

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXII, Number 91, 22 March 1988 — AIDS benefit draws NYC and CU artists [ARTICLE]

AIDS benefit draws NYC and CU artists

By Sarah Haines

Artists will perform and display their work on campus this week to educate and inform about the deadly AIDS epidemic.

Art Against AIDS Week, which is sponsored by 20 campus groups will include concerts, lectures, performances, art exhibitions, on-air poetry readings, workshops, and outdoor Shakespeare readings, according to Rodrick Dial co-chair of the Columbia Gay and Lesbian Alliance (CGLA). Beginning Thursday, safe sex material will be distributed every afternoon on College Walk, Dial said.

CGLA, the Arts Department of WKCR-FM and the Columbia Arts Council are coordinating the week's events. Art Against AIDS week is one of the first campus-wide benefits at Columbia, Dial

said.

Dial said Art Against AIDS week has two major purposes.

“The organizers of the event want this to be an educational endeavor as well as entertainment. We want people to enjoy the concerts and other activities, but we also want to raise consciousness at Columbia about AIDS,” he said.

Dial said organizers are trying to involve both campus and off-campus organizations in Art Against AIDS week.

“At this point, we’ve got a really packed week with both student groups and groups from the community participating. The schedule includes a number of off-campus groups, including the Riverside Shakespeare Company and the New York City Human Rights Coalition. We’re also trying to get the Minority Task Force on AIDS, which is located on 125th Street to participate,” he said.

Money raised through donations and admission to concerts will be donated to the AIDS Resource Center, an organization which operates Bailey House, a New York City building where AIDS patients can receive subsidized housing. Additional funds will be provided by Ferris Reel Society and Zooprax, which are contributing proceeds from Tuesday and Sunday night’s movies to the event, according to Dial.

Floraine Kay, WKCR arts director originated the idea of an Art Against AIDS week. Kay said she decided to attempt an AIDS

benefit after working on a WKCR benefit for the homeless called "Rock Finds a Home."

"The Arts Department at WKCR was planning on doing a concert for AIDS, but when I was contacted by people from the Arts Council, I got in touch with campus theatre groups who were also interested in a week devoted to raising consciousness about AIDS," she said.

Kay said she believes the AIDS issue and the arts are connected.

"In a way, when we fight AIDS, we're fighting for love. Love is always an issue when you discuss AIDS. And art is also about love, so it makes sense to combine the two. In addition, AIDS has hit every community, but especially the arts, and artists have been the first to stand up against AIDS with benefits and education. We want to use this week to show that art is in solidarity with life," Kay added.

Other activities added recently to the schedule are exhibitions of the poetry and paintings of AIDS victims every day in the Postcrypt Gallery and poetry readings in the Postcrypt coffee house on Saturday and Sunday nights.

The week's activities start today with a presentation by Liz Wolber of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, Wolber will discuss AIDS-related discrimination and violence at 5 p.m. in 214 FBH.