

What's Happening at '500'?

On Thursday, March 30th, amidst the confusing climax of a general assembly, a group of students and faculty members seized the 500 Grand Concourse building and began to put it to use for the entire college. Although a clear majority of those in attendance did not support the immediate takeover of the building, it should not be overlooked that the overwhelming majority did support the tactic of a takeover. The only question was one of timing: whether it should be implemented immediately or the following week, when clarification of potential strikes against the Transit Authority and the New York Times and Daily News was expected.

On the following day, the State Dormitory Authority, which manages the building, threatened to evict, with the use of police force, all those students and faculty members from the building. However, thanks to a show of solidarity by community residents, clergymen, faculty members and especially the Student Government, the Dominican Student Organization, the South American Student Organization, the Puerto Rican Student Organization as well as many others, the threat was beaten back.

As a result, the movement to obtain and use the 500 building has been strengthened. Preparations for classes and cultural activities rapidly progressed. In fact, some teachers have taught their classes there and have pledged to continue to do so. Moreover, the takeover has attracted public attention to Hostos' lack of space and its struggle to overcome that problem. radio stations -- WJN, WINS, and WCBS -- carried hourly reports on the takeover and the goal of Hostos United, while WNEW TV, Channel 5 did an indepth positive report on our fight for adequate facilities and space.

While many criticize, with some justification, how the takeover was conducted, the fact remains, it has survived and grown. The pressing question now is how to respond to that reality. Can we afford to ignore the stand taken by our fellow students and faculty? Can we afford to allow political style, personality conflicts and different student organizational loyalties overshadow the progress we have made the last six weeks? Can we permit throwing the baby out with the bathwater, that is, disregarding the struggle for the building because of the less than ideal way the takeover was implemented?

Our answer to these questions will determine the success of our movement and the survival of our college. Consider them carefully and recall the slogan -- HOSTOS UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED!

JOIN THE TAKEOVER! If not now, as soon as you are ready to, so that Hostos can claim what is rightfully ours: the 500 Grand Concourse building.

HOSTOS UNITED FOR "500"

The Takeover Committee of
HOSTOS UNITED