

# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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[ARTICLE]

## Gay health group turns to students for funding

By Joshua Phillips

While trying to combat misinformation and fear of AIDS, a group on campus that focuses on providing counseling about the disease says it is finding it more and more difficult to raise adequate funds.

According to Laura Pinsky, advisor to the Columbia Gay Health Advocacy Project (GHAP), a group which provide safe-sex and AIDS awareness counseling to the campus, was recently so strapped for funds that it was forced to turn to the Columbia Gay and Lesbian Alliance (CGLA), which does not receive funding from the University, for help.

CGLA held a dance last spring and donated part of its profits to GHAP. Despite their own status as members of a non-funded organization, CGLA members say they have pledged to continue to support the health advocacy organization.

“They’re really underfunded,” CGLA Secretary Seth Galanter, CC ’90, said. CGLA will also help the project by lobbying the University for funding, Galanter said.

The GHAP was organized two years ago to provide AIDS education

and peer counseling to students and the University community, Pinsky said.

But lack of funds is making it difficult for the organization to fulfill its goals, Pinsky said.

Currently University Health Services provides the group the bulk of its funding, which, according to Pinsky, has been very generous.

But she added that the group can not continue if it does not get additional funds.

The group initially sought more funding from the University. Pinsky held what she called "limited talks" with the administration, but the group was refused funding.

Last year, members of the GHAP said they became hopeful when University Vice President Joseph Mullinix formed an AdHoc Committee on AIDS.

But members of the GHAP were told that they were not allowed to approach the newly formed AdHoc committee for money, Pinsky said.

Richard Carlson, director of University Health Services and a member of the adhoc committee, said he does not believe the committee has the power to allocate funds.

"In a report, it could make a recommendation to the University," he said.

When the GHAP found itself unable to get funding from the University, the group turned to the CGLA for help.

The health advocates have also been looking for grants from outside the University. But the GHAP has applied for outside grants in the past, and been denied, Pinsky said.

Despite past failures, Pinsky said the GHAP will pursue grants on an even larger scale.

Pinsky said the GHAP also plans to continue to approach the administration for funding.