to get off the road. I imagine running the club is a nice way to stay involved full-time in stand-up without the agony of flying out to Des Moines or Sacramento every other weekend.**

Yeah, that's true. I mean, I've worked on the road a lot these last couple of years. And it's been great, so much fun and I've made some decent money. But it'll kill you. I'm trying to straighten my life out a bit. I've stopped drinking. I'm pitching on a couple of script ideas for TV shows. I feel great right now.

**What can you tell us about the script ideas?**

Well, one's animated, one's got real people. Both based on my life. Artie (Lange, Stern sidekick) is helping me shop it around to people. So far, so good.

**Who's playing you? I'm thinking George Clooney, he's rakishly handsome, he has the salt and pepper hair, and he looks good in a leather jacket.**

I'm thinking more like Bea Arthur.

**You've helped organize the roasts on the Howard Stern show, and you serve as roast master. They haven't done a roast in a while. Can we expect another one soon?**

Yeah, probably sometime in 2008. I think we've figured out that it works best when it's someone on the show. Andy Dick was funny, but you really need someone that's in the fabric of the Stern world. I guess (KKK member and frequent Stern show guest) Daniel Carver is, but that guy... you can't really insult him, so that's why that roast wasn't so great.

**But that's what makes the Stern show what it is - there's no fear of failure. If something doesn't work, at least there's comedy to be gleaned from the failure.**

Right, like, they've torn some of my song parodies to shreds. I'll run my ideas by Sal

(Governale, Stern show member) and he goes, 'Great idea, great idea,' knowing, I think, that it's going to suck and everyone will have a laugh goofing on it.

**It's funny that Sal's a comedic gatekeeper, of sorts.**

For as much (grief) as he takes, he's a hard worker.

**Kind of like you...**

Right. People don't realize that as wild as things get sometimes, it's work.

**Levy's Comedy Club at the Ramada Inn Levittown opens this weekend with Rev. Bob Levy, Ed McGonigal, Pat House, and Chris McDevitt performing Friday and Saturday at 9:00. Call 215-945-5389 or visit <http://www.revboblevy.com/Comedy-Club-Schedule.html> for more info.**

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