

# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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## Mullinix rejects AIDS educational funding

By AMY BAYER

The decision by the University AIDS Committee last week to reject a request for funding made by the only existing AIDS education group on campus would seriously hamper efforts to disseminate information about AIDS, according to the group's organizers.

Committee member Michael Dowling, also the co-coordinator of the Gay Health Advocates (GHA), the existing AIDS education group, said Senior Vice President and AIDS committee chair Joseph Mullinix refused to give the group more money at last Friday's committee meeting.

Mullinix said the GHA would have to appeal to the University Health Services for money, Dowling maintained. But the Health Services has already granted the group \$300 for this academic year and does not have a large enough budget to grant more money, Dowling said.

"Things are very tight in the Health Service. Funds for non-salary wages and fringe programs tend to get eaten up. We would have to look very hard for funds for the Health Advocates," explained Richard Carlson, director of the University Health Service.

Members of the AIDS committee gave the GHA several suggestions to find supplemental funds, such as applying for grants, Mullinix said.

"We have already applied for small grants and right now we have



only \$100 for future Gay Health Advocacy projects," Dowling said.

The GHA needs the extra funds to continue providing written materials about AIDS, to hire a coordinator to schedule meetings, and to establish awareness projects such as an AIDS Awareness Week, Dowling maintained.

The AIDS committee is planning to publish a pamphlet with facts about the transmission of AIDS as well as what present facilities on campus are available for people with AIDS.

Mullinix said the AIDS committee might also provide more educational projects and counseling in the future. In order to fund these projects, Mullinix said he will meet with Carlson and discuss ways to stretch the Health Service budget. Mullinix said the AIDS committee will have to follow the same process as the GHA in obtaining funds from the Health Service.

Because Mullinix is the senior vice president in charge of student services and also sits on the University Budget Committee, Dowling said he felt Mullinix was the appropriate person to approach for emergency funds.

"We had no other place to turn. It seemed logical to make a special appeal to Mullinix for extra funds," Dowling said.

Dowling said he found Mullinix's rejection very upsetting because Mullinix is the chair of the AIDS committee that has repeatedly declared a need for AIDS education in the Columbia community.

"I got the impression in the AIDS committee meeting that the University did not want to make funding available for AIDS education and counseling outside of the pamphlet being worked on right now," Dowling said.