Dinkins discusses city budget, crime

By Niraj Warikoo
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Mayor David Dinkins cited fiscal stability as the most important issue facing his administration at a press conference Friday morning at the School of Journalism.

Dinkins said the current recession will force city services to be cut back, but he refused to predict how many people will be laid off.

The administration will establish a management advisory task force in order to revitalize the economy, he said, adding that he is confident the proposal will help the faltering New York economy.

Dinkins also discussed crime and gun control at the press conference.

Gun control is an important factor in controlling the murder rate of New York City, he said.

Seventeen thousand guns were confiscated in New York City last year, 95 percent of which came from outside the city, according to Dinkins.

This proved the effectiveness of New York’s gun control laws, he said.

“We have good laws in the City of New York,” Dinkins said. “[The high murder rate] cries out for the Brady Bill. We want to get rid of automatic weapons.”
The Brady Bill, which is being considered by the U.S. Congress, calls for stricter gun control.

Dinkins said he supports the Civil Rights Act in Congress, which was vetoed by President Bush last year.

"We ought to get the current Civil Rights Act passed. I don't agree with our president, he said. "Quotas are a floor on which to build."

The Civil Rights Act supports affirmative action and makes it easier for employees to sue their employers on charges of racial discrimination.

The problem of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) must also be given more attention, Dinkins said.

"The programs we have to address AIDS aren't as enough as they need to be. We don't have the capacity to do nearly or remotely what we need to do to fight AIDS," he said.

Dinkins also spoke about the war in the Persian Gulf, saying he was concerned about the security of Israel and hoped that U.S. troops would be fully supported now and when they come back.

"The troops should be treated royally when they come back," he said. "Our troops were ill-treated when they came home [after the Vietnam War]."

Dinkins also criticized the press for concentrating on the negative aspects of New York, specifically citing a recent issue of Time magazine.

"I believe that the Time magazine with the rotten apple on the cover did a tremendous disservice to the city," he said.
ALL TOGETHER NOW: Over 500 Columbia students journeyed to Washington, D.C. Last Saturday for an anti-war march that drew about 100,000 people and their signs.