Legislatures Consider Budgets, Recommend INS Student Tracking

By Ellen S. Smith

State and federal legislatures are currently considering their respective budgets. At the federal level, the budget process was completed on Oct. 15 to extend its budget through the end of the fiscal year.

As of press time, it was expected that the fiscal year 2002 (April 1, 2001-June 30, 2002) budget would include minimal increases.

The United Congress is working hard to complete annual funding legislation, and the expected results include an economic stimulus package and airline safety legislation. Proposals to put a temporary ban on student visas to the United States will not be considered.

New York State Senate

Columbia was a major sponsor of the first New York Technology Transfer Summit from October 4-5, 2001, in Albany. The Senator, the Office of Science, Technol-

ogy and Academic Research (NYSTAR), Cornell University, the independent College of Engineers and Applied Sciences, and the New Jersey State Senate approved a resolution that Columbia's proactive anti-terrorism efforts as a member of two anti-terrorism organizations — the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the FLA — are to be highlighted.

Finally, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution, moved by Vice President for External Relations, praising Columbia's proactive anti-terrorism efforts as a member of two anti-terrorism organizations — the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the FLA.

The Senate meets next on Oct. 26 at 1:15 pm in 142 Uris. Anyone with a CD-I is welcome to attend. More information on the Senate is available on its website, at www.colum-
bia.edu/senate.

Terrorist Financing Discussed at Sipa Forum

By Kenneth W. Stewart

Terrorists are using simple, old-fashioned techniques to transfer money, techniques that are legal, and very difficult to detect. This was one of the observations that Columbia University Professor John K. Mearsheimer, a political scientist and foreign policy analyst, said during a speech on terrorism at a conference on security and terrorism.

In analyzing the threat, Mearsheimer noted that most, if not all, terrorist organizations are small. For example, the terrorist group Al Qaeda, which is responsible for the September 11 attacks, is estimated to have as few as 1,000 members.

Mearsheimer said that terrorist groups use a variety of methods to finance their operations, including the transfer of funds through banking systems, the sale of goods and services, and the collection of donations.

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