After President Carter's Visit, The Hostos Case is Being Made

President Carter's visit to the South Bronx has raised a multitude of questions—even anxieties—in all quarters of the community. Now that the flurry of excitement surrounding the visit has subsided, is there a "plan" to deal with problems which Carter so ceremoniously acknowledged? If there is a plan, what tack will it take? Will its centerpiece be housing? Or economic development and jobs? More social and health services? Improved educational opportunities?

Initially, the impression of many in the college community was that the emphasis of whatever plan was to be developed would be housing: one of the President's tour guides was the Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Patricia Harris. And, perhaps most unsettling, was the fact that nowhere was anything being said about education, postsecondary education in particular.

Apparently, however, the Carter Administration is indeed interested in a comprehensive plan, and has asked the city and borough to help develop the approach. Fortunately, the case is being made for Hostos.

Shaping the city's proposal for a South Bronx strategy are City Planning Commissioner Victor Marrero and Bruce Kirschenbaum, Mr. Watson's assistant and, as a former member of the Lindsay Administration, one of President Carter's key aides on New York City affairs.

President Carter has, in the meantime, named several of his aides to work with the city and borough on the South Bronx question. Among them are: William White, the Carter administration's federal programs coordinator; Bruce Kirschenbaum, Mr. Watson's assistant and, as a former member of the Lindsay Administration, one of President Carter's key aides on New York City affairs.

Since the visit, Acting President Anthony Santiago has spoken with Commissioner Marrero to brief him on the college's present status and to reiterate the necessity of the Hub campus.

At Borough Hall, the college's case as in the past, has received careful attention. According to Deputy Borough President Robert Einnard, Bruce Kirschenbaum's visit to the college, has resulted in two proposals for the Hostos campus: The construction of a campus exclusively for Hostos on the Hub site; or the development of the shopping center campus complex, the plans for which were developed last year by the college and the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation.

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Occupation of the Security Mutual Building moved one step closer to reality in November when it became known that the Bankers Trust Company has agreed to purchase a special issue of bonds totalling $4 million from the State Dormitory Authority thus enabling Hostos to renovate the vacant facility on the Grand Concourse.

Although no official statement has been issued by Bankers Trust, the Dormitory Authority has received the pledge of a written commitment from the bank to purchase the bonds. However, the hurdles must be crossed, however, before the bonds are issued. The issue must first receive the approval of the Public Authority and the Control Board, a central mechanism set up during the height of the city’s and state’s fiscal crisis to oversee the issuing of bonds by public authorities such as the Dormitory Authority, Serving on the Control Board are State Senator John Marchi (Rep., Staten Island), chairman of the Senate’s Appropriations Committee.

Issue Must be Approved by Albany Control Board

The petition goes on to demand that the 500 Grand Concourse building "be

Tribute Paid to Nobel Laureate

Hostos students and faculty gathered at the college on November 10 to pay tribute to Vicente Aleixandre, the latest member of the Hispanic family to be honored with the Nobel Prize. Aleixandre answered the college community in kind by personally dictating a letter by telephone to students and faculty from his home in Spain. The letter begins: "You are gathered there and I find myself among you." And it concludes: "It is from the depth of my soul that I listen to you and tell you: Thank you, many thanks, my dear friends."

Joining in the tribute, which was sponsored by the Modern Languages Department and the Modern Languages Club, were a number of Hostos' own scholars and friends. They came to talk of Alejandro's roots and his place in the Spanish-speaking world, and they came to recite his own poems as well as poems they had written in his honor.

Coordinating the event was Prof. Orlando José Hernandez, a new member of the modern languages faculty who spoke of Alejandro's background and introduced his colleagues. They were: Prof. Gladys de Jesus, who recited various Alejandro's poems; Puerto Rican poet Evan Silan who read several of his own poems written for the occasion; Prof. Alfonso Villanueva who read his own translations of various Alejandro works;

PSC Circulates Petitions Urging Building Renewal

The Hostos chapter of the Professional Staff Congress has begun a petition campaign to secure the Security Mutual Building at 500 Grand Concourse. Drafted at the November 30th meeting of the chapter, the petition reads in part: "Hostos Community College has the least amount of square footage per student of any college in the State of New York. Hostos has no gymnasium, auditorium or cafeteria."

The petition goes on to demand that the 500 Grand Concourse building "be

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Volume 8, Number 3
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Bank Says It Will Buy Bonds To Fund Facility Renovation

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On Being Proud of Hostos Grads

Former President Cándido de León received a letter recently from Virginia L. Radley, acting president of the State University branch at Oswego notifying him of the fact that two Hostos graduates were member of Oswego's class of 1977.

Acting President Radley wrote: “We both are aware that the reputations of our schools depend, to a considerable extent, on the success of our graduates. You and your students have contributed to the academic and professional foundation which these young people used to achieve their baccalaureate degree. Their work, and yours, should be a source of considerable pride for you.”

The two Hostos graduates are Eversley Junior Andrews and Doris Blaise who are indeed a source of pride for the college.

X-Ray Department Honors Program Advisory Chairman

The radiologic technology department honored the chairman of its advisory committee, Dr. Harry L. Miller at a luncheon held on November 17 at the executive dining room of The Bankers Trust Co. in mid-Manhattan.

The luncheon was provided complements of Bankers Trust.

Vistazos de Hostos...

In Bid to Reverse Bakke Stand

A move by the Hostos chapter of the Professional Staff Congress to have the PSC condemn the supporting brief for Alan Bakke, an applicant to the medical school at the University of California at Davis who was the victim of an admissions policy which favored some minority students over others, failed in November during a meeting of the PSC's delegate assembly.

Petitions... (Continued from page 1) made immediately available in order to ease the severe overcrowding at Hostos.

Anyone interested in circulating petitions should contact the social sciences department (room 207, 3rd St., ext. 1062) or the physical education department (room 424, Concourse, ext. 1027).

The Carter-Harris visit raised concerns... and questions.

The Hostos chapter of the PSC has passed a resolution in October urging that the CUNY faculty union rebuff the AFT amicus curiae for supporting Bakke, an applicant to the medical school at the University of California at Davis, who was the victim of an admissions policy which favored some minority students who were less qualified.

The vote on the Hostos resolution at the PSC delegate assembly was 19 opposed, 14 in favor and 5 abstentions.

"Even though we lost," said Prof. Gerald Meyer, chairman of the Hostos chapter of the PSC; "we effectively presented our case, and were able to air the controversy at the delegate assembly."

In addition to Prof. Meyer, arguments in favor of the resolution were presented by Prof. Selma James, vice-chairman of the Hostos chapter of the PSC, Prof. Peter Roman, chairman of the social sciences department, and Prof. Edward Maynard, chairman of the Africana studies department. The Hostos resolution was also officially supported by the FSC chapter through its president of Manhattan Community College.

The Hostos College Senate passed a similar resolution at its first meeting in September.

"It's inconceivable," said Prof. Meyer, "that a teachers' union should find itself in league with some of the most reactionary groups in the country.

"If Bakke wins," concluded Prof. Meyer, "affirmative action dies."
Carter's Visit Elicits Reactions From Local Leaders; Consensus Seems to Emerge on Approach to Problems

President Carter’s visit to the South Bronx has elicited widespread reaction from the community. It has alternately been the source of hope, doubt, skepticism … expectation. Following is a sampling of that reaction, in this case from a number of community leaders.

José E. Serrano, New York State Assemblyman, South Bronx:

It was shocking to me that the President never met with the elected officials from the area. … Had he been accompanied by Puerto Rican leaders, especially the elected officials, he would today have a better idea of the problems and necessities of this devastated area.

Robert Abrams, Borough President of the Bronx:

The president’s visit was a step in the right direction. What is needed is a combination of job and housing. Housing without jobs is not going to do the trick. We’ve seen that housing by itself will deteriorate in a matter of months. Similarly, if you just plunk a number of factories down you’re still going to have a very unhappy community.

Robert Garcia, New York State Senator from the South Bronx:

The visit by President Jimmy Carter to the South Bronx was indeed a momentous occasion. Through his own eyes he was able to see, for himself, the deprivation, the decay, the destruction of a community. The ancient adage of “one picture is worth a thousand words” became a reality for President Carter.

Health statistics have validated the positive relationship between a person’s social and economic status and his/her level of health.

We at Lincoln interface with one end of this spectrum. The results of this diversity are evident every day in our emergency rooms and clinics. Our community’s inadequate housing, high unemployment, family instability, and high mortality are areas of great concern which we hope and pray will be addressed by the federal government and local community leaders.

I believe that we are embarking on an era of hope and, most important, the immediate steps towards raising the level of the quality of life for all our community.

Serrano Backs Hostos at BHE Budget Hearings

Assemblyman José E. Serrano of the South Bronx testified on behalf of Hostos at the recent City University of New York budget hearings saying that the college “will play an historic role in the transformation of the South Bronx.”

Serrano, one of the leading figures in the rescue of Hostos on the floor of the State Legislature decades ago, expressed his concern that the budget proposals of this year’s fiscal year would “be enough to develop an overall economic development plan designed to develop all aspects of our community, create jobs for the residents of the South Bronx. Just building housing or parks as the President initially suggested will not be enough. Urban economic development plans designed to develop all aspects of our community, create jobs for the residents of the South Bronx, I believe, the deprivation, the decay, the destruction of a community. The ancient adage of “one picture is worth a thousand words” became a reality for President Carter.

The neighborhood near the Hostos permanent site (in the vicinity of St. Ann’s Park) is like much of the South Bronx. Above right a tool and the works, the kind of small to medium scale industry which helped sustain the community in the past, is now closed. Below, Ralph Vega of the Hostos college relations staff stands in an empty lot near St. Ann’s Avenue. A resident of the community for 21 years, Mr. Vega says: “This was once a bustling, healthy neighborhood…” The pattern now is: empty lots, crumbling buildings, a few with a handful of tenants bravely holding out.

Robert Abrams, Borough President of the Bronx:

The president’s visit was a step in the right direction. What is needed is a combination of job and housing. Housing without jobs is not going to do the trick. We’ve seen that housing by itself will deteriorate in a matter of months. Similarly, if you just plunk a number of factories down you’re still going to have a very unhappy community.

Serrano, New York State Assemblyman, South Bronx:

It was shocking to me that the President never met with the elected officials from the area. … Had he been accompanied by Puerto Rican leaders, especially the elected officials, he would today have a better idea of the problems and necessities of this devastated area.

There are a lot more problems than housing. It’s education, welfare, the drug addicts and more … It is clear to me that postsecondary educational opportunities and jobs are inextricably linked together—and the eventual transformation of the South Bronx and other inner city communities. My belief that Hostos Community College will play a historic role in the transformation of the South Bronx is absolute.

John Patterson, Jr., President of the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation:

President Carter’s visit to the South Bronx was marked as the beginning date of our area’s rebirth. His reaction to what he saw was singularly positive. He made a public commitment to honor that commitment. …

My constituents … looked upon President Carter’s visit to their community with interest, hope, and understandably, a bit of skepticism. No doubt, many of my people wondered: After the reporters and cameras leave, after the public’s memory of the devastation, photographs of places like Fox Street begin to fade, and more importantly, after President Carter and his entourage return to Washington will our lives and the lives of our families really be changed for the better?

The question remains an open one. However, I can say with some satisfaction that there are many hopeful signs that suggest to me that things can and will change for the better for the poor people who live in the South Bronx. For one thing, Hostos Community College continues to serve this community with distinction. I am told that the college’s student enrollment has reached 2,774—the highest in the college’s history. I have also learned that more than 86 percent of Hostos student body is Hispanic and that 47 percent of the students are presently enrolled in the college’s bilingual program. These are significant facts which illustrate dramatically that the South Bronx is perceived by many as a place that offers valuable higher educational resources.

Noreiga, Acting Executive Director of Lincoln Hospital:

We at Lincoln interface with one end of this spectrum. The results of this diversity are evident every day in our emergency rooms and clinics. Our community’s inadequate housing, high unemployment, family instability, and high mortality are areas of great concern which we hope and pray will be addressed by the federal government and local community leaders.

I believe that we are embarking on an era of hope and, most important, the immediate steps towards raising the level of the quality of life for all our community.

It is clear to me,” Serrano said, “that postsecondary educational opportunities and jobs are inextricably linked together—and the eventual transformation of the South Bronx and
A THANKSGIVING DINNER AND A PUERTO RICAN HERITAGE DAY PARADE: At left, members of the Urban Health Core Club give a Thanksgiving dinner for Hostos students. From left are: Veronica Mayes of the registrar’s office and students Levon Cooper, Altarace Gedeus, Marianne Edwina Parker, Michelle Tobin and Ramona Colini. At center, a proud young man bears the costume of the Puerto Rican jibaro during a parade marking the anniversary of the discovery of Puerto Rico. Sponsored by School District 9, the parade was held in November along the Grand Concourse. Above right, Virginia Paris, director of admissions, sits in the reviewing stand with Dr. Milton J. Stier, community school superintendent.

NewsBriefs

Associate Dean of Students Peter Martin, Prof. Adrian Benitez, director of the Hostos College Discovery Program, and Prof. Carlos Gonzalezt of the counseling staff gave a presentation on the Hostos peer counseling program at the annual convention of the New York State Personnel and Guidance Association which was held in October in Liberty, New York.

Prof. Benitez also presented a paper entitled “The Experience of Culture Shock as Confronted by Foreign Students” in a panel at a meeting of the English-in-Action Institute. The Institute is a voluntary organization of instructors who tutor ESL students.

Ms. Erisbelia Garriga of the modern languages department has written a business mathematics manual which is being used in business machine courses in the University of Puerto Rico.

Prof. Orlando Hernandez of the modern languages department has published an article on the “magic stories” of Jose Lezama Lima, one of Cuba’s best poets. Lezama Lima’s magic stories were one of the poet’s few ventures in prose; they are noted for their baroque, surrealistic style.

Prof. Hernandez has also translated some of Lezama Lima’s work for Review Magazine which is published in New York by the Center for Inter-American Relations. Prof. Hernandez has published some of his own poetry in Inter, a literary magazine published by the University of Connecticut.

Hamilton Lionel Maloney, one of Hostos’ senior citizen students, recently published a sonnet, “Which Way Did Love?” in the latest edition of Somber Gardens, an anthology of student/faculty poetry from colleges across the country and Canada. Mr. Maloney is, as he says, “back at Hostos to keep busy.”

Prof. Bette Kerr, director of counseling services, has been invited by Barnard College to serve on the Barnard Advisory Vocational Committee. As a member of this committee, Prof. Kerr, who is a Barnard graduate, will coordinate career workshops and seminars for Barnard students and alumni as well as meet with the president of the college to make input regarding career curricula and implications for students’ career choices relative to the current job market.

Prof. Kerr has also been selected to serve on the workshop committee of the Metropolitan College Mental Health Association during 1977. In addition to planning seminars related to counseling of college students, Prof. Kerr served as moderator of a panel on “Unplanned Pregnancy: The College Student” at the annual workshop held by the Association in November at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan.

Prof. Peter Roman, chairman of the social sciences department, presented a paper at “Allende, the U.S. and the Coup in Chile” at the Third City University Political Science Conference which was held in early December at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Prof. Judith Nowinski of the modern languages department has received a professional development incentive award at Columbia University’s Teachers College to pursue a second Master’s degree in the Teaching of Spanish.

Prof. Sandra Perl of the English department presented a paper entitled “Research on the Composing Process: How Unskilled Writers Write” at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English which was held in November. Prof. Perl has joined forces with two of her colleagues from Lehman College and Queensboro Community College to attempt to construct a model that will characterize the development of writing skills among non-traditional college students. Their work is being supported by a $140,000 grant from the Ford Foundation for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

Prof. Harcourt A. Carrington of the counseling staff was a panelist during a conference on “Growth, Development of Women and the Work of Women” which was held in November at Medgar Evers College. The conference was sponsored by the National Association of University Women.

Prof. Manuel Ramos, chairman of the modern languages department, taught courses for candidates for the master’s degree in education at the College of Education of Inter-American University over the summer.

Prof. Beatrice Kreppel of the ESL program gave a paper on the adult ESL learner at the National Convention of Teachers of English which was held in New York in late November. Prof. Kreppel’s approach to teaching ESL includes instruction on community serves available to the newly arrived, non-English-speaking student. The idea is to not only provide skills in the new language but also to help the students maneuver through the somewhat alien environment of a new society.

Prof. Kreppel’s students have accordingly taken forays to such places as the local post office and libraries.

Prof. Clara Velazquez, director of the Hostos English-as-a-second-language program, has been invited by Chancellor Robert J. Kibbee to serve as a member of the Policy Advisory Board of the CUNY Skills Assessment Program. The program will be implemented this spring under the direction of Dr. Morton Rosenstock of the CUNY Office of Adacemic Affairs.

Prof. Angelo Aponte of the physical education department has been named by Acting President Anthony Santiago to head the institutional self-study effort for the college’s re-accreditation.

Prof. Aponte’s appointment signals the beginning of a process which will culminate in the spring of 1979 with the visitation of and accreditation team from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools Commission on Higher Education.

Hostos was unconditionally accredited in the summer of 1974 following a highly favorable report by a team from Middle States.

Prof. Aponte will serve as the chairman of the steering committee of the institutional self-study, a process in which all segments of the Hostos community will review the college’s performance in conducting its mission.

The other members of the steering committee are: Prof. Linda Hirsch (English), Virginia Paris (admissions), Leroy Sparks (radiologic technology), Clara Velazquez (English), selema (dental hygiene), John Randall (mathematics), Edward Maynard (African studies), Carmen Martin (Puerto Rican studies), Fred Sousa (business and accounting), A.J. Benancourt (library), Carmen Vazquez (financial aid), and Mses. Veronica Mayes (registrars office) and Cecilia Liniaze (business office).

Hostos Community College
475 Grand Concourse
Bronx, N.Y. 10451

Serrano...

(Continued from page 3)

other inner city communities. My belief that Hostos Community College will play an historic role in the transformation of the South Bronx is absolute; my concern that Hostos is provided with the financial resources necessary to fulfill this role is deep.”

Aponte to Lead, Self-Study Effort