

# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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## *Spotting AIDS part of a new health program*

By JENNIFER LYNCH

A Columbia Health Service outreach program will help gays at the university recognize AIDS and cope with the fear of contracting the disease, Health Service officials said last night.

Peggy Connaghan, nursing care director at the health service, told a group of people at Furnald's Gay Lounge last night: "This is really the first step of what we need to do within the university."

Connaghan said the program will consist of a core group of volunteers who will teach the Columbia gays the techniques for spotting AIDS. The volunteers will be trained this semester, she said, and the outreach program should begin in the spring.

The outreach program arose from "A need to reach out and become available to the gay students on campus," according to Health Service Director Carlson. There are "a lot of misconceptions about AIDS" he said, and the "play of AIDS in the media tends to make people want to know more."

David Birman, campus action director of Gay People at Columbia, said that many campus gays are terrified of contacting the disease and are learning as much as possible about it.

"I think a lot of gay people know more about T-cell rations than they ever intended to," he said. He added that he was pleased the Health Service has begun to address the health needs of gays.

Birman said that the core of volunteers will spend three hours this semester learning the three techniques to detect AIDS—basically, a self-examination of lymph nodes, skin, and temperature. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact the GPC office at Earl Hall.