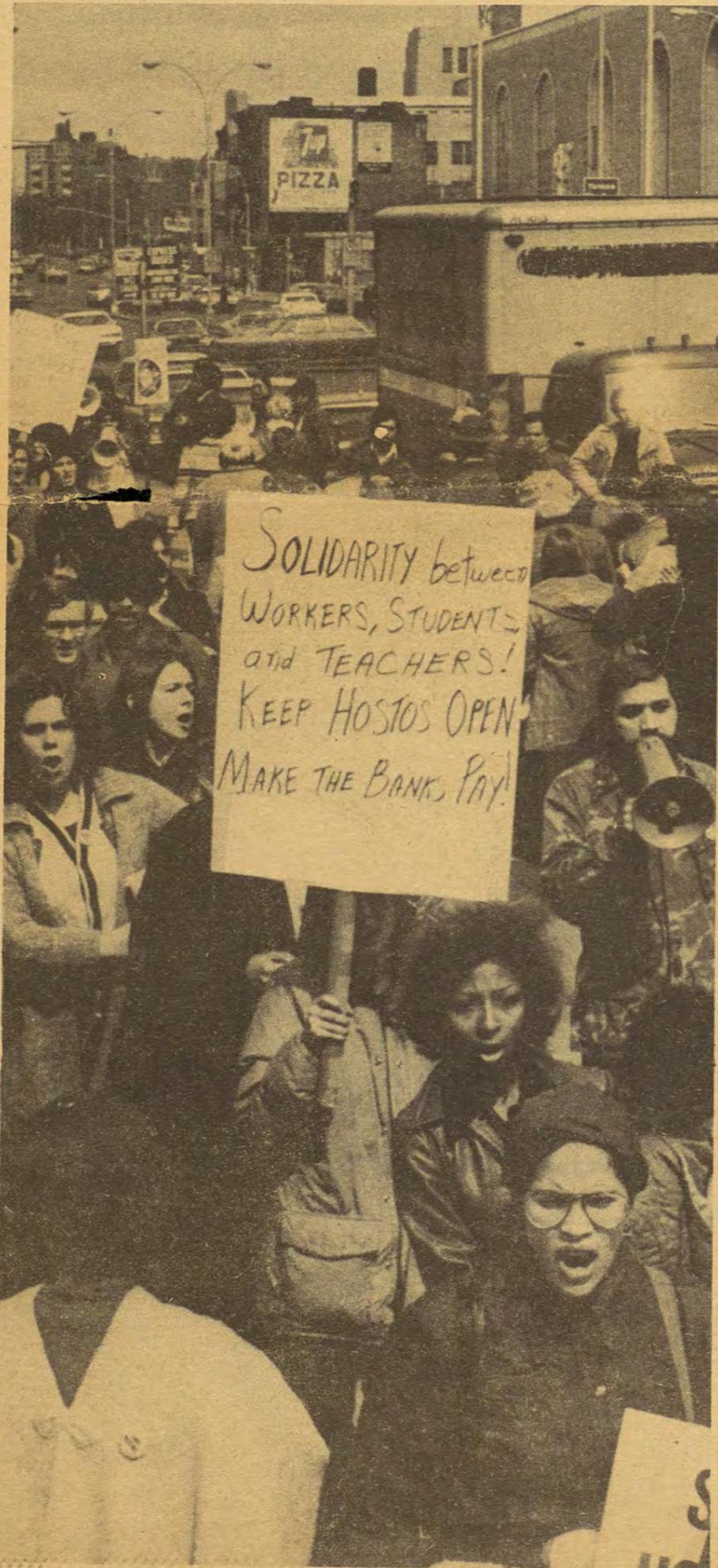


COMMUNITY COALITION TO SAVE HOSTOS

WHY STRUGGLE?



For Hostos and Education

MARCH TO SAVE HOSTOS

May 10 at 10:30 A.M.
From 116th Street and Lexington Ave.

Demonstrate at: EMERGENCY FINANCIAL CONTROL
BOARD

56th Street and 6th Avenue

1:00 P.M.

History of a Struggle

What is Hostos Community College?

Hostos is a community college, located in the South Bronx, which serves a 98% minority student body, 55% of which are Latin Americans (Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, etc.) taking English as their second language. This is the only bilingual college in the east coast of the United States and one of two, in the whole country, to serve the Spanish speaking population that would not, otherwise, have an opportunity to get a higher education and learn English. Adults of over 25 years of age compose 51% of the student body. Hostos Community College operates at less than 1% of the entire City University of New York (CUNY) budget.

How the college came to be?

In 1968, demonstrations, hearings, and direct pressure was put on the Board of Higher Education (BHE) to dramatize the need to have a bilingual college in New York City. There was a need for the young adults to have the opportunity to get a better education and meaningful employment. It was two years of this continued mass mobilization which forced the BHE to consider and ultimately decide on Hostos Community College.

Hostos Community College and the new Lincoln Hospital were visualized as part of a complex to provide education, employment and health care to the South Bronx. Hostos would provide education, particularly bilingual and in the health services field, Lincoln Hospital the jobs and the services. The existence of both institutions depended on each other.

Hostos began operating in September 1970. Today, Hostos is in line for closing and the new Lincoln Hospital is operating at one third its potential. In the process, thousands of jobs, services and educated people are lost.

What is the Kibbee Plan?

The Kibbee Plan, named after Chancellor Kibbee for having been the originator of the same, proposes two things:

- Elimination through mergers of certain schools (including Hostos)
- Imposition of admission criteria for students

The three minority representatives members of the Board of Higher Education saw clearly what the proposal meant and casted their votes (the only votes) against said proposal which, in turn, lead to the resignation of Franklyn Williams, vice chairman of BHE, one of the three that voted against it.

Along with the Kibbee Plan, there is a proposal at the BHE that, if approved, would eliminate free tuition, a policy in existence in this city for the past 127 years.

What does this mean to Hostos and the community?

The closing of Hostos is the beginning of a devious plan that will eventually wipe out education from our future and our children's future. Closing Hostos is the wedge that they need to open the way for the complete elimination of what already are poor services in minority and poor communities. It is blatant discrimination against Latins and Blacks, and an outright denial of our democratic right to an education.

The closing of Hostos means taking away these same services which were planned and never came about. The education and health complex were not given a chance. It means a loss for those adults who wanted and needed a first, and for many a last, chance at a meaningful education.

It means the end of a bilingual education for those who need it, something that will not exist at Bronx Community College.

The Kibbee Plan also proposes to merge Staten Island Community College with Richmond College, to lower Medgar Evers College—a heavily minority populated college—from a 3-year senior college to a 2-year junior college. No matter which way you look at it or where the cuts are made, the effect will be the same: the denial of education to the people who really need it.

Ultimately, it means that most of the displaced student body will be lost with no place to go or study and will return to the streets.

What is the Community Coalition to save Hostos?

The Community Coalition to Save Hostos originated out of an Hostos student coalition which made a call to all organizations and individuals within the college and in the community, to unite in order to struggle to save this very important institution.

This move became necessary when it became obvious that the college administration, led by its president Cándido de León, would not take any serious steps to save the college. That, in fact, De León was selling out the college and the community because of his interest in becoming president of Bronx Community College, a much larger institution.

The Community Coalition to Save Hostos is presently composed of 14 organizations ranging from the Hostos Student Government to the community churches. We have received support from people such as Congressman Herman Badillo, Bishop Moore, State Assemblyman Sy Posner, State Senators Bob García and Joseph Galiber, Manhattan Boro President Percy Sutton and many others.

The Coalition upholds the position set forth by Eugenio María de Hostos, the great educator and Puerto Rican patriot (after whom the college was named), to struggle and fight for the right to an education.

What is the Community Coalition doing to save Hostos?

We launched a campaign which is geared at informing the community of the situation at Hostos. A number of demonstrations have been held at the school, in the community and at the enemy camp (Kibbee's home, city Hall, etc.). The Board of Higher Education was taken over on

March 12th in order to set forth our demands:

- Save Hostos, Medgar Evers
- Save open admission
- Save free tuition

On March 25, after exhausting all other alternatives, Hostos Community College was taken over in order to use the resources of the college to save it, something which had been refused by the Administration.

We demanded:

1. Save Hostos
2. Restoration of open admission
3. Assured permanence of free tuition
4. No more cuts in our budget, reinstatement of funds eliminated from the college's budget
5. No mergers of any CUNY unit

For 19 days we held the school opened to the community. We attempted to continue the educational process, something openly sabotaged by the Administration.

On Monday, April 12, the takeover ended when 40 people were arrested in the school, which sparked spontaneous mass demonstrations immediately following the arrests, from the colleges to the Bronx Criminal Court.

Who is our enemy?

We know that our main enemy, at this moment, is the **Emergency Financial Control Board**, a conglomeration of bankers, industrialists and financiers who are, today, an unelected government controlling our lives. These people implement absurd economic policy in an extremely racist fashion. The results are cutbacks affecting Black, Latin and poor communities, such as in Hostos Community College, Medgar Evers, the closing of Fordham and Morrisania Hospitals, the firing of thousands of city workers, etc.

What can you do?

- You can support the Community Coalition through the distribution of our literature, financial or material donations.
- Write letters of support for Hostos to the Emergency Financial Control Board.
- Join the Coalition and do active work
- Participate in our activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 585-4310

