

NEIGHBOURHOOD

SCENE BE SEEN

Laughing till the Jersey boys come home

CHERRYL MICHELA
STAFF WRITER

Audiences are enjoying high-octane comedy, Jersey style, at Uncle Winnie's Comedy Club in Point Pleasant Beach.

The hottest room at Ferraro's Italian restaurant, 561 Russell Ave., is transformed into Uncle Winnie's on weekends and several weekdays.

Owners Dave Belli of Tuna River and Jerry Belli of Fiddle-Yin have owned Ferraro's since 1985, and have been presenting comedy shows since 1991.

"The comedians must have Comedy Central, HBO, Manhattan or Vegas credits. If they don't have those, they can't perform here," said Dave. "Most of our guys also perform on Wednesdays and in Atlantic City on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. It's the real deal. Most of them have headlined in Vegas and Atlantic City or have been on the Howard Stern show."

"We have high-quality comedians here," added JERRY. "We're very strict with that. No acts just starting out. The comedians are paying great money, and they obviously get checked. It's a fun night for everybody, and it gives them something to do in the off season."

Cover charges for the comedy show range from \$10-\$15, depending on the comedian. A dinner show package also is offered for two to four people, including a choice of three appetizers, five entrees and three desserts.

"The comedy club is New York-style seating," said Dave. "They have drinks in the restaurant, and we do the show in a different room."

A recent menu included terrillina cutters, chicken parmigiana over linguini, grilled lamb trianetta over spinach and tomato mozzarella pie.

Mike Marino and Anthony Spino were among the comedians to work the Point Pleasant Beachroom comedy.

Spino, of Ansonia, has been performing for about three years throughout New York and New Jersey. His acts are mostly prepared, but he likes to feed off the audience.

"I try to keep the jokes fresh for the best. I talk about the things that bother me,



From left: Walker Green, Tuna River, Ed Vincenzo, and Anna Marie Green, Tuna River, whoop it up at Uncle Winnie's Comedy Club in Point Pleasant Beach. (PHOTO BY CHERRYL MICHELA FOR THE PRESS)

whether it's politics, relationships or driving behind a motorist," he said. "Whatever this one off, I talk about it. I like this place (Uncle Winnie's) because it's very intimate. It's the best comedy club around here."

He worked the crowd, jolting about the stupidity of pol/indiv correct wording around the bar/drink, how late he gets driving behind slow motorists on the highway and why men love go-guns.

Emilinar Marino of Los Angeles, formerly of Jersey City, Scotch Plains and Palms, used his self-declared "Italian roots and Jersey edge" to crack up the audience. His act consisted of hilarious references to growing up in an Italian family, and get-watching comparisons of Italians in North Jersey to upscale residents of California.

Comedian Joseph Anthony of Howell will be headlining the New Year's Eve show.

"It's great to work with an intimate setting," he said. "At a smaller place, you get to have a lot of fans. It's a growing ground whether you are a stand-up comic or a funny guy. Only the funny guys survive."

He says his material is 90 per-



Cindy and Walker Pincus of Manchester had a knee-slapping, good time.

cent autobiographical and 10 percent observational, celebrity-driven observations.

"For New Year's Eve, I want to go out with the goal to have fun. I want to make those laugh and have a good time. If you're a fan of dysfunction, come see this."

Ferraro's features a comedy show every Saturday in December, with several additional holiday shows. Upcoming headliners include Eddie "The Juice Man" Marling (formerly of



Recent performers at Uncle Winnie's included Mike Marino (above) and Anthony Spino. Next up, look for "The Juice Man" Marling.



Howard Stern's show) on Tuesday, Nov. 30; Bob Levy and Jim Flaminio on Wednesday and Joseph Anthony on Dec. 31.

Prices and packages vary. For information about upcoming shows, visit www.unclewinnie.comedyclub.com, or 732-944-8600.

Reservations are preferred, seating is limited at 100 for the comedy shows. Call (732) 944-8600.

UNCLE WINNIE'S COMEDY CLUB

COMEDY SHOW

561 Russell Ave.,
Point Pleasant Beach
856-1332 88-000