

# Columbia Spectator Archive Project Behind the Scenes

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# The Plan

- Partnership between Columbia Libraries / Information Services and the Spectator
- High quality scanning of original Spectator issues from Columbia University Archives and the Spectator Editorial Offices
- State-of-the-art text processing (OCR) of scanned images and article segmentation
- Feature-rich online presentation
- Permanent, long-term digital preservation

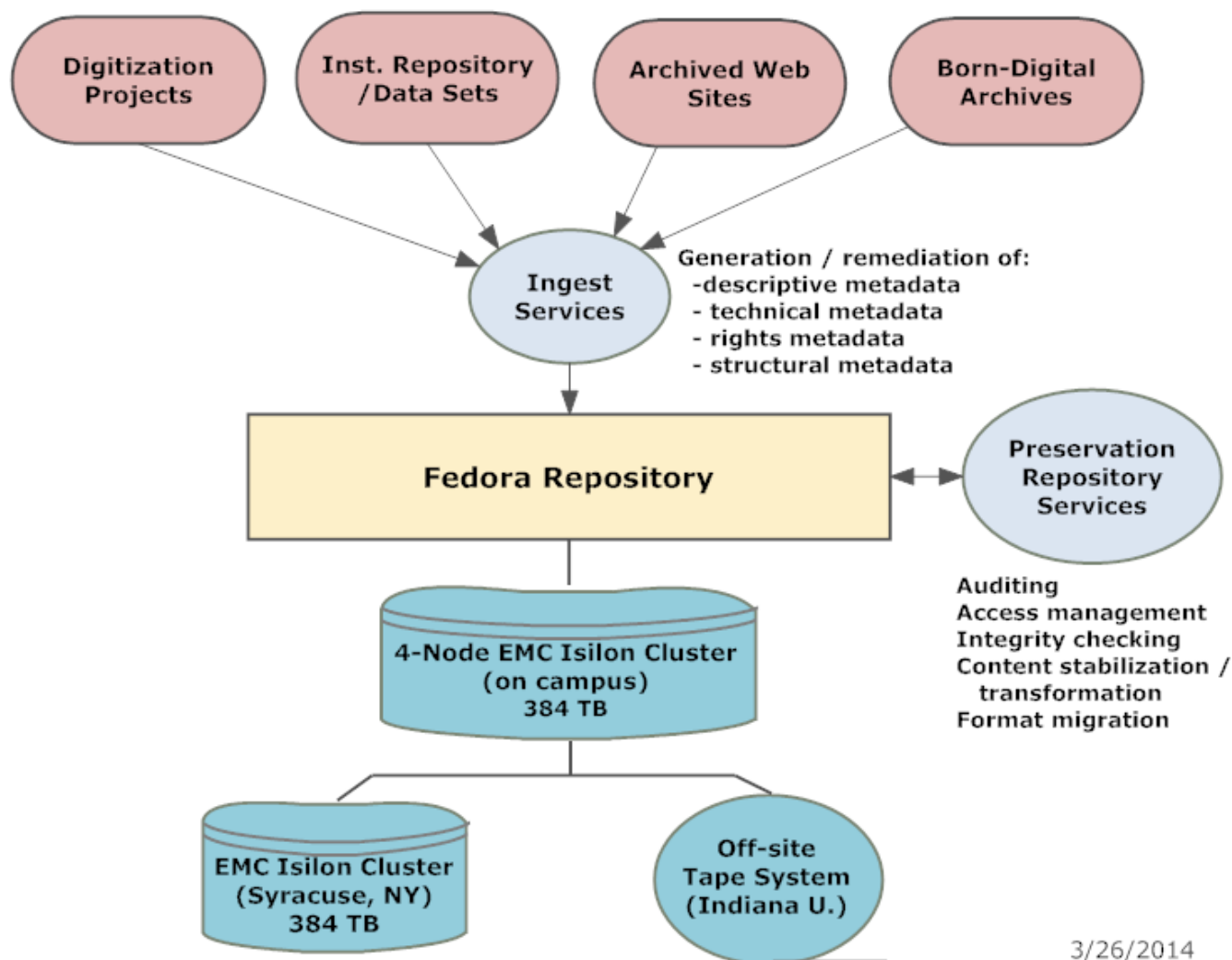
# The Players

- The Spectator staff and board
- Columbia University Archives
- Libraries' Preservation & Digital Conversion Division
- Libraries' Digital Program Division
- Libraries' Information Technology Division
- Digital Divide Data (DDD)
- Brechin Imaging Services
- Digital Library Consulting (Veridian provider)

# Columbia Libraries Digitization Program

- [Digitization Projects](#)  
(Books, manuscripts, papyri, archives, oral histories, multimedia, etc.)
- [Digital Exhibitions](#)  
(See especially: [Core Curriculum:CC](#), [Core Curriculum:LitHum](#),  
[1968:Columbia in Crisis](#), [Varsity Show](#))
- [‘Born-Digital’ & Web Archives](#)  
(Columbia University, Human Rights Organizations, etc.)

Columbia University Libraries / Information Systems  
Digital Asset / Preservation Architecture



**COLUMBIA**  **SPECTATOR** →  
FOUNDED 1877 • INDEPENDENT SINCE 1962



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

**BRECHIN**

**DDD**

 *Veridian*

**COLUMBIA**  **SPECTATOR**  
ARCHIVE

# Digital Divide Data

“DDD’s innovative social model enables talented youth from low-income families to access professional opportunities and earn lasting higher incomes. This model, established by DDD in 2001, is now called “Impact Sourcing” and has been implemented by dozens of firms around the world.”

## Newspaper Access !?

- Providing flexible access to newspaper content is complicated and expensive
- Not cost-effective for single institutions to build custom, newspaper-oriented software
- Only two major vendors provide software optimized for newspapers
- DL Consulting's Veridian is by far the better & most frequent choice for research libraries



## Spectator Stats

Spectator run from 1877-2012:

No. of pages = 127,623

No. of vols. requiring disbinding = ~100

No of vols. unable to be digitized = ~10

NB: Most older volumes contain severely brittle paper; only 24 volumes have flexible paper

# Why Scan From Originals?

## Scanning from originals retains visual content

### Strike Activities Attract Crowd



**CAPTAIN TRIPS:** Jerry Garcia, lead guitarist of the Grateful Dead, entertains a group of students outside of Ferris Booth Hall Friday afternoon. The rock group came to the campus to help celebrate the current strike against the University

The Grateful Dead rock band performed on the Ferris Booth Hall plaza Friday afternoon. The weather was sunny, people were dancing, and the band was playing "Morning Dew" or just their bodies where they were. Students lounged on the ledges, windows, smiling, waving signs; even three-piece suits were seen. The journalism school students looked pleased....

Friday night—for the first time in many years a white man was elected to the position of President of the Graduate Faculty on the platform at 125th Street and 125th Avenue. The little bit of news on the way up all flashed "strike, strike." Later, Wilson, president of the Student Afro-American Society, spoke to the crowd about the new campus.

Saturday—the communes were in the occupied buildings, meetings in front of them as professors and others were in the liberation classes on the campus. About one hundred people were seen to picket Gracie Street. —Mayor Lindsay wasn't there.

Sunday, at strike center headquarters, on the third floor of Ferris Booth Hall—the hallway was chosen for the meeting. (Continued on Page 4)

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Tiny sampler of Spec Archive images



## Columbia, Eli Glee Clubs To Hold Joint Concert



11 October 1956

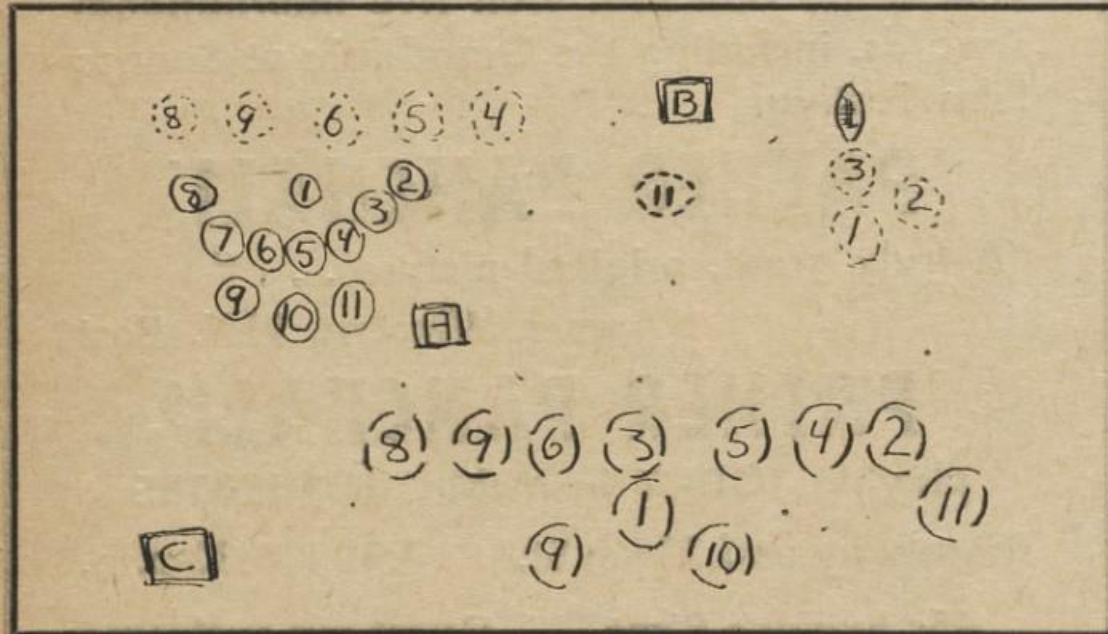


*Van Doren Wins  
Another \$5,000*

19 February 1957



# Columbia's New Huddle



29 September 1959

When the Columbia football team introduced its now famous huddle into Saturday's game with Brown, they were employing a basic offensive idea—to keep the defense off balance. The play works like this:

The team lines up for its huddle as in diagram A (the solidly circled numbers) off to the side of the ball (upper right). The Quarterback (circle 1), after having called the signals, moves over to the ball (as in Diagram B) with the center (3) and the right end (2). The rest of the team takes positions as represented by the dotted circles, except for the left halfback (9) and fullback (10) who remain stationary.

The quarterback, if the defense does not respect the unbalanced line,





The Rev. Martin Luther King jr., who will speak here tonight.

## Rights Issue To Be Topic Of King Talk

*Reverend Will Discuss  
Nonviolent Resistance*

By Jonathan Harris

The progress in the drive for full civil rights for Southern Negroes will be described here tonight by Rev. Martin Luther King jr.

Dr. King, primary spokesman for the technique of nonviolent resistance, will speak at 8:15 p.m. in McMillin Theatre.

Other speakers will be Congressman William Fitts Ryan,

27 October 1961

3 December 1973



Photo by Tom Steele

**POUNING THE PRESIDENT:** Congresswoman Bella Abzug, in her inimitable style, denounces President Nixon for playing a "cruel hoax" on the American people during an anti-Nixon rally held Friday night.



2 October 1972



Photo by Jeanine Barone

**NIXON'S THEIR ONE:** A campaign poster of President Nixon greets curious students and Nixon supporters on the steps of Low Library on Friday afternoon.

7 March 1974



Photo by Martin Kutscher

**400 Watch Nixon  
Burned in Effigy**

# Challenges of Scanning from Originals

# Disbinding fragile pages





# Repairing and Conserving



# Preservation Boxing

(for shipping & long-term storage)



# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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## FEATURED ISSUE



Columbia Daily Spectator 28 September 2007

## SEARCH THE ARCHIVE

[Browse by date](#)

## CONTACTS

If you are interested in republishing Spectator content, please contact the newspaper's sales staff at: [info@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:info@columbiaspectator.com).

If you have comments or questions about the archive, contact Spectator's editors at: [info@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:info@columbiaspectator.com).

Send any problem reports to: [ldpd-help@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:ldpd-help@libraries.cul.columbia.edu).

The original printed copies of the Columbia Spectator are housed in [Columbia University Archives](#).

## ABOUT THE COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

Welcome to the Archive of the Columbia Daily Spectator, the newspaper of Columbia University and Morningside Heights and the second-oldest college daily paper in the country. When completed, the Archive will include the complete run of the newspaper from 1877 to the present. Currently available content may be viewed via the [Browse By Date](#) page. For articles published in the last 15 years, see also the main [Spectator website](#).

Whenever possible pages have been scanned from original paper copies and digitized using state of the art technology that provides full-page, searchable reproductions of articles, photographs, and advertisements.

The goals of the Archive are to provide a public resource for Columbia University history and to preserve the Spectator's past work. It is the result of a partnership between the Spectator and Columbia University Libraries, and funded jointly by the Libraries and through generous gifts from Spectator alumni and friends, especially members of the class of 1958. (See also the [Acknowledgements](#) page.)

# Future?

- Include volumes from 2013, 2014
- Discuss long term archiving of and access to Spec online content

The screenshot shows the Columbia University Spectator website. At the top, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The main header reads "COLUMBIA SPECTATOR" with "FOUNDED 1877 • DISSEMINATED SINCE 1961" below it. A navigation bar includes links for NEWS, OPINION, A&E, SPORTS, MULTIMEDIA, SPECTRUM, and THE EYE. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation, there is a banner for the "2015 SUMMER PROGRAM" at the Columbia University School of the Arts, with a "Track major requirements" button. The main article is titled "Football faces Brown in final game of season" by Kyle Perrotti, dated November 20, 4:00 AM. It includes a photo of a football game and a caption: "Kiera Wood / Senior Staff Photographer". Below this, there are two more articles: "Seminar format, goal of course among student concerns raised at Frontiers forum" by Malaya Sadler, and "The Rules of Endowment" by Yasmin Gagne. On the right side, there is an advertisement for "BOOKS DOWN. BEERS UP." at Bernheim and Schwartz Restaurant & Beer Hall, featuring a logo with a horse and rider. At the bottom right, there is a "SPECTRUM" logo and a graphic of a couple's silhouette with a red heart containing a Facebook logo.