

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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[ARTICLE]

Rapist gets reduced term for agreeing to AIDS test

By Kristin Kanthak

A former guard of a Columbia dormitory was sentenced last week to five to 15 years in prison for the February rape of a Columbia College student.

In exchange for the reduced sentence, Reginald Darby, formerly of Summit Security Co., agreed to take an AIDS test at the request of the victim.

Darby pled guilty in March to the rape of the student in her McBain Hall room. He allegedly entered the student's seventh floor room on Feb. 17 at 3:55 a.m., while off-duty, and raped her at knife point. Darby turned himself in to the New York City Police the next day, and was charged with first degree rape, assault, and attempted sodomy.

Without the plea bargain, Darby's maximum sentence would have been eight and a half to 25 years in prison, according to Colleen Roche, a spokesperson in the Manhattan District Attorney's office. Instead, Darby was promised a minimum sentence of four to 12 years, and a maximum sentence of five to 15 years, the sentence he received.

Darby will be transferred to a state prison within a few days, according to Roche.

"He'll be transferred back to city corrections for a few days, to pack his bags and get ready. Then he'll be transferred to a temporary state facility, where he can get assimila

ted to the state system. The state corrections services take it from there," Roche said.

Columbia's Director of Security, Dominick Moro, said he hopes the sentencing will not allow the community to forget about security concerns brought up by the rape.

"I don't think we should forget it, but I don't think we should rehash it all the time. That's not productive. . . I think people should remember that there is a degree of vulnerability on this campus," he said.

The sentencing will have little effect on campus because most people in the community have forgotten about the rape, said Temma Kaplan, director of the Barnard College Center

for Research on Women.

“I don't think people have paid much attention to the situation other than the woman and a few people around her. I think people are inured to it,” she said.

Kaplan questioned using plea bargaining and prison terms as the only weapons against rape, adding that all people should be given counselling regarding rape.

Moro said that all people convicted of rape should be tested for AIDS, without regard to plea bargaining.

“The victim, in effect, was in a position to make a deal with her assailant,” Moro said.