

el Coquí

A News Publication of Hostos Community College
of the City University of New York

Volume 8, Number 8
May, 1978



A group of students and faculty members participate in a hunger strike on Brooklyn Bridge side of City Hall in early May to gain attention for Hostos' plight. Deputy Mayor Badillo met with the strikers and issued a letter raising hope that the renovation of the 500 Grand Concourse facility will be approved.

Business Department to Expand

The Business and Accounting Department is planning to expand the business part of its curriculum and thus double its enrollment to 500 students in the fall, 1978 semester.

The expansion is in response to the growth in white collar jobs in the New York metropolitan area projected for the 1980's by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the director of its local New York Office, Herbert Bienstock.

Developing the expanded curriculum will be Prof. Fred Soussa, chairman of the department, and Prof. Riccardo Boehm, a member of the regular teaching staff.

"We know there will be jobs out there, lots of jobs in the years ahead. What we have to do is pinpoint exactly what sectors are growing and design the curriculum for those job openings. In other words, we're going to fit the program to the available jobs," said Prof. Soussa.

Over the summer, Profs. Soussa and Boehm will be surveying businesses, business journals and even the want ads in local newspapers to determine what jobs are available where. They expect that their labor will ultimately translate itself into expanded curricula in several major areas: banking, insurance sales and management, real estate and especially computer science, sectors of the local economy which have shown considerable vitality.

Graduates of the business components of the Business and Accounting Department will receive associate in applied science (A.A.S.) degrees, and will be prepared to either begin working immediately or go on to four-year colleges for bachelor's degrees.

The department presently offers an A.A.S. degree in accounting which is primarily geared for students who wish to go on to four-year colleges for bachelor's degrees in accounting. Generally, the ultimate goal of these

students is to become certified public accountants.

Last fall, the department initiated an associate in arts (A.A.) program with a concentration in accounting for students who wish to begin work as bookkeepers, clerks or junior accountants immediately after graduation.

Profs. Soussa and Boehm are planning on integrating a cooperative education component into the expanded business program. Prof. Boehm, in particular, will be in charge of placing students in jobs related to their area of business. These jobs will be at banks, real estate agencies, computer firms and the like.

Several businesses in the community, including some banks, have expressed interest in the cooperative education venture. And they are particularly interested in employing the program's graduates. For example, two students—Felix Polanco and Alice Porter—are already prime candidates for jobs at such concerns as the Bankers Trust Company, thanks largely to the reputation of the Hostos Business and Accounting Department.

Much of the students' classroom instruction is supplemented in an accounting laboratory which the department has recently set up with funds provided by a Vocational Education Act grant. The laboratory contains such late model equipment as sophisticated calculators and remedial business mathematics machines. It also serves as a place for tutoring and studying.

In short, the Hostos Business and Accounting Department is forging ahead in its attempt to prepare its graduates for the New York City of 1980's. It is an attempt which parallels and meshes nicely with the city's and the Federal Government's plans to revitalize the South Bronx.

Badillo Letter Raises Hope For Renovation of Facility

*Says Mayor Will Give Go-Ahead
If Need is Justified*

Although recent developments indicate that there is reason to be optimistic that the sale of bonds for the renovation of 500 Grand Concourse will be approved by Mayor Edward Koch after June 1, there is nevertheless a pervasive feeling of anxiety at the college that the issue was not resolved earlier in the year, given the fact that the needs of Hostos have been obvious to anyone who is even remotely familiar with the college.

The reason for hope came in the form of a letter from Deputy Mayor Herman Badillo to a group of students participating in a hunger strike at City Hall in early May to dramatize the Hostos case. Although Mr. Badillo made no formal guarantees, he did state that "if the (City University's) master plan as submitted by Chancellor Kibbee... after verification, justifies the renovation of 500 Grand Concourse, the Mayor would then approve it so that the Dormitory Authority could go ahead with the necessary renovations."

Of course, since early last fall, Chancellor Kibbee and the City University Administration have been saying that the Hostos renovation project would be a priority item in the master plan. And, during several meetings with Hostos students and faculty, Deputy Mayor Badillo has acknowledged that the Hostos enrollment projections and the South Bronx revitalization effort justify the project. In addition, Mr. Badillo and Mayor Koch were early on apprised of the Hostos plight by members of their staffs who visited the college. In short,

the "verification" of the Hostos project was made some five or six months ago.

Therein lies the college community's deep concern: That in the face of obvious need, the college's plight was neglected, and faculty and students were almost literally made to run the gauntlet to prove their case. The effect is that final approval has been delayed at least six months, and there will be a corresponding delay in the ultimate completion of the renovation. The 500 Grand Concourse building will not be ready for occupation until the fall of 1980, at the very earliest.

As things stand now, the renovation will have to be funded by the sale of Dormitory Authority bonds because the Koch administration has neglected a request made last November by the City University, that it be funded through the city's capital budget. On the other hand, the mayor's capital budget proposal includes recommendations for renovations on other CUNY campuses.

It is noteworthy that, while the mayor, Controller Harrison Goldin and City Council President Carol Bellamy had made it clear to Chancellor Kibbee that no decision on any CUNY campus would be made without the master plan, the Capital Budget proposal, which has been issued well before the master plan, contains favorable recommendations for other CUNY campuses. In short, the mayor was indeed making decisions without the master plan, and Hostos was being

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CUNY Recommends Deferral of Permanent Campus Development

A draft of the City University's master construction plan, released in early May, held out hope for the renovation of the 500 Grand Concourse building, but, to the profound dismay of the college community, it recommended that plans for a permanent campus be deferred until the city develops a plan for the revitalization of the South Bronx.

"Although we feel that this does not preclude a permanent campus for Hostos, we certainly would have welcomed its inclusion in the master plan, as that would have given the concept more impetus," said Acting President Anthony Santiago.

Acting President Santiago added that he hoped that those responsible for shaping the revitalization plan will include an Hostos campus. He said he looked forward to the cooperation and understanding of the Koch administration and Deputy Mayor

Herman Badillo who is overseeing the revitalization effort for the Koch Administration.

A recommendation on the Hostos permanent campus was included in the revitalization proposal submitted by the Beame administration, but no such recommendation appeared in the Koch proposal.

Deputy Mayor Badillo, however, has stated in several public forums that Hostos will figure in the revitalization effort, although he has not said that a permanent campus is in store.

The proposal submitted by the Beame Administration recommended the development of the Hostos-shopping mall complex, the details of which were developed in 1976-77 by the college and the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation. Under that plan, Hostos would share

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De Lectoribus

On Being Male And In Dental Hygiene

The following is a reprint of an address by Isabelino Cruz, which Mr. Cruz presented at the Dental Hygiene Cupping Ceremony at Lincoln Hospital in early May. Mr. Cruz is the only male freshman in the Dental Hygiene Program.

To me it is a great honor to have been called upon on this occasion to address this congregation.

This is especially so because Hostos Community College and the Dental Hygiene Department have given me the opportunity to pursue a career that, upon graduation, will open certain doors and will help me to have a better life for me and my family.

I truly feel very happy because, from the first time I set foot in the halls of Hostos Community College, the students, faculty and staff have made me feel most welcome. But most important is the fact that I have always been positively and properly advised as to the best way to go about obtaining an education at Hostos.

"We must remove sex stereotyping"

I have always been made to feel that I am part of a community and that feeling has persisted and manifested itself to the point that I know that I am truly a part of the Hostos Community College family.

In addition, my role as a male in the Dental Hygiene Program has come to be of great importance, not only to me, but also to the profession of dental hygiene as a whole. For the last 72 years in the history of the profession, men have not been encouraged to seek careers in dental hygiene. I think, however, that men must be encouraged to feel that dental hygiene is as available to them as it is to women. If dental hygiene is to continue to grow, sex stereotyping must be removed.

During the past 72 years there have been no major changes in this respect such as there have been in other health delivery careers like nursing and dentistry. Even though present trends indicate that attitudes regarding men in dental hygiene are changing gradually, there should be a more rapid and significant change. I am confident that all of us who have been capped here today have the kind of drive and dedication needed to work toward removing sex stereotyping from this profession. I am sure that if we are successful we will benefit by it and the public we serve will benefit by it also.

Small Business Graduation Held

Nearly 150 students in the Minority Small Business Rescue Project of the Division of Community and Continuing Education received certificates at an award ceremony on May 5 for successfully completing courses or seminars in the program.

The ceremony was held in the Combo Room and presided over by Mr. Miguel P. Mendónez, director of the program, and Acting President Anthony Santiago, who, as director of the Division of Community and Continuing Education, started the program five years ago. The guest speaker was Mr. Edric C. Rose, assistant regional director for Minority Small Business in the state's Small Business Administration. Speaking on behalf of the students were José Anazagasty and Raul Tirado. Ms. Rita D'Martino, a senior business consultant with the New York State Department of Commerce spoke to the students on the rewards of owning and operating a small business.

The Minority Small Business Rescue Project has served well over a thousand small business operators since it began operating in the spring of 1974. In large part, its success is due to the efforts of its faculty. They are: Messrs. Jesse Hamilton, Américo Martínez, William Miller, Miguel Rodríguez, Johnny Torres, Victor Zabala and Victor Rios. Also teaching in the program are members of Hosto's regular teaching staff. These are: Profs. Patricia Parzych, Faye Carson, María Kassab and Lucille Pruitt, all of the Secretarial Science Department who teach a course in typewriting and office skills in the minority small business program.

The program's approach and offerings have been fashioned to a great extent under the guidance of its ad-



AWARDS, MUSIC AND POETRY: The Modern Languages Department combined its annual Spanish and French Awards Ceremony with a poetry reading and a short concert on April 20. Certificates of merit were given to outstanding student linguists. The poetry reading (lower left) was the latest in the department's series featuring young Hispanic poets. And the music was provided by violinist Joshua Rodríguez (right) who is concertmaster of the Juilliard School of Music's student orchestra (he has been studying there for the last four years on a scholarship). The mistress of ceremonies was Prof. Judith Nowinski who, along with Prof. Orlando Hernández (coordinator of the poetry reading), is a faculty advisor to the Modern Languages Club. (Photo by Ramón Rodríguez).

visory committee which includes: Messrs. Ed Backmon (South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation), Felix Banchs (National Puerto Rican Forum), James Barrera (National Puerto Rican Business and Marketing Association), Jerome Berman and Gilberto Montano (New York State Business Administration), Victor Cabaza (Gee-Gee Optical Corporation), Dan DiMuro (Bankers Trust Company), Gabriel Guadarramos (New York State Department of Commerce), Jesse Hamilton (Hunts Point Local Development), Ralph J. Pérez (deputy

regional director, U.S. Department of Commerce), Porfirio Reynoso (Puerto Rican Community Development), Victor Rios (R & R Enterprises), Richard Rodríguez (Lions Club, past president), Fred Soussa (Hostos Community College), Johnny Torres (Metro Spanish Merchants Association) and Ms. Rita D'Martino of the New York State Department of Commerce.

The Minority Small Business Rescue Project is funded by a grant from the New York State Education Department under the Vocational Education Amendment of 1968.

Badillo Letter...

(Continued from page 1)

forced to play by rules which applied only to Hostos and no other CUNY unit.

Assuming that the Dormitory Authority bond sale is approved, a question will still remain concerning the total amount of the sale. The renovation project, as it was designed three years ago, will cost some \$3 to \$4 million. Anything less than that would mean that some aspect of the renovation will have to be dropped (a gymnasium, for example).

The question arises because, during a visit to the college in April, Deputy Mayor Badillo wondered whether the renovation should actually cost as much as has been projected. He said that the mere fact that classes were being held in the 500 Grand Concourse facility during the takeover indicated that perhaps minimal alterations were necessary. He particularly called into question the need for structural reinforcement of the building for classroom use (one of the most costly aspects of the renovation).

Without the proper alterations, however, the building could only accommodate three or four classrooms per floor for a minimum of 12 or a maximum of 16 classrooms. Moreover, it could not accommodate badly needed study and lecture halls, a library, or an auditorium. Given the fact that the college will give up the eight classrooms in the 151st Street facility, the college would have a net

gain of four or eight classrooms once the renovation is completed. Clearly, that would not allow the college to obtain the adequate interim facility which it has so desperately tried to acquire.

As Acting President Anthony Santiago put it, "Anything less than the complete renovation of the building will be inadequate. We expect that, when the bond sale is approved, it will be at a level that will be adequate with potential for growth."

In short, as of this date, there is no absolute guarantee for the renovation, nor is there a guarantee that the renovation will be completed as was originally planned.

In the meantime, the movement to secure the building has continued apace. Assemblyman José Serrano of the South Bronx has continued his active support by urging prominent elected officials and community leaders to express support for adequate facilities for the college. Many letters have been forwarded to the mayor as a result of these efforts.

In addition, a group of faculty, headed by Acting Dean of Faculty Amador Muriel journeyed to Washington in April to muster support for Hostos. (Accompanying Dean Muriel were Profs. David Barrie, Carmen Marín and Fred Soussa.) They were universally well received. Among other things, they got pledges of support, including letters, from the following elected officials: Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, Congressmen Robert García, Charles Rangel, James Wright (the assistant

majority leader), Mario Biaggi, Edward R. Roybal (a member of the Appropriations Committee), and Senator Dennis De Concini of Arizona who is a member of the all-important Appropriations Committee.

Senator De Concini's subsequent letter to Mayor Koch on behalf of Hostos typifies the kind of support which Hostos received in Washington. He wrote: "I fail to comprehend your reluctance to approve the renovation at this point, especially considering President Carter's interest in the South Bronx... The paralyzation of this critically needed action could appear diametrically opposed to the wishes of President Carter and the promises which he so recently stated publicly to the South Bronx community."

Hostos has also received some invaluable support from faculty organizations and unions. Writing Mayor Koch on Hostos's behalf have been the CUNY Women's Coalition, Thomas Y. Hobart, Jr., president of the New York State United Teachers, and Irwin H. Polishook, president of the Professional Staff Congress (PSC). The PSC delegate assembly also passed a resolution in Hostos's favor which it communicated to Mayor Koch. Additional support has come from the University Faculty Senate which passed a similar resolution at a plenary meeting on April 18.

The takeover of the 500 Grand Concourse building by faculty and students is still in progress, and the college community has conducted marches, vigils and a hunger strike at City Hall to dramatize the Hostos issue.