

# The New York Public Library Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Christiane C. Collins collection of the West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park and Urban Problems of the Contiguous Communities: West Harlem, Manhattan Valley, Morningside Heights and Manhattanville

1941-1996 [bulk 1968-1973] Sc MG 299

Processed by Janice Quinter, 1997. This inventory was prepared as part of an archival preservation project to arrange, describe, and catalog resources essential for the study of the post Civil Rights period of African

American history. The necessary staff and supplies for the Archival Resources for the Study of the Post-Civil Rights Movement project were made available through a combination of funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the City and State of New York.

# Summary

Collector: Collins, Christiane Crasemann

**Title:** Christiane C. Collins collection of the West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park and Urban Problems of the Contiguous Communities: West Harlem, Manhattan Valley, Morningside Heights and Manhattanville

Date: 1941-1996 [bulk 1968-1973]

Size: 12.96 linear feet (28 boxes, 3 tubes)

Source: Gift of Christiane C. Collins, 1988

**Abstract:** The Christiane C. Collins collection documents the origins, demonstrations and aftermath of the Columbia University student protest in the spring of 1968 and events through 1970.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Christiane C. Collins collection of the West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park and Urban Problems of the Contiguous Communities: West Harlem, Manhattan Valley, Morningside Heights and Manhattanville, Sc MG 299, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

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#### **Related Materials:**

Additional manuscript materials relating to Columbia University's Urban Center and Franklin Williams's

and Ewart Guinier's involvement in its administration are located in the Franklin Williams papers and the Ewart Guinier papers, respectively, and are housed in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

# **Creator History**

The Christiane C. Collins Collection of the West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park and Urban Problems of the Contiguous Communities: West Harlem, Manhattan Valley, Morningside Heights and Manhattanville documents Columbia University's expansionist plans in Manhattan's Morningside Heights and Morningside Park, and subsequent protests on the part of the community and students in the 1960s and 1970s, with the aftermath extending into the 1980s.

The materials in this collection were gathered by Christiane Crasemann Collins and her husband, Professor George R. Collins, long-time residents of Morningside Heights. Mrs. Collins, an art librarian at the Parsons School of Design (1973-1983), was an active member of the West Side Coalition for Morningside Park. Due to her deep-seated interest in the community's welfare and human rights issues, and her professional specialization in architectural history, she was convinced that the events as they were occurring in Morningside Heights were significant and that it was her "duty" to document the upheavals which took place during this period. She was an unofficial Morningside Park historian and wrote articles about the park for the local newspaper, *The Westsider*. Dr. George Collins, professor of art history and an architectural historian at Columbia University, was involved in community and university relations as early as the mid-1950s, when he began protesting Columbia's expansionist plans. He also became an active member of the University Senate's Committee on Community Relations following the upheavals in the spring of 1968. Professor Collins retired from Columbia University in approximately 1986.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Christiane C. Collins collection of West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park and Urban Problems of the Contiguous Communities: West Harlem, Manhattan Valley, Morningside Heights and Manhattanville documents the origins, demonstrations, and aftermath of the Columbia University student protest in the spring of 1968 and events through 1970. The collection focuses on the convergence of student activism and Black community concerns as they relate to urban planning, gentrification, and institutional racism, and the neglect of scarce natural resources in Black neighborhoods. In particular, the material documents the relationship between student and local activists and their unity over the issues of Columbia's proposed construction of a new gymnasium in Morningside Park, just north of the University's campus, and in Harlem, as well as other issues relating to Columbia's building expansion in Morningside Heights. The collection dates from 1941-1996 with the bulk dating from 1968-1970 when the student protest was at its peak.

Represented in the collection are the voices, opinions, and perspectives of all the major parties: the community, university/faculty, and media. Materials representing the community include articles from the *Columbia Daily Spectator*, *The New York Times*, and local Manhattan neighborhood newspapers; and other printed matter such as magazine and journal articles, reports, flyers, mimeograph leaflets, and proclamations. The records of meetings of the West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park and the Architects' Renewal Committee in Harlem, and of other community groups dedicated to preserving Morningside Park and Morningside Heights, are also in the collection. Additionally, there is documentation on Columbia's handling of the 1968 student protest, policy decisions by the Faculty Executive Committee, and selected minutes of the University Faculty Senate on Black and community-

related affairs. Other materials include deliberations and documentation of the role played by city officials from community and civic leaders, and City and University officials. Due to the wide variety of organizations, institutions, community groups and individuals represented in this collection, a great diversity of opinions is expressed. Numerous student groups voiced their political stance, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) being the most prominent. The student protest against the conflict in Vietnam as it related to Columbia University and nationwide is documented by news clippings and flyers.

**Arrangement:** Papers organized into nine series: I. Columbia University Building Expansion; II. Expansionist Plans of other Institutions in Morningside Heights; III. Manhattan's Upper West Side and Harlem Parks; IV. Manhattan's Upper West Side, Harlem and Bronx Neighborhoods; V. Morningside Heights Organizations; VI. Columbia University Gymnasium; VII. Columbia University Student Protest; VIII. Columbia University Faculty Senate; and IX. Columbia University Administration.

# **Key Terms**

## **Subjects**

Campus planning
College students -- Political activity
Race relations
Student movements -- New York (State) -- New York
Student strikes
Teacher-student relationships
Universities and colleges -- New York (State) -- New York
Urban renewal -- New York (State) -- New York

#### **Names**

Collins, Christiane Crasemann
Architects' Renewal Committee in Harlem (New York, N.Y.)
Black Panther Party
Columbia University
Morningside Park Association
Students for a Democratic Society (U.S.)
West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park

### **Container List**

#### COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY BUILDING EXPANSION 1956-1996

The geographic areas of greatest concern on Manhattan's Upper West Side in terms of land use and Columbia University encroachment were Morningside Heights and Park, Manhattan Valley, and West Harlem. Within Morningside Heights, two sites that Columbia had slated for expansion which caused the most significant conflict were the East Campus Dormitory Complex and the Pharmacy Site.

Commencing in 1956, Columbia had released plans to expand the campus east of Amsterdam Avenue from 116 to 118 streets. The "superblock" as it was known, was to have held a new School of Law building, a graduate residence hall, and a faculty office building. Despite community protests, all buildings standing on this site were demolished, resulting in the displacement of hundreds of families. Although the plan was modified, the site is now occupied by the School of International Affairs, the School of Law, and an East Campus undergraduate residence hall.

The second major expansion planned by Columbia University was the anticipated move by the College of Pharmacy in 1962 from midtown Manhattan to West 121 Street in Morningside Heights, evicting tenants from six buildings in order to construct a new school. Community opposition, including that voiced by Marie Runyon, a tenant spokesperson and later assemblywoman, successfully fought against the construction of the additional University buildings. By 1971, plans were drawn up to construct a joint community and University housing project on the site containing both low and middle income housing units. Four years later the College of Pharmacy went bankrupt, and to date, the site still remains vacant, part of it turned into a parking lot.

In an effort to study urban and minority problems and combat adverse conditions in the Harlem community, the Ford Foundation awarded a \$10 million grant to support the University's fund raising campaign in 1967. The funds were used to establish a new Center for Urban Minority Affairs, the name later simplified to the Urban Center, Former U.S. Ambassador to Ghana. Franklin H. Williams, was appointed as its director and Ewart Guinier as the assistant director. The Center sought, through institutional change, to improve the University's ability to deal with urban and minority problems, in addition to improving living conditions in the urban ghetto through education, law, and culture. The Center encouraged new courses in such areas as welfare law, urban sociology, and Black culture. Projects funded by the Urban Center included remedial and enrichment programs for community people, training of small business owners, a study of the social problems of Harlem residents, and chairs for urban and minority professorships. The programs of the Urban Center were frequently overruled by University administrators, and Harlem residents criticized the lack of community involvement in planning these programs. In 1970, Williams guit his post in protest over Columbia's policies, indicating that the University did not have a sincere commitment to use any of its resources to resolve the problems plaguing the surrounding community. Columbia University's opposition to the goals of the Center were clearly expressed by Vice President for Fiscal Management Bruce Bassett, who stated that "Social problems - the problems of class - are not the business of an institution of higher learning. The university is not a charity". President McGill also confirmed his opposition by noting that the University would not budget its own funds for community-oriented programs. Thus, in 1972, the University dismantled the Urban Center.

The Columbia University Building ExpansionOLUMBIA UNIVERSITY BUILDING EXPANSION series provides background information on the issues which united Black and white residents of Morningside Heights with many students and faculty members in opposition to Columbia University's administration. The series contains university newsletters and reports regarding plans for expansion, including the 1966 commencement of a \$200 million capital and program campaign; correspondence; material pertaining to the proposed construction of the gym in Morningside Park; Columbia's alleged harrassment of tenants; housing issues for students and community residents; and the history of building construction on the Columbia campus. Of note is a 1967 report prepared by the Faculty Civil Rights Group entitled "The Community and the Expansion of Columbia University". Additional topics discussed in this series include eviction of tenants from Columbia-owned buildings and single room occupancy hotels (SROs); and the 1966 Ford Foundation \$200 million grant, which included \$10 million in funding for the Center on Urban and Minority Affairs (the Urban Center), the East Campus "superblock", and the Pharmacy Site. Flyers, prepared by SDS and various tenant groups that sponsored some of the meetings and calls for action, are filed in this series. Other material focuses on housing policies.

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY BUILDING EXPANSION (cont.)

	General
b. 1 f. 1	1957-1964
b. 1 f. 2	1965-1967
b. 1 f. 3	1968
b. 1 f. 4	1969-1970
b. 1 f. 5	1971-1973
b. 1 f. 6	1974-1987
b. 1 f. 7	Faculty Response 1966-1967
b. 1 f. 8	Eviction of Tenants from Columbia Owned Buildings 1966-1971
b. 1 f. 9	Single Room Occupancy Hotels 1960-1980, 1996
b. 1 f. 10	East Campus Expansion and Dormitory Complex Construction 1956-1979
b. 1 f. 11	Graduate and Faculty Building and Housing 1963-1970
b. 1 f. 12	Special University Task Force on Housing - Report 1980
b. 1 f. 13	Ford Foundation Grants - Urban Center and Building Expansion 1965-1968
b. 1 f. 14	East Campus - 118 Street 1963-1965
b. 1 f. 15	East Campus Building Committee 1977
	Pharmacy Site
b. 1 f. 16	News Clippings 1962-1966
b. 1 f. 17	1962-1972
b. 1 f. 18	1971-1975
b. 2 f. 1	South Campus Arts Center 1962-1964
b. 2 f. 2	Children's Free School and Day Care 1977-1978
b. 2 f. 3	Columbia University and Community Housing 1979-1980
	Housing Policies
b. 2 f. 4	1964-1978
b. 2 f. 5	1979-1987
b. 2 f. 6	Campus Gates 1967-1971
	EXPANSIONIST PLANS OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS 1962-1975
	This series contains files about St. Luke's Hospital and the construction of P.S. 36 in Morningside Park, among other projects.
b. 2 f. 7	Bank Street College of Education 1963-1969
b. 2 f. 8	Consolidated Edison 1962-1963
b. 2 f. 9	Episcopal House 1968
b. 2 f. 10	Interchurch Center 1968
b. 2 f. 11	125 Street River Facility 1964-1968
b. 2 f. 12	St. Luke's Hospital 1964-1972
b. 2 f. 13	P.S. 36 - Dispute re Construction in Park 1963-1964
b. 2 f. 14	Schools 1963-1975

#### MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE AND HARLEM PARKS 1960-1994

Both background and in-depth information relating to Columbia University can be found in this series. Most of the material focuses on Morningside Park, center of the gymnasium controversy, and includes a 1972 report entitled "A Master Plan Study of St. Nicholas, Colonial and Morningside Parks" prepared for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Administration by City College's School of Architecture and Environmental Studies. There is also a history of Morningside Park dating to colonial times, including information on its landscapers, Olmsted and Vaux. The relationship with Columbia University, the involvement of community groups and their attempts to provide access for recreation to all, and the voices of political and civic leaders are expressed in this series. There are architectural drawings of proposed renovations of Morningside Park prepared by Bond Ryder Wilson and the Columbia 1972 master plan for Morningside Park, in addition to aerial photographs of Morningside Heights and Park. The longstanding problem of crime in the park is also represented. Christiane Collins's articles about Morningside Heights and Park, Riverside Park (including its renovation), and housing issues, and her extensive manuscript entitled "Morningside Park and Its Contiguous Communities: A Chronicle of Urban Conflicts" (1971), about the relationship between Morningside Park and the surrounding neighborhood, complete this series.

- b. 3 f. 1 Harlem Parks 1966-1971
- b. 3 f. 2-5 "A Master Plan Study of St. Nicholas, Colonial and Morningside Parks," School of Architecture and Environmental Studies, City College of City University of New York

Morningside Park

b. 3 f. 6 1961-1973

Relationship with Columbia University

- b. 3 f. 7 1960-1970
- b. 3 f. 8 1971-1983
- b. 3 f. 9 History 1955-1976
  - t. 1 Plan of Morningside Park by Bond Ryder Wilson 1980
  - t. 2 Columbia University Landscape Master Plan 1982
  - t. 3 Morningside Park and Heights, Aerial Photographs and Plans ca.1983
- b. 3 f. 10 1984-1987
- b. 3 f. 11 1989-1994
- b. 3 f. 12 News Clippings 1963-1987
- b. 3 f. 13 Morningside Heights and Park Crime 1960-1975
- b. 3 f. 14 Riverside Park 1962-1985
- b. 3 f. 15 Articles by Christiane Collins in The Westsider and Columbia Daily Spectator 1963-1973
- b. 4 f. 1-4 "Morningside Park and its Contiguous Communities: A Chronicle of Urban Conflicts" by Christiane Collins 1971

# MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE, HARLEM AND BRONX NEIGHBORHOODS 1962-1986

This series includes a lengthy report detailing plans for the development of Harlem prepared by various city commissions and local organizations, including the City Planning Commission, Columbia University, and the Negro Labor Committee (1968). News clippings, flyers, and other printed matter discuss redevelopment projects and plans in Harlem, including the construction of the Harlem State Office Building, and rehabilitation of residential buildings and deteriorated areas. Other material pertains to East Harlem, Puerto Ricans in Manhattan, including the Young Lords and their bimonthly newspaper, *Palante*, and a poverty striken community in the East Bronx. Official reports in this series include Mayor Robert Wagner's legislative program on housing, and a report prepared by Columbia entitled "Columbia University in the City of New York: An Old Partnership", dealing with the University's relationship with city problems such as medical services, legal affairs, economic development, business, and architectural projects.

MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE, HARLEM AND BRONX NEIGHBORHOODS (cont.)

Plans for Development of Harlem by Various Commissions and Organizations

b. 5 f. 1	1964-1968
b. 5 f. 2	1964-1966
b. 5 f. 3	1968-1969
b. 5 f. 4	Manhattan Valley and Harlem 1963-1986
b. 5 f. 5	Morningside Heights 1962-1982
b. 5 f. 6	J. Raymond Jones, Representative of City Council 1963
b. 5 f. 7	Marie Runyon, Assemblywoman 1971-1979
b. 5 f. 8	East Harlem - Puerto Ricans in Manhattan, Young Lords 1969-1970
b. 5 f. 9	Columbia University - "Columbia University in the City of New York - An Old Partnership"
b. 5 f. 10	Legislative Program on Housing - Robert Wagner - Speech 1963
b. 5 f. 11	Upper West Side 1962-1986
b. 5 f. 12	Squatters, Urban Planning 1970
b. 5 f. 13	Neighborhoods - Bronx 1970

#### MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS 1959-1994

Between 1947-1972, residents of Morningside Heights and surrounding neighborhoods formed a variety of organizations designed to either improve the quality of life in those communities or to prevent Columbia University and the other large institutions in the area from destroying the multiracial and diversified socioeconomic character of the neighborhood. Among the organizations that played a role in the events that occurred because of Columbia's building expansion were Morningside Heights, Inc., Morningside Renewal Council, Morningsiders United, the West Side Coalition for Morningside Park, and the Architects' Renewal Committee in Harlem.

Morningside Heights, Inc. (MHI) was formed in 1947 by a number of institutions in Morningside Heights with the goal of preventing the perceived deterioration of the neighborhood as the population of low income residents increased, many of whom were Black and Puerto Rican, and to prevent the expansion of single room occupancy hotels (SROs). The institutions, which included Columbia University, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Interchurch Center, and St. Luke's Hospital, described their purpose as being "to promote the improvement of Morningside Heights as an attractive residential, educational, and cultural area". According to Christiane Collins, the ideal aspired to was that of an American suburban-like environment, draped in an academic gown, economically and culturally homogeneous, free of "undesirables", and implying discrimination along both economic and racial lines. In the first phase of MHI's plan, low rental housing was demolished in the 1950s and replaced with a middle income cooperative housing complex.

The Morningside Renewal Council (MRC) was established in 1961 by the City of New York Housing and Redevelopment Board (HRB) to represent the needs and interests of the area. The Council was composed of representatives of tenant and community organizations, political associations, schools, churches, and other institutions who were responsible for formulating urban renewal plans as per the requirements of the HRB. The MRC recommended local sites for renewal projects, such as schools or low income housing. A city agency then considered the local proposals, and if they were accepted, acquired the property from the landlord for demolition. The MRC approved the surveying and planning stage of renewal and the Early Acquisition Plan (the beginning of land acquisition and demolition). In 1963, the MRC sought the rehabilitation of Morningside Park via the construction of a large Columbia University-owned gymnasium, which later became a major source of friction between Columbia and the neighborhood. According to Collins, it is not clear whether it was Parks Commissioner Robert Moses or Columbia that initiated the idea of utilizing the park as a site to construct a gym. Following a bitter spring 1968 student and community protest, Columbia finally withdrew its plans for building the gym in the park. Later, in 1970, the MRC sought to acquire Columbia-owned property to be used for urban renewal projects.

The Morningside General Neighborhood Renewal Plan (GNRP), also developed by the HRB in 1964, encompassed an area greater than Morningside Heights. The plan supported institutional expansion, especially that of Columbia, but excluded the immediate environs of Columbia University from urban renewal projects, leaving the interests of the residents unprotected. At the request of the MRC, the GNRP was revised in 1965 to restrict Columbia's expansion. The University, however, continued to purchase scores of buildings, demolishing a large number of these structures and evicting the tenants who were predominately African American and Puerto Rican as well as the elderly and long-term residents with large families who paid low rents. Community members criticized Columbia for establishing a pattern of racial discrimination by its use of intimidation and eviction of these tenants. Columbia's urban policy appeared to be founded on destroying the interracial residential character of the neighborhood without bringing about the improvements originally envisioned by Morningside Heights, Inc. During this period more than 150 buildings were acquired and 7500 people displaced. Columbia forced tenants to vacate buildings by not supplying heat and hot water and refusing to make necessary repairs. Vacant buildings were left standing, causing safety problems, and relatively few low income housing units were constructed as compared with the number of middle class units. As a result of this situation, the MRC brought together the heterogeneous groups that included the neighborhoods of Morningside Heights, Manhattan Valley (below 110 Street), and West Harlem (across Morningside Park), fostering an atmosphere of mutual rapport which began to unite these diverse communities.

Another organization, Morningsiders United, was formed in 1964 by neighborhood residents, owners of local businesses, and members of several community organizations to "preserve the Heights as a place to live" and to maintain the diversified, integrated community. Its primary purposes were to defend the community against the threat posed by "institutional encroachment" and effect neighborhood planning that would be fair to all. Morningsiders United, in conjunction with other groups, successfully obtained a guarantee from the New York City Board of Estimate that included a fourteen block area surrounding Columbia University which was to be part of the General Neighborhood Renewal Plan. This plan called for 25% of the housing to serve families of low income, and another 25% to accommodate families of moderate income.

The West Side Coalition for Morningside Park was formed in 1971 to oppose Columbia's expansion into the park and to plan the restoration of the abandoned gymnasium site. The Coalition was composed of community leaders and representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation. The organization was instrumental in rallying City agencies, elected officials, and private foundations to support the efforts for the total renovation of the park. The Coalition procured a grant from the Foundation for the City which made possible a study by Lawrence Halprin and Associates, a private landscape and architecture firm with an international reputation. The Coalition also conducted a planning study, the Take Part Workshop in April 1973, which sought community participation in redesigning Morningside Park. For many years, the park had been viewed as a barrier between the Morningside Heights and West Harlem neighborhoods. Activists began to see its potential for bridging gaps between the diverse adjacent communities and for serving as a focal point for community and person-to-person interaction. The conclusions reached by the Take Part Workshop participants included the following points: that after years of neglect, the park should be properly maintained, and the natural features of the park should be utilized in the design of new facilities; the park should be shared by all communities, ethnic groups, and age groups; the negative image of the park, especially in regard to crime, was to be eliminated; and the community, along with the Department of Parks and Recreation, should take an active and sustained role in planning, improving, and maintaining the park. The results of the workshop were submitted for review to the community-at-large and to appropriate city agencies and decision-making bodies. The recommendations, however, were largely ignored.

Members of the Architects' Renewal Committee in Harlem (ARCH) also provided leadership in the Take Part Workshop. This organization was founded in 1964 by a white architect, Richard Hatch, to provide architectural and planning services to the people of Harlem in order to make improvements in living conditions in the community. By 1966, ARCH had become a predominately Black organization. This transfer evolved out of the ideology that Black professionals and local residents must participate in the rebuilding of their own communities. Among the services provided by ARCH were: housing development to community organizations, the development of minority professionals in architecture and planning who were specifically prepared to provide services in poor communities, and initiation and development of social service facilities such as day care centers and multi-service facilities. The Black architectural team of Bond Ryder Wilson planned a design for the rehabilitation of Morningside Park, but only plans for renovating a brick field house adjacent to Morningside Avenue were approved.

This series documents a wide variety of activist organizations that worked for the development of Morningside Heights and Morningside Park. The Architects' Renewal Committee in Harlem (ARCH) records encompass planning studies, memoranda to members, reports, correspondence, articles, flyers, and news clippings regarding its efforts to plan for the renovation of Morningside Park in conjunction with Lawrence Halprin and Associates, and a report about legal action taken against the Morningside Hotel, an SRO.

The records of the Take-Park Workshop, which was co-sponsored by the West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park and ARCH, include readings, a workbook, and a report enumerating participants' recommendations to renovate the park. Additional records of the West Harlem Coalition include minutes of meetings held with the community planning boards and correspondence with member Bob McKay and local politicians regarding a feasibility and design study. Other material represented in this series include the Morningside Heights General Neighborhood Renewal Plan, under the auspices of the City of New York Housing and Redevelopment Board (consisting of reports, proposals for use of the neighborhood, and news clippings), and Morningsiders United (memoranda and printed matter concerning the maintenance of residential buildings and opposition to Columbia's encroachment and control of the neighborhood). There is also a planning and design workbook for community participation sponsored by Princeton University.

West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park - Architects' Renewal Committee in Harlem

	Committee in Francis
b. 6 f. 1	1966-1972
b. 6 f. 2	1972-1973
b. 6 f. 3	1973
b. 6 f. 4	Columbia College Citizenship Council Committee for Research 1968
b. 6 f. 5	Community Action Council 1968
b. 6 f. 6	Friends of Morningside Park 1983-1985
	General Neighborhood Renewal Plan and Relocations
b. 6 f. 7	1962-1966
b. 6 f. 8	News Clippings 1962-1968
b. 6 f. 9	The Morningside Citizen 1959-1966
b. 6 f. 10	Morningside Citizen's Coalition 1969-1972
b. 6 f. 11	Morningside Renewal Council 1963-1970
b. 6 f. 12	The Morningsider, 1963-1964 1967
	Morningsiders United
b. 6 f. 13	1963-1966
b. 6 f. 14	1967-1971
b. 6 f. 15	112 Street Block Association 1969-1970
b. 6 f. 16	Westsiders United n.d.
b. 7 f. 1	West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park 1972-1976

# MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (cont.)

b. 7 f. 2	Morningside Park Take Part Community Workshop 1973
	West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park
b. 7 f. 3	1976-1979
b. 7 f. 4	1980-1983
b. 7 f. 5	1983-1986, 1994
b. 7 f. 6	West Side Community Conference 1965-1969
b. 7 f. 7	West Harlem Community Organization, Inc 1968-1971
b. 7 f. 8	West Harlem Morningside Park Committee 1967-1968
	Planning and Design Workbook for Community Participation (Princeton University, 1969)
b. 7 f. 9	Part I: Planning and Designing Aids
b. 7 f. 10	Part II: Community Activity Planning

#### COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM 1941-1986

Morningside Park, which was the focus of much of the controversy between Columbia University and the community, extends from Cathedral Parkway at 110 Street, north to 123 Street, and from Morningside Drive, east to Manhattan and Morningside avenues. The park was designed by the well-known landscape design team of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux between 1873 and 1901. The terrain was unsuitable for building, due to a cliff 100 feet high. Olmsted realized that because of the uneven terrain of the land, the park would be unsafe for people at night. In fact, a substantial amount of crime and under-utilization of the park have plagued Morningside Park throughout its history. In addition, the park historically has served as a barrier between the neighborhoods and ethnic groups surrounding it.

The Columbia University gymnasium, which was used by students until 1974, was built in 1896. It had been deemed inadequate only two decades after it opened, and in the 1940s, plans for another facility were under discussion. In 1955, Columbia University President Grayson Kirk entered into an agreement with the City that permitted Columbia to build an athletic field on five acres of level ground on the southern end of Morningside Park. Use of the facility was to be shared by Columbia students and organized community teams under the supervision of professional staff paid by Columbia. At that time, there was little overt community opposition to Columbia's athletic field, though many questioned the ethics of using a major portion of scarce level area in the park and enclosing it with an eight foot high iron-link fencing.

In 1958, President Kirk and former Parks Commissioner Robert Moses began to discuss the placing of the new Columbia gym in Morningside Park. A lease was drawn up to permit Columbia to use 2.1 acres of land (which was a sigificant portion of level parkland) in exchange for \$3000 a year and limited use by the community. Columbia planned to store arms in the proposed gym to be used in connection with NROTC activities. Plans conceived in 1963 called for an armory in the gym, containing classrooms, a library, offices, and naval science equipment. Opposition to the gymnasium focused on institutional encroachment within the park and on the rights of people to participate in the planning processes that affected and shaped their environment. However, by 1966, African American political leaders in West Harlem, especially Basil Patterson, Percy Sutton, and Charles Rangel, believing that it was impossible to halt the project altogether, pressed for negotiations for greater access of the gym for community use.

This series provides additional background information on the causes which led to the spring 1968 Columbia University student strike. The history of the "new" gym, which was planned in the 1940s, and subsequent plans in the 1950s, are critiqued in the contemporary student newspaper. The correspondence of George Collins and then-Manhattan Borough President Constance Baker Motley, who were involved in planning for the gym in the 1960s, is located in this series. Most of the other material from the 1960s and 1970s, which is comprised of news clippings, details the community's objections to construction of the facility. Following Columbia's abandonment of its construction plans, various organizations and individuals conceived ideas for rehabilitation of the park, many of which are included here. There are also documents describing Columbia's agreement to pay reparations to renovate the defaced park gym site in the 1970s. Of special interest are I.M. Pei's plans for construction of a gym beneath South Field included with his master plan for the entire University, "Planning for Columbia University: An Interim Report", in which the famed architect proposed the use of campus land and buildings to their fullest potential. Finally, the plans and dedication of the new gym, named the Marcellus Hartley Dodge Center for Physical Fitness, dedicated in 1974, complete this series.

- b. 8 f. 1 Architectural Plans Criticism 1941-1964
- b. 8 f. 2 Collins, George R. Correspondence, Biographical Information 1958-1986
- b. 8 f. 3 George Collins and Thomas Hoving Correspondence 1966
- b. 8 f. 4 Judge Constance Baker Motley 1967
- b. 8 f. 5 George Collins Correspondence 1967-1968
- b. 8 f. 6 George Collins Correspondence 1968
- b. 8 f. 7 Petitions ca. 1967-1968

**Printed Matter** 

- b. 8 f. 8 1966
- b. 8 f. 9 1967
- b. 8 f. 10 1968

# Guide to the Christiane C. Colli Maoblattatio Valleyh & Marsingsiderh Elgalisiand Maharatingside Park and Urban Problems of the Contiguous Communities: West Harlem,

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM (cont.)

Printed Matter (cont.)

b. 8 f. 11	News Clippings 1968
b. 8 f. 12	1969
b. 8 f. 13	1970
b. 9 f. 1	Architectural Plans - I.M. Pei 1968-1970, 1986
b. 9 f. 2	New Gymnasium 1970-1978
b. 9 f. 3	News Clippings 1971-1972, 1976
b. 9 f. 4	"Planning for Columbia University: An Interim Report," I.M. Pei and Partners 1970

#### COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT PROTEST 1961-1987

The Columbia University student strike in April 1968 was spurred by community and student protest over the controversial construction of the gym in Morningside Park. Some of the specific points of contention concerning the gym were: 1) that the community was slated to have access to only 15% of the gym's facilities; 2) that the main door to the gym on upper Morningside Drive would be for University use whereas access by the predominately Black and Puerto Rican neighborhhood was to be through the back door on Morningside Avenue; and 3) and that the gym would be controlled by Columbia, not by the community, although it would be constructed on publicly-owned park land. The hours, activities, and policy for use of the community section of the gym were also to have been dictated by Columbia, including the decision to only give access to the facilities to teen-aged boys engaged in organized sports. Faculty and students also expressed dissatisfaction with the plans for the gym, complaining that the new gym would be inadequate in terms of size and training facilities.

On February 19, 1968, Columbia students, as well as representatives of the West Harlem Morningside Park Committee, attempted to block the demolition of parkland on the site where the gym was to be built. Individuals opposed to the gym were contacted, as was the news media, and the following morning members of the West Harlem and Morningside Heights communities, as well as students, came out in force. Bob McKay of the West Harlem Morningside Park Committee and eleven others were arrested. Christiane Collins also participated in the demonstrations at this time. Protests continued into March and April, some sparked by the leadership of the leftist organization, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

Columbia faculty involvement, including that of Professor George Collins, was manifested through the seventy member Faculty Civil Rights Group, which also opposed construction of the gym in the park. Instead, the group urged "cooperation with community representatives in the planning and operation of all programs", and called for a reduction of Columbia's expansion policy. Additionally, in March 1968, the faculty of the School of Architecture, in a resolution prepared by Professor Collins, asked President Kirk and the trustees to reconsider building the gymnasium in Morningside Park. The faculty criticized the decision to construct a gym in public park land, and believed the reaction of the community justified the administration's reconsideration.

On April 20, 1968, the Harlem chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organized a rally in Harlem. A wide spectrum of Black organizations were represented, ranging from radical groups such as the Harlem Committee for Self-Defense, the United Black Front, and the New York chapter of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), to the more moderate West Harlem Community Organization and other tenant groups. Senator Basil Patterson spoke at the rally, as did Cicero Wilson, head of Columbia's Student Afro-American Society (SAS). The rally's participants protested institutional expansion in Morningside Heights and Harlem, and Columbia's refusal to permit community participation in the allocation of the Ford Foundation's \$10 million urban grant.

On April 23, 1968, protesters headed by SAS and SDS and led by Columbia's SDS chapter chairman Mark Rudd, called for a strike against the University. Rudd's admitted long-term goal was to force the U.S. to sever involvement in the internal affairs of all foreign countries, Vietnam being but one example. Rudd wanted to put an end to University complicity with the Vietnam War through its affiliation with the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA). This Institute was founded in 1955 as a non-profit defense "think tank" and employed academic scientists nationwide to furnish scientific and technical support to the Pentagon's Systems Evaluation Group, which studied the effectiveness of new weapons. Columbia was one of twelve corporate members of IDA, and a number of its electrical engineers conducted research for IDA. On March 27, 1968, a campus demonstration against Columbia's participation in IDA, coupled with the administration's ban on indoor demonstrations, led to the initiation of disciplinary charges against six Columbia students who participated in this demonstration. According to SDS, this action in turn led to the strike which began April 23.

The Columbia Student Strike Coordinating Committee (SSCC) stated that a single theme dominated the Columbia strikers' six demands, the struggle for self-determination for the students and the residential community. The six demands were that: I) Columbia sever all affiliation with IDA; 2) probation for the six students who participated in the 1967 demonstration be rescinded; 3) construction of the gym cease in order to enable the community, not the Columbia administration, to decide what was to be done to their park; 4) lifting of President Kirk's ban on indoor demonstrations; 5) call for a permanent student-faculty commission, democratically chosen, which would hear and pass binding judgments on all disciplinary actions; and 6) amnesty for all demonstrators.

The gym site became a symbol of resistance to the school's expansion, and a rallying point for students already challenging Columbia's role in government and in Vietnam. On April 23, after the call for the strike, approximately two hundred student protesters led by SDS and SAS entered Morningside Park, tore down sections of a metal fence surrounding the gym site, and fought briefly with police. Returning to the campus, the students entered Hamilton Hall, the chief classroom building, and location of the Dean's office and the Admissions Office. Black and white students took Acting Dean Henry Coleman as a hostage and staged a sit-in; Coleman was released the following day. When white students left Hamilton Hall that night, activists from CORE, SNCC, the United Black Front, and the Mau Mau Society entered the Hall. The white students entered Low Library and barricaded themselves in the offices of President Kirk and Vice President David Truman. On April 25, architecture students took over the School of Architecture in Avery Hall, drew up a resolution in support of the demonstration that called upon the University to adopt an "expansion policy that does not overrun adjacent areas", They also demanded a "university effort to recruit more Black and Puerto Rican students and greater university recognition of students and community groups in formulating university policy". By the end of that Thursday, April 25, a total of five buildings were occupied by approximately 1000 students out of the University's enrollment of 27,000. That same day, the University administration called New York City police onto the campus and sealed it off after receiving reports that Black organizations sponsored by CORE in Central Harlem were planning to stage a mass protest at Columbia. A large African American group, consisting almost exclusively of non-students and led by activist Charles Kenyatta, marched through the campus, an action permitted by the police as the best means to allay the anger of the protesters. Militant leaders H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael, leaders of SNCC, were also allowed on the campus by the police, and entered Hamilton Hall in support of the African American demonstrators barricaded within the building.

Several student organizations formed to oppose the students who had taken over the campus, a relatively small minority, among them, the Majority Coalition and the Students for Columbia University, which called for an end to the strike and punishment for the demonstrators. Many individual athletes also shared the same belief, and wanted classes to resume.

An Ad Hoc Faculty Group comprised of some two hundred members met in an attempt to serve as an intermediary between the students and the administration. The faculty proposed, among other items, that a delegation consisting of students, faculty members, and representatives of the University administration be formed to handle disciplinary issues. The faculty also encouraged the students to evacuate campus buildings. Additionally, there was mounting opposition on the part of many faculty members and students to the tactics, if not the objectives, of SDS.

On Friday, April 26, twenty-five plainclothes policemen armed with clubs entered the campus, but following an encounter whereby a member of the faculty was injured by a policeman, President Kirk agreed to defer any police action while the Ad Hoc Faculty Group concluded its mediation efforts to seek a peaceful solution. That same day, the administration announced the suspension of gymnasium contruction pending further discussion, although the administration emphasized that it was not terminating the project in Morningside Park. In addition, the main demand of the SSCC, that of amnesty, was not accepted by the administration.

On Tuesday, April 30, the police "bust" of the occupied buildings began. With the authorization of President Kirk, one thousand policemen forcibly removed students from the five occupied buildings. The American American students occupying Hamilton Hall were removed without harm prior to the violent encounters with the white students. Close to seven hundred students were arrested, with scores of students, faculty, and reporters injured and hospitalized. Many students, who originally were not involved in the demonstrations, later opposed the administration's tactics as a result of this encounter with the police.

During the remaining days of the spring semester, classes were suspended in most schools of the University. On June 4, the same day that commencement exercises were held, students held a counter-commencement ceremony. The celebration served to reaffirm the beliefs and issues that had motivated the recent demonstrations on the campus.

The most extensive series in the collection culminates principally with the spring 1968 student strike, with documents also focusing on the spring 1969 and 1970 strikes.

#### Student Protest 1964-1983

This subseries is comprehensive in its coverage of the 1968 strike. Background information is provided on the activities of the Student Democratic Society nationwide as well as at Columbia, and on the nuclear reactor, TRIGA II, which became a focal point of student protest in 1970.

Although the student strike commenced in April 1968, students and community members began protesting the construction of the gym in Morningside Park in February; these protests are represented by handmade posters, one with an enlarged photograph of the construction site. The bulk of the subseries consists of news clippings, primarily from the Columbia Daily Spectator and The New York Times, covering every aspect of the strike, almost on a daily basis, from the students' point of view (opinions run the gamut from the radical to the conservative), as well as from the perspective of the administration (largely critical of the radical student activities) and the faculty. Many flyers were distributed by the Columbia SDS enumerating their demands and explaining their viewpoint and calling for meetings and rallies; other flyers were prepared by the Columbia Strike Coordinating Committee, the Columbia law students, and the Students for a Restructured University, as well as conservative groups such as Students for Columbia University. Flyers and news clippings document the Summer Liberation School sponsored by the SDS in 1968. Student and community newspapers which also have articles found in this subseries include the Columbia Owl. Barnard Bulletin. Harvard Crimson, Guardian (an independent radical newsweekly), West Side News, and the New York Post. Of interest is a booklet published by the Columbia Strike Committee, "Why We Strike"; there are also reports written by Columbia clergymen and students, press releases, and magazine articles.

# b. 10 f. 1 1964

#### Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)

Protests influenced by SDS continued on the Columbia campus into the spring of 1969. Members of the SDS became factionalized and supported various radical groups and causes in addition to the unionizing efforts of Local 1199 to organize Columbia University clerical employees. Demands included the end of the United States government's systematic oppression of political dissidents and release of political prisoners, such as Bobby Seale and other members of the Black Panther Party. In March 1970, hundreds of students demanded that Columbia provide bail and defense funds for the Panthers as well as for the seven defendants in the Chicago Conspiracy Case (the Chicago 7). The SDS students also supported the December 4 Movement (D4M), a citywide Black radical organization, which favored the Panthers. Additional SDS demands during spring 1969 demonstrations included open admissions to Columbia University for Black, Latino, and white students from local high schools; community oriented urban renewal plans; and the abolition of NROTC, military recruiting, and military research. Some of these demands were met; for example, the Trustees, advised by Acting President Cordier, voted to phase out NROTC by 1972.

#### b. 10 f. 2 1964-1969

#### b. 10 f. 3 1970-1980

#### TRIGA II Nuclear Reactor 1967-1980

Columbia students and community residents demonstrated against the operation of the nuclear reactor, TRIGA Mark II, owned by the University since 1963 for the benefit of its engineering school. Many community members, both Black and white, objected to having a nuclear reactor in their densely populated neighborhood, fearing it to be dangerous because of the radioactive pollution and the potential hazard of explosion.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT PROTEST (cont.)

Park and Urban, Problems of the Contiguous Communities: West Harlem, Student Protest (cont.)

TRIGA II Nuclear Reactor (cont.)

	I RIGA II Nuclear Reactor (cont.)
b. 10 f. 4	1967
b. 10 f. 5	1968 February - April 1-22
b. 10 f. 6	April 23-24, 1968
b. 10 f. 7	April 25-26, 1968
b. 10 f. 8	April 27-29, 1968
b. 10 f. 9	April 30, 1968
b. 10 f. 10	May 1, 1968
b. 10 f. 11	May 2, 1968
b. 10 f. 12	May 3, 1968
b. 10 f. 13	May 4-5, 1968
b. 10 f. 14-15	May 6, 1968
b. 10 f. 16	May 7-8, 1968
b. 10 f. 17	May 9, 1968
b. 11 f. 1	May 10, 1968
b. 11 f. 2	May 11-12, 1968
b. 11 f. 3	May 13-14, 1968
b. 11 f. 4	May 15, 1968
b. 11 f. 5	May 16, 1968
b. 11 f. 6	May 17-18, 1968
b. 11 f. 7	May 19-20, 1968
b. 11 f. 8	May 21-22, 1968
b. 11 f. 9	May 23, 1968
b. 11 f. 10	May 24-25, 1968
b. 11 f. 11	May 26-27, 1968
b. 11 f. 12	May 28-29, 1968
b. 11 f. 13	May 30-31, 1968
	Summer Liberation School

#### **Summer Liberation School**

Action on the part of the students continued throughout the summer of 1968 as radical students held a Summer Liberation School in which five hundred people participated including students, community members, student teachers and young hospital workers. Originally conceived as a series of action-oriented classes, they were called Research/Action Projects (RAPS) and covered such topics as racism in textbooks, Marxist philosophy, imperialism, and national liberation movements.

b. 12 f. 1	June 1-3, 1968
b. 12 f. 2	June 4-6, 1968
b. 12 f. 3	June 7-10, 1968
b. 12 f. 4	June 11-20, 1968
b. 12 f. 5	June 21-30, 1968
b. 12 f. 6	July 1968
b. 12 f. 7	August 1968
b. 12 f. 8	September 1-10, 1968
b. 12 f. 9	September 11-16, 1968
b. 12 f. 10	September 16-20, 1968

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT PROTEST (cont.)

Problems of the Contiguous Communities: West Harlem, Student Protest (cont.)

Summer Liberation School (cont.)

	Summer Liberation School (cont.)
b. 12 f. 11	September 21-30, 1968
b. 12 f. 12	News Clippings September 21-30, 1968
b. 12 f. 13	October 1-7, 1968
b. 13 f. 1	October 8-15, 1968
b. 13 f. 2	October 16-20, 1968
b. 13 f. 3	October 21-27, 1968
b. 13 f. 4	October 28-31, 1968
b. 13 f. 5	November 1-12, 1968
b. 13 f. 6	November 13-19, 1968
b. 13 f. 7	November 20-30, 1968
b. 13 f. 8	December 1-11, 1968
b. 13 f. 9	December 12-31, 1968
b. 14 f. 1	January 1-8, 1969
b. 14 f. 2	January 9-27, 1969
b. 14 f. 3	February 2-9, 1969
b. 14 f. 4	February 10-15, 1969
b. 14 f. 5	February 17-24, 1969
b. 14 f. 6	February 25-28, 1969
b. 14 f. 7	March 1-8, 1969
b. 14 f. 8	March 9-15, 1969
b. 14 f. 9	March 16-31, 1969
b. 14 f. 10	April 8-21, 1969
b. 14 f. 11	April 14-22, 1969
b. 14 f. 12	April 22-27, 1969
b. 14 f. 13	April 28-30, 1969
b. 15 f. 1	May 1-3, 1969
b. 15 f. 2	May 4-8, 1969
b. 15 f. 3	May 9-11, 1969
b. 15 f. 4	May 12-17, 1969
b. 15 f. 5	May 18-31, 1969
b. 15 f. 6	June 1969
b. 15 f. 7	July 1969
b. 15 f. 8	August 1969
b. 15 f. 9	September 1969
b. 15 f. 10	October 1969
b. 15 f. 11	November-December
b. 15 f. 12	January-March
b. 15 f. 13	April 1970
15 f. 14-15	May 1970
b. 15 f. 16	May-June
b. 15 f. 17	July-August

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT PROTEST (cont.) Problems of the Contiguous Communities: West Harlem, Student Protest (cont.)

Summer Liberation School (cont.)

b. 16 f. 1	September 1970
b. 16 f. 2	October 1970
b. 16 f. 3	August-November
b. 16 f. 4	1971
b. 16 f. 5	1972
b. 16 f. 6	1973

# b. 16 f. 7 South African Stocks 1974-1983

Black Students 1963-1987

Beginning in 1968, SAS (Student Afro-American Society) began to move away from supporting radical causes and began working toward seeking university support for a Black studies program. By 1969, they demanded a separate admissions board, nominated by Black students, to evaluate all Black applicants. Furthermore, SAS proposed the creation of what was known as an Interim Board to establish a Black studies program. This board's responsibilities would be to elect Black students and faculty members of the University to design the program which would hire faculty and staff, grant credit for courses, and establish degree programs, as well as establish autonomy in budgetary matters. Columbia's administration supported establishing the Interim Board, but archival records are unclear whether it was actually formed.

This subseries documents, through printed material, the demands of the black students, particularly those of the Students' Afro-American Society (SAS). The demands include appointment of Black professors, greater student control over Black admissions, creation of an Interim Board to establish a Black studies program, and a separate Black students' lounge. Other material deals with the Urban Center, the December 4 Movement's demand that Columbia provide bail and defense funds for the Panther 21 (which was supported by both SAS and white radical groups), institutional racism on campus, and Columbia's investment in South African stocks.

b. 17 f. 1	1964-1968
b. 17 f. 2	1969
b. 17 f. 3	1970-1973, 1986-1987
b. 17 f. 4	Black and Latin American Students 1969-1977, 1987
	Urban Center
b. 17 f. 5	1966-1969
b. 17 f. 6	1970-1974
b. 17 f. 7	Black Panther 21 1969-1974
b. 17 f. 8	Racism on Campus 1963-1986

### Vietnamese Conflict - Campus Protest 1966-1975

While Columbia students had been protesting U.S. involvement in Vietnam since 1966, organized activities reached their peak in spring 1970 with the call for a nationwide moratorium on April 15, as a result of Congress' expansion of the war into Cambodia. On May 4, 1970, a nationwide strike took place. Dr. Cordier and the Columbia Faculty Peace Action Committee supported the student demonstrations and endorsed the three national demands: end the war in Indochina, end political repression in the United States, and end the complicity of universities in war research. As a result of the National Guard's killing of four students at Kent State University in Ohio on May 4, the Columbia strike was extended and the University joined 350 other American colleges in support of the Kent State victims and to further bolster the three national demands. Students, as well as campus employees, supported by the administration and faculty, organized various anti-war protest activities during the ensuing months; thus numerous local and national issues contributed to the continuing student turbulence.

This subseries focuses on student and faculty protests against United States involvement in Vietnam, military recruiting on campus, Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, Columbia's relationship with Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) research projects, draft resistance information, the anti-war moratoriums of April 15 and May 4, 1970, and finally, the student strike following the killing of four students at Kent State University by the National Guard. Most of the material is printed matter and includes news clippings and magazine articles, the student publication *Gadfiy*, and flyers calling for rallies and other forms of protest sponsored by SDS and other campus organizations.

b. 18 f. 1	1966
b. 18 f. 2-4	1967
b. 18 f. 5	1966-1967
b. 18 f. 6	1968
b. 18 f. 7	1968-1969
b. 18 f. 8	The Gadfly 1968
b. 18 f. 9	1969
b. 18 f. 10	October-November
b. 18 f. 11	January-May 7
b. 18 f. 12	May 10-16, 1970
b. 18 f. 13	May 1970
b. 18 f. 14	Kent State Student Strike May 1970
b. 18 f. 15	June-September
b. 18 f. 16	1972-1975
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School of Architecture 1961-1980

Columbia's School of Architecture was actively involved in the student protest of 1968, and this subseries contains resolutions, minutes of meetings, and a draft proposal for reorganization of the School, which called for greater participation of students in decision making and a change in admission procedures. Included in this subseries are writings by architect and city planner Robert C. Weinberg critiquing Columbia's use of Morningside Park for its gym site as well as information on ARCH's role in planning for Harlem.

b. 19 f. 1	Protests 1968-1980
b. 19 f. 2	1968-1969
b. 19 f. 3	Commentary on Columbia University's Architecture 1962
	Robert C. Weinberg - Architecture and City Planner
b. 19 f. 4	1961-1965
b. 19 f. 5	1966-1971
b. 19 f. 6	"Anatomy of Insurrection" by Marta Gutman and Richard Plunz

### Faculty and Administration Response 1966-1973

This subseries provides often opposing perspectives to the 1968 student protest. Of particular interest is the 1967 report of the Faculty Civil Rights Group, "The Community and the Expansion of Columbia University", in which the faculty (of which George Collins was a member) set forth its ideas on the implications of continued expansion. Much of the remainder of the series consists of press releases, memoranda, policy statements, resolutions, petitions, printed matter, and material prepared by the Executive Committee of the Faculty on its role in restructuring the University. For the most part, the faculty favored the position taken by the students, and as a group served as a moderating influence between the administration and the students.

Reports and correspondence between students arrested during the strike and various University deans regarding disciplinary action taken toward students document the University's Joint Committee on Disciplinary Affairs, whose purpose it was to make recommendations to the University regarding disciplinary policies both on a long-term and short-term basis. This committee approved the decision to suspend students involved in the May 22, 1968, occupation of Hamilton Hall. Material related to the administration's response to the student protests include a report written by the Special Committee of the Trustees regarding the recommendation on changes in the basic structure of the University, and printed matter providing differing viewpoints concerning the amount of leniency and the role students should play in the operation of the University. The perspectives of the three University presidents representing the period from 1968-1972 are included.

b. 20 f. 1	Faculty Civil Rights Group 1966-1969
	Faculty Response
b. 20 f. 2	1966
b. 20 f. 3	April-October
b. 20 f. 4	Administration Response March-December
b. 20 f. 5	Faculty Response to Student Protest - Joint Committee on Disciplinary Affairs 1968
	Faculty Response
b. 20 f. 6	1968
b. 20 f. 7	May 1968
b. 20 f. 8	Administration's Response August-November
	Joint Committee on Disciplinary Affairs
b. 20 f. 9	Correspondence with Arrested Students May-November
b. 20 f. 10	May-October
b. 20 f. 11	October, 1968 - May, 1970
b. 21 f. 1-3	Disciplinary Action 1968
	Executive Committee of the Faculty
b. 21 f. 4	May-October
b. 21 f. 5	February-April
b. 21 f. 6	Petition by 100 Professors Condemning Disruptive Activities 1969
	Faculty Response
b. 21 f. 7	Executive Committee of the Faculty - Restructuring the University 1968
b. 21 f. 8	1969
	Administration Response
b. 21 f. 9	Report and Statements 1969
b. 21 f. 10	Printed Material 1969
b. 21 f. 11	Faculty and Administration Response 1970

Faculty and Administration Response (cont.)

b. 22 f. 1 Faculty Response 1970-1971

Administration Response

b. 22 f. 2 1970

b. 22 f. 3 1971

b. 22 f. 4 Faculty and Administration Response 1972-1973

Analyses 1961-1987

As early as May 1968 the SDS and SSCC were moving apart; some members of the Committee wanted to continue working for a new attack on Columbia and for a societal revolution, while others favored a shift to University reform. Although SDS did not neglect University reform, their focus shifted to the residential community around Columbia in an attempt to "restructure society". Those students seeking University reform broke with the SSCC and formed a new group. Students for a Restructured University (SRU). Although they supported the strike, the demand for amnesty, and greater student and faculty power, they disagreed with some of the tactics and aims of the SSCC, specifically the campus disruptions. Also at this time the newly created Executive Committee of the Faculties requested a factfinding commission be formed to investigate the campus disturbances. The purpose of the investigation was to address the chronology of events up to the intervention of the police and the underlying causes of the disturbances. The trustees and administration gave their support to the investigation and cooperated fully with the commission which was headed by Archibald Cox, Professor of Law at Harvard University. Although the commission attempted to be thorough, two groups pivotal to the events refused to testify: the Black students who occupied Hamilton Hall and the Student Strike Coordinating Committee. The report concluded that while some African American students acknowledged that a public gymnasium would be "beneficial to the community...the project could not be judged out of the context of Columbia's relation with its poorer neighbors and society's treatment of racial ghettos". The report criticized Columbia's administration, but did not indict those empowered with setting the philosophy and policies of Columbia as strongly as many considered necessary to bring about basic changes.

Following the strike, one of the critical issues which remained to be resolved was the question of amnesty for protesting students and those who had been arrested. SDS and others believed charges should be dropped and the University should take no disciplinary reprisals against the demonstrators, a demand strongly opposed by President Kirk. He retired in August 1968, and Andrew Cordier, Director of the School of International Affairs, was appointed Acting President. Relations with students improved somewhat after Cordier sought to have police charges for 400 students either dismissed or lessened. At the same time, the Joint Committee on Disciplinary Affairs, composed of seven faculty members, seven students, and three administrators, issued directives and recommendations concerning disciplinary action against students for their involvement in the campus demonstrations.

Also in the aftermath of the protests, the Columbia University Senate was formed. The Senate was a response to the evident lack of communication within the University community. The first meeting was held in May 1969, and was an experiment in self-governance. The 101 member body consisted of representatives from the administration, faculty, alumni, research and library staff, and institutions that were not part of the Columbia Corporation but were affiliations (including Barnard College, Teachers College, the Pharmacy School, and Union Theological Seminary). At its inception, the Senate created thirteen committees; among them, the Community Relations Committee, of which George Collins was a member. This committee dealt with the licensing of the TRIGA nuclear reactor, housing of individuals affiliated with Columbia, and the redesign of Morningside Park.

This subseries provides diverse viewpoints on the protests. The Cox Commission Hearings folders consist of notes, reviews of the commission's report, and related printed information regarding the lease of Morningside Park for Columbia's construction of the gym. The administration's perspective is represented in the publication, *Columbia College Today*. Printed material prepared by the Students for Columbia University represents a conservative approach, while publications of the Columbia Strike Committee explain the reasons for the strike. The "Remembrances of 1968 student protest" folders (1968-1987) consist of articles and booklets written by Columbia faculty and students and the regular press on subsequent anniversaries of the strike. Folders labelled "Academic Articles" refer to published and unpublished articles written by Columbia professors and academicians not affiliated with that institution.

- b. 23 f. 1-3 Cox Commission Hearings re Student Disturbances 1968
- b. 23 f. 4 Columbia College Today and Responses Administration Response 1969

Analyses	(cont	۱
Allalyses	(COHL.	)

b. 23 f. 5 Students for Columbia University - (Conservative Students) 1969

Remembrances of 1968 Student Protest Published by Columbia Strike Committee

- b. 23 f. 6 1968
- b. 23 f. 7 1968-1969
- b. 23 f. 8 News Clippings 1968-1977
- b. 23 f. 9 1978-1986
- b. 23 f. 10 News Clippings 1978-1987
- b. 23 f. 11 Mark Rudd 1977-1978

Academic Articles

- b. 23 f. 12 1967-1968
- b. 23 f. 13 1968
- b. 24 f. 1 1969
- b. 24 f. 2 1968-1975
- b. 24 f. 3 1969-1970
- b. 24 f. 4 Chronology of Protest Activities Prepared by Christiane Collins 1961-1968

#### COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE 1967-1981

This series consists of proposals for the creation of a University Senate and a student assembly, minutes of meetings, correspondence, a directory of Columbia officers and staff, bulletins, and news clippings. These documents pertain to some of the issues that the Senate dealt with, including Columbia as a landlord and ways to improve the University's relationship with the community; the establishment of a Puerto Rican and Latin American Institute; and the development of the East Campus. The committee and subcommittees in this series include Community Relations, Physical Development (Professor Collins held membership in both), and Student Life.

- b. 25 f. 1 Preliminary Proposals for the Creation of a University Senate and a Student Assembly July-September
- b. 25 f. 2 Report on the President's Advisory Committee on Student Life April 1968
- b. 25 f. 3 Executive Committee Proposal for University Senate February-March
- b. 25 f. 4 University Senate Election May 1969
- b. 25 f. 5 University Senate Bulletin 1969-1971

Senate Committee on Community Relations

- b. 25 f. 6 1967-1972
- b. 25 f. 7-8 1973

Subcommittee on Ethnic Balance

- b. 25 f. 9 1972
- b. 25 f. 10 Housing Issues 1973
- b. 25 f. 11 1975-1980
- b. 25 f. 12 Senate Committee on Community Affairs 1978-1981
- b. 25 f. 13 Senate Committee on Educational Policy Subcommittee on Minority Affairs
  - Report on Establishment of a Puerto Rican and Latin Institute 1972
- b. 25 f. 14 Committee on Physical Development of the University 1976
- b. 26 f. 1 Substantive Resolutions and Main Topics of Discussion 1969-1978
- b. 26 f. 2 East Campus Project 1977-1980
- b. 26 f. 3 News Clippings 1968-1972

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE (cont.)

b. 26 f. 4 Directory - Officers and Staff 1967-1968

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION 1961-1980

This series is comprised of material from three University presidents (Kirk, Cordier, and McGill) and one vice-president (Lawrence H. Chamberlain), and consists of the 1970-1971 presidential annual report, correspondence, financial reports, and commencement addresses. There are also public affairs notices regarding the investiture, retirement, and assessment of tenure of the presidents, as well as news clippings. For the vice-president, there is material about the physical expansion of the University.

- b. 27 f. 1 President Grayson Kirk 1961-1968
- b. 27 f. 2 Vice President Lawrence H. Chamberlain 1963-1965
- b. 27 f. 3 Acting President and President Andrew Cordier 1968-1970
- b. 27 f. 4 President William McGill 1970-1980
- b. 27 f. 5 Trustee Committee on Community Affairs 1971
  - b. 28 Oversize materials

Manhattan Valley, Morningside Heights and Manhattanville