

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXXIX, Number 10, 31 January 2005 — 26.2 Miles of Boogie: CU Dance Marathon One Hundred Students Dance for 28 Hours to Raise \$79,000 for Pediatric AIDS Foundation [ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]

26.2 Miles of Boogie: CU Dance Marathon

One Hundred Students Dance for 28 Hours to Raise \$79,000 for Pediatric AIDS Foundation

By Josh Hirschland
Spectator Staff Writer

This weekend, hundreds of students packed Boone Arledge Auditorium to keep kids “staying alive in ’05.”

The fifth annual Columbia University Dance Marathon, which kept students moving from noon on Saturday till 4 p.m. Sunday, raised \$79,333 for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS foundation to fight AIDS among children.

Nearly 100 dancers each had to raise at least \$350 to enter the marathon. Other funds came from raffle tickets, t-shirt sales, and entrance fees from non-dancing supporters.

Mary Bruch, BC '05, was the chair of this year's event. “We beat our total for last year, so we're really excited, and this year, we accomplished pretty much everything we set out to do,” she said. “It all came together really nicely ... we're all so happy,” Bruch said. Last year's marathon raised about \$73,000; the year before the total reached \$100,000.

Participants played video games and poker, tossed around footballs, chugged free cans of Red Bull, and even line-danced throughout the night to stay awake. Dancers wore shirts

with supportive statements from their friends, decorative bracelets, and bouncy, pointy antlers. Posters supporting the dancers lined the auditorium.

Throughout the night, dancers were entertained by comedians, campus dance troupes CU Swing, CU Ballroom, and Raw Elementz, the Columbia University Marching Band, various sports teams, and even a visit from Columbia men's basketball Coach Joe Jones.

The Glaser Foundation was founded in 1988 by Elizabeth Glaser, wife of actor Paul Glaser, best known as Starsky on the TV show "Starsky and Hutch." Elizabeth had been infected with HIV from a blood transfusion and passed it on to their two children, Jake and Ariel. Ariel died in 1988, and Elizabeth in 1994.

This year, 20-year-old Jake Glaser came to the event. "It really meant a lot that he was here; it gave a face to this," Bruch said.

As 4 p.m. rolled past, the speakers blasted Queen's "We are the Champions" and from the screams and smiles everywhere, few would have suspected that the dancers had been on their feet for a full day. They counted down the final seconds to zero... and then collapsed as one.



MIKE DILORENZO—STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One hundred dancers, 28 hours, \$79,000, and countless Red Bulls later, the Dance Marathon ended in what organizers deemed a success.