**Student Center Opens**

By PAUL De CEGLIE

Despite opening night ceremoni- es, celebration socials and excelle- ent publicity, many SGS veterans will still find it difficult to believe that the "long awaited dream" of Brooklyn College has finally become a reality.

In October 1951, following a year of intensive discussions and studies, the Division of Community Services announced that Brook- lyn College would have a Student Union Building and that "construction can begin by 1953."

Prof. Edwin Spengler was one of the first to work on the idea of such a building and soon received support from the Division of Com- munity Services, who undertook the project.

Studies undertaken by DCS were completed in 1953. One conclusion was that the building would have to be paid for by the students. If the city was to pay for it, it would have taken at least 25 years to obtain the necessary funds.

In November 1953, a student referendum was held to decide (Continued on centerfold).

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**SC Vignette: Bird Returns**

By ELSA LATTEY

On the night of the Student Center opening, when all the guests were assembled in the lobby, a hushed gasp was overheard: "Ken's prediction was right; the bird is back." There on a ledge behind the glass doors of the dining room, amidst the fall harvest decorations, sat a white marble pelican with a red seal on its beak, holding in its stumpy wing a letter which read:

"I have had a long and well de- served rest. I have traveled, seen and done many things. But in the final analysis, I missed home. Good old Brooklyn College with its friendly students. I joined my perch in Loi's aviary and the won- derful students who treated my hand on the way down to the basement. Now I am through traveling, I want to rest, and frankly I can't think of a better new home than the Student Center. If you will let me stay, I know I will be happy here and I think the students will be glad to pass the time with me again. It's nice to be back. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Seasons Greetings, especially my good friends in the School of General Studies who were kind enough to correspond while I traveled. Love to all."

"Herman"

P.S. Please excuse the typing but it's tough to type with little... (Continued on centerfold)

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**NOTABLES**

DEAN HERBERT STROEP: "Wonderful. I have a feeling of joy and inspiration and it's an amazing advance for the college. It's gratifying to see a big enter- prise like this succeed." MRS. MARY INGRAM (BH): "Beauty adds something to the lives of people and it doesn't cost anything. This is a beautiful building."

SC DIRECTOR CHARLES WHIPPLE: "I hope this friend-ly and auspicious beginning will set a standard for all the years to come. We expect this will be a center of student life, more than in name, but in actuality." ASSOC. SC DIRECTOR IRWIN SCHEIN: "Needless to say, we are all pleased and thrilled about the opening of the building. It is our feeling the Student Cen- ter will play a vital role in the recreational, cultural and social lives of the Brooklyn College students, both day and evening."

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**Better Late Than Never**

By STUART D. BYKOFSKY

This month before Christmas. In the year '63 When the students of BC Got something new. Almost 15 years after the original idea for the Student Center was crystallized in the mind of School of General Studies Director Edwin H. Spengler, the building was offically opened Wednesday, November 28. The event was well attended by students and city, federal and college dignitaries. Cornerstone laid The cornerstone, symbolizing the culmination of work on the pro- ject, was placed by Gordon Lattey, administrative committee chairman of School of General Studies Director Edwin H. Spengler, administrative chairman of CLAS. The pair delivered the joint dedication. "As chairman of the Student Center administrative com- mittee... I formally lay this cornerstone as a symbol of the successful culmination of 15 years of... (Continued on centerfold)

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BC Student Center Opens

(Continued from page one) planning. It is our hope that this building of brick and mortar will become a living entity in the life of generations of students.

Following the cornerstone laying, Meredith Pekover, Vice President of the SGS Student Government Council and J. A. Y. Ostrower, President of the CLAS Executive Council, cut the ribbons to open the building.

Tags and Tours

Once inside, invited guests were issued name tags and led on tours of the building by members of the SGS and CLAS administrative committees. All guests were particularly impressed with the $1,400,000 structure.

Students and administration were equally thrilled by the appearance of Robert C. Weaver, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, the federal bureau which lent BC the funds for the building. This marked the first time federal funds were allocated for a municipal project in New York City.

Invitation List

College administration officials who accepted invitations to the opening of the Center were President and Mrs. Harry D. Gideonse, Dean Walter Man, Dean Murray Byron, Dean Abraham Goodhart, Dean Margaret E. Smith, Director Edric W. Spenkler, Professor Arthur Record, Business Manager Arthur Gillary, Prof. Joseph Justman, Dean Herbert Stoups, Prof. Sol Jacobson and Dean and Mrs. Thomas E. Coulton. Dean Coulton, now a Dean Emeritus, played an instrumental role in the planning for the Student Center.

Many members of the college press corps attended the opening as well as representatives of the city press. Major editors attending were Stuart D. Bylofskey and Mitchell Rothstein, Co-Editors of the Student Governing Council was represented by Gordon Lattey, Meredith Pekower, Edith Einstein and Lane Gerson, Executive Council representatives were Jay Ostrower, Edward Kowalski, Barbara Andur and Jerome Ebenezer.

Administrative Committees

The SGS administrative committee was fully represented by Lawrence Silverman, Stuart D. Bylofskey and Elmer Pekower. Tom Devine, Rusty Garoffield, Bob Ginsberg, Kay Dennis and Sandy Levine represented the CLAS administrative committee.

Although Mayor Wagner and Brooklyn Borough President Abe Stark could not attend the opening, each sent a message to the Mayor and Comptroller Abramson was the highest ranking civic official present.

Also invited were members of the Student Center Policy Board, Faculty-Student Committee on Student Activities, Faculty-Student Committee on Student Organizations, Faculty-Student Committee on Orientation and Counseling, all directors of the Student Services Corporation, members of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, members of the City Planning Commission and members of the Budget Director's office.

And there were many, many more.

Food Excellent

After the tours were completed, the Dining Room was opened and guests came up for the buffet dinner, which was highly praised for its culinary excellence. Many guests were intrigued by the presence of the old La Guardia bird at the Diner Room. Several members of the administration expressed happiness at seeing the bird returned.

(See story on page one.)

After dinner, Fred Mann, President of the Student Center Policy Board, introduced the scores of persons contributing their services and time to the Student Center. He then delivered a short address and introduced President Harry D. Gideonse, President Gideonse pointed out that the college was started in the 1909's as part of a Public Works Administration project.

The President praised several individuals for the work they had done in connection with the Student Center and commented, "This building is an example of what can be done in the face of terrifying obstacles of inertia . . . and rust." He said further, he had received a telegram from Board of Higher Education Chairman Gustave Rosenberg which expressed the Chairman's regrets at not being able to attend.

The last speaker was Student Center Director Charles Whipple. Members of the various Student Center committees working with Director Whipple for the past several months accorded him a standing ovation after he was introduced. He concluded his short address by stating, "I feel certain that the Center will take its place along with Hoytman, Roosevelt, Ingersoll, Whitman, Gersham and La Guardia as an important part in the whole college program for education for life."
Anatomy of a Dream

(Continued from page one)

whether the student body would be willing to pay an extra $5 a term to contribute to the cost of the erection and maintenance of the building.

At the same time, it was planned that if student approval was not received, the idea would have to be dropped. "Work for the building would not proceed unless student support is assured," it was stated.

The BC faculty had already pledged $20,000, and several student groups had planned dances for increase of $5 for SGB and $7.50 for CLAS would be maintained for 25 years to finance the planned eight-story edifice.

Days before the referendum was to be held, it was decided that a petition would be a better means of judging SEBO's fate. A drive went into progress to get 10,000 signatures on a petition asking the Board of Higher Education to approve the fee raise.

On Jan. 10, 1962, the results came in. Despite the vigorous campaign conducted, only half of
SC Vignette: Bird Return

(Continued from page one)

The bird, a WPA project that has been moved in its time from the old student lounge in 0200 Boylan into oblivion and back into the spotlight, was kidnapped from its perch in LaGuardia toward the end of the Spring, 1966 semester. Many students, to whom the bird has been a friend and mascot, have long wondered about its whereabouts.

Everyone seems happy to have the penguin back, Dean Sober, who had been instrumental in bringing the bird to LaGuardia, said, “Oh, isn’t it wonderful!” when she saw “Herman” in the Student Center.

Professor “Skipper” Davidson, director of the BC Players, in delight to have the bird back. “The penguin is an old companion from the days of the Boylan lounge,” he said. “We even used it as a prop in one of our one-act plays. I am really happy to see it back.”

It seems to be a symbol—a symbol of the days of the WPA projects and also of the coming of the modern idea in art and in the life of our school.”

Legend has it that “Herman” continued to his pedestal in LaGuardia and wants to get out and see the world. One night in May 1968, he merely made up his mind to leave, and left.

Non-believers on campus were of the opinion that some “bird-brained” students had stolen the 2C mascot. However, due to a faulty diet, “Herman” weighs in at 256 pounds—the task of lifting that much weight would be extremely difficult. (There was also the chance of being bitten.)

Another fact which is indisputably proof of the theory that “Herman” is in the Student Center is that the penguin is not a permanent ornament here.

It seems that Herman is back to stay. The students of the School of General Studies welcomed him home. They are sure that he will continue to prove his worth as a symbol of honor.

OFFICIAL Student Center Bird

“Herman”

Donated by the Students

Dining room.

Brooklyn lounge.

Game room.

(Original photo by John R. Martin)

Hopes of yet seeing that building

A new publicity campaign was begun in October of that year. Exhibitions were set up in the library and other spots were distributed around campus. The referendum was held Dec. 15, 1952.

Within days, the votes were counted and the totals were submitted to President Harry Dr. Gideon. Speaking at a meeting with representatives of all student organizations in SGB, Dr. Gideon ruled out all hopes of having a Student Union Building built at BC.

Almost five years elapsed before SUBO became an issue again. Late in December 1957, representatives from both councils met with Thomas Coulton, Dean of Student Life. The meeting resulted in the beginning of a new attempt to build this center.

The estimated cost at that point was $600,000, or $22 a square foot. It was to be covered by a $6.50 student fee each semester.

Plans for the structure took a sharp turn upward in February 1958. The Housing and Home Finance Agency said it was considering loaning $300,000 in the necessary funds to construct the desired building. As a result of the loan, the size of the building could be doubled. Instead of the previously considered $600,000 structure, the committee placed a $1.2 million office on the drawing boards.

There still remained a stumbling block in the way of the official approval — the referendum which was scheduled for April 1.

April 1 finally came and expectations, based on previous referendums, were for a reluctant turnout. The result: 93.5 per cent of the vote was in the affirmative. The project had been approved by the students. The next step was BHE approval.

Although it took five months to reach the board, an affirmative decision on the part of the board, paved the way for the project’s final review before the Board of Estimate.

Only a four-month wait this time. On Jan. 8, 1959, the plans met with their final OK — the most formidable obstacle.

The bill allowing the HHPA to loan BC the funds for construction were given the go-ahead by President Eisenhower in October, 1959.

Ground was broken for the building April 12, 1961.