

# Letters to the Editor

## City University: On the Need to Save John Jay and Hostos

To the Editor:

The Chancellor's proposal to merge John Jay College with Baruch College is based on an expected savings in operating costs of the combined institutions. Since the plan calls for a continuation of the program in criminal justice at the present Lincoln Center campus at 59th Street and Baruch College is located in the 23d Street and Madison Avenue area, there are grave questions about the reality of those savings.

We have presented a plan to the Chancellor and to the Board of Higher Education which will match the \$3 million savings the Chancellor would achieve without destroying John Jay College. The plan would reduce rental space, cut administrative costs, increase faculty productivity and reduce staff. This proposal assures the continued vitality and viability of John Jay College and gives the Chancellor the savings we realize he must achieve. To impose an artificial merger of two geographically separated institutions is questionable at best.

Since John Jay is the smaller of the two colleges, there is no question that the vigor and excellence of this criminal-justice quality program would be jeopardized. John Jay College enrolls approximately 10,000 students, and the cost per student is the lowest among the nine senior colleges in the City University. John Jay is a low-cost, high-quality college, directly and constructively related to the City of New York. There are over 4,500 policemen, firemen, corrections officers, F.B.I. agents and other law-enforcement men and women studying in our unique curriculum.

In 1964, the Board of Higher Education founded John Jay College because



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it clearly perceived the need for a separate institution to study the pressing problems of crime prevention, law enforcement and the larger questions of social control and social deviance. Prior to 1964, there existed a limited, narrowly focused program in police science at Baruch College. For years, that program had been tossed from location to location around the city and given meager resources to develop. It was only with the creation of an independent college which has now become the leader and innovator in the field of criminal justice in the United States that the study of crime and its prevention was given its necessary due.

To merge John Jay is to destroy the educational vitality of the college.

GERALD W. LYNCE  
Acting President, John Jay College  
New York, March 3, 1976

To the Editor:

Chancellor Kibbee of CUNY has proposed closing Hostos Community College in the South Bronx. This proposal is senseless, cruel and destructive. No budget cut can justify closing an institution of higher learning which has given so many poor people, so many racial and cultural minorities opportunities which otherwise would be unavailable to them.

Why close a school whose small size, personalized structure and individualized instruction correspond to the needs of students whose background has ill prepared them for academic work?

Why close a school which provides the only possibility for higher education for our residents whose main language is Spanish? Hostos offers a full range of courses in Spanish so that these students may earn college credits while mastering English.

Why close a school which best serves the working adults who return to school to improve their own and their families' lives? Half the students at Hostos are over 27 years old.

Why close the only college in the economically depressed area of the South Bronx? The people here want and deserve a college, and Hostos provides a learning and cultural center.

Hostos Community College is too important to be closed—too important for the South Bronx, too important for New York City. To close Hostos would be to slam the door in the face of those who as much as anyone deserve education and jobs, and who have been denied both too long. To close Hostos is intolerable. PETER ROMAN

Chmn., Social Science Department  
Hostos Community College  
Bronx, Feb. 25, 1976