

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXIII, Number 33, 23 October 1989 — Gay and lesbian dance sponsors reach agreement  
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# Gay and lesbian dance sponsors reach agreement

By Kris Kanthak

Just in time for Halloween, members of the Columbia Gay and Lesbian Alliance (CGLA) and entrepreneur Phil Gatty have reached an agreement concerning the gay dances both sponsor monthly in Earl Hall, according to CGLA Co-Chair Ellen Krantz, a student at the School of Library Science.

Members of CGLA picketed Gatty's first Saturday dance Sept. 23 at Earl Hall because they believed his advertisements led people to think Gatty's dances were affiliated with CGLA's regular Friday dance, a long-time tradition which attracts members of the gay community from all over New York.

The agreement states the positions of the two groups with respect to each other, according to Krantz, who will act as liaison between Gatty and CGLA.

"The gist of the agreement—what it basically says—is that his dances are not affiliated with CGLA, but are supported by it," Krantz said.

Gatty also said he was pleased with the form of the agreement. As a sign of the parties' new solidarity, Gatty said, he has invited CGLA's Board of Directors to act as judges in the

costume contest planned for his Oct. 28 Halloween dance.

In addition, CGLA members asked the Columbia College Student Council at last Thursday's meeting to revoke a referendum asking Columbia students to boycott the dance, which the council had enacted at the request of CGLA, before the agreement with Gatty. The council unanimously agreed to revoke the referendum.

Part of the agreement asks that CGLA members help to advertise Gatty's dances, Krantz said.

"Basically, our role is with the ads, particularly the women's ads," she said.

One of CGLA's initial complaints is that they believed Gatty's advertising did not cater to women.

However, Gatty's new classified advertisement in the Village Voice, which was printed before the agreement was reached, calls the dance a "gay/lesbian" event.

Future advertisements will also contain a disclaimer stating that the dance is not affiliated with CGLA, according to Gatty.

Gatty explained that he did not intend to exclude lesbians from attending his dances but he did not know if he could stay within his budget if he added the word "lesbian" to his ad.

"We never had any intention of discriminating in the first place," he said.

Gatty and CGLA also agreed that Gatty would donate 20 percent of the profits from his dances to charities within the gay and lesbian community.

This practice will begin with the Halloween dance from which some of the profits will go the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP), Gatty said.

The agreement also stipulates that any CGLA members who wish to work will be hired to work at any jobs available at Gatty's dances.

Gatty said he was glad to resolve the dispute.

"I find that a lot of people, because of what happened, are lukewarm about the dance," he said.

Krantz also said she was relieved by the agreement.

"It was already beginning to drag on and this benefits us all," she said.

Gatty said that with the dispute settled he will be able to concentrate on planning the Halloween dance, which will boast two deejays, lots of costumes, and an Ansonia Room, based on Ansonia Bass, a gay hang-out in the 1970s.

"There'll be lots of little surprises and stuff, and it'll just be a good time," he said.