Albany Lobbying Effort A Success; Pledge To Maintain College Is Issued

The statement was so hastily drawn up that the date was written in longhand and the name of the college was not correct, but the message is what counted:

“We, the Chairman of the Board of Higher Education and the Chancellor of the City University of New York agree to present to and support before the Board of Higher Education a resolution which will, within the appropriation of $3 million as part of the $470 million for 1976-77, maintain in the South Bronx a separate educational unit of the City University to be known as the Eugenio de Hostos [sic] Community College.”

The statement was signed by Chancellor Robert J. Kibbee who also signed for the newly appointed Board of Higher Education chairman, Harold Jacobs.

Standing at the chancellor’s side was State Senator Robert Garcia who, having earlier been rebuffed by the Chancellor in his effort to keep the college alive, spirited the statement into the Assembly Chamber and to his colleague Assemblyman Jose Serrano. Serrano had earlier announced on the floor of the Assembly that he would oppose Governor Hugh Carey’s bail-out legislation for the City University if the existence of Hostos were not guaranteed.

Serrano’s opposition to the Governor’s bill was a clear signal to the Chancellor, the Governor’s staff, and Board Chairman Jacobs that Black and Puerto Rican support in the legislature for the bail-out bill was in doubt. And so, under heavy pressure to get the Governor’s bill passed so that the university could complete an already drastically truncated academic year, the chancellor and the board chairman relented. The existence of Hostos — the only bilingual college East of the Mississippi and the only unit of the City University to have been consciously placed in an economically depressed community — would be guaranteed.

Assemblyman Serrano subsequently rose to announce that he was now prepared to vote for the Governor’s bill.

Significantly, it was the Chancellor who early on had advocated the merger of Hostos with Bronx Community College; it was the Chancellor who had disregarded the many arguments of illustrious academicians, community leaders, businessmen, elected officials, and South Bronx residents for the continuation of the college; and it was the Chancellor who at one point earlier this year had told Senator Garcia that, short of an explicit mandate from the State Legislature for the maintenance of Hostos, he would not amend his proposal to merge the college with Bronx Community College.

Although the Kibbee-Jacobs statement on Hostos seemed explicit enough, the existence of Hostos was to receive further insurance on the floor of the Senate. When the Governor’s bail-out bill finally reached the upper house, Senator Joseph Galiber, a Bronxite and one of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus’s preeminent members, rose to clarify the issue. He began by engaging Senator John Marchi of (continued on page 2)
Albany Lobbying Effort A Success;
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(continued from page 1)
Staten Island in a public conversation on the meaning of the wording of the Hostos clause in the Governor's bill. Both men agreed that the intent of the bill was to provide $3 million for a separate unit of the university known as Hostos Community College.

The exchange was no idle chatter for it, in effect, put it on public record that the Legislature understood that Hostos was to remain as presently constituted. In short, Senator Galiber put the final touches on the save Hostos campaign.

The victory in Albany was, for the most part, the result of the efforts of Dean of Administration David Foxworthy, Assistant Dean for Special Sessions Edward Armas, and Ms. Anne Grosso, director of College Relations. Together, they spent days at the State Capitol lobbying for the Hostos cause. And from time to time they were joined by a number of Hostos faculty and staffers who also volunteered their time and expenses to the effort. Among them were: Dean of Health Sciences Cyril Price, Mr. Anthony Santiago, director of Community and Continuing Education; Dean of Students Mary Howard; Assistant Deans of Students Peter Martin and Louis Wheaton; and Prof. Magda Vasiliov, Edward Maynard, John Randall, Shirley Hinds, Paula Zajan, Bowman Wiley, Pasquale Amendolia, Michael Stimola, Diana Díaz, and Daisy Alvero.

During the days in Albany, the Hostos lobbyists were to receive invaluable help from a number of legislators in addition to Senators García and Galiber and Assemblyman Serrano. They were: Senators Israel Ruíz, Jr., John D. Calandra, and John E. Flynn and Assembliesmen Armando Marchiselli, and Louis Nine. Like Senator García, whose office was to serve as a kind of save Hostos headquarters, they virtually opened their offices to the Hostos lobbyists.

Assemblyman Nine played a very special part in the effort. In April he introduced a bill in the Assembly to insure the survival of Hostos, and although it was never passed, the bill kept the Hostos issue alive and on the minds of key legislators. The Nine bill also served as the focal point of a massive letter campaign directed at important legislators. In time, the bill received the endorsement of such Assembliesmen as Majority Leader Albert Blumenthal and Ways and Means Chairman Burton G. Hecht. The Senate's counterpart to the Nine Bill was introduced by Senator Israel Ruíz, Jr.

During the Hostos commencement exercises on June 30, Assemblymen Nine and Serrano and Senators García and Galiber were awarded special plaques honoring their efforts on behalf of the college.

Although the struggle to save Hostos reached its climax in Albany, the groundwork for the lobbying effort was established in New York City by Hostos students, faculty members, friends, and residents of the South Bronx community. All year long they had held demonstrations and voter registration drives, written letters, raised funds, and contacted elected officials to help save the college.

Typically, legislators who had been bombarded by letters and telegrams on behalf of the college or had read about Hostos demonstrations would greet the Hostos lobbyists with an "Oh, no! It's Hostos again!" It got to the point where Senate Minority Leader Manfred Ohrenstein produced a form letter to answer all the save Hostos correspondence.

Much of the effort revolved around the Save Hostos Committee which was headed by Prof. Gerald Meyer of the social sciences department. Those heading Save Hostos subcommittees were: Mr. Anthony Santiago, director of Community and Continuing Education; Prof. Selena James of the dental hygiene department; Prof. Diane Penner of the physical sciences department; Assistant Dean of Students Louis Wheaton; Prof. Daniel Davila of Instructional Resources; Prof. Louis Browne of the biology department; and Mr. Wallace Edgecombe of college relations.

In short, it was a persistent, many faceted struggle that saved Hostos Community College.

Board Repeals Merger

The Board of Higher Education has formally repealed its resolution of April 5, 1976, which called for the merger of Hostos and Bronx Community Colleges.

The action was taken at the Board's June 21 meeting. It was nestled on the agenda among such items as the replacement of an "absorption chiller unit" (an air conditioner) for Baruch College and a personnel action against a professor at Kingsborough Community College.

The Hostos item, which represented the end of one of the more important elements in the City University story, even escaped the notice of a New York Times reporter, who having covered the June 21 meeting, reported on such items on the agenda as the transfer of miscellaneous City University properties.
June 30, 1976: A Day to Say "Thank You." President Cándido de León extends a grateful hand to (from left) Assemblyman Jose E. Serrano and State Senator Joseph L. Galiber after presenting each with a plaque commemorating their outstanding work in Albany which resulted in an eleventh hour rescue of Hostos Community College. Late-breaking events in Albany prevented Senator Robert García and Assemblyman Louis Nine from being present to accept their plaques. The occasion was the college's Fifth Annual Commencement Exercise. In the background, Hostos Professor Clara Watnick (left) and former Board of Higher Education member and commencement speaker Sandra López de Bird look on approvingly.

Returning "From The Brink"

"I'm not going out with a noisemaker and shouting 'Hallelujah!', but we've come from the brink to some stability."

In those words, Hostos President Cándido de León captured the mood—the reality—of the state of affairs at the college. The quote, deftly captured by a reporter from the New York Times, was so apt that it not only appeared in a story on the "rescue" of Hostos, but also in the Times's hallowed "Quotation of the Day" section.

Hostos has been saved. But, as President de León pointed out, no one is shouting "Hallelujah!" Whatever celebrating has taken place has been quiet, reserved. It is as if the entire college community has come from the scene of a massive auto accident too shocked to speak.

The struggle for Hostos has encompassed a year, a year rife with uncertainty, pain and dispute — undoubtedly the most important year in the young college's history.

As President de León put it to the Times reporter, "Psychologically, emotionally, the drain on the staff and students has been a real problem..."

And in many ways, the 1976-77 academic year will continue to exert a drain on the college community for the city's fiscal crisis is as real and as threatening as ever. Several faculty members have appropriately suggested that everyone hold on to their "Save Hostos" buttons and bumper stickers. Once again, the college community's wisdom and resolve will be tested.
The Fifth Annual Commencement Exercise of Hostos Community College—Not the Last. Former Board of Higher Education member and commencement speaker Sandra López de Bird addresses the Hostos Class of '76. The commencement exercise, which was postponed three weeks because of the City University shut-down, was held on June 30, 1976, at the Eisner And Lubin Auditorium of the Loeb Student Center at New York University.
A delegation of pro-Hostos advocates, including State Senator Robert Garcia and Dean of Faculty Evangelos Gizis, called upon the Board of Higher Education on September 23 to guarantee the fiscal integrity of the college and to give its highest priority to the renovation of the Security Mutual Office Building.

Testifying before the board at its hearing on the Chancellor's budget request for 1977-78, the Hostos delegation outlined the steps which it thought the university should take to assure that the college's struggle for survival not become, in the words of Dean Gizis, a "Perpetual Edict."

Dean Gizis told the board that "To achieve a budget reduction of $1,004,000, Hostos, the college with the smallest ratio of square feet per student in the City University, gave up rental space, reduced dedicated, talented young faculty, reduced its administrative staff to a skeletal size, and demanded $3.00 postage stamps, eliminating the possibility of purchasing such items as library books and audio-visual learning aids."

"What concerns me today," added Senator Garcia, "is that Hostos have the financial resources necessary to allow it to continue to develop as an institution and continue to provide unique, first-rate higher educational opportunities to the man and women in the South Bronx and East Harlem who need them and want them. To do this, the fiscal integrity of Hostos Community College must be guaranteed for 1977-78."

Dean Gizis stated that, to make good on this guarantee, the board would have to fund the college next year "in the difficult circumstances of the last year might not adversely influence student enrollment in September 1976."

Both Senator Garcia and Dean Gizis went on to urge that the board give priority to the renovation of the Security Mutual Building which will enable the college to reach a projected enrollment of 3,000 students. Specifically, they asked that the funds for the renovation be raised as soon as the Dormitory Authority is able to resume normal sale of its bonds. Lately, the Authority has not been able to float bonds except for issues which are backed by collateral.

"It has already been stated that Hostos enjoys the dubious distinction of having the most crowded space condition rate in CUNY," said Senator Garcia, "and I do not wish to belabor the point that Hostos needs this space," Dean Gizis said.

Dean Gizis made the following additional recommendations to the board:

- The college has rebounded from last spring's crisis with nearly the same enrollment as last year.
- Hostos Community College is still very much a part of the South Bronx scene.
- Coqui
- The registration figures are even more remarkable in view of the fact that the Board of Higher Education has imposed tuition and higher admissions standards, factors which college administrators believed would significantly curtail registration.
- Although final registration figures are not available as this issue of The Observer goes to press, the total registration is hovering around the 2,400 mark, according to Prof. Virginia Paris, director of admissions.
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Applicants Now Subject To New Admissions Standards

Among the many changes at Hostos this fall are changes in the admissions policy which were mandated by a resolution passed last April (at the same meeting in which the Hostos-Bronx merger plan was approved) by the Board of Higher Education.

Another of the board's new policies will require CUNY community college graduates to pass a uniform health maintenance plan and have a documented family health history. All of the department's courses, however, are being offered by the biology and physical sciences departments.

Perhaps the single most significant victim of the college's retrenchment plan, which was developed by the college-wide personnel and budget committee, was the nursing department. It is estimated that the program was projected for closing in the CUNY Plan for Health Sciences, but that did not come to the rescue of eliminating a department which stood at the heart of the Hostos health sciences program. In all, some 24 nursing faculty and staff members lost their jobs.

The retrenchment plan also called for the abolition of the medical laboratory technology department. All of the department's courses, however, are being offered by the biology and physical sciences departments.

Significant changes were also made in the area of college administration. All deanships, except for two were abolished. A total of seven deans were either eliminated by the retrenchment plan, although all but one of those seven maintained their professorial lines and are teaching full time or have been reassigned to administrative duties.

The upshot of the administrative changes is that there is now one dean of faculty, Prof. Evangelos Gizis, and an associate dean for student services, Prof. Peter Martin. Dean Gizis has in effect assumed responsibility for all academic affairs in both the liberal arts and health sciences. And Dean Martin now manages all student-related affairs.

In addition, Mr. Anthony Santiago, director of community and continuing education, has been assigned respons-
Retrench, Revamp... (Continued from Page 1)

ability for the college's evening ses-
sions.

At this year's first faculty meeting, President de Leon announced that he would be taking a leave from the college to devote his energies full-time to the completion of his doctoral dissertation. Subsequent to the faculty meeting, he was granted a one-semester sab-
batical by the Board of Higher Educa-
tion. President de Leon's duties have been assumed by Dean of Faculty Evangelos Gips.

The functions of the administrative division have been reassigned to a business office which is under the direction of Mr. Louis Quiros.

Office clerks and positions eliminated by the Hostos retrenchment plan are as follows:

1. The director of cooperative education.
2. Three teaching positions in the health care department, largely in response to the elimination of the nursing department.
3. The job placement and alumni affairs office which comprised two positions, a director and an assistant.
4. A research assistant in the registrar's office.
5. The $199 fund coordinator and director of inhalation therapy.

Two media production and services positions (an assistant professor and a college laboratory technician) and one assistant to higher education officer in the office of the dean of health sciences.

Additional lines in other depart-
ments were retrenched, but, because of natural attrition, individuals did not have to be discontinued.

In all, 42 professional workers (faculty and HEO line staffers) have lost their jobs at the college. This total does not reflect the loss of secretarial and other civil service workers who are constantly threatened by the "bumping" system which allows senior civil service employees, who might have lost their jobs at other CUNY colleges, to assume the lines of less senior employees at Hostos. Because Hostos is a relatively new member of the CUNY community, college employees have been particularly hard hit by the "bumping" system.

The college has also had to incur at least $325,000 in cuts in its "other than personal services" budget. These reductions fall under such areas as supplies, equipment, and telephone usage.

If there is one happy note in the retrenchment plan it is that the ethnic composition of the faculty has scarcely been affected. Thirty-three percent of the white faculty, 29 percent of the black faculty, and 32 percent of the Hispanic faculty were affected by the retrenchment. The percentage of each of these major ethnic groups respectively compromises 28.5, 27.3, and 41.9 per-
cent of the present total. Unfortunately, the percentage of women faculty and staffers has decreased by 4.4 per-
cent, but that is mainly because the nursing department was predominantly staffed with women.

Speakers Will Resume Talks In Community

The Hostos Speakers Bureau, launched last year as a part of the struggle to save the college, will resume operations again this year—but with a different direction.

With the college's existence threatened, first, by drastic fiscal straits and then by a proposal to merge Hostos with Bronx Community College, the Speakers Bureau became a vehicle by which faculty and staff cried out for help from community service groups and agencies.

Now, however, the Bureau will assume the role for which it was inten-
tioned when its formation was pro-
posed by Prof. Gerald Meyer of the social sciences department: it will be a means by which Hostos faculty and staff can offer their expertise and talents to the community which Hostos serves. In this small way, the college can begin to repay the help which local community groups so willingly gave Hostos last year.

"Our collective knowledge, talents, and skills can be—and should be—shared with the community that exists beyond the walls of this institution," says Anne Grosso, director of college relations and development, who is organizing the new Speakers Bureau.

But speakers need not limit their topics to the areas of their academic training or professional experience. Faculty members are in fact urged to speak on any topic—horticulture, music, dance—in which they might feel well versed.

Ms. Grosso is currently circulating questionnaires among the faculty which will help her to compile a listing of speakers and the topics they wish to cover. They will then be mailed to local high schools, churches, community service organizations, social and volunteer groups, senior citizens groups, and radio and television talk shows.

Community groups, including those associated with the leadership of El Coqui that wish to schedule a speaker from the Hostos Speakers Bureau, should con-
tact the Office of College Relations and Development. Because the Speakers Bureau is conducted on a volunteer basis, honorariums will not be accepted.

President Bids Faculty To Plan SkillsObjectives

President Candido de Leon has asked each of the Hostos academic departments to carefully draw up a set of skills objectives which they expect the English and mathematics depart-
ments to impart upon Hostos students.

The process is part of a seven-month effort to insure that Hostos students meet a primary objective for all instruction which President de Leon characterized as "the ability to read, write, compute, and reason."

"Whatever else we do," said Presi-
dent de Leon at this year's first faculty meeting, "we must leave our students with that ability.

Once the academic departments have submitted their objectives to the English and mathematics departments, these departments will begin to imple-
ment whatever curricular change may be necessary to satisfy the departmental objec-
tives. At the same time, the English and mathematics departments will work with other departmental curricula to determine how they buttress and support student acquisition of basic language and computational skills.

President de Leon also asked that the academic departments contact their counterparts at all the four-year col-
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NSF Grant to Improve Hostos' Science Curriculum
And Help College Reach Out to Local Communities

Hostos Community College is the recipient this year of a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant which will enable the college to improve its science programs in terms of equipment and curriculum, help to initiate a computer laboratory, and, hopefully, to transform the college into a kind of science resource center for the South Bronx and other local communities.

Under the direction of Prof. Amador Muriel, the director of the grant from the NSF's Minority Institution Science Improvement Program, the college will work closely with the biology department as well as the physics and chemistry components of Prof. Muriel's own physical sciences department.

And perhaps most interesting is the fact that Prof. Muriel is working on a curriculum consisting of a melding of technology and pure science. As such, it is intended to show that technology is not just a unique tool or a necessary evil but a tool that strengthens our ability to sharpen our understanding of pure science.

"Technology will not limit the student who is the pure scientist of tomorrow. Those who would go into pure science in the future will not be limited by our technology," Prof. Muriel points out.

As evidence that technical programs attract the dormant scientist, Prof. Muriel points to P. Dirac and E.P. Wigner, both world-renowned physicists who are products of technological and engineering schools.

Why all the emphasis on technological or applied science?

Prof. Muriel scoffs at critics who argue that a technological orientation to a science program will stunt the development of pure science. Says he:

"The NSF grant will be used to support courses in science. It will not support courses in technology. The NSF has an overall policy of not funding technology programs. It has always been clear that the NSF has never been in the business of funding technology programs."

In addition to his position at Hostos, Prof. Muriel is a member of the doctoral faculty at the City University Graduate Center, and he is a guest associate physicist at the Brook Haven National Laboratory on Long Island.

Significantly, he lists his post at Hostos as his only professional affiliation. When he publishes an article, he is careful to note that he is a graduate student in theoretical physics and that he is affiliated with the college's curriculum in astronomy, biological introductory biology, and, significantly, radioisotopes.

"I am a scientist, not a technician," he points out.

Next semester the NSF grant will also support the development of the curriculum in biology, and, by funding a summer curriculum development workshop for several faculty members, begin the development of a technical physics course which will be offered next year.

What is the emphasis on technological or applied science?

Prof. Muriel maintains that developing or "science/poor" societies, among which he includes the South Bronx, are in dire need of the practical applications of pure science. And therefore science planners in these societies should give priority to applied science education.

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During this, the first semester in the two-year life of the grant, Prof. Muriel will join forces with Profs. Julio Gallardo and Victor de Leon of the physical sciences and biology department to develop the college's curriculum in astronomy, bilingual introductory biology, and, significantly, radioisotopes.

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Business goes on as usual at 149th Street and the Grand Concourse opposite the Hostos facility. It’s also business as usual in the library at the college where studying is conducted on a solo basis or with a little help from one’s friends. For all concerned—local merchants, students and community residents alike—the resumption of the usual order of things at Hostos this fall is good business indeed.

Admissions...

(Continued from Page 1)

The board’s April resolution also provided for a one-year “transitional matriculant” status for applicants not meeting the new standards. Transitional matriculants will be able to gain full matriculation when they pass a uniform exit examination administered by the college. No credits will be awarded the students until they pass the examination. Students will be given the opportunity to take the examination at the end of each semester.

The CUNY-wide examination for admission to the upper division of senior colleges has not yet been devised. Dean of Faculty Evangelos Grizis has accordingly asked a number of Hostos faculty and students to serve on a task force which will make recommendations to the CUNY central office.

The “sophomore examination,” as it has come to be known, has already caused some consternation because it will undoubtedly be computer administered as the number of students taking the examination will preclude essay questions and the like. As some Hostos faculty have pointed out, the problem with this sort of examination lies in its inability to test the student’s proficiency in writing term papers and answering essay questions.

The members of the Hostos task force for the “sophomore examination” are: Profs. Arthur Clarke (convener), Bowman Wiley, Peter Martin, Les Auli, Blas de Jesus, Clara Velsquez, Thomas Joyce, Manuel Ramos, Clara Watrnick, Gordon Erickson, and students Nilsa Saniel, Victor Vasquez, Hipolito Mena, Alexis Colon, L. Berros, and C. Scharbaal.

News Briefs

Prof. Angelo Aponte of the physical education department spent the summer coaching the Mayaguez Tainos in the Puerto Rican Basketball Federation. With Prof. Aponte at the helm, the Tainos, who had spent three years in the league’s basement, suddenly blossomed into an upper division team and gained a spot in the league’s playoffs. The accomplishment earned Prof. Aponte the Puerto Rican Federation’s coach-of-the-year honors, no small exploit considering his opposition for the honor included Joe Mullaney, former coach of the NBA’s Los Angeles Lakers, and Bernie Bickerstaff, an assistant coach with the Capital Bullets.

Prof. Synos Mangazva of the social sciences department has been elected chairman of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), an organization fighting for the political independence of Africans in what is known as Rhodesia. As chairman of ZANU, Prof. Mangazva has had a number of speaking engagements in such cities as Norfolk, Atlanta, Washington, and Miami to rally moral, material, and other forms of support for the struggle.

Prof. Amador Muriel, chairman of the physical sciences department, has been appointed by the Asian American Educational Concerns to coordinate programs for children which will cover such topics as Asian American music, dance, art, and language.

Hostos radiologic technology graduate John Broussard has been asked to teach his specialty in a pediatrics hospital in the Republic of Gabon, Africa.

Fifteen Hostos students have been selected by the College Entrance Examination Board for inclusion in the board’s 1976 Talent Roster of Outstanding Minority Community College Graduates. The Roster is sent to all accredited four-year colleges in the United States to assist admissions officers in recruiting particularly promising students from minority groups. The Roster will also help the four-year colleges plan for the financial aid needs of these students.

Hostos students included in the roster are: Alida Agosto, Ernesto Austin, Gregory Boone, Margaret Callahan, Odessa Frazier, Elinor Gordon, Emilio La Fontaine, Joyce Lloyd, Maria T. Lozada, Evelyn Martinez, Carmelo Pinto, Carmen Suarez, Priscilla Pinto, Thomas, and Francisco Vallejo.