

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

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IN OUR PAGES 20 YEARS AGO

Columbians Eat Hot Dogs, Morph into Chair

“Campus relishes Hot Dog Day fiesta,” *Spectator* reported on Monday, Oct. 17. The Saturday event—which took place 20 years before Columbia’s 250th birthday bash—was sponsored by Student Activities and included an attempt at breaking the *Guinness Book of World Records* mark for longest human chair. About 1,000 Columbians did that thing where everybody stands in a line, and then, on command, sits back on the lap behind them (a picture would help, eh?). Unfortunately, the record to top was 5,180.

“College Dean of Students Roger Lehecka was kept busy serving hot dogs,” *Spectator* reported. “I can’t believe so many people can eat so many hot dogs,” he said. “We shouldn’t waste time setting a world’s record for a human chair, we should set a world’s record for eating hot dogs.”

Various community-service organizations got in on the day’s activities. The Black Students Association, for example, “found an abandoned car, brought it on campus, and charged 25 cents to take three swings at it with a sledgehammer. ‘We want people to come out here and release their aggressions,’ a spokesman said.”

Democrats Debate, LaRouche Protests

On page three of Monday’s paper, *Spectator* reported on what it considered a boring debate among Democratic presidential candidates hosted by Harvard that weekend.

“An hour-long battle on arms control televised to a quarter of the country provided little more than one additional forum for each contender to try to explain, one more time, why he’s different from the rest,” *Spectator* wrote.

While candidates Hollings, Hart, Glenn, and



McGovern pitched themselves as realistic, young, detailed, and relatively liberal, the eventual nominee, Mondale, argued that he was the most experienced. "These platitudes were not nearly as exciting," *Spectator* wrote, as "the scene outside the debate before it began. On the street and sidewalk in front of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government gathered a small but loud group of protesters ... supporters of sometimes-Republican-sometimes-Democrat, Lyndon LaRouche. It seems that LaRouche, despite announcing his candidacy for the Democratic Presidential nomination, was not invited to the debate."

In recent news, LaRouche is also running for the 2004 Democratic nomination. His supporters recently protested his exclusion from a NYC debate.

AIDS Affects Blood Donations

Because of the emerging AIDS epidemic, 1983 saw a drop in blood donations at Columbia and in New York City generally. On Thursday, Oct. 20, *Spectator* reported that according to Blood Program officials, "people are receiving a lot of speculative and confusing information. They are aware that AIDS is spread through blood transfusions, so they think that any contact with blood might be dangerous. Some hospital patients who need blood are refusing to accept transfusions, and the healthy donor doesn't even want to give blood."

Blood centers were "trying to keep people with a risk of high exposure to AIDS from donating with a careful screening effort."

This week, twenty years later, a blood drive is taking place across Columbia's campus.

