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Television

'Comic Relief III' to benefit homeless

By BILLY STOCKARD Staff Writer

Spring Break and St. Patrick's Day aren't the only things we have to look forward to next week.

On March 18, another big event will capture our attention: "Comic Relief III." The all-star event will be shown that night on HBO from 9 p.m. to midnight live from the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles. The event's promoters promise to keep up the quality of the first two "Comic Reliefs" while adding even more talent to the special.

Once again, the event will be hosted by Billy Crystal, Whoopi Coldberg and Robin Williams, along with some of today's hottest comics. Among those scheduled to appear are Louie Anderson, Cher, Arsenio Hall, Shelley Long, Howie Mandel, Penn & Teller, Joe Piscopo, Garry Shandling, Martin Short, Jim Varney and Steven Wright. HBO will even unblock its signal so the show can be picked up by those who have basic cable.

Bob Zmuda, "Comic Relief" president and Chris Albrecht, HBO senior vice president, have teamed up in the hopes of reaching more people than before. The original Comic Relief in 1986 and Comic Relief II in 1987 raised more than \$4.7 million.

Money raised this year will go toward health care and other services for more than 150,000 homeless Americans. The idea was the brainchild of Zmuda, who hoped to raise public awareness of the plight of the homeless.

According to Zmuda, " 'Comic Relief' has had a significant impact around the country. With 23 cities now receiving money from 'Comic Relief,' we are proud that the comedy community has given so generously to this important cause."

What makes the event truly special is that the comedians don't have to participate. But most of them keep coming back, always lending a hand to the homeless. Albrecht says, " 'Comic Relief III' " will once again benefit thousands of people, and underscore the need for us to help one another. It's a rare chance for performers and subscribers to join together in focusing attention on the plight of America's homeless."

The "Comic Relief" organization has presented checks to homeless projects in cities all over the country. Shelters in Denver, Boston, New York, Milwaukee, San Diego and other cities have benefited from the project. Both previous "Comic Reliefs" have come out on video, so they're worth a look if you have any free time over the break. If the third special is anything like the first two, the 18th will be a night to stay home and watch TV. The event occurs right before we have to come back to school and hit the books again by that time, we'll all be ready for a little "Comic Relief"

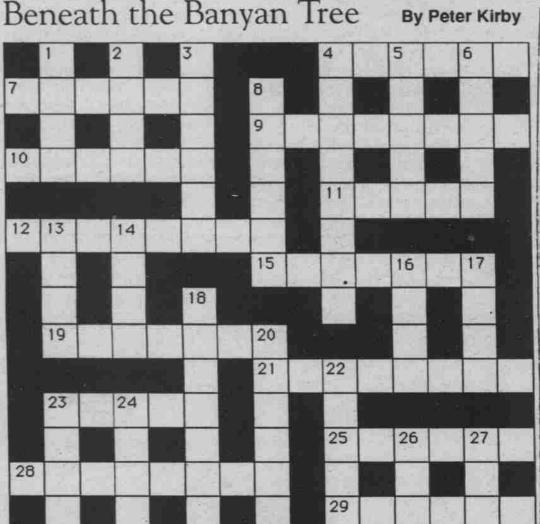
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30 ACROSS: 4. Prance gaily 7. Shrivel up 9. Clash 10. Sharp pains 11. "____ your bow, Edgar Tracy, you sound terrible!" 12. Faulkner's favorite vine 15. Mythical Greek romantic who drowned 19. Color of a late-spring peony 21. Fiendish 23. Oppresive post-coup military government 25. Junkie 28. Zimbabwe's maiden name 29. (Frown)"He's a queer one alright, something of an around here." 30. Favored to win(2) DOWN: 1. Corpse's last stand 2. Throaty attention-getter 3. Rubbing device 4. Deathly 5. "I swear, the way he me, it makes me squirm."

6. Of or relating to the South American people subjugated by Spanish conquest 8. Not imagined or fantasized, but maybe Nietzschean 13. The initials of Ineffective Postsentimental Fatigue syndrome 14. Mg, Si, O, (OH), 16. "The romantic, alienated young hero whom no one understands" in East of Eden 17. Popular Indian musician 18. Ruthless hired killer 20. Spoken Jewish substitute for the name of God Price includes cups and ice. 22. Grassland where Bambi's mother was slaughtered 23. Band of warring zealots 24. Points of minimum or zero amplitude in a periodic system 26. Artistic genre of urinals and bicycle wheels 27. (Sigh)"That's what I love about Chapel Hill, it has both the charm of a small town and the cynicism of a much larger ____." See ANSWERS page 9

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