

# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

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Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXVII, Number 51, 13 April 1993 — CU may lose \$1 million in Clinton plan  
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## CU may lose \$1 million in Clinton plan

**By Nathaniel Daw**

*Spectator Staff Writer*

Columbia may lose more than \$1 million in campus-based financial aid if the U.S. Congress approves the federal budget proposed by President Bill Clinton last week.

Clinton's proposed \$200 million cut in campus-based financial aid, roughly 14 percent of the \$1.3 billion the government agreed to spend on this type of aid in last year's budget, would affect students in the 1994-95 school year.

"This is really bad for Columbia students," said Columbia College Student Council Government Affairs Representative Shawn Landres, CC '94.

Much of this cut would translate into a significant decrease in work-study jobs, according to Vice President for Government Relations and Community Affairs Gregory Fusco.

"At a time when everyone's yelling about the cost of college and the need to help people pay those costs, they cut the program, and that's a

disappointment, Fusco said.

Perkins loans and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants are also endangered by the cuts, although Pell grants, which are funded separately, would continue to receive their current allocations.

Fusco said the lack of an increase for Pell Grants demonstrates how tight the federal budget is this year.

"I think the Clinton people would like to increase Pell Grants," Fusco said.

"The Clinton budget contains a number of hopeful signs of their support for Columbia's activities, but it also contains clear evidence of the fiscal strains of the current federal deficit," he added.

Fusco said Columbia and other universities will fight the cuts, which Congress must approve or deny by October. Landres said he will also lobby against the cuts during an Apr. 29 trip with the Ivy Council Steering Committee to Washington, DC.

"It's going to be one of our great priorities when we go to Washington to express our grave concerns with the cuts in work study and Perkins loans," Landres said.

"I think that Congress should be willing to reshuffle some of the money," Landres said. "I hope the

president will be willing to renegotiate that point.”

Landres said he hopes that two new financial aid programs Clinton is preparing to announce later this month will help make up for the cuts in financial aid.

While Landres said the new income-contingent loan program might do just that, administrators pointed out that its companion National Service Loan program may be too expensive to reach enough students to be effective.

The proposed budget would raise funding for some types of research, through a large increase for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and increases for specific research efforts under the National Institutes of Health.

“What you’re seeing in general in that budget is a desire to work on problems and focus a lot of energy on particularly acute problems,” said Vice Provost for Research Mike Crow.

Increased funds for specific research projects, in such areas as breast cancer and AIDS, are balanced by either maintaining, or in some cases, cutting funding for more general research.

Fusco said Columbia researchers will particularly feel these changes because the University’s largest source of federal research

funds is biomedical.

“If you’re doing research that doesn’t relate to one of these special priority areas, you have less money to shoot for,” Fusco said.

Nevertheless, the prioritized increases offer an opportunity for Columbia researchers, Crow said.

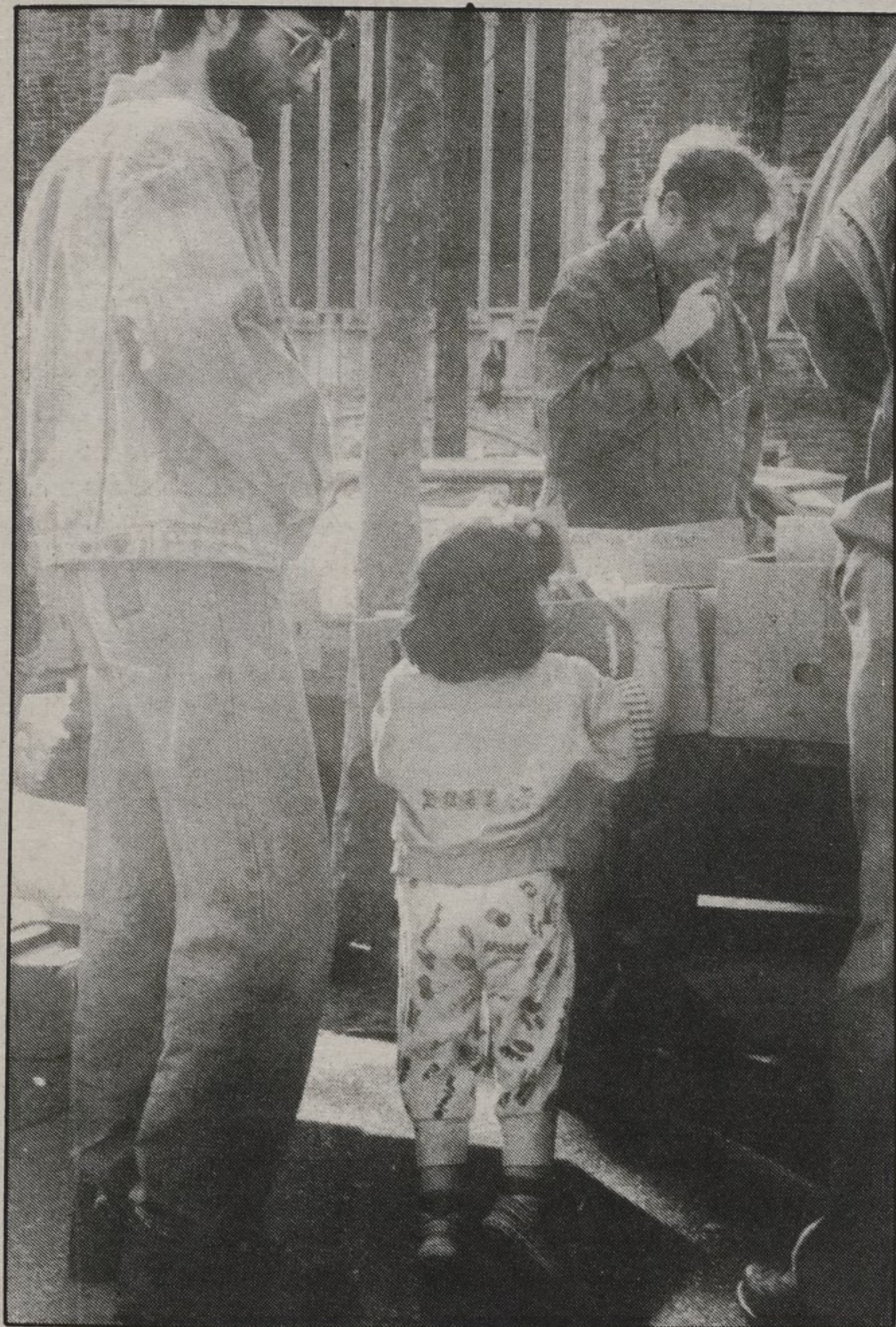
“Our cancer-related research programs and our AIDS-related research programs are significant, and I think that Columbia will be a major player in those areas,” Crow said.

“[The budget] doesn’t in any way suggest that we’re not going to maintain our commitment to fundamental science,” he said.

With his proposed budget, Clinton also kept a campaign promise to begin shifting much of student financial aid to direct loan programs, administered by the universities, and away from loans made through private institutions, such as banks.

This shift might be difficult at first, Fusco said, because administering loans previously handled by a variety of private institutions would require building “a mini-bureaucracy on every campus in the country.”

“We end up with all the work, and if they don’t pay us the cost of administering these programs, that would be a burden,” Fusco said.



SPECTATOR/MELISSA CHEUNG

**No eggs in this box of books. Someone forgot to tell this little girl that Easter was on Sunday, not yesterday.**