Hostos “Mobe” Launches New Campaign, Drive

The Hostos Mobilization Committee to Save CUNY has launched a series of activities including mailing and petition campaigns, a political outreach program and a fund-raising drive. Its efforts were highlighted by a mass rally on February 10 intended to underscore not only the need for proper city funding for the University, but also the restoration of the Hostos budget and the renovation of the Security Mutual Building.

The rally was held in front of Security Mutual to emphasize the need for additional facilities to insure the viability of Hostos. It was sponsored by the Mobilization Committee, the Student Government Organization and other student groups and clubs.

“We urge all members of the college and local communities to demand the acquisition of the Concourse building,” said Mr. Anthony Santiago, chairman of the Hostos CUNY mobilization committee. “The Concourse building is essential to our well-being.”

Among the rally’s speakers were Assemblyman Melvin Miller, the newly appointed chairman of the Assembly’s Higher Education Committee. Mr. Santiago has, in the meantime, made an appeal to the college community for financial support. Because most of the committee’s activities are political in nature, no public funds may be used to cover their costs. And

(Continued on page 3)

Governor’s TAP Proposal Hits at Poor, Older Students

Would Adversely Affect Hostos Student Body

Governor Hugh Carey’s 1977-78 budget proposal contains a curtailment in the State’s Tuition Assistance Program which would severely affect “poorer, older, single emancipated and community college students,” according to CUNY Chancellor Robert J. Kilbee.

Chancellor Kilbee based his conclusions on the findings of an analysis of the Governor’s budget which was conducted by the City University’s central office. The analysis indicated that students such as those attending Hostos would be most hard hit by the Governor’s budget. The Chancellor declared that the proposed budget represented a betrayal of assurances made last year that CUNY students would receive adequate tuition assistance if the University were to abrogate its 1964 Graduate Free Tuition policy.

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The resolution which the board would consider on February 28 was drafted by the CUNY Office of Facilities Planning and Management. It was approved by the board’s facilities planning committee on February 7. An explanation attached to the resolution states that the Federal Public Works Employment Act requires that “projects to be funded under its provisions start construction within ninety days of their selection.”

Two days later, at the very time that Chancellor Robert J. Kilbee proposed the merger of Hostos with Bronx Community College, the Dormitory Authority suspended work on the renovation.

Completion of the renovation plans

(Continued on page 2)
The following contribution is from Prof. Gerald Meyer, chairman of the Hostos chapter of the Professional Staff Congress.

Housed in a remodeled factory with less square footage per student than any institution in the State of New York, Hostos lives amidst the devastation and neglect of the South Bronx. Hostos lives. Despite discriminatory barriers and the paucity of its nursing program, Hostos lives.

Hostos lives because it is truly a people’s college. It is the first college to be deliberately located in a poverty area. It is the first bilingual college in New York City—in fact, it is the only bilingual college east of the Pico, Texas. It is the only college in New York that was born in struggle and has never ceased struggling. The first year of existence, the struggle was for a building, textbooks, and blackboards. In its sixth year of existence—last year—it struggled for life—and succeeded. Today, Hostos is struggling for facilities and resources to fulfill its mission: that is, to educate students who have been educationally bypassed, victimized by a racist society, and afflicted with all of the disadvantages of being poor in an affluent country.

Most of our students come to Hostos with a wealth of dreams and ambitions. The recent high school graduates almost invariably have received substandard education in their institutions. Those who are Spanish dominant; often learning English means starting almost from scratch. The average age of an Hostos student is twenty-seven. This means years without contact with the process of formal education. Their educational handicaps are compounded by the everyday problems which beset Black and Hispanic people in this city: lack of heat, loss of employment, unavailability of day care, health problems, family problems, general problems.

These students come to Hostos despite the fact that Hostos has the worst and the most crowded facilities in the City University. They come to Hostos because Hostos wants them. They come to Hostos because Hostos expects and requires of them. At Hostos, they are not outside looking in. Hostos is a community college. Hostos is a community. The feeling of closeness, the ease of communication, the opportunities for interaction, even at Hostos is noticed by the most casual observer. There is nothing "institutional" about Hostos’ ambiance.

Most of our students come to Hostos with severe educational handicaps. The recent high school graduates have had a host of problems. Some are the result of heat, loss of employment, unavailability of day care, health problems, family problems, general problems.

Here is a campaign to demand adequate funding and adequate facilities for the college. The House has been inaugurated. We are asking your support in this campaign. We are particularly asking that you do everything within your power to demand that the renovation of 500 Grand Concourse be completed. This building was acquired for Hostos as the result of a remarkable campaign in the Spring of 1974, a campaign which culminated in a modification in the New York State budgets of $3,000,000 for the purpose of this facility. Since then, the plans for the renovation of the buildings have been completed. The decision of this building would allow Hostos to have what every other school has: an auditorium, a cafeteria, sufficient study areas, perhaps even a lounge area.

What is involved is simply a question of equal treatment. Hostos’ students, 98 percent Hispanic and Black, deserve equal facilities. Also, the acquisition of this and the final master plan would be a bilingual institution of higher learning will remain permanent in the South Bronx.

Friends of the college can help by writing: Assembliesman Stanley Stelino, Speaker to the Assembly, Assemblyman Martin Milkir, chairman of Higher Education Committee, and Assembliesman Jose Serrano, also of the House. These correspondences should be addressed to the State Capital, Albany, New York 2222.

Hearings Scheduled For Master Plan

The Hostos Master Plan Committee has scheduled public hearings for the middle of February to insure that its decision on the mission of the college reflects the desires and opinions of the college and local communities. The committee has, in the meantime, drafted a series of questions which it will address during the hearings and in the final master plan. These questions have been grouped into five major areas: curriculum, instruction, students, faculty and the college and the local community.

The questions which the committee has outlined for discussion indicate that Lopez and the community are particularly interested in defining the bilingual and remedial nature of the Hostos curriculum. In the area of public relations, the community will address itself to a number of issues related to the "systems approach." This includes: self-placing, alternate modes of instruction and testing.

The committee will also delve into student recruitment, placement and orientation as well as faculty recruitment, training and the faculty’s relationship to the bilingual nature of the college.

The Master Plan hearings are scheduled for February 15, 16 and 17 in the conference room at 292 East 151st Street. Individuals interested in testifying should call the President’s Office, 960-1021.

Renovation...

(Continued from page 1)

At this time would involve what the Department of Housing and Urban Development terms a minor expenditure by the Dormitory Authority to complete the contract for the alterations. For the alteration and construction resolution also calls the expenditure a "prudent investment to permit the project to be eligible for consideration under the terms of the Federal Works Employment Act." The University is turning to the Federal Government for the renovation of the building because the Dormitory Authority, which formally funds such projects, has not been able to sell its bonds.

"Small Business" Certificates Awarded To "Proud" Students

The Division of Community and Continuing Education’s Minority Small Business Rescue Project held its annual mid-winter certificate award ceremony on January 19, and it was an occasion for students and instructors to justifiably boast of accomplishments and successes.

"I’m proud that I went through the program," said Silvia Lopez, one of two students to speak at the ceremony. "It over-exceeded my expectations, and I’m thankful that it gives women like me a break."

"I’m proud to be a member of the advisory committee," echoed Mr. James Barrera, one of the first members of the Minority Small Business Rescue Program’s community advisory board.

The program’s graduates also received some advice from Mr. Miguel Mendonez, director of the New York State Office of Minority Business Entrepreneurship, who was the speaker at the award ceremony. Said he: "You’ve got to use the expertise of those around you—if you’re really going to go into business for yourself. You must look to your instructors who represent many years of hard work and lots of talent."

Mr. Vasquez went on to urge the graduates to take advantage of the services of his agency which has been helping thousands of small businesses to establish viable businesses in every community throughout the state.

"Unfortunately," continued Mr. Vasquez: "You've got to break a man's world, but that’s got to change." He said he was encouraged and seemed to be an unusual high number of women among the graduates, and he promised to work closely with the new administration in the State Capitol to help women get started in business.

The program encompasses Mr. Vasquez’s theme saying, "You’ve got to give women a break and encourage them to get into business."

Significantly, the Hostos Minority Small Business program convinced Mr. Lopez not to enter the business world at this time. With four children of her own, she found that the demands of a business would be too much for her with her responsibilities at home. But, undaunted, she is determined to get into business some day.

She concluded: "I would like to thank Hostos for giving me the programs which mean so much for us and the community. We must help spread the message of this program—especially to other community residents."

Mr. Miguel Cervantes, former employee of the college, receives certificate from Mr. Miguel Mendonez during award ceremony held at the college on January 19. (Photo by Benny Diaz.)

"Small Business" Certificates Awarded To "Proud" Students

Also speaking at the ceremony was student Arturo Taveras who expressed his appreciation to the Small Business program’s faculty. "All I have," he said, "are words filled with affection, thanks and sincerity."

"We must help spread the message of this program—especially to other community residents." (Photo by Benny Diaz.)

Presiding at the ceremony was Mr. Anthony Santiago, director of the Division of Community and Continuing Education. Dean of Faculty Evangelino Grof welcomed the graduates and guests to the ceremony. And Mr. Miguel P. Mendonez, coordinator of the Minority Small Business Rescue Project, presented the certificates.

A total of 43 students received certificates.

Dental Service Is Appreciated

From its inception, Hostos has attempted to serve the local South Bronx community in a variety of ways. Although that objective has been compromised to some extent by budgetary constraints, the college has nevertheless struck out to render that service in a quiet and persistent manner.

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College Community Is Resuming Study Of Policy And The Sexes

The Hostos college community will be called upon this spring to conduct an assessment of the college's policies in regard to admissions, recruitment, employment, course offerings, counseling and financial aid to determine if those policies are free from bias on the basis of sex.

The self-assessment, which was to have been completed by last summer but was interrupted by the strike of the spring 1976 semester, is mandated by Federal law—Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The Federal law prohibits any educational institution receiving Federal funds from discriminating against its employees on the basis of sex. Its governing clause reads as follows:

"There shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

In addition to the self-assessment, the law requires that each institution notify its employees and students of its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of sex. It also requires that the institution create a grievance structure—indeed, of all—other means of discovering discrimination on the basis of sex.

The Hostos policy statement, devised by the Senate's Standing Committee on Affirmative Action which will also oversee the self-assessment, is as follows:

"Hostos Community College adheres to a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of sex. Students, faculty and staff will be limited in the employment of any right, privilege, advantage or opportunity based on sex.

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"Hostos Community College adheres to a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of sex. Students, faculty and staff will be limited in the employment of any right, privilege, advantage or opportunity based on sex. The department in keeping with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, includes, but is not limited to, equal treatment of students in admissions, facilities, courses and other educational activities, counseling, financial aid and scholarships, health benefits, athletic participation, faculty and staff assignments, promotion, tenure, salary, job assignments, training, leave and fringe benefits."

During the self-assessment, college officers and faculty will analyze the policies of their offices for...ing that the college had been "born in struggle" and "how it must remain vigilant to prevent its mission and objectives from being compromised."

Also speaking at the Hostos Day activity was Wilfredo Vega, representative of the Puerto Rican Student Organization, Mr. Vega recalled how the college had been "born in struggle" and "how it must remain vigilant to prevent its mission and objectives from being compromised."

Also featured on the Hostos Day program were violinist Joshua Rodriguez, vocalist Jesus Zubizarreta and pianist Eduardo Guadarrama. Prof. Raoul Pérez, chairman of the Modern Languages Department, emceed the program.

The Hon. Luis Quero Chiesa, former chairman of the Board of Higher Education and principal speaker at the Hostos Day Celebration, also found a linkage between Hostos and the present:

"Having lived in a time when the dignity of our country was being denigrated (it seems like today), Hostos struggled incessantly... in this City of New York where he lived, one of the bitterest years of his life, here a college is raised in honor of his name. And you, the students and the faculty, have honored his name most by saving this college."

The following rationale was given for the adoption of the semester system:

"Four departments, however, have opted to keep the cycle system which they believe is more suited to their curricula. Those departments are: dental hygiene, early childhood education, health care and radiologic technology."

Although a precise timetable for the self-assessment has not yet been adopted, the affirmative action committee expects that the self-assessment will be published by late April or early May.

Dean Gizis continued: "The City University of New York must continue to make its physical presence known and... are desperately needed and must be provided if the plague of urban decay and ruin is to be allayed."

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During the program, Mr. José Rivera, president of the Puerto Rican Student Organization, presented Associate Dean of Students Peter Martin with a certificate stating that the organization is donating a bust of Eugenio María de Hostos to the college.

The Hostos Day Celebration was sponsored by the Student Activities Office in cooperation with the Puerto Rican Studies Department, the Puerto Rican Student Organization, the Modern Languages Department, and the Student Government Organization.

As a result, the mobilization committee is asking that students contribute whatever they feel they can afford. It is asking that faculty and staff contribute according to a schedule based on salary. For information on contributions, interested individuals should contact Mr. Santiago in room 331 of the Concourse building, exten- sion 3113. All checks should be made payable to the Save Hostos Committee.

Gizis Tells State Commission CUNY Must Continue Tradition

Dean of Faculty Evangelos Gizis called upon the members of the Temporary State Commission on the Future of Postsecondary Education on January 6 to assure that the City University continue to serve those '...will workers who are still outside the City's economic and social mainstream, whose choices about what to do are still being shaped by the prevailing values.'

Striking the theme that the University since its inception in 1847 had been an important social equalizer for thousands of the city's newcomers, Dean Gizis told the Temporary Commission that CUNY should continue to serve the city's newest immigrants who today reside in such communities as the South Bronx, Harlem and the Lower East Side.

Testifying at the Commission's public hearing held in January.

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Semester Calendar Replaces "Cycles"

The Hostos Council of Chairpersons and Directors voted on January 12 to convert the academic calendar from a 'cycle' to a semester system.

Four departments, however, have opted to keep the cycle system which they believe is more suited to their curricula. Those departments are: dental hygiene, early childhood education, health care and radiologic technology. The following rationale was given for the adoption of the semester system:

A semester system will greatly facilitate the registration process by reducing the number of academic units for which a student must register.

Many currently offered courses are de facto semester courses in that a student must complete both cycles of the course in order to receive credit for the course.

Students would be responsible for retaining more information in those areas where final exams are given. Hostos "Mobe"...

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NewsBriefs

Prof. Pablo Cabrera, chairman of the Puerto Rican Studies Department, has been asked to teach in the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater's training unit which, over the last six years, has offered drama training to promising youths of 14 years or older. In years past, Ms. Cabrera has conducted his drama classes at Hostos with those at the Traveling Theater, thereby giving Hostos students the opportunity to act in a professional setting. Several Hostos students have gone on to join regular performances of the Traveling Theater. The training unit has been made possible through grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and The National Endowment for the Arts. The Traveling Theater's director, Miriam Cohn, a loyal friend and ardent supporter of the college.

Ms. Beatrice Nielsen, a graduate of the Hostos Early Childhood Education Program, will be graduating from City College in June having been on the Dean's List several times during her four years of study.

Ms. Elizabeth Navas Monge, another Early Childhood graduate, is now teaching a group teacher in the East Tremont Head Start Program in the south Bronx. She graduated from Lehman College last June.

Ms. Kathy Moran Engram of the secretarial staff and a graduate of the Hostos Medical Secretarial Science program, has been awarded a scholarship by the Supervisors and Administrators Association, a professional organization of upper level office managers and personnel. Currently at Lehman College, where she is pursuing a degree in business, Ms. Engram was awarded the scholarship from the bank of supervisors.

"Prof. Patricia Parzych, chairman of the Secretarial Science Department, has co-authored a text entitled Secretarial Training for the Changing Office which will be released in March by Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich. Collaborating with Prof. Parzych on the book was Prof. Norma Cuchack of the secretarial science program at SUNY, Farmingdale. The text outlines its lessons in terms of behavioral objectives; it also contains sections on language skills and seeking employment. As such, it reflects Prof. Parzych's teaching at Hostos."

A scholar returns to Hostos. Prof. José Nieto-Iglesias, formerly of the visual and performing arts department, returned to Hostos recently to give a lecture on the influence of Taino culture in Puerto Rico. The Tainos were the natives of the island at the time of Columbus' landing. In his own inimitable way, Prof. Iglesias captivated his audience.

A Three Kings' Day Celebration. Associate Dean of Students Peter Martin (above), members of his staff and students ham it up during a party for neighborhood kids sponsored by the Yuisa Sorority on the occasion of "El Dia de los Tres Reyes Magos." (Photos by Benny Díaz.)