

Comedy aids political process

By WAYNE PEAL
STAFF WRITER

Politics is a funny business, right?

And those politicians — what's with them?

But bringing politicians and comedians together for a voter information project is no laughing matter.

"With voter turnout what it is, we thought we'd try something a little unusual," said Steven Sack, an organizer of "Finding the Party in Politics" Tuesday, July 28, at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle.

The unusual event features an informal meet-the-candidates ses-

sion with Oakland County political hopefuls, followed by an evening of comedy featuring national headliners Rodney Johnson and Jeff Shaw, veterans of cable's The Comedy Channel.

People will have about two hours to meet and mingle with candidates for a variety of state, county and federal offices before the comedy show begins.

Participants also have the opportunity to register for the fall election.

Sack, a member of the Detroit Social Club, said the event is particularly geared toward young voters.

"Our club deals with a mostly

young, professional crowd and some of these people are not big voters," he said.

That was all Mary Burt of the Oakland Citizens League needed to know.

"I'd personally been interested in voter apathy for some time," she said. "We thought, my goodness, here's this guy with a mailing list of 1,700 young Oakland County residents who don't vote. Let's do something."

The event won't be like any other meet-the-candidates night, Burt promised.

"The draw is that there will be other young people here," she said.

"When you go to candidates' nights, those in attendance are usually senior citizens. Thank goodness they go, but seniors' issues are very specific."

Oakland Citizens League, a co-sponsor, is a branch of the rate-the-candidates organization Clive Searchlight.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the door or in advance by calling 642-8282. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar are featured. Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle is at Troy and Fourth, Royal Oak.

Dealing with losing your job

Thousands of Americans are caught-up in "90s Downsizing" and the stress can be unbearable. The Oakland University Continuum Center will address that issue in an evening workshop, "Dealing With The Stress of Job Loss," 7-10 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, on the Rochester campus.

Stress Management Expert Roberta "Jeff" Dalley will present this seminar suitable to adults who have lost a job and their family members, or anyone awaiting a budget cut.

Workshop topics include the normal, overwhelming anxieties that accompany the very thought of job loss and spontaneous reactions to being unemployed.

Participants will identify six types of stress and examine how, extended over time, their effects can be a loss of physical and emotional well-being. A hardiness evaluation and personal stress reliever profile are part of the program.

The fee is \$39; MasterCard/VISA accepted. Register before July 27; call 370-3033.

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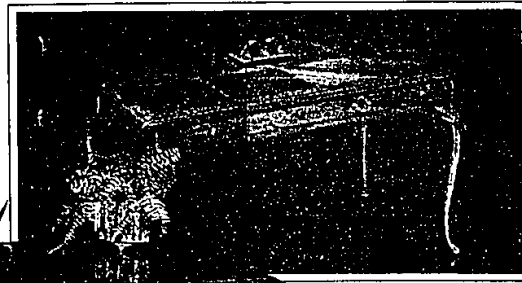
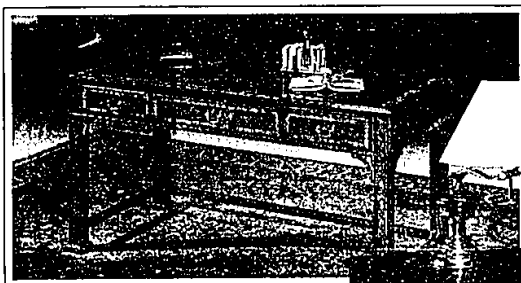
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