

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXIX, Number 18, 9 February 1995 — Funding sought for AIDS Quilt [ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]

Funding sought for AIDS Quilt

By **SUMATHI REDDY**
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Members of the University AIDS Memorial Quilt committee said they have until Feb. 14 to raise \$25,000 in private donations if they are to bring the quilt—which commemorates victims of the deadly AIDS epidemic—to the Columbia campus on the weekend of April 22.

To date, the committee has secured only \$6,000. The total expected cost of the event is approximately \$50,000.

Associate Dean of Student Affairs Kathleen McDermott, who serves as the committee's administrative adviser, told committee members that they first had to raise \$25,000 in private contributions by Feb. 14 before the University will commit to contributing additional funds for the event.

Despite the amount of money yet to be raised, co-Chair of the Committee Molly Egan, head resident of Schapiro Hall, said she is optimistic about the committee's financial prospects for financing the event.

"We are very positive that we are going to get a major corporate sponsor very soon," Egan said. "We have lots of prospective companies; we just hope to have them signed by Feb. 14."

Egan said the deadline was set in order to ensure that a large portion of the money will be raised.

She said many student groups including the Union of Student Organizations (USO), Inter-Greek Council (IGC), and the classes of 1995-98 have expressed verbal interest in donating money, but have not officially confirmed their contributions.

Members of the committee are still trying to contact other University groups for support, although they had hoped that more groups

would have been more active with the project earlier.

"The campus has to realize that this is one of the biggest New York City and University campus events ever," Egan said.

Egan said originally the budget was not as large, but the event has now transformed into a city-wide event, including such programs as "Kids on the Quilt," a special viewing of the Quilt for all the children of both private and public schools in the city.

McDermott described the project as worthwhile, but noted that a great deal of fundraising must first take place if the event is to be a success.

McDermott said the entire \$25,000 does not have to be raised by Feb. 14, only a significant amount.

Co-Chair of the group's finance committee David Lee, CC '96, said the deadline has helped to create more fundraising pressure.

Lee said committee members are seeking donations from alumni, major corporations, entertainment companies, and magazines. Additional fundraising activities include selling merchandise and approaching New York City service and volunteer organizations.

Co-Chair Chris Gwiazda, CC '96, said the financial situation is not the main concern of the project.

"The fundraising is going pretty well," Gwiazda said. "It's a daunting task, but we are approaching many different sources and foundations."

The Quilt, which has grown to the size of 16-football fields, is composed of 12-by-12 foot squares, each consisting of 12 panels, dedicated to someone who has lost his or her life to the AIDS epidemic.

Although the showing at Columbia is only a small portion of the entire Quilt, it will display approximately 300 square panels, with approximately 2,400 names.

Pieces of the Quilt will be displayed inside the Dodge Physical Fitness Center, Low Library, Wollman Auditorium, and various other outdoor locations, such as South Lawn.

The actual showing of the Quilt will correspond with ceremonies involving lectures by celebrities and members of

the University community. Scheduled speakers include Barnard College President Judith Shapiro, members of the committee, people with AIDS, and Pulitzer-Prize winner Tony Kushner. The ceremonies will end with a candlelight vigil and singing by the Gay Men's Chorus.

Many of the panels requested by members of the nine committees coordinating the Quilt activities are those in dedication to celebrities such as Alvin Alley, Arthur Ash, and Rock Hudson, Egan said.

Aside from the actual showing of the Quilt, many other related activities will take place throughout the weekend.

According to Egan, panel-making workshops will be held before the Quilt is displayed in order to make new panels for victims from Columbia and New York City. These new panels will be presented in a special dedication ceremony held in St. Paul's Chapel on Friday, April 21.

Egan said many faculty members are working to organize a week when all course lectures will be devoted to AIDS related issues.

A fundraising dance-a-thon will kick-off the weekend on Thursday in Ferris Booth Hall from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m.

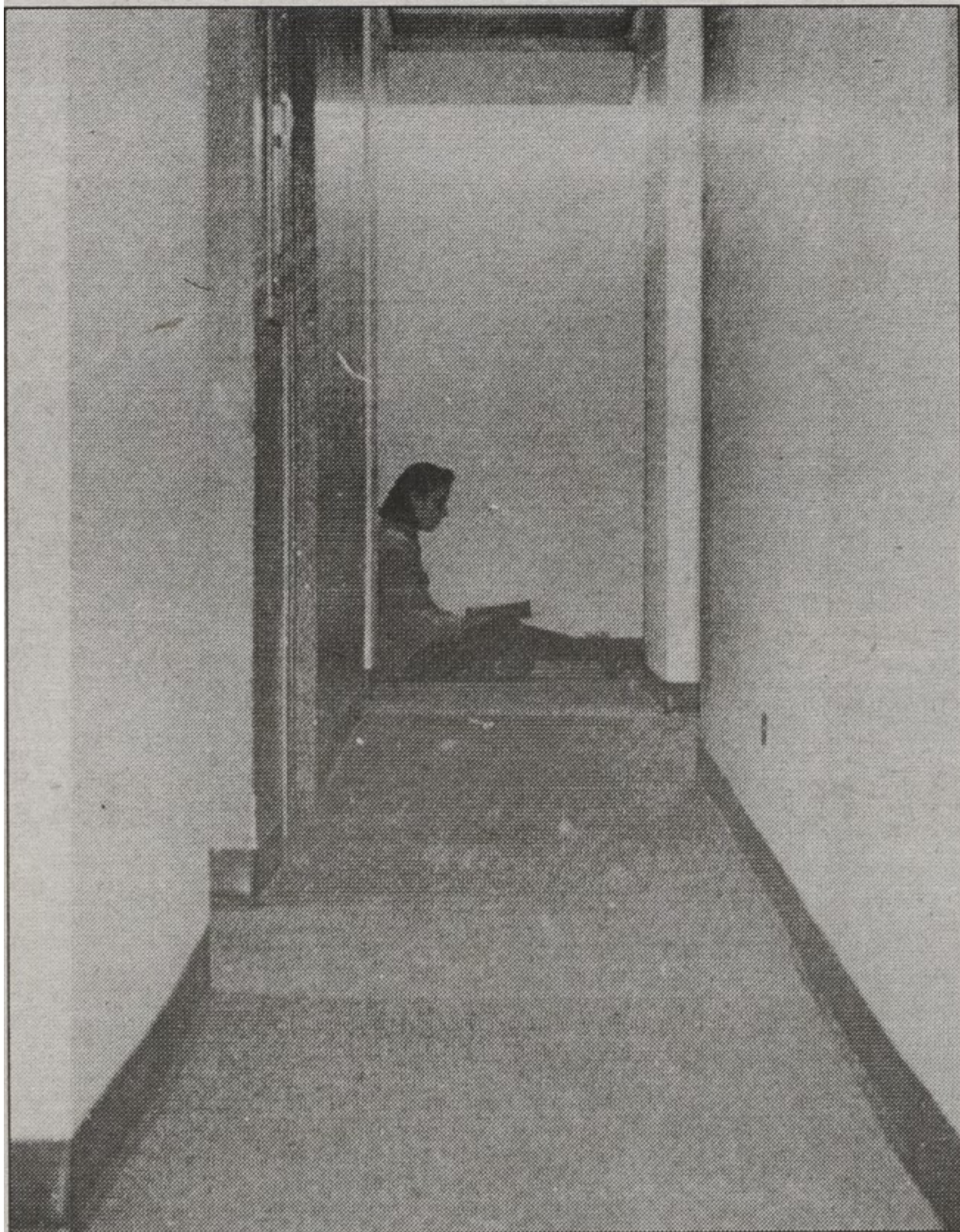
The dance-a-thon will fill four rooms and will be open exclusively to students from Columbia, Fordham, New York University, and Sarah Lawrence College. All money raised from admission fees and sponsor donations will be donated to AIDS support group, God's Love: We Deliver, a direct service organization that delivers hot meals to home-bound people with AIDS.

Egan said the dance-a-thon is in the process of booking "very major people," including popular New York City DJs and celebrity musicians like C&C Music Factory.

Lee described the Quilt as a monumental project, that not only will be overwhelming to victims of AIDS, but also a "moving revelation" for all.

Co-Chair of Media and Publicity Nathan Cooper CC '95 said the Quilt serves as a reminder of the loss caused by the deadly epidemic.

"The AIDS Memorial Quilt is the single most powerful monument dedicated to AIDS," Cooper said. "It signifies the great sense of loss AIDS has brought to the world. It is a visual, beautiful representation of many of the lives of people who have died."



STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER—KENDALL YI

Karen Kahn, BC '98, studied in a corridor of Elliott Hall. First-years have complained of the dorm's isolation.