

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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CC '84 graduate dies of AIDS

By JOHN A. OSWALD

Stuart Garcia, CC'84, former Columbia College representative to the University Senate, died of AIDS on July 18, in his hometown of Austin Texas.

Fellow classmates and friends of Garcia have initiated a memorial fund in his honor. Steve Waldman, an alumnus and friend of Garcia's and former editor of the *Columbia Daily Spectator*, said the scholarship in his honor is especially appropriate because "he was on financial aid and felt very grateful for it."

During his two-year tenure in the Senate, one of Garcia's projects included the fight to maintain need-blind admissions at Columbia College. He also traveled to Washington

to lobby for federal financial aid programs, according to Waldman. Garcia was also one of the most vocal supporters for divestment during his time in the Senate as well as involved with trying to improve the condition of the community's homeless.

“Because of who he was and how he died, he will be remembered more,” Waldman predicted. He echoed family sentiments that “as fear and hysteria continue to color how many view AIDS patients, it is important that we be reminded of the genuinely good souls it takes. There is no shame in dying of AIDS.”

After graduation, Garcia traveled to Central America with Witness for Peace, a group working to end hostilities in Central America. He moved to Washington after several months in Nicaragua and began organizing a Political Action Committee on human rights. He was diagnosed as having AIDS in March, 1985 and suffered several bouts with AIDS-related illnesses during his last year-and-a-half of life.