

"The Last Laugh" a Hit!

"As long as you have a sense of humor and can laugh about life and what it brings, you remain in control of it." That was, as stated by Executive Producer Linda Speraw, the philosophy and reason-for-being behind the making of the "The Last Laugh," a feature length documentary about three days of comedy workshops and a show night for nine people with AIDS (PWA's) to prove that laughter is the best medicine. Linda showed the documentary at the January HTG meeting.

Assembling a cast of top name comedians such as Jim Samuels (who has since succumbed to AIDS), Tom Ammiano, Carrie Snow, Will Durst, Blake Clark and others, producers Karen Babbitt and Deborah Jones and Linda have created an enormously touching and thoughtful chronical of persons living and dealing as humorously as would be possible with AIDS. Linda says "The intent was to humanize the whole idea of AIDS and the disease. There is so much

eaviness around the disease, it allows them to continue living and not dying, to be in a state of living."

Accompanying Linda at the HTG showing was Jim Schultz, one of the PWA's featured in the video. Not to mention Jim's a cappella performance of a little ditty that, sadly, was cut from the finished version of the video would be criminal. Jim sang of construction workers wearing lace and talking on the telephone at length of football and baseball and things not seeming as they appear.

As Executive Producer, Linda is trying to have the video shown on PBS but that, she says, takes money, which she hopes will come from corporate sponsorship. Linda reports that the video is being marketed by a company in Boston to universities, hospitals, and AIDS projects, which she says was the reason for the project - to raise consciousness and to educate. "People all over the world and overseas have seen it and it is getting enormously positive feedback."

The members' enthusiasm for the video and its message was expressed by the collection of over \$600 in cash donations and corporate matching pledges to be used by Linda and Last Laugh Productions to distribute the film to PBS. In addition, members voted a \$400 matching contribution from the general fund bringing the total amount to over \$1000.

Next Month: The Honorable Donna Hitchens, Judge of the County of San Francisco Superior Court will be the guest speaker at the February potluck meeting. Her recent election and the challenges she faces will be two of the many topics she will discuss.

In March: The Dynamic Male Couple. Drs. Scott Madover and Jack Morin will be on hand to discuss therapeutic solutions to problems singles face when entering a relationship and couples face when in one.

Nominations for the Richard P. Rudy Community Service Award

In this issue of the newsletter we have included a nomination form for the Richard P. Rudy Community Service Award. Our intention is to have this award be significant to not only its recipient but also the gay community in the South Bay and to honor them in a

way that is appropriate with Rick's work with High Tech Gays and the gay community at large. We hope you will take this opportunity to help us recognize those members of the community who've given so much of themselves for the betterment of use all.

HTG vs. CIA Update

The potential lawsuit against the CIA is stalled due to procrastination on the part of the lawyers representing the government. The case against the CIA to force them to cite reasons for their policy to discriminate against a person based on their sexual orientation hinges on the outcome of the *Dubbs v CIA*. That is the case in which Julie Dubbs, an employee of SRI International, was denied a CIA

clearance base on the fact that she was a lesbian.

A meeting to negotiate a settlement between the litigants and the court was to be held on the 18th of January but the government failed to show up and did not return phone calls. The meeting was re-scheduled for the beginning of February.

HTG BBS Moving

by Allan Hurst

The BBS system will be down from Thursday night, 1/31/91 through Saturday night 2/2/91. (There's nothing wrong with the current location, other than it being too small to hold the BBS, its sysop, and four hyperactive tortoises.) The new location will be in a larger apartment in the building next doorto the current location in San Mateo.

In a related note, research is continuing regarding installation of a San Jose "local access" BBS number somewhere in the 408 area code. No definite announcements as of this printing, but stay tuned for details next month!

Please note: Lately we have been receiving complaints that the BBS is frequently busy. Please be aware that the BBS is extremely popular due to the amount of information it offers and its free access, averaging 300 calls per day. Please be patient and keep trying.



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AIDS Bike-A-Thon

Set aside the date of May 11th for the AIDS Bike-A-Thon. The organizers of this years ride, an event that consistently draws over 1000 participants and raises over \$350,000 each year for AIDS support services is looking for volunteers. Increasing ridership to 1500 and raising \$500,000 to meet peoples needs in the growing AIDS crisis are the goals for this years event and more volunteers are needed to meet them. If you are interested in spending a beautiful day in the sun helping with one of the most enjoyable and successful fundraisers of the year, call Bill Woods at (415)597-9309 for more information.

If your interested in riding in the Bike-A-thon, HTG will be organizing a contingent in support of AIDS service providers in the South Bay so watch future newsletters for more information.

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Can't make a meeting but want to show the world that you belong to one of the largest gay and lesbian professional organizations in the country?

Now you can!. Order your very own ever so tasteful 100% cotton HTG T-shirt or tank top or poly-cotton blend long-sleeve sweatshirt. All three feature the HTG logo (just the initials) with San Jose, California appearing below it. The T-shirt comes in watermelon, the tank in neon green and the sweatshirt in light blue. Fill out and send the form below.

	Size	Quantity		
Name: _____	S, M, L, XL	T-shirt	_____	x \$10 = _____
Address: _____		Tank top	_____	x \$10 = _____
Zip: _____		Sweatshirt	_____	x \$16 = _____
		Shipping:		\$ 2 = _____
		Total:	_____	\$ _____

Send your check made payable to: HTG, PO Box 6777, San Jose, CA, 95150