Columbia Spectator Archive Project
Behind the Scenes

Stephen Paul Davis
Director, Columbia Libraries Digital Program
November 20, 2014
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.)
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stat</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of pages</td>
<td>127,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of vols. requiring disbinding</td>
<td>~100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of vols. unable to be digitized</td>
<td>~10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The Grateful Dead rock FBH plaza Friday afternoon was sunny, people were dawing in "Morning Dew" or just their bodies where they students lounged on the ledges, windows, smiling, waving signs; even three-piece the journalism school looked pleased...

Friday night—for the first many years a white man Dewin, Graduate Faculties on the platform at 125th St. enth Avenue. The little bit on the way up all flashed "struck" and called, "strike, strike." Later Wilson, president of the St Afro-American Society, said Columbia windbreaker told crowd about the new th campus.

Saturday—the communities at the occupied buildings meetings in front of them as professors and others beration classes on the About one hundred people one p.m. to picket Gracie —Mayor Lindsay wasn’t Sunday, at strike center quarters, on the third FBH— the hallway was cho (Continued on Page 4)

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

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

(Continued on Page 4)

6 May 1968
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
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,
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

POUNDING 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.

3 December 1973
2 October 1972

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

400 Watch Nixon Burned in Effigy
Challenges of Scanning from Originals
Disbinding fragile pages
Repairing and Conserving
Preservation Boxing
(for shipping & long-term storage)
FEATURED ISSUE

Columbia Daily Spectator 28 September 2007

SEARCH THE ARCHIVE

Search

Browse by date

CONTACTS

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

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

Send any problem reports to: 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 1968. (See also the Acknowledgements page.)
Future?

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