

# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

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## Pollack, gay students discuss AIDS, harrassment at forum

By MICHAEL GAT

In the first formal meeting between deans and Gay People at Columbia, Columbia College deans Robert Pollack and Jane MacDonald met with members of the group Tuesday night to discuss unique problems that campus gays encounter, to answer questions and to ask many of their own.

Pollack, dean of the College, and MacDonald, assistant dean of residence halls, met with about 40 students from GPC in the Furnald Hall lounge. Pollack said members of the group had impressed him at a floor counselor meeting earlier this year, noting "I saw a presentation of theirs during orientation and thought that they were very articulate and that they should have a chance to talk to me.

"There was no pressure either way—just curiosity," he said.

Todd Cooper, president of GPC, said the organization has been

more active recently than in the past, a stance perhaps set by a more involved gay community. "I think it's the people here at Columbia who want to become involved in being gay in New York City and at Columbia," he said.

Greg Ullman, a Law School student in charge of public relations for GPC, said the campus gay social life still suffers though, even with increased interest in the gay community. Whereas most students have places to socialize on Morningside Heights, he said, gays have nothing other than the occasional GPC-sponsored dance or wine and cheese party. "We felt that there should be more, that the university should be doing more," he said.

David Birman, director of GPC's campus action committee, said the University Health Services has cooperated with GPC to establish an Acquired Immune Deficiency

Syndrome (AIDS) Detection and Early Treatment Program to begin next week.

Pollack, a biologist with some experience in immune systems, suggested that GPC sponsor AIDS information forums to educate the public, many of whom have misconceptions about the disease. "I would get a tremendous kick out of cosponsoring such an event with at least one medical group," he said, conceding that activities sponsored by GPC do not attract much attention outside the gay community and that additional support could be useful.

He said he was also concerned about verbal harassment of gay students by professors and recommended students bring such complaints to the professor's attention, adding that students can also lodge formal complaints with Columbia deans.