



The Heights Beat

NLRB ends election hearings; vote may come in November

After four months of deliberations, a federal labor board wrapped up hearings between the university and organizers of a clerical union late last week.

The National Labor Relations Board will issue a decision in about 40 days detailing which employees will be allowed to vote in the upcoming election, when more than 1,000 unrepresented clerical workers here decide whether they want District 65 of the United Auto Workers to represent them.

Union supporters said the election may take place in November, but added it was still too early to pinpoint a date.

"We're extremely pleased that the hearings are over, because we can proceed with organizing the election," Ellen Holahan, union organizer, said yesterday.

—Violanda Botet

Take me out to the ballgame: helpless in the face of the strike

It was 90 degrees today, but it was the middle of winter. My skin felt cold. On the television there were reruns. On the radio there were old tunes. The tabloid headlines told of murders and kidnapped children. The sports pages were filled with football and golf.

I have not seen a baseball game in seven weeks. I should be settling into a normal routine by now, but the world

Perspective

is askew. There are no classes to attend, no assigned books to read, no

tests to pass. In the middle of winter, the letters on the top line of the calendar spelled "July."

It is 5:00 p.m.: time to go to the ballpark. Was it Shea or Yankee tonight? Yeah, Shea. The Mets fell before Seaver last night, but Houston is in town tonight, and Bob Knepper, the hottest pitcher around, will be on the mound.

I stared back at the calendar. The letters still spelled "July." But it couldn't be July. Not without the ballpark. I turned over and tried to sleep. My mind drifted back to the night Seaver was on the mound, mowing down his old team. Kingman, the player who was banished the same night as Seaver, was the only one who managed a hard blow. At least that's how I remember the game. It was just like old times. The master pitcher on the mound showing a hint of early weakness before finding the groove. I longer for that night.

But it cannot be. Six weeks later it still hasn't hit. There is no baseball. The sick feeling in the pit of my stomach starts from the moment I wake up, when I look for the boxscores and newspaper accounts of what happened on the field the night before. Why even buy a newspaper if there is no baseball?

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SPECTATOR / J. ROSLANOWICK

TAKE THE STAIRS: Workman Michael Paladino balances himself on newly erected scaffolding at Kent Hall. Workers are repairing the drainage system on the roof.

CC starting new science course May be added to the school's core curriculum

By MIKE WALDMAN

An experimental course debuting in September will let students in the College fulfill their science requirement in a format modeled after the Contemporary Civilization and Humanities program and may evolve into an addition to the core curriculum.

The two-semester class, "The Theory and Practice of Science," is designed to combat "scientific illiteracy," according to Professor of Biological Sciences Robert Pollack, its originator. It has been designated with the hallowed symbol Science C1001x-C1001y, terminology traditionally reserv-



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Robert Pollack

...designing new course

ed for the core requirements.

Pollack said the course will give students a broad knowledge of science. "It's not intended to be a substitute for a departmental course," he said. "It's intended to be a course in science."

Its curriculum will be divided into three units shared among Pollack, Jonathan Gross, professor of Computer Science and Mathematics, and Professor of Applied Physics and Nuclear Engineering Herbert Goldstein.

The first unit, taught by Gross, will deal with mathematical techniques necessary for scientific thought. The second, under Pollack, will examine case studies in genetics, and the final section will focus on the physical sciences. Students will not be graded during the first semester.

The genesis of the class was an article by Pollack in *Columbia College Today*, the College's magazine for alumni, entitled "From Theory to Praxis." In it, Pollack argued that "science is the *lingua franca* of our era" yet "the current science requirement provides our undergraduates with a peculiar and limited set of choices."

The Committee on Instruction voted in early spring to allow students to use the course to fulfill the present science requirement, but at that point the course had not received funding. President Sovern

told Pollack at the end of June that the university would provide money for developing and running the course.

"This is an experiment," Pollack noted. "It's a gift from the president to the College and the undergraduates."

In his inaugural speech last September, Sovern alluded to the need for a science program. "We have yet to solve the problem of scientific literacy for the non-scientist," Sovern said then, and added: "We must get on with it."

Barnard President Ellen Futter, with whom Pollack has met to discuss the project, has given him "an extremely cordial and gracious response," according to the biology professor.

Pollack said he hoped the course might increase coeducation, especially among freshmen. He added that he did not know if the creation of the course was part of an effort by senior administrators on both sides of Broadway to informally increase coeducation.

The course is not designed to fit the science-intensive curriculum of pre-medical students. The "ideal" student, Pollack said, might be "a comparative literature major who freezes up and goes into mental gridlock at the sight of an equation."

"The trick is to learn enough of the language to understand the beauty of science and the ethical problems," he added.

Votes on aid send mixed signals

By VIOLANDA BOTET

Student aid packages announced in Washington, D.C., and Albany last week kept financial aid officers here busy sorting out the good news from the bad.

The House of Representatives and the Senate reached a key compromise late last week, under which students from families earning more than \$30,000 annually would have to satisfy a need test to be eligible for federally-guaranteed loans.

The same day, Congress voted to substantially cut back the Pell Grant program to \$2.6 billion for fiscal 1981. Of two million students now covered, 500,000 will be eliminated from the program if the cut becomes law.

Gov. Hugh Carey provided the only hopeful news, university administrators said, when he signed into law an increase in the New York State Tuition Assistance Program. The measure, which applies only to this year's freshmen, increases the maximum grant from \$1,800 to \$2,200, and the minimum grant from \$200 to \$250. The new law also raises the income ceilings for eligibility to \$25,000.

Columbia administrators, while estimating the dollar costs to the university this week nevertheless said they had expected more stringent legislation from Congress and were confident that most students could now cope with the federal cuts.

Robert Cooper, vice president for student services, said the Pell Grant cutbacks would cost the university nearly \$200,000 next year. In its 1981-82 budget, however, the university set

aside a reserve fund of \$200,000 to cover possible cuts in student aid.

University officials cautioned, however, that continuing efforts to reduce the overall funding for Pell Grants might result in stricter needs tests that eventually would squeeze out poor students.

"I'm concerned that the government will begin to construct a system for determining financial need which will conform to the availability of funds," Theodore Stock, director of financial aid for the College, said yesterday. "And the two are not necessarily related; this is a major concern for the financial aid community for the next couple of years."

Cooper said, however, he was grateful that Albany had provided relief for New York students. The legislation will save the

university \$120,000 in aid it would otherwise have been forced to give out, he noted.

More importantly, the New York measure will assume costs that the College had previously carried under the federal work-study program. Currently, the federal government pays 75 percent of the cost of the work-study program, with the College picking up the rest of the tab. According to the new law, the state will pay the remaining 25 percent for the colleges. Cooper estimated that this would save the university \$782,000 over the next two years.

Rent control no cause of decay, CU study finds

By DANNY LY

A new study by a Columbia professor asserts that rent control laws do not cause building abandonment.

The 52-page report, entitled "Housing Abandonment: Does Rent Control Make a Difference?" was written by Peter Marcuse of the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, and will be released in two weeks.

Rent control laws do not encourage owners to abandon their buildings, and in some cases act as stabilizing factors and decrease the possibility of abandonment, according to the study. It goes on to assert: "If the bugaboo of rent control as a cause of abandonment is finally set aside, perhaps the real problems can be addressed."

Using statistics from the U.S. General Accounting Office, Mar-



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Theodore Stock

...concerned about cuts

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