College Community Resolved To Weather Crisis

Hostos faculty, staff, and students returned to the college this fall with ample justification for being concerned, but with an admirable resolve to struggle to weather New York City’s fiscal crisis.

For faculty and staff there has been some reason to feel relieved: President Cándido de León announced at a general faculty meeting on September 2, that, in spite of the unconscionable budget cuts handed to the college by the state and the city, for now at least, there would be no loss of full-time positions.

There was plenty of cause for concern, however, in President de León’s admonition that “the situation is probably worse than any of us knows.” Developments since September 2 have borne out the president’s warning; unbelievably, the city’s fiscal health seems to worsen, almost by the hour.

“I’m not suggesting that we’re going to get everything done that we wanted to do on these terms,” President de León told the faculty, which has been saddled with increased teaching loads and whopping class sizes that, even for Hostos, are extraordinary.

President de León told the faculty that, in spite of these handicaps, he hoped “to continue to have your good will and dedication in the times ahead.”

But the fiscal crunch has come down the hardest on the more than 2,600 students registered this fall, who not only have to attend grievously over-crowded classes, but also have to pay student fees which frankly border on being tuition. In spite of all this, there is an unmistakable desire on the part of the students to get on with the business of studying as well as to struggle with the faculty and the administration to maintain the standards and the integrity of the college.

Since the beginning of the fall semester, Hostos students have shown their concern and solidarity with their cross-CUNY peers by joining protest rallies against the mounting budget cuts and the threatened imposition of tuition.

During a recent freshman orientation session, Dean of Student Services Mary T. Howard recognized the students’ dedication when she said: “We’re proud of the school, and we’re most proud of you.”

The tragedy of it all is that over those very same students looms the threat of tuition, a threat which, as President de León pointed out to the faculty, is based more on political considerations than on sound fiscal planning. Board of Higher Education Chairman Alfred Giardino drove the same point home in his stunning reply to the State Commissioner of Education’s recent suggestion that (continued on following page)
CUNY impose tuition comparable to that charged at the State University.

President de León emphasized during the September 2 faculty meeting that officials urging tuition and further compromises of CUNY's programs are not looking at the university as an investment that requires time to issue returns.

Said President de León, "The city looks on us as just another agency with another budget to cut."

And the cuts have most certainly been handed down as though the college were just another agency. (See summary of budget cuts accompanying this article.)

Further aggravating those cuts is the fact that included in the college's budget are some $750,000 in "accruals," or funds that are technically allocated to the college but which the college cannot touch except in the most extraordinary of circumstances.

But the erosion of the college's budget does not end there: The New York metropolitan area's dismal rate of inflation relentlessly pins the college ever more firmly against the wall.

In sum, the college has some $8.3 million at its disposal with which it is to educate over 2,600 students in the year ahead. Of those, about 1,650 are enrolled in the Division of Arts and Sciences, and about 950 are enrolled in the Division of Health Science or Professional Education programs.

In the orientation session mentioned previously, Dean Howard told some 150 students that they were entering a kind of contractual agreement with the college. Hostos, she said, was pledged to provide them with the best education possible. The students, in turn, were required to meet their study obligations to the fullest. Undoubtedly, both parties in the contract will have some difficulty meeting its terms, given the present conditions. But in their favor is the fact that the Hostos community has more than a good store of resolve, resolve not merely to survive but to excel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMARY OF BUDGET CUTS AT HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE</th>
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<tr>
<td>• A minimum cut of $320,000 in other than personal services including:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Giving up one quarter of the space at the Melrose Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>• No allocation for professional development travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Supplies and materials allocation cut by one-third</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Equipment allocation cut by 90 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Library book acquisitions cut by 75 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Office services cut by 66 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Contractual services cut by 10 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Rentals (duplication services, data processing, etc.) cut by 25 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A minimum cut of $150,000 in college assistants in all job categories.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A cut of $180,000 effected by increases in teaching loads. (Over the summer 100 adjunct professors were let go.)</td>
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Total cuts as of October 1: $650,000.

‘Frosh’ Survey Shows: Hostos Good Investment

The results of a survey of Hostos' fall 1974 freshmen indicate that they and, by interpolation, most Hostos students consider it "most important" to choose careers in which they can "be helpful to others."

The same survey indicated that the fall 1974 freshmen are far ahead of their national peers in their desire for careers in which they can work with people.

Can it be assumed, then, that the college is attracting idealists?

The answer is an emphatic "no" from Assistant Dean of Students Peter B. Martin who conducted the survey in cooperation with a national effort to plumb the views and backgrounds of the country's freshman class.

Says Dean Martin, "We don't have a bunch of altruistic visionaries on our hands... While [the freshmen] are high on service-oriented careers, they're also high on the practical aspects of those careers."

Indeed, last year's fall freshmen indicated much more frequently than their national peers that they had chosen their particular careers because they offered a chance for steady progress. They also were more likely than their national peers to base their career choices on the availability of jobs in their field.

"Our freshmen may be altruistic," says Dean Martin, "but it's a practical altruism... All this backs up and supports the mission of the urban public college which attracts these kinds of people.

"It's something that the city can capitalize on," he (continued on page 5)
Annual Convocation Held

President Urges College: Exercise Right To Vote

President Cándido de León urged over 1,000 faculty, staff, and students, who massed for a general convocation in the parking lot at the Security Mutual Building on September 30, to register and exercise their right to vote in order to influence the decisions of state legislators in matters concerning the college.

President de León said that, because of the erosion of the power of the city's elected officials during the present fiscal crisis, it would be all the more necessary for members of the college community to press the state's elected officials to act in the college's favor.

The president went on to tell the audience that, "in spite of all the problems facing the college, we have been able to make a go of it." He added that, while there was great confusion as to the fate of the college, he would do everything possible to make sure that the college community is quickly apprised of pertinent developments.

"No one can say what is going to happen next," said President de León, adding that he was not privy to any special information concerning the state of the university during the crisis. He said, however, that he was henceforth reserving the college's "activities period" on Tuesdays at 12:30 for discussions on the present crisis with faculty, staff, and students.

President de León also announced the creation of a speakers bureau, headed by Prof. Gerald Meyer of the social sciences department, which will invite public officials to the college to discuss matters concerning the college's future.

The occasion for President de León's remarks was the yearly college-wide convocation which is mandated by the bylaws of the Board of Higher Education. The convocation, however, was not only significant for what the president had to say concerning the fiscal crisis, but also because it was the first time that the college community as a group had used the Security Mutual Building.

President de León reminded the audience of the difficult struggle which the college had had to endure to obtain the facility. He said that the struggle was another example of the "obstacles and impediments we've had to go through to keep the show on the road." He informed the audience that regrettably "the situation is now even worse."

President de León also outlined in detail the college's current budget. He pointed out that out of a budget of roughly $8.3 million, the college would have only $500,000 to spend on supplies, equipment, and other materials. The rest of the budget, he said, was taken up by what he called "the untouchables": salaries, fixed costs and rentals.

During the convocation, President de León announced that several Hostos students had been arrested for various charges in a subway station following a recent rally against budget cuts at the Board of Higher Education. He urged members of the college community to give their support to the students by attending their court hearing on October 7.

"In the next few months," concluded President de León, "you're going to get a lot of horror stories and a lot of rumors" which he said he would try to dispell. Adding a touch of comic relief to the convocation, he said that one such rumor was that, because he had lately been sporting a suit, people were speculating that he was looking for another job.

Said he, "I can assure you that I'm not looking for another job."

Prof. Black Heads State-Wide Dental Hygienists’ Association

Prof. Cecilia Black of the dental hygiene department has brought further distinction to the Hostos faculty with her recent election as president of the New York State Dental Hygienists' Association. She is the first Hostos health science faculty member to head a state-wide professional association.

(continued on page 5)
Ernesto Austin: "If you're politically aware, then you really don't have any problems."

Student Ernesto Austin Interns At Local Legislators’ Offices

During the spring 1975 semester, student Ernesto Austin completed the requirements for a social sciences course far from the confines of an Hostos classroom. He labored hard at South Bronx hospitals, social agency offices, community meetings, and the office of State Senator Robert García whose bailiwick encompasses the Hostos campus.

This is the first of several articles profiling Hostos students which will appear from time to time.

A freshman concentrating in social sciences, Mr. Austin was among the first participants in a political internship program sponsored by CUNY's College Discovery (CD) program. Under the program, which was launched last spring, CD students are placed in city agencies or legislators' offices to get a firsthand view of the engines of politics and to develop a sense of political awareness.

According to Mr. Austin, his experiences met the program’s objectives. Says he, “I'm much more concerned and aware of things that are going on around me. If you're politically aware then you really don't have any problems. If you're politically aware, you don't have to defend yourself. It's one step towards liberation.”

In addition to political awareness, Mr. Austin received three credits in a social sciences independent studies course for his effort. His advisor, Prof. Gerald Meyer who heads the political internship program at Hostos, says that “Ernesto did a terrific job and was extremely perceptive... The point is that, with sufficient preparation, which Ernesto had, it's invaluable for the student to test his classroom experience in the real world. This test most certainly enriched the classroom experience.”

But Mr. Austin's experience was not confined to pure observation; Prof. Meyer from the beginning set a rigorous academic contract which required that he keep a log of his daily activities at Senator García's office and that he write five papers during the course of the semester.

All this course work was in addition to the considerable time—about eight hours a week—which Mr. Austin spent at community meetings and at Senator García's office directing constituents to appropriate social agencies.

The cases which he ran across were devastating. There were people with housing problems whom he would direct to the Housing Authority; servicemen whom he would direct to the Veteran’s Administration; inhabitants of welfare hotels whom he would refer to day care centers; relatives of inmates of upstate prisons with their special problems; and the victims of the rash of fires which last spring consumed great numbers of South Bronx apartment buildings.

And, at every turn, Mr. Austin found that his and the agencies' efforts were stymied by one overriding factor: lack of funds. As he puts it, “On the whole, everybody seemed to care, everybody at the agencies. But there's only so much they could do because there really aren't enough funds to do the job. Right there you have part of the reason for all the apathy among the people and the agencies.”

Mr. Austin maintains that there are two other major problems besetting the South Bronx community: Ignorance, which institutions such as Hostos help combat, and prejudice, which, as Ernesto puts it, “I already knew a lot about at my age.”

A twenty-year-old native New Yorker of Puerto Rican parentage, Mr. Austin has indeed seen his share of prejudice in the neighborhoods in which he has lived: Harlem, “El Barrio,” the Lower East Side. He also had more than a brush with it in the Forest Hills section of Queens where he and his family lived during his high school years.

“I went through the high school there during the problems they had with the construction of the (low income) projects,” says Mr. Austin, remembering one of the most tumultuous periods in the city's history. “I can tell you that I know all about prejudice.”

This semester, Mr. Austin has again enrolled in the (continued on following page)
College Discovery internship program, and is serving in the office of Bronx Assemblyman Seymour Posner, who, like Senator García, has taken a special interest in the college and its mission. All this experience will be eminently relevant to him as he realizes his career plans which include law and politics.

Ernesto urges all students who are eligible to participate in the program to do so. Says he: “I think this course would open a lot of people’s minds to what the real problems are within the South Bronx community.”

Grants Scene: Not Bright, Not Bleak

Hostos has received a total of $269,076 in grants for fiscal year 1975-76, according to Ms. Ruth Castor of the college grants office.

A good percentage of that total, however, is from the CUNY Chancellor’s Grant Program, and should not be entirely figured in the Hostos total as it is shared with other CUNY campuses. If the Chancellor’s grant is not figured in the Hostos total, the college’s grant funds thus far amount to $169,538, considerably less than the $206,496 received for fiscal 1974-75.

Ms. Castor points out however, that there are grants pending which could add several hundred thousand dollars to the total. In short, it is too early to determine how well the college has fared in its grants-gathering efforts.

Following is a description of the grants received as of September 29:

Division of Community and Continuing Education: A $38,345 Vocational Education Act (VEA) grant for continuation of the division’s small business rescue project; and a $20,000 grant from the State Education Department for continuation of the division’s program of study on the criminal justice system.

Counseling and student services: A $5,981 grant from HEW to help defray cost of veterans’ instruction. (Dean of Student Services Mary Howard, applicant.)

Instructional Resources Division: A $3,918 grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) for library resources. (Prof. Daniel Davila, applicant.)

Nursing: A $46,012 nursing capitation grant from HEW. (Prof. Rosalina Velez, applicant.)

Medical Secretarial Science: A $38,941 grant from VEA for the development of individualized instruction materials. (Prof. Patricia Parzych, applicant.)

Biology: A $100,538 grant from the Chancellor’s Grant Program to develop a university-wide program of televised general biology. (Prof. Ernest Knight, applicant.)

Student services: A $9,416 grant from HEW to help defray cost of veterans’ instruction. (Dean of Student Services Mary Howard, applicant.)

Prof. Black... (continued from page 3)

Prof. Black was elected to the position at the annual meeting of the Association which was held in May in Kiamesha Lake, New York. Her tenure as president of the Association will be for one year.

During that time, Prof. Black hopes to institute several changes in the organization and the dental hygiene profession. She hopes, for example, that the Association will pass a resolution making it mandatory that dental hygienists take refresher courses before they are allowed to renew their licenses. Prof. Black also hopes to introduce some organizational and governance changes in the Association’s charter.

Survey... (continued from page 2)

continues. “It shows that our students are a good investment for the city because they’re just not the people that are going to be educated and then leave.”

Dean Martin conducted the survey of the fall 1974 freshmen for the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) of the American Council on Education and the University of California, Los Angeles. CIRP has published the Hostos results and those of 575 other colleges in The American College Freshmen: National Norms for Fall 1974.

Dean Martin is surveying this year’s freshman class, and his findings will again be incorporated into the CIRP report. But, because the project is so extensive, the final report will not be available until next spring.

Interestingly enough, CIRP’s questionnaire has been translated into Spanish, with CIRP approval, by Hostos’ translator Erisbelia Garriga. The translated questionnaire thus helps to guarantee that the entire student body is reflected in the final report.

Since CIRP’s final report on the fall 1974 freshmen was published last spring, Dean Martin has acquired the computerized tape of the Hostos data which will serve as valuable reference material for administrators and counselors. Dean Martin says that a follow-up survey of seniors may be conducted to determine if and how students’ attitudes change as they become more educated.

The survey, however, does not merely offer a means...
by which to compare Hostos students with national norms. As Dean Martin puts it in his report on the survey, "These results also help us to reflect on some of the needs of our students and should help us to develop programs designed to address those needs."

The report is available to interested individuals through Dean Martin.

Lares Anniversary Observed

Hostos students and faculty observed the 107th anniversary of the Grito de Lares, the proclamation which initiated the independence movement against Spain, with a concert and a panel discussion on the woes of the college during the current fiscal crisis. Held in the Concourse building on September 23, both events were sponsored by the Puerto Rican Student Association and the Federation of Socialist Puerto Rican University Students (FUSP).

The concert was given by soprano Irem Proventud who is presently with the San Francisco Opera. Ms. Proventud was accompanied by concert pianist Pedro Rojas who has performed at the college in the past. Their repertoire included traditional, classical, and popular Puerto Rican music.

Following the concert, students massed in the lounge at the Concourse building to participate in a panel discussion on the historical significance of the Grito de Lares. This discussion, however, quickly shifted to the problems facing the Hostos student body as a result of budget cuts imposed on the University.

"This is a life-and-death struggle," said student Roberto Lugo, a member of FUSP who headed the panel discussion. "We're not fighting for a cafeteria or more space now; we're fighting for our existence."

Also participating in the discussion were Arturo Rivera, national president of FUSP, and Martin Peña, president of the Hostos Association of Dominican Students.

Mr. Rivera described the rise in student fees and the unprecedented overcrowding of classrooms at the college as "just another manifestation of the crisis facing the City of New York and the country as a whole."

Joining the discussion in mid-course was President Cándido de León, who answered questions from students concerning the bilingual nature of the school, registration procedures, and the college's strategy during the fiscal crisis. President de León advised students not to allow the university's troubles to interfere with their studies.

Einstein Psychiatric Residents Will Counsel Hostos Students

During the present academic year ten participants in the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's psychiatric residency program will be providing psychiatric counseling for interested Hostos students.

Heading the program is Dr. Pedro Loffler, director of the psychiatric residency program at Albert Einstein, and coordinating the program from the Hostos end is Prof. John Muñoz, Hostos director of psychological counseling.

The service provided by the Einstein residents, who are assigned to nearby Lincoln Hospital, is highly unusual as few residency programs are based outside hospital walls.

Dr. Loffler, whose idea it was to station the residents at Hostos, explains the rationale for the program:

"One of our main goals is that our residents should be exposed to the community so that they will be motivated to stay in the South Bronx. . . . We also want to break down the myth of what mental illness is; we want to break down the myth that suggests that psychiatric care is bad."

And Dr. Loffler hopes that the program will partially answer the concern of community advisory groups for preventive medicine programs in the South Bronx. As Dr. Loffler explains, "We hope that by having the residents (stationed at the college) we can avoid the stigmatization of the student and also hospitalization." Dr. Loffler points out that the residents are minority physicians and so will be more readily able to service the needs of the Hostos student body.

Each of the residents will be at the college for at least three hours a week so that there will always be one on duty from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays. Students interested in taking advantage of the service should contact Prof. Muñoz in room 235 of the Concourse building or phone him on extension 238.

Educational Opportunity Center Opens; College Hosts Computerized Service

Residents of the Bronx from low-income families who wish to seek upward career mobility can avail themselves of the services of the Computer Based Educational Opportunity Center (CBEOC) which has opened a branch at Hostos Community College.

Sponsored by a federal grant and administered by
the City University of New York, CBEOC provides information on educational programs at four-year and two-year colleges, trade and business schools, manpower agencies, veterans' and labor union programs, and the like.

The CBEOC center at Hostos has access to all this information which is stored in the City University's central computer. Over 700 agencies and institutions are on file in the computer bank. In addition to a summary description of each program, the data bank provides information on admission requirements, tuition, fees, and other costs. Financial assistance and other supportive services are also listed.

Individuals with dependent children can take advantage of the central computer's day care data bank which contains information on day care facilities for children from age two months to 16 years.

The center also offers career counseling services, assistance with admission and financial aid applications, and remediation and tutoring referrals. Interested individuals will also be referred to testing centers which will help them identify their abilities and career interests.

The Hostos CBEOC center is headed by Mr. David Gómez, who will be on hand weekdays during regular business hours in room 205, Hostos Community College, 475 Grand Concourse, Bronx. Mr. Gómez can also be reached by telephone (993-8000, ext. 274). Mr. Gómez points out that working people who are not able to visit the Hostos center during the week can visit CBEOC centers in other boroughs during their lunch hours. For information on other CBEOC centers call the Hostos center.

Hostos C.C. Is Compared To Upstate, “Middle Class” College

Often, especially in hard times, the mission of the college—to serve the needs of an economically depressed community—is plainly forgotten in the midst of fiscal uncertainty. Not only are our friends and critics guilty of this memory lapse, but so are we, the very members of the college community.

But occasionally someone will step forward, restore our memories, and prick our collective consciousness. Following is a letter from just such a person to Assistant Dean of Students Louis A. Wheaton, director of the Hostos Study/Release Program. In the letter, the individual, who is an administrator at an upstate “middle class” college, reminds us of our identity and our mission:

"After reading about the Study/Release Program I felt like a klutz. Here we are catering to a group of kids, and I use the word kids purposely, who have no cares . . . or problems, and we really believe we’re in the center of the educational experience. We spoon-feed 4,000 (students) and believe we’re successful when they graduate with a ‘C’ grade using 10% of [their] ability. We operate a beer pub for them . . . ; an ice cream store; a record store and several other irrelevant operations thinking it contributed to the students’ maturation and social development. Yet I’m certain you’re doing more with a nickel than we’re doing with $10."

Faculty/Staff Notes. . .

While there have so far been no losses of full-time faculty and staff positions and while the college was able to take in as many students as its facilities allow, one member of the college community—El Coquí—has not fared as well during the fiscal crisis. Because of mounting costs, the newsletter will be published only eight times this year instead of the usual nine. The December and January issues will therefore be consolidated.

The offices of the Dean of Health Sciences and Dean of Arts and Sciences have reported the following appointments to departmental chairmanships:

. . . Prof. Amador Muriel as acting chairman of the physical sciences department.

. . . Prof. Syed Zafar as chairman of the medical laboratory technology department.

. . . Prof. Robert Taylor as representative of the physical education department.

. . . Prof. Kenneth Gordon as advisor to Local 1199 students.

Prof. Harcourt Carrington of the counseling staff was awarded a certificate in group psychotherapy on June 1 by the department of psychiatry of New York Medical College. The certificate is awarded to psychologists who complete a one-year postgraduate program.

Prof. Carrington has been re-elected to a three-year term of office as an executive board member of the Metropolitan College Mental Health Association. The organization focuses on the mental health problems of college students.

Mr. Howard G. Nusbaum, director of the data processing center, chaired a session on computer software reliability in August for SHARE, Inc., a group of users of large IBM computer systems. At the session, Mr. Nusbaum was appointed coordinator for the “Languages and Applications” division of the group. As such, Mr. Nusbaum will help promote discussions (continued on following page)
on the future design of computer systems and recommend specifications to IBM for future hardware and software systems.

Prof. Ernest Knight, chairman of the biology department, has been asked to serve on the membership committee and the committee on college science teaching of the National Science Teachers Association, a national organization which promotes superior science teaching practices and programs.

Prof. Knight has also received a certificate from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University naming him an “outstanding alumnus of this University whose loyalty and dedication . . . has earned for him the deep gratitude and high esteem of the entire A&M University community.”

Prof. Manuel Ramos of the modern languages department has written an as yet unpublished text for his Basic Spanish Composition course which is reputed to be the most popular Spanish course this fall.

Prof. J.A. Betancourt of the Instructional Resources Division, was recently elected to the position of Faculty Welfare Trustee. The election for the position which was held last spring was nullified because the winner did not have the time in service required by the election bylaws.

Ms. Mary K. Farinholt, assistant to the president, was one of five CUNY administrators and staff members who attended Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management this summer. The institute is designed especially for college personnel from across the country who want to sharpen their administrative capacities. CUNY representatives at the institute were chosen by a review committee appointed by Chancellor Robert Kibbee.

Prof. Raoul Pérez, chairman of the modern languages department, recently published an article, “Hostos Community College and Bilingual Education,” which was included in an issue of El Mundo, a Spanish language newspaper with wide circulation in the metropolitan area.

Prof. Pablo Cabrera, chairman of the Puerto Rican studies department, directed the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater’s summer production of “If You Promise Not to Learn,” a play adapted by Prof. Cabrera and Ricardo Matamoros from Osvaldo Dragan’s Historias Para Ser Contadas. Prof. Cabrera and his troupe literally toured the streets of New York presenting the play at such unlikely places as Riverside Park, school playgrounds, and the front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Prof. Leslie Ault, chairman of the behavioral sciences department, has completed a book, Chess Tutor: Elements of Combinations, which was released by Mason/Charter publishers in September. The work is similar in format to Bobby Fisher’s Bobby Fisher Teaches Chess, which Prof. Ault helped edit. Prof. Ault’s book, however, is for the more advanced player. Prof. Ault would like to remind the college community that the Hostos Chess Club will continue to sponsor activities during the present academic year. All those interested in joining the club should contact Prof. Ault in room 201 of the 151st Street faculty office building on call him on extension 250.

Prof. John Muñoz of the counseling staff has been included in the registry of the Council for the National Registry of Health Service Providers in Psychology, a national organization which identifies psychologists who are qualified to provide mental health services. Prof. Muñoz recently began his studies at the William Alanson White Institute for Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis, and Psychology which will qualify him for a certificate in psychoanalysis.