Marshak Plan Rebuked by ‘Save Hostos Committee;’ Senate Mounts Effort To Prevent A Merger

The Save Hostos Committee, a body organized by the Hostos College Senate to insure the survival of the college as a separate unit of the City University, has lashed out against a proposal to merge Hostos with Bronx Community College, saying that the proposal "represents a callous disregard for the South Bronx community and its thousands of poor, working people who view the college as a means for their social and economic advancement."

In a statement issued On November 10, the Save Hostos Committee said: "The plan proposed by City College President Robert Marshak to merge Hostos and Bronx Community College represents a callous disregard for the South Bronx community and its thousands of poor working people who view the college as a means for their social and economic advancement. If implemented, the plan would insure that the residents of the South Bronx would be denied ready access to higher education, and it would signal the beginning of the end of the City University's tradition of promoting social mobility among the city's disadvantaged."

Details of the Marshak plan were reported in the November 7 issue of the New York Post. According to the report, the plan calls for the dissolution of five units of the City University in addition to Hostos. Dr. Marshak is a member of a task force, headed by City University Chancellor Robert Kibbee, which is studying the reorganization of CUNY.

Since the Marshak plan was made public, Chancellor Kibbee has said that the task force has refused to consider it. The Chancellor said the plan "has no standing...other than as the personal views of a single president."

Although the Save Hostos Committee is under the aegis of the Hostos College Senate, a body which represents the college's faculty, staff, and students, all members of the college community have been invited to participate in its efforts. The committee is funded by voluntary contributions of friends of the college; it has begun work in such areas as voter registration, contact with elected officials, alumni and parent affairs, and publicity.

Handling the committee's work in these areas are the following subcommittees:

Voter registration and letter writing which will continue the voter registration campaign carried out this fall by faculty and student volunteers. The subcommittee will also conduct a letter writing campaign directed at the Board of Higher Education and other public officials whose decisions might decide the fate of the college. The subcommittee is headed by Prof. Diane Penner of the physical education department.

Contact with elected officials which will continue an existing program which arranges for visits and speeches by elected officials at the college. The subcommittee will also form delegations to visit elected officials, and press them to act in the college's favor. The subcommittee's chairman is yet to be appointed.

(continued on page 7)
Ford Aid Backs Hostos

Hostos Community College has recently garnered some very important and influential support during the fiscal crisis, including support from places as high as the White House.

That support has come in the form of a letter dated November 10 from Fernándo E. C. De Baca, special assistant to the President for Hispanic affairs, to Alfred A. Giardino, chairman of the Board of Higher Education.

Mr. De Baca wrote Giardino that he had heard that the merger of Hostos and “another college in the Bronx” was being considered. He added that, “While I fully appreciate the reasons being given for this action, I am deeply disturbed with the prospect that the only institution of higher learning designed specifically to serve the needs of Puerto Rican and other minority students might meet an early demise.”

Mr. De Baca continued:

“I am sure you are aware that in its short history Hostos Community College has made impressive gains in meeting the educational needs of a historically deprived and neglected community. I know you will agree that we cannot permit a loss of momentum nor allow a relaxation of our efforts in addressing those needs.

“I trust that the Board will find a way to keep the doors of Hostos Community College open thereby keeping the doors of opportunity open to this important group of Americans.”

Other letters have been directed to Chairman Giardino from friends of Hostos across the country. One of those letters, this one from Alfredo G. de los Santos Jr., president of El Paso Community College in Texas, underscores the impact which Hostos has had on a national level:

“For the past four years members of the faculty and staff at El Paso Community College have met with representatives of Hostos Community College at national meetings. We have been most aware of the similar responsibilities to our students in our efforts to develop bilingual programs as well as the efforts to offer a better educational experience than the students have had prior to their coming to us. The efforts which have been made at Hostos have stimulated a number of new efforts in the colleges of the southwest which serve Chicano students, and they have been the basis for many of us starting or developing directions which we had not considered prior to our meeting with the Hostos’ staff.

“I bring this to your attention since it is unlikely that you are aware of the national significance which the closing of this college would have for Spanish-speaking citizens of this country. In spite of the limited resources which Hostos has had available it has provided leadership, stimulation and a great deal of encouragement for those of us who want to serve our students as well as we have seen the faculty and staff at Hostos serving their students.”

A number of other national educational leaders have written Giardino on behalf of the college. Among them have been Gilberto Chávez, director of the Office of Education’s Office for Spanish Speaking People, and Pepe Barrón, executive director of El Congreso Nacional de Asuntos Colegiales.

Mr. De Baca continued:

“...encouragement for those of us who want to serve our limited resources which Hostos has had available it has provided leadership, stimulation and a great deal of encouragement for those of us who want to serve our students.”

Congressman Rangel Urges Hostos to ‘Sell’ Its Mission To Decision-Makers

Congressman Charles Rangel of Manhattan told an audience of Hostos students, faculty, and staff on October 15 that, in order to survive the present fiscal crisis, the college would have to “sell” its mission to governmental decision makers, and, at the same time show them, through the voting booth, that the Hostos community wields political clout.

Referring to the voter registration drive conducted at the college by faculty and staff volunteers, Congressman Rangel said: “It seems to me that you in this college have understood... that a voter registration drive is a political tool.”

Congressman Rangel went on to say that the college community would have to show political leaders that, in the long run, the college is a sound investment.

“What,” asked Rangel rhetorically, “does a city, state, or nation gain when it takes a small part of its wealth to provide tools for its citizens to pay taxes? How much could [society] get back if you gave people the opportunity to make a contribution rather than be forced to take someone else’s contribution?”

Rangel concluded: “It’s a hell of a lot cheaper to continue the... system than it would be just to cut off the system in the middle of [its] development.”

Congressman Rangel, whose district encompasses Harlem and Manhattan’s West Side, areas from which Hostos draws many of its students, is, in effect, a symbol of what an institution like Hostos can accomplish. Like many Hostos students, he was given the opportunity to resume his education as an adult. As a result, he said, “I paid more taxes in my adult life than my whole family in generations before.”

Congressman Rangel’s talk at the college was part of a series of talks by local politicians intended to inform the college community of political developments pertinent to Hostos.
Local Legislators Back College

Seven city and state legislators from the South Bronx have issued a letter to Alfred A. Giardino, chairman of the Board of Higher Education, decrying rumors that Hostos would be closed and pledging staunch opposition to such an eventuality. Dated October 29, the letter reads in part:

“No budget crisis can ignore the devastating impact which the closing of this college would have on the Puerto Rican population which has received the least services from the public educational system of this city.”

The legislators also took issue with a plan recently proposed by Chancellor Kibbee which would seriously limit the admission of adults to the university. They said: “Less than five percent of [Puerto Rican] students in the public school system are currently likely to finish high school with academic diplomas on their first effort. We cannot allow a procedure to be adopted which would make it harder for them to seek more training when they are more mature and more likely to make better use of a college education.”

The South Bronx legislators concluded: “You can be sure that as we vote on the funds which will be used by the City University in the coming months we will be paying special attention to any proposals which appear to us to penalize our Puerto Rican constituents in a disproportionate manner. We want to support the City University because this is the University which is currently doing the most to make a higher education available to Puerto Ricans in this city, but it will be difficult for us to assume any posture of support for proposals which resolve the University’s problems at the expense of our constituents.”

The legislators signing the letter were: State Senators Robert García and Israel Ruiz, Jr.; State Assemblymen Armando Montano, Luis Nine, José E. Serrano, and Angelo Del Toro; and City Councilman Ramón S. Vélez.

Hostos Featured On The Air

A number of Hostos faculty, including President Cándido de León, have taken to the New York airwaves recently to plead the college’s case during the budget crisis.

Among them have been Profs. Minerva Rosario of the early childhood education program and Manuel Ramos of the modern languages department. They and President de León were the guests on November 6 of Santiago Grevi’s “Voz de Borinquen” show which is aired by WEVD Radio. Earlier that day, President de León was WADO radio to call on the Hispanic community of New York to support the college during the fiscal crisis.

Hostos, however, received the most extensive coverage during a recent segment of WABC-TV’s “People, Places, Things” show. The program focused on how Hostos and City College have implemented CUNY’s open admissions policy and how Hostos has served the people of the surrounding South Bronx community. Appearing on the program were President de León, Prof. Leroy Sparks, chairman of the radiologic technology department, Mr. Edwin de Jesus of the IRD, and radiologic technology student Beryl Manley.

‘Continuing Ed’ Increases Offerings

The Hostos Division of Community and Continuing Education has announced that the offerings in its program of Building Bridges Between Minority Communities and the Criminal Justice System will be increased from three to five course starting in the spring 1976 semester.

All the courses are for credit, and are intended primarily for individuals presently working in the criminal justice system or in related areas. Individuals interested in registering for any of the courses should contact the Division of Community and Continuing Education at the college as soon as possible.

The Division will also be offering courses next spring at a number of senior citizens’ centers in the local community. Senior citizens groups interested in arranging for courses should contact the division as soon as possible. Mr. Anthony Santiago, director of Community and Continuing Education, emphasizes that his division will do everything possible to arrange for courses selected by the senior citizens themselves. The courses are made possible through the cooperation of Hostos and the Institute for Older Adults at New York City Community College which provides organizational and financial support for the courses.

This fall the Division of Community and Continuing Education’s Minority Small Business Program has been offering a series of seminars, free of charge, to small business entrepreneurs throughout the city to help insure success in their ventures.

The seminars are: The management of bar and restaurant services; the management of building construction services; and the management of laundry and cleaner services.

The seminars have been made possible through a Vocational Education Act grant administered by the State Department of Education. The grant will support an additional nine seminars which will be offered from
Letters...

Following is the first installment of a “Letters” section which will appear regularly in El Coqui. The entire readership of the newsletter, in or out of the college, is invited to contribute. Subjects should relate to the college or its role in the South Bronx community.

To the editor:

The public schools of this city began experimenting with bilingual education after long decades of frustration when they finally realized they could not teach increasing numbers of Spanish-speaking pupils in English. Now some of the most progressive colleges in the City University are developing bilingual programs for the same reason. The number of Spanish-speaking college students is growing year by year, but in 1974 they were only 10.4% of the total in community and senior colleges, compared to 25% in the public schools. Before equal opportunity in higher education can be considered a reality, their share of the total CUNY enrollment should at least be doubled. This clearly underlines the urgent need for Hostos to play a larger—not a lesser—role in the City University.

R. Perez
Modern Languages

To the Editor:

We would like to list briefly the reasons why the survival of Hostos Community College is important for New York City and for the South Bronx Community.

1. Hostos is a relatively small school which emphasizes individualized instruction and stresses remediation integrated with college level work. There is a close relationship between the students and the dedicated, hard working faculty. Thus it presents a more manageable setting and greater feeling of community, where the student with poor high school training and poor basic skills is more likely to feel that success is possible.

2. Hostos best serves New York City’s minority students. For the Latin population, it offers the highest percentage of Spanish language courses in CUNY. Great emphasis is placed on Latin and black culture in classes and extra-curricular activities. It has the highest percentage of minority group faculty.

3. Hostos provides a decent education accessible to the people of the South Bronx. It provides one of the few avenues for decent jobs, such as in the health fields, needed by the community.

4. Hostos serves the community as a cultural center, with lectures, concerts and workshops held on campus, and a faculty speakers bureau.

Those who agree with this should help save Hostos by joining the Save Hostos Committee and by writing a letter to: Alfred Giardino, Board of Higher Education, 535 East 80th St., New York, N.Y. 10021

Executive Committee
Hostos Chapter of the Professional Staff Congress (faculty-staff union)

An alumni reunion. Hostos graduates Gladys Méndez, Rosa Rosario, and Hilda Lawrence join Prof. Patricia Parzych, chairman of the medical secretarial science department, during recent visit to Hostos. The occasion was a meeting at which the graduates informed present students of study and employment opportunities in their field. “Med Sec” graduates have a history of doing exceptionally well after leaving Hostos.

Project Will Aid Hostos Grads Who Are Senior College-Bound

Prof. Daisy Alverio, director of the Hostos College Discovery (CD) program, is conducting a counselling project during the present academic year which will hopefully ease the transition of Hostos graduates who are bound for senior colleges. Specifically, she and Prof. Adrian Benitez, also of the Hostos CD office, will be trying to determine what Hostos can do to insure the future academic success of its graduates.

In order to determine the thrust which the counselling project will take, Prof. Alverio has joined forces with outside consultants to survey Hostos students who are presently at other colleges. They will also conduct personal interviews with a good many of these students.

Says Prof. Alverio, “We will be asking them what things at Hostos have helped them at the four year colleges, and what things have hindered their progress.”

Once the survey and interviews are completed, Prof.
Arthur Clark of the mathematics department to try to develop strategies by which Hostos graduates will be better prepared to cope with English and mathematics courses at the four-year colleges. Prof. Alverio has chosen to work closely with the mathematics and English departments precisely because those subjects are central to any college curriculum.

By the beginning of the spring semester, Prof. Alverio expects that she and her colleagues will be prepared to conduct tutoring and counselling workshops for about one hundred members of the Hostos class of 1976. Significantly, not all will be College Discovery students, even though the project is being funded by the CUNY-wide College Discovery office.

In addition to tutoring and counselling, the workshops will offer video taped presentations of the various CUNY senior college campuses so that the Hostos students will at least be familiar with those campuses which are a far cry from the admittedly sparse and compact facilities at Hostos. As Prof. Alverio points out, most of us can recall the fright and anxiety which we experienced when, as freshmen, we were first confronted with a sprawling university campus.

"Although the workshops are for counselling," says Prof. Alverio, "they are also intended to prepare the students for the emotional trauma of going from Hostos to a large senior college."

Indeed, if there is one complaint which Hostos graduates persistently voice about going to a senior college, it is that the latter, with their often cold and impersonal atmospheres, are a far cry from warm and friendly Hostos.

To answer that complaint, Prof. Alverio hopes to establish a "buddy system" which will encourage communication between Hostos graduates at the senior colleges.

As Prof. Alverio puts it, "A little hand-holding is a good thing."

Prof. Alverio has been able to fund the counselling project through a grant from the CUNY-wide College Discovery office. In fact, she was one of just a few CD officers to have been granted a limited amount of funds which CD set aside for similar projects.

In the meantime, she is working with Prof. Pasquale Amendolia, Hostos’s transfer counselor, to determine what aspects of the project can be incorporated into the regular services provided by the Hostos transfer office.

Grants Back Two Innovative Projects

Among the grants received by the college for the current fiscal year are two which come from unusual sources and support innovative projects. They are:

. . . A grant of $100,538 from the Chancellor’s Grant Program to support a CUNY-wide program of televised general biology lessons which was proposed by Prof. Ernest Knight, chairman of the biology department, and several of his colleagues from other CUNY campuses.

. . . A grant of $5,981 from the Exxon Foundation to support a student peer counseling program proposed by Prof. Bette Kaplan, director of counseling.

Prof. Knight and his colleagues are using the Chancellor’s grant to produce eight video-taped biology lessons which will be available to students at all CUNY campuses.

"Although the workshops are for counselling," says Prof. Alverio, "they are also intended to prepare the students for the emotional trauma of going from Hostos to a large senior college."

According to the project was conceived some years ago by Prof. Gerald Posner of the City College biology department. The other colleges participating in the effort are Staten Island, Queensboro, and Bronx Community Colleges and Medgar Evers and York Colleges. Brooklyn College has contributed to the project by allowing its participants to use the college’s extensive video taping facilities.

As Prof. Knight puts it, "This is a real concerted effort of many (CUNY) campuses; it's a real cooperative effort."

Prof. Kaplan’s grant will support the training of six students as academic counselors for Libra and English-as-a-second-language students. As Prof. Kaplan explains, "are more likely to experience frustration in a college setting."

The six peer counselor trainees will begin their training in February 1976 and will be ready to serve their peers by the following September. During their training they will be using films and other learning materials developed by the Exxon Foundation for similar...
projects. The Exxon materials are available in English as well as Spanish, a fact which figured heavily in the foundation’s decision to fund a bilingual college such as Hostos. Hostos, in fact, will be the first college in the United States to use Exxon’s bilingual materials. (They have previously been used in Mexico.)

Once they have completed their training, three of the peer counselors will be assigned to work with ESL students; the other three will work with Libra students. Each will also be assigned to assist a member of the regular counseling staff, and all will help teach a section of the orientation course (SSD 9000) offered by the Division of Student Services.

“We will be looking for individuals who are interested in counseling as a career,” says Prof. Kaplan. “I think it will be an excellent training opportunity for the peer counselors.

“And,” she continues, “it will hopefully encourage students to avail themselves of services in a very non-threatening way.”

The Division of Community and Continuing Education is offering two additional courses in cooperation with Lincoln Hospital and the United States Postal Service. The courses are: Principles of Hospital Management, taught by Dr. Antero Lacott, a former executive director of Lincoln Hospital, and Dr. Stuart Shaffer; and Fundamentals of Public Administration, taught by Prof. Caroline Westerhof, chairman of the Hostos civil and public administration department.

The hospital management course is offered for credit for lower and middle management personnel at Lincoln Hospital. It was requested by the hospital’s administration to prepare their employees for the opening of the new Lincoln Hospital which is located near Hostos.

A couple of firsts. Hector Ortega, the first male president of the Hostos Junior American Dental Hygiene Association, presides over the organization’s first function of the year: A welcome luncheon for freshman dental hygiene students held at the college in October.

“Los Parra” Give Concert At College
Two of Chile’s most famous pre-junta folk music artists—Angel and Isabel Parra—visited Hostos on October 20 and gave one of the most memorable concert performances in the college’s history.

Accompanying the Parras, who are the children of the late Violeta Parra, perhaps Chile’s most eminent folk artist, were Patricio Castillo, Isabel Parra’s daughter Cristina, and Arturo Cipriano, a young Mexican musician. Patricio Castillo is a former member of Quilapayun, a popular Chilean folk group which has (continued on following page)
performed at Hostos in the past.

"For us, the [Hostos] audience was ideal because it not only understood our language but also our message," said Angel Parra following the concert.

That message, said Parra, was clearly conveyed in their repertoire which concentrated exclusively on the New Latin American Song, a musical genre which is heavy with Indian themes, instruments, and motifs and which calls for the social and political liberation of Latin America.

It was Violeta Parra who pioneered the New Latin American Song and served as an inspiration to such groups as Quilapayun and Inti Illimani, another Chilean group which has performed at Hostos. And in 1965 Violeta joined forces with her children to found a cafe-cultural center in Santiago called "La Peña de los Parra." Among the regulars at the center was Victor Jara, a revered folk artist who was brutally murdered by the military junta that deposed the government of Salvador Allende.

The concert at Hostos was the Parras' last stop in a nation-wide tour of the United States. It was sponsored by the Social Sciences Club, the Federation of Puerto Rican Socialist Students, and the Dominican Student Association.

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**Senate . . . (continued from page 1)**

**Petition campaign and outreach** which will organize a massive petition campaign directed at appropriate public officials, and will contact alumni, parents, and community organizations to involve them in the work of the other committees. The subcommittee is chaired by Prof. Selena James of the dental hygiene department.

**Speakers bureau** which is another community outreach strategy that arranges for faculty, staff, and students to speak to community groups on the specific and more immediate threats to Hostos. The subcommittee will also establish a permanent faculty speakers bureau to present lectures, slide shows, and films on a variety of topics pertinent to community organizations. The subcommittee is headed by Assistant Dean of Students Louis Wheaton.

**Publicity and finance** which will control all funds and insure maximum media coverage for all activities of the Save Hostos Committee. Chaired by Mr. Wallace Edgecombe of the college relations office, the subcommittee will also generate pamphlets, leaflets, and other materials for the use of the committee as a whole.

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**Faculty/Staff Notes . . .**

Poetry by student **Hamilton Lionel Maloney** was recently published in an anthology entitled *Mayo's Tavern* which contains the work of college students throughout the United States. The anthology is available in the library. A septuagenarian, Mr. Maloney has been retired for ten years; his goal is to become as fluent in Spanish as possible. Says Mr. Maloney about returning to school after so many years, "It can be wearying."

**Mr. Henry Hoffman** of the IRD staff is currently assisting in the development of an FM radio station for "In Touch Networks, Inc.," a radio service for the handicapped in the New York metropolitan area. "In Touch Networks" is a public service, non-profit organization.

**Dean of Student Services Mary T. Howard** was recently elected a fellow of the American Psychological Association effective January 1, 1976. Dean Howard is also serving as an advisor to the ACCTion Program, a consortium of 116 community, junior, and technical colleges which seeks to improve student services and establish student development programs on a nationwide basis. ACCTion is funded by Title III, Higher Education Act, 1965.

**Prof. Harcourt Carrington** of the counseling staff recently participated in a ten-part television series for instructional television entitled "A Step to the Future." During one of the series segments, Prof. Carrington conducted a simulated counseling session on educational and career planning.

**Prof. Anthony E. Pedraza** of the health core department was recently elected a member-at-large of the executive committee of the Bronx Health Manpower Consortium, a community organization which promotes health education activities.

**Prof. Leroy Sparks,** chairman of the radiologic technology department, served on a team which surveyed the School of Radiologic Technology at the Albany Medical Center on October 24-25. The survey was the first carried out jointly by the American Medical Association and the New York State Bureau of Radiologic Technology. Prof. Sparks is a member of the bureau of Radiologic Technologists School Inspectors and a surveyor for the Joint Review Committee on Radiologic Technology of the American Medical Association.

**Mr. Albert Henriquez,** Hostos campus facilities officer, was the consulting architect for the renovation of a low-income cooperative apartment house on Clinton Street on the Lower East Side. The renovation re-
received public attention because, as Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton explained, “Skyrocketing construction costs combined with miniscule federal subsidies means that new construction is no longer a viable alternative for meeting the housing needs of middle and low-income families.”

Prof. Amador Muriel, chairman of the physical sciences department, presented a paper on the mathematical description of one dimensional gases at the fall meeting of the American Physical Society which was held in Orono, Maine, on October 4.

Prof. Alvin Hollingsworth of the visual and performing arts department was the sole exhibitor at this year’s opening on October 22 of The Center for Performing Arts at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Entitled “Eyes of the City,” Prof. Hollingsworth’s exhibition featured his paintings and graphics as well as poetry. The exhibition will be open through November 21.

Prof. Louis Browne of the biology department presented a paper entitled “Immunological Competence Following Experimental Thermal Injury” at the annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology which was held recently in Atlantic City.

Prof. Browne also presented a lecture on the human reproductive system at a recent seminar at services for Education and Rehabilitation in Addiction, a South Bronx-based drug addiction center.

Prof. David Ucko of the physical sciences department has collaborated in writing an article on the binding of mercury compounds with components of nucleic acids. Appearing in a recent issue of Biochimica et Biophysica Acta, the article was based on research conducted at Columbia University which might have applications to cancer chemotherapy.

Prof. Sarojini Joglekar of the nursing department has been named an advisor and evaluator for the external degree program in nursing of the New York State Board of Regents.

Prof. C. Dacosta Hunte recently published an article in the Barbados Advocate on the social progress of Barbados over the past 15 years.

Prof. Myrtle Pickett of the nursing department was recently appointed to the Executive Board of Directors of the Victory Lake Nursing Home in Hyde Park, New York.

Prof. Bowman Wiley, chairman of the English department, was a panelist at a conference on the Alternate Doctoral Program which was held at St. John’s University on October 3. Prof. Wiley also served on a panel on the use of media in the English class which was part of the program of the Northeast Regional Conference on English in the Two-Year Colleges held in New York on October 23-25.

In addition, Prof. Wiley has published a book entitled The Clear Synthesis: A Study of William Wordsworth’s Stylistic Development as a Descriptive Poet from 1793 to 1808. The book has been published in Austria by the Salzburg University Studies in English Literature program.

Prof. Judith Nowinski of the modern languages department recently presented a paper entitled Carmen: Two Idioms; Prose and Musical Drama” at a conference on 19th century French studies. The conference was sponsored by the department of foreign languages and literature at the Fredonia branch of SUNY.

Prof. Sondra Perl of the English department recently published an article entitled “The New Students: A Dialectic Between Language and Learning” which relates recent theories of language learning to today’s changing college population. The article appeared in a special edition of the ADE Bulletin (Association of Departments of English).