

# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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[ARTICLE]

## CGLA office vandalized; posters defaced with slurs

By A. Cassidy Sehgal

Several posters were torn and defaced with homophobic slurs last Thursday night during a break-in at the Columbia Gay and Lesbian Alliance (CGLA) office in Earl Hall, according to Seth Galanter, CC '90, CGLA treasurer.

Galanter said nothing was stolen from the office and CGLA members believe the perpetrators may have been interrupted during the break-in and escaped through the back door. He said the perpetrators apparently used a screwdriver to break both locks on the door.

Some posters were torn to shreds and "join us and get AIDS" was written on one poster encouraging gays and lesbians to accept their homosexuality, according to CGLA co-chair Jeff Ordower, CC '90.

CGLA external secretary Rich Schimpf, CC '89, said he did not understand why the perpetrators only tore up CGLA group meeting posters that were on the office door and the bulletin board located outside the office.

"I thought it was really strange the



way it happened. The door is huge that they broke into and they did absolutely nothing [inside]," Schimpf said.

"I think it was a closeted person that did this. Why would they tear down all the other posters and leave a poster for a coming out support group?" Schimpf asked.

The locks on the office door have since been changed, according to Galanter, but the group has not decided on a course of action they will take in response to the crime.

"They didn't just search around. We feel this was really sort of a hate crime," Galanter said.

"We're not sure what steps we're going to take next. We're just not going to take this lying down," he added.

Schimpf said CGLA is not sure of the time of the break-in as of yet, since the building was open for an event on Thursday night and was open all day on Friday.

Security officers said they were unable last night to comment on the investigation.