**Summer Spectator**

**VOL CV—No. 120**

NEW YORK, N.Y., JULY 29-AUGUST 4, 1981

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FIFTEEN CENTS

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**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 to 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.

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**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 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."

At 5:00 p.m. it's time to go to the ballpark. Was it Shea or Yankee tonight? Yeah, Shea. The Mets fell before Seaver last night, but Housewives is now tonight. Bob Knepper, the hottest pitcher around, will be on the mound.

I starred 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.

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**Perspective**

**Violanda Botet**

**NLRB ends election hearings; vote may come in November**

By MIKE WALDMAN

An experimental course debuting in September will let students in the College fulfill the science curriculum requirement with a format modelled after the Contemporary Civilization and Humanities program and may evolve into an alternative 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. Pollack is the originator of the new course, which has been designated with the bowwowed symbol Science C101x-C100y, traditionly reservied 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 a science Committee on Instruction voted in early spring to allow students to use the course to fulfill the science requirement, but at that point the course had not receivd funding. President Soven told Pollack at the end of June that the university would provide funds for the first year of development and running the course.

"It's an experiment," Pollack added. "We hope to give the president to the College and the University a chance of establishing the project."

In his inaugural speech last September, Soven alluded to the possibility of a science course. "We have yet to solve the problem of how to organize the class for the non-scientists," Soven said, and then, "We must get on with it.

Barnard President Ellen Futcher, 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 the course might increase coeduccation, 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 enrollment.

The course is not designed to fit into any particular course or curriculum of pre-medical or pre-engineering students. The "ideal," student, Pollack said, "might be a comparitive literature major who freely and easily would slip in and out of the course at the sight of an equation."

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

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**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 Pell Grant program to $2.5 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 with which he signed into law an increase in the New York State Tution Assistance Program. The measure, which applies only to this state, adds $3,000 to the maximum grant from $1,800 to $2,000, and the minimum grant from $200 to $250. The new law also raises the income ceiling eligibility to $25,000.

Columbia administrators, while estimating the dollar costs to the university this week, nevertheless said they had expected the financial aid program to improve once the measure from Congress was and were confident the university 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 funding," Theodore Stock, director of financial aid for the College, said yesterday. "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 cut.

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. But beginning next year, the state will pay the remaining 25 percent of the cost. Cooper estimated that this would save the university $782,000 over the next two years.

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**Rent control no cause of decay, CU study finds**

By DANNY LY

A new study by a Columbia professor asserts that rent control does 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 available in September.

Rent control laws do not encourage owners to abandon their buildings, and in some cases, even require them to do so to maintain and decrease the possibility of abandonment, according to the study. It goes on to assert: "If the bugaboos of rent control as a cause of building abandonment is set aside, perhaps the real problems can be addressed."

Using statistics from the U.S. General Accounting Office, Mar- Turn to Rent, page two