

# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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[ARTICLE]

## World AIDS Day To Bring Local Groups to Campus

By **BEN CASSELMAN**

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Community groups from around Manhattan will gather at Columbia today to celebrate the 11th annual World AIDS Day.

World AIDS Day is recognized by the United Nations and the World Health Assembly to raise awareness about the HIV virus and AIDS.

The event will be held in the Arledge Auditorium in Lerner Hall from 2 to 6 p.m. and will feature performances by theater and dance troupes. On-site counseling and testing and general information about AIDS will also be available, according to Tom Mammo of the Sociomedical Sciences Division of the Columbia School of Public

Health (SSD).

SSD and the Northern Manhattan Women and Children's HIV Project (WCHIVP) are sponsoring the event.

"We wanted to make this event as multicultural as possible," Mammo said.

The event is intended to be "a celebration of those brave people dealing with the disease" and their friends and family members, Mammo said.

Selected tiles from the 42,960 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display. Family and friends of AIDS victims made the panels in memory of their loved ones.

Cyra Quinones-Borsy of the WCHIVP said that the Columbia events are meant to reflect this year's World AIDS Day theme: "Families 2000: listen, learn, and live."

Speakers will include the father and mother of a child with AIDS. Other speakers will address topics that include how senior citizens, women, and young people deal with AIDS; AIDS' impact on a community; and faith, gay, lesbian, and transgender issues associated with AIDS, Quinones-Borsy said.

The event's organizers are "involving a lot more youth this year," Quinones-Borsy said.

Students from LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts and other local schools and youth groups will perform skits and dance routines. The event will also include performances by the Dance Ministry from the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine and a gospel singer.

"Our goal is to reach out to all these different groups," Quinones-Borsy said.

