

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXI, Number 74, 4 February 1987 — Garcia fund gets \$9000 [ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]

Garcia fund gets \$9000

By Josh Gillette

An anonymous donor has promised to match the next \$9,000 raised towards a \$25,000 scholarship honoring a 1984 Columbia College graduate who died of AIDS.

Stuart Garcia, CC '84, who was a representative to the University Senate during his junior and senior years at Columbia, died last July in his hometown of Austin, Texas. Some of his former classmates initiated a memorial fund last fall in his honor, which has thus far accumulated \$7,000. Since \$25,000 is the minimum amount necessary to establish such a fund, yesterday's pledge cuts the amount needed to establish the scholarship from \$18,000 to \$9,000.

Julius Genachowski, CC '85, one

of the alumni who proposed the fund, called this effort the "first serious attempt to set up a scholarship in honor of an AIDS victim."

Genachowski said he hopes the fund will remove the stigma attached to AIDS.

Steven Waldman, CC'84, and also a founder of the fund, expressed the same hopes last summer, after Garcia's death. "Because of who he was and how he died he will be remembered more," "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."

Lehecka said, "Stuart wasn't just a victim of AIDS. What he did matters to us independent of how he died."

The scholarship will not differ greatly from other scholarships, according to Dean of Students Roger Lehecka, since its purpose is to help maintain need-blind admissions, a policy which Garcia fought to maintain during his tenure in the Senate.

Lehecka said the scholarship will be given to "someone who took the same approach to the college that Stuart had, while also needing financial aid."

Waldman said the scholarship is particularly appropriate because Garcia "was on financial aid and felt grateful for it."

Genachowski said that yesterday's donation came as a surprise. "We never expected to get a donation this large," he said. He added, "We thought it was going to take four years[to raise the full scholarship money]."

Lehecka said despite the fact that most of Garcia's classmates are young and don't have much money to give, "it's hard to image that we won't make it."

In its meeting last Friday, the University Senate gave its official support to the scholarship.

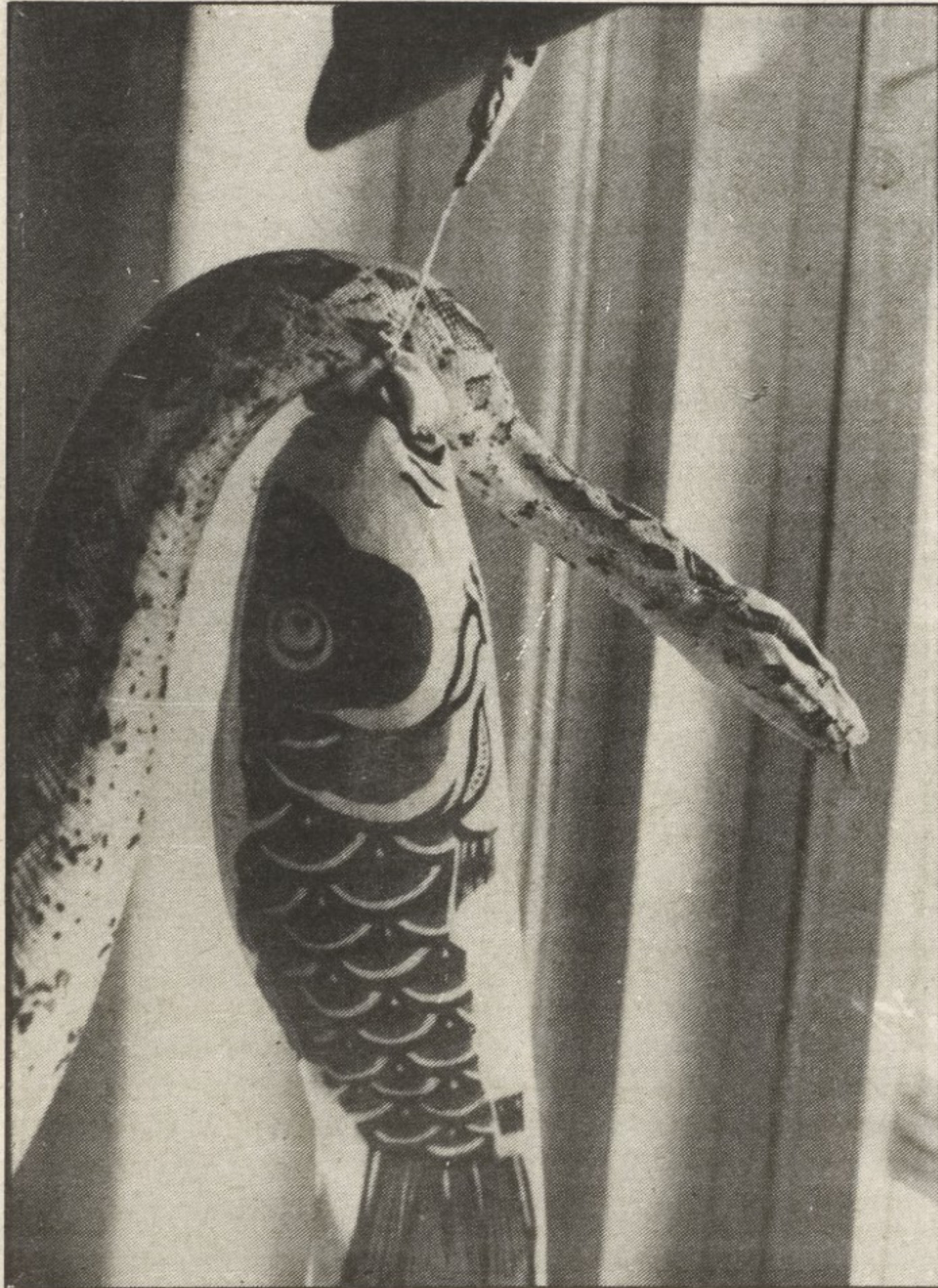
Lehecka said that the Senate's action should help fund-

raising efforts by alerting Senate member who worked with Garcia to the need for funds. He also said a New York Times articles about the scholarship provided valuable publicity that will help to raise the remaining \$9,000.

"With the kind of publicity we got, we should be able to get this," Lehecka said.

Lehecka said the he hopes to raise the full \$9,000 by July 1, so that Columbia could offer the scholarship next year.

Garcia was diagnosed as having contracted AIDS in March, 1985, and after enduring many AIDS related complications, died in the summer of 1986.



SPECTATOR/ANDREW HILL

DORM PETS: The deans never know how students slither around rules.