

The laughs are on the house

BY ROBERT KAHN

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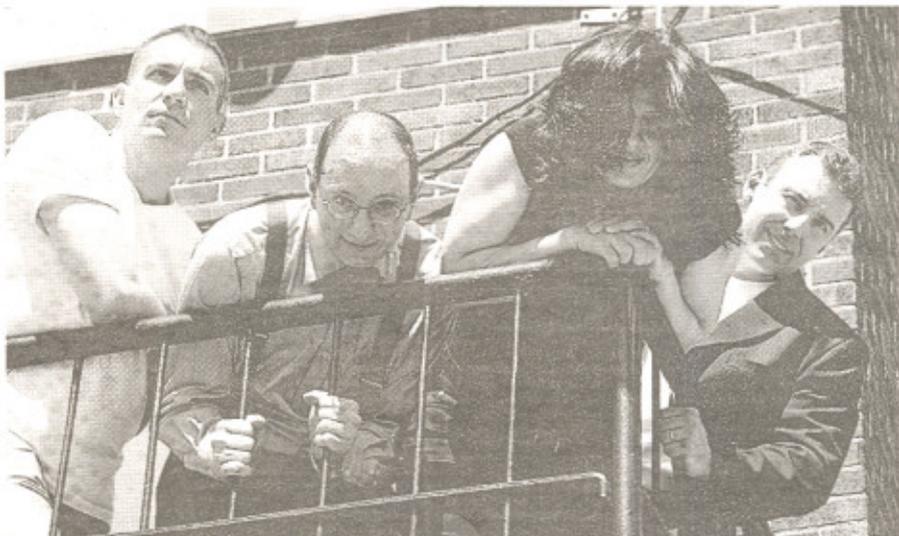
Paul Anthony can't do anything about the economy, but he can offer you an escape from worries over it for an hour or so. The Massapequa comic, producer of the annual "Long Island Comedy Festival," has announced "The Economic Stimulus Comedy Tour," coming to Theatre Three in Port Jefferson for an 8 p.m. show Sunday.

Tickets, as you may have surmised, are roughly what you're earning on your pathetic savings account — zilch.

"We're trying to give people an opportunity to forget about their problems," says Anthony, one of four stand-ups on the midway-through Memorial Day Weekend bill. "They're still going to be there tomorrow."

LIKE LENO This is like what Jay Leno just did. The about-to-be-ex-"Tonight Show" host recently performed free shows for thousands of recession-racked Americans in Michigan and Ohio. Anthony notes the LI idea was in development a month before Leno's plans were out of the bag: "Like Jay's performances, the primary goal of our comedy festival is to make people feel good."

THE BILL The performers at Theatre Three are: Anthony, host of the annual Long Island Comedy Festival (this year, June 26-Aug. 20); Stevie G.B. ("The



From left, comedians Keith Anthony, Stevie G.B., Carie Karavas and Paul Anthony

World's Funniest Accountant"); Carie Karavas, a headliner in Vegas and Atlantic City; and Keith Anthony, seen on Showtime, A&E and Comedy Central.

OTHER BITS Production costs are footed by Peroni, the Italian beer. The comics are donating their time. Tickets, the producer underscores, are free to "anyone" affected by the economy, "whether you lost your job, your wife or husband lost their job, you still have your crappy job or you're thinking of quitting your job."

THE DETAILS Don't call for tickets; show up between now and show time. They're first-come, first-serve at the Theatre Three box office, 412 Main St., Port Jefferson. The theater has a capacity of 425 . . . thus, there are 425 free tickets. There's a limit of two tickets per person.

If you miss out on ducats from the box office, you'll have a chance to win them on the following radio stations: WEHM/92.9 and 96.9, WRCN/103.9 and WLVG/96.1. Go to JIComedyFest.com to learn more.