

# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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## *SIPA holds workshop on budget cuts*

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The Action Coalition for Social Justice (ACSJ) at the School of Social Work held an all-day teach-in yesterday to inform students and community members about the possible effects of state and local budget cuts initiated by the Republican party.

The teach-in, billed as “a day of education, debate, and action” addressed the Contract With America and new federal legislation, and its impact on minorities, women, and the poor.

With the slogan “When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty,” ACSJ tried to encourage the Columbia community to take action in support of those affected by the cuts.

“We want to inform students at Columbia University what is happening with the Contract With

America," said Leland Wheeler, a member of ACSJ. "We will discuss how we can mobilize and respond to the Contract."

Speakers during the day included Congressman Charles Rangel and Columbia Professor of the School of Social Work Richard Cloward.

Although attendance fluctuated through out the day, most people said they were disappointed at the small turnout of students.

"There is a disheartening lack of student interest," Wheeler said.

Julie Tovar, a former adult education teacher who said her job at the City University of New York was eliminated by Mayor Guiliani's budget cuts, said she came to gauge the interest of Columbia students.

"I'm not sure if my future in adult education will exist," Tovar said. "They [Republicans] don't think it is important to teach adults how to read and write."

Afruz Amighi, BC '96, a representative from the International Socialist Organization, said the teach-in went hand-in-hand with the recent demonstrations on campus and in the city.

"The only way we can change things is to confront the system," Amighi said. "This campus has a history of activism. We must pull together effectively in a united front."

The campus and New York groups participating in the teach-in included The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP), the Action Coalition for Community Empowerment (ACE), and the International Socialist Organization (ISO).