

PUNTO

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CONFUSION PREVAILS AS BIRENBAUM RESIGNS

The Tragedy of Hostos

By Ernesto Loperena

Eugenio Maria de Hostos is regarded as one of the most progressive educators in South America. He was, above all, someone interested in justice and equality for all. Born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico in 1839, he studied in Bilbao, Spain where he obtained his baccalaureate degree and at The Central University of Madrid where he earned his Law Degree. He fought for autonomy and the abolition of slavery in Cuba and Puerto Rico. Disillusioned by false promises from Spain, he became a separatist, fighting for the liberty of the island where he was born. After many years of working for Puerto Rican independence, he immersed himself in the task of organizing an educational system for Santo Domingo until his death in 1903.

In 1968 a college bearing his name was founded in the predominantly Puerto Rican South Bronx. From the idea stage to the present Hostos grew. It grew in student population and in terms of academic offerings. The fame of its modular system of learning began to be looked at seriously in higher education

circles throughout the nation. Plans for a new permanent campus took shape and the institution appeared healthy enough for the Board to approve plans for a new campus which would be the cornerstone of a revitalized South Bronx.

The current fiscal crisis in the City University has now claimed Hostos Community College as one of its victims. Well aware of the Board of Higher Education's intention to close Hostos as a money-saving device, a Community Coalition to save Hostos

was formed at the beginning of the Fall semester. This Coalition, composed of community residents, students and faculty, demonstrated at the Board of Higher Education, at the South

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Pres. Birenbaum

By L.B. McNair

Whatever is to happen to Staten Island Community College (SICC) is clearly in the air. The combining of Richmond College with SICC has developed among students an uncertainty beyond belief. Students don't have any idea which programs will be offered at either campus or which programs will be completely eliminated, if any elimination is to take place. What worries most of us is the change in the requirements by which students in the past 8 years have been granted a seat at SICC. And another immediate problem is that no one — it seems — including administrators, professors, the Board of Higher Education (BHE), the mayor's office and the governor knows what's really going to take place on this campus. Students are given different stories on every front. Yet, in the face of this confusion, uncertainty, and downright fear, the President of SICC has resigned. People here feel that they are completely

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Hostos

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Bronx branch of Chase Manhattan and finally in frustration, took over the administration building at Hostos community college on Thursday, March 25, 1976.

Their demands were the maintenance of the no tuition and Open Admissions policies of the University as well as maintaining the integrity of Hostos as a separate unit of the City University. During the first week of the "takeover" classes were held normally as the faculty seemed to support the action. At a meeting of faculty and staff which took place on Wednesday, April 7, 1976 a resolution was passed urging the president of the college, Candido de Leon, to move the students and faculty members occupying the building "so that classes can return to normal."

Apparently this vote was prompted by an incident which occurred the previous Wednesday, March 31, 1976 at which time a scheduled meeting of the faculty was allegedly disrupted by the Community Coalition to Save Hostos.

On Monday, April 5, 1976 leaders of the Coalition met with Board of Higher Education Chairman, Alfred Giardino to present their demands scant hours before the final vote on the future of Hostos was to take place. (The meeting would also deal with Open Admissions, the merger of SICC, etc. and new retention standards for students.) The meeting bore no fruit since the Board that evening

voted to merge Hostos with Bronx Community College.

Although various groups such as the Puerto Rican Caucus of CUNY, the Black Council on Higher Education and the Black Coalition, underlined to the Board the inherent damage that the "Kibbee Plan" would wreak on the minority communities of the city, the fiscal experts won out.

To the Puerto Rican Community in particular, the elimination of Hostos as a college is of symbolic as well as real significance. Very real to the community of the South Bronx and to the college's 50 per cent Puerto Rican student population. Merchants who depend on the college for their very survival; students who will not be admitted to the University under the new admissions criteria; faculty who will see the dictum last hired first fired come to pass. Symbolic to the aspirations of a community who strove so hard to obtain a college with which they could identify; who took advantage of the innovative Bilingual and Allied Health programs; who could proudly proclaim that Hostos was a positive step in the development of the Puerto Rican Community in New York.

On Monday, April 12, 1976 the police enforced the court injunction and 20 occupants were arrested. Hostos was now back to normal.

The question one must of necessity pose is: Who is paying for the city's current fiscal crisis?

Birenbaum . . .

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powerless in the face of the BHE's cutbacks, especially without the guiding hand of Dr. Birenbaum. But before Dr. Birenbaum resigned, it was learned that the BHE had singlehandedly appointed a president for this campus without following due process — that is, without setting up a search committee to find the most qualified person.

As of this writing, there is a petition circulating around campus which seeks to demonstrate that the faculty, the students, and the alumnae will never accept the BHE's unilateral decision to replace Dr. Birenbaum with its own choice for the presidency of SICC without consultation with the faculty here. Such irresponsible action by the BHE has deepened the pains, the frustration, and the feeling of helplessness which the faculty and the students share.

After over 10,000 students demonstrated against budget cutbacks in Albany, we found that because of this our number one legislator said, "this in itself will make me and, other legislators, I hope, to vote against any policy that will increase education among so many people."

I, among those who barely got into college under the Open Admissions policy, am grateful to Dr. Birenbaum because I know it was the innovation of a genuinely good person who affected every aspect of life on Staten Island. He offered the people the chance to better their lives by continuing their education. Dr. Birenbaum is certainly a man who practices what he preaches — which is, "something for everybody is not enough." But there are those among us who believe that to educate working people is a waste. However, when one looks closely at Dr. Birenbaum's record here such an argument will readily cease. Here is a list of accomplishments Dr. Birenbaum pointed out:

"Being able to help develop and be part of the growth of one of the

Wealth of Services Offered By S.I. Anti-Poverty Agency

MANPOWER SERVICE CENTER - The Neighborhood Manpower Service Center, located at 648 Bay Street, provides job placement services; employment training; civil service exam preparation; English as a Second Language courses; high school equivalency courses; and career, educational and general counseling. For further information, please phone: 720-8901 (ext. 37)

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE CENTER - The Youth Employment Service Center, located at 648 Bay Street, provides an extensive array of services, including a large summer employment program for Island youngsters. This year, over 1,500 teenagers held summer jobs obtained through our agency. During the school year, the Youth Employment Service Center operates a two-pronged program, aimed at retaining youngsters in school, while providing them with part-time, after-school employment. For those young teenagers who have "dropped-out" of school, there is a program combining high school equivalency education with part-time employment. Additionally, the Youth Employment Service provides general, educational and career counseling for teenagers. For further information, phone: 720-8901 (ext. 5)

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC - Currently located at the Department of Health, 51 Stuyvesant Place, in the St. George area of Staten Island, the Staten Island Community Corporation Family Planning Clinic has served over 15,000 Islanders since 1972. Among the services offered is a complete birth control program, providing a wide variety of contraceptives (birth control pills, prophylactics, etc.) to both men and women. This is combined with a gynecological and health service, including breast cancer examinations for women clients. The Clinic also provides an abortion referral service, venereal and blood disease examinations, and family planning, health and

finest faculties."

"Changing SICC student body from a 'typical 18- or 19-year-old enrollment' to one where there now is a large, diverse student body with an average age of 27 years. Along with building enrollment from 3,000 students when he first arrived to its current 12,000 level." Birenbaum also expressed satisfaction in the growth of the minority student population.

"Commended the establishment and growth of the Staten Island continuum, which encourages Staten Island students to progress educationally at a rate comparable to their ability including allowing some high school students to take college courses."

Regardless of whatever happens here — we will never forget Dr. Birenbaum — and, we vow to carry out his philosophy — that an education is for all.

general counseling services. For further information, phone: 447-0571-0572

HOUSEKEEPER VENDOR AGENCY - Designed to provide the lower-middle class and poor with employment opportunities, while delivering needed housekeeping services for social service recipients and the working poor, the Housekeeper Vendor Agency currently employs 75 housekeepers in 140 homes. Openings now exist for both housekeepers and clients—if you desire either a housekeeper position or housekeeping services, phone: 720-8901 (ext. 45, 46, 47), 720-6101 and 720-6102, or visit their office at the Staten Island Community Corporation, 648 Bay Street, Stapleton.

STAPLETON VILLAGE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER - Opened in 1973 to provide workshop, rehearsal, performance and exhibition space for local, community-sponsored cultural groups, the Stapleton Village Cultural Arts Center has opened its doors to thousands of Islanders, during the past few years. Virtually every art and cultural form is represented, with dance companies, orchestral and jazz ensembles, drama classes and motion picture and photography workshops planned for the winter season. Additionally, workshops courses in painting, sculpture, creative writing and journalism are planned for 1976. For further information, contact: Charles Washington at 720-8901 (ext. 16).

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM - The Community Corporation has a long history of involvement with the elderly and developmentally disabled of Staten Island. Among the problems faced by these citizens, the difficulties in finding accessible and inexpensive transportation is particularly acute. Early in 1974, we began work on proposals to secure funding for a fleet of Mini-buses to provide this needed transportation service. Sometime during 1976, we hope to have six or more radio-dispatched vehicles in operation, delivering free transportation for these two especially disadvantaged groups.

NEW BRIGHTON HOUSING CENTER - Although the Staten Island Community Corporation has always provided, housing assistance (in the form of apartment referrals, code enforcement inspections, etc.), the need for a neighborhood, store-front housing office has become obvious in recent years. This summer, we opened our first community housing center at 472 Jersey Street, New Brighton. A wide variety of services are currently available at the housing center, including apartment and housing referrals, code enforcement assistance, lease interpretation, tenant-landlord workshops, general consumer services (including consumer complaint action) and civil and human rights education. Ad-

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Anti-Poverty . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

ditionally, the Housing Center has become headquarters for the New Brighton restoration program. The Community Corporation itself has been instrumental in gaining funding allocation for the "rebuilding of Jersey Street." For further information on New Brighton Housing Center services, call: 720-8901 (ext. 6), or visit the office at 472 Jersey Street. In addition, housing services are available at the Community Corporation's main office, 648 Bay Street, Stapleton.

FOX HILLS HOUSES - The Staten Island Community Corporation recently assumed management duties for the Fox Hills Houses, a 360-unit apartment complex on Vanderbilt Avenue, Clifton. Constructed over a decade ago, The Fox Hills Houses have been plagued by the ills of most low-income apartment houses. A large percentage of welfare tenants encouraged an absentee ownership to neglect the buildings, leading to service breakdowns in heating, hot water, garbage disposal and elevator service. When the Housing and Urban Development Administration finally foreclosed the mortgage on the original owners, a tenant's committee approached the Community Corporation, asking us to become managing agents for the complex. Since that time, we have begun a long process of repair, and restoration at Fox Hills. HUD has recently approved our request for replacement and major repairs of the elevators, trash compactors and heating systems. We have reorganized the security and maintenance teams, increasing the efficiency and improving the quality of their work. Tenant committees and associations have been continuously involved in this project. And, they are assured of even greater participation during the next few years, when the Community Corporation will begin an effort to "co-op" the Fox Hills Houses, providing true "community control." Staten Island Community Corporation is currently accepting applications for apartments in Fox Hills Houses through the management office, 320 Vanderbilt Avenue, Clifton. For further information, phone: 273-7311 weekdays (9 AM - 5 PM).

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM: - For the third consecutive year, the Staten Island Community Corporation sponsored a summer lunch program for under-privileged Island youngsters. Over 3,000 meals were served each weekday during July and August, with lunches consisting of fruit juice, nutritious sandwiches, milk and dessert. Next year, the Community Corporation hopes to exceed the total of 120,000 lunches that were served this summer. For information regarding your group's eligibility for free summer lunches, phone: Henri-ette Washington at 720-8901 (ext. 9).

NEIGHBORHOOD

RESTORATION - The Community Corporation has frequently been involved in efforts towards neighborhood restoration. In addition to our continuing activities in New Brighton and Fox Hills, the Community Corporation personnel have recently been involved with the Stapleton Community, in a drive to clean-up and develop a large vacant lot. Plans call for the property, currently leased to the Community Corporation, to become a youth and neighborhood recreation area. We plan on acquiring portable classroom trailers, so that indoor instruction and for day-care services may be offered. Another area of concern in the Stapleton area, is the abandoned Piels Brewery. These old buildings not only pose a threat to the children who play in their shadow, but are also responsible for a decrease in local real estate values. We are hopeful that the winter will witness demolition of this unsightly building complex, with future use of the property determined through carefully considered neighborhood planning.

CONSUMER SERVICE CENTER - There has long been a need for strong consumer protection services here on Staten Island. Most consumer problems arise on a local level and should be easily resolved on a local level. For that reason, the Community Corporation has recently inaugurated a consumer services division here on Staten Island. Our staff will be providing consumer advocacy and intervention with local merchants and businessmen. If we fail to solve the problem on a local level, the case will be referred to the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs and/or the New York State Attorney General. Consumer services will be available at our New Brighton Housing Center, 472 Jersey Street, and at the Community Corporation's main office, 648 Bay Street, Stapleton. For further information, phone: 720-8901 (ext. 6).

VOTER REGISTRATION SERVICES - Each year, Community Corporation staff and board participate in the electoral process. In recent years, we have provided voter registration and education service for several thousand Islanders. Community Corporation staff have publicized elections, registered voters and conducted education sessions regarding local candidates and their positions on relevant issues. Information on this aspect of Community Corporation involvement may be obtained by phone: 720-8901 (ext. 9).

NURSING HOMES - The large-scale development of nursing homes and "homes for adults" on Staten Island has been a controversial issue for several years. It was in 1973 that the Community Corporation became aware of the incredible political and financial power wielded by and on behalf of the nursing home industry. Through our participation in the Mental Retardation



ISLAND HEALTH SERVICES - The Community Corporation has "led the way" in providing neighborhood-based health services on Staten Island. Our Family Planning Clinic, as well as the Mariners Harbor Health Center (which we helped initiate), have delivered needed health care and consultation to many thousands of Islanders. Further, through our involvement in the Comprehensive Health Agency and St. Vincent's Hospital Ambulatory Care Committee, the Community Corporation has influenced the quantity and quality of health care in this borough.

CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY - During the "70's", many of the traditional civil rights organizations have grown silent. It's not that civil rights issues have vanished — only that the more popular causes have been fought and victory achieved. Some issues, such as the forced busing of school children, have divided opinion among many good and decent citizens. Other civil rights causes, including the Women's Equal Rights Amendment and the New York City Gay Rights Bill, have created fear and hostility among all economic classes and racial groups. Both pieces of legislation cut to the heart of the last respectable form of discrimination—sexism. It is reprehensible for an employer to fire a worker because of his homosexuality, or to underpay an employee because she happens to be a woman. This type of discrimination cannot be tolerated in a free, democratic society anymore than the anti-black or anti-semitic variety.

As a Community Corporation, we have spoken out on these issues, and will continue to lobby for the human rights of any repressed citizen in this society. In conscience, we can do nothing less.

Regional Council, we became aware of a plan proposed by Bernard Bergman to place 240 Willowbrook residents in his unlicensed nursing home. Several months of investigative research into Bergman, state officials, and other elements of the nursing home industry led to the formation of a Moreland Act Commission and the recent criminal indictment of Bergman and his associates. We remain involved in the nursing home area, continuing to investigate ownership and political connections within the industry. Our elderly and mentally disabled are considered nothing more than profit-making pawns by these "businessmen"—until those attitudes change, and the government assumes its share of responsibility in this field, we must be ever-vigilant for their welfare.

ELDERLY AND DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED - Through the Staten Island Community Chest and Council, and the Comprehensive Health Planning Agency, we have maintained an involvement in the programs and care offered for our elderly and developmentally disabled citizens. Our own transportation program will be a major step towards providing essential "non-clinical" services to this constituency.

Irish Freedom Club

Presents

"The Flats"

By Michael J. Donlon

Once again the Irish Freedom Club is proud to present to the community a truly outstanding and relevant event here at Staten Island Community College.

In conjunction with the Irish Arts Center's Irish Rebel Theatre, we will present their highly acclaimed production of John Boyd's "The Flats" on Friday, May 7th at 8:00 PM in the college auditorium, C Building.

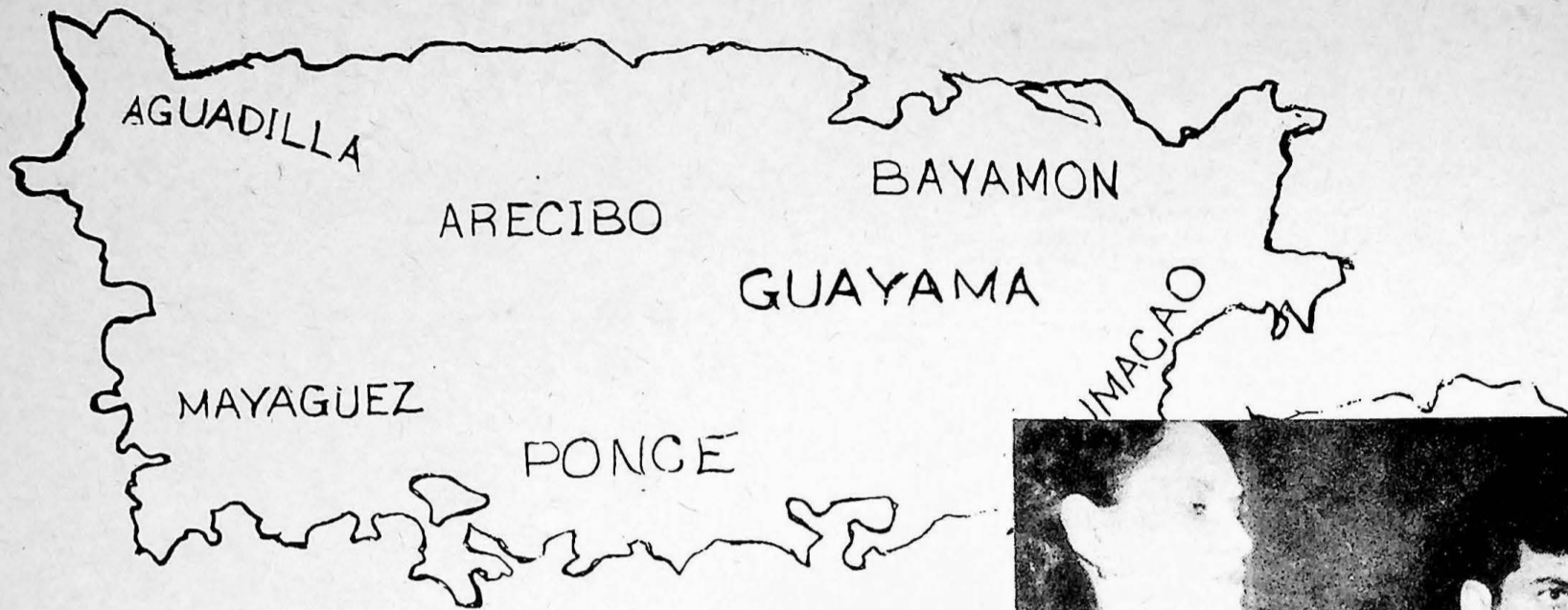
This modern, serious play with a mixture of comedy depicts how one Catholic home in Belfast is beset by the turmoil of British troops and the conflicts with Protestants.

Boyd's play has been produced by the Lyric Theatre, Belfast and was well received by northern critics. It also has been translated into German and French and has been staged in several European countries.

Following the play the group will entertain you with traditional Irish music and song.

Come join us and bring your friends. Tickets are \$4.00 and may be purchased in advance at the theatre box office in C Building, or make check payable to the Irish Freedom Club and mail to Room C132, Staten Island, Community College, 715 Ocean Terrace, Staten Island, New York 10301.

For information call 720-8810.



Puerto Rico — Still a U.S. Possession

by Jose Ortiz

"Commonwealth" is the term given to Puerto Rico to define its status as a Colony of the United States. According to the U.S., Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory and thus should be protected by the U.S. One of the reasons for this protection stems from the close proximity of leftist governments (Cuba) and the fast and massive propagation of these ideas in Latin America. Because these ideas conflict with the American way of life, Puerto Rico is closely watched by Uncle Sam. Another reason given is that Puerto Rico is too small and does not have the adequate natural resources to feed and clothe its people, so economic help is needed.

This point is very interesting and by studying the Island's economic situation you will see that if the U.S. is helping Puerto Rico it is obvious that it is doing a very poor job.

Farming in Puerto Rico has almost totally disappeared. This is so because 70 per cent of the Island is not being cultivated or being badly used simply because the Puerto Ricans cannot impose quotas or tariffs on its agricultural products. Because of this many of the people who were accustomed to growing their own food can no longer do so.

Economically, the conditions in Puerto Rico are deplorable, to say the least. The recession-depression currently holding sway in the U.S. is multiplied many times over in the Island. The "Colonial" government is virtually powerless in for-

mulating any kind of economic strategies: Since the economic situation is determined by conditions in the U.S. A large part of the problem stems from the fact that American-owned companies can operate in Puerto Rico without paying any corporate or personal taxes for anywhere from 10-12 years. This automatically guarantees a 50 per cent higher return for their investment over doing business on the island. These companies, which represent 85 per cent of all the industry in Puerto Rico, enjoy a vast supply of cheap labor and built-in consumer market. The average wage of a Puerto Rican worker is about 50 per cent lower than an American, and thanks to American monopolization of the Puerto Rican trade, the average prices of all goods are over 25 per cent higher than in New York City.

The unemployment rate in Puerto Rico is 30 per cent or more than triple the U.S. rate, and one-fifth of all families barely exist on incomes of less than \$500.00 a year. Many of the U.S. corporations, rather than stimulate the Island's economy, store the high profits in "corporate coffers."

In the past decade concessions have been given to American-owned mining corporations to explore over 90 per cent of insular surface for copper, gold, molybdenum, nickle, ferronickel, cobalt, chrome and oil as well as other minerals. The Ponce Mining Company (a subsidiary of American Metal Climax) acquired exploration rights for

the Ponce-Jayuya-Adjuntas area and the Bear Creek Mining Company (a subsidiary of Kennecott Copper Corp.) Also it acquired rights for the Lares area. A preliminary report indicates that both Copper deposits will yield 68,000 tons annually for thirty-one years. By percentage the concentration is higher by .2 per cent, than the percentage of copper in mines of the U.S. This proves two things; (1) Puerto Rico has adequate natural resources and (2) that U.S. plans to exploit the Puerto Rican mines for their own benefit. This also proves what a Puerto Rican patriot, Carlos Feliciano, once said; "Puerto Rico is a Caribbean Paradise for everyone, but Puerrto Ricans."

This is the year of the Bi-Centennial, the year when the United States celebrates its 200 years of independence. This is celebrated today because 200 years ago a group of revolutionaries saw that their people were being abused and their land was being raped by another country. They saw that changes had to be made and that the only way that these changes were going to be achieved was through armed struggle.

Today there is a land that is being raped and their people are being abused by a tyrant power. Changes have to be made and these changes will only come through armed struggle.

Puerto Rico in this land and the Puerto Ricans are being abused. To Puerto Rico I say "you will be freed"; to the Puerto Ricans I say "the changes will have to be made by you."



2 P.R. NATIONALS - CAN YOU NAME THEM?
SEE PAGE 8 FOR ANSWERS

Loida Figueroa, Historian, Speaks on Puerto Rico

By Fernando Edwards

The Puerto Rican Organization, sponsored an activity on March 17, 1976. We had the pleasure and the opportunity to present Loida Figueroa, a Caribbean historian, and a lady who is well known in the universities of New York and throughout the Caribbean Islands.

After Loida Figueroa was introduced by Henry Tirado, she said, "It is better that you know me by my fruits, because the trees are known by their fruits." She meant that it is better that we know her by what she does not by just her name.

She said, "I am here to tell you about Puerto Rico but not so far back. For some reason we cannot talk about Puerto Rico right now—let's say, without knowing things now that you didn't know before. I am going to ask you a question. Do you know why the United States possesses Puerto Rico? Well, then I will tell you. The United States believes itself to be the only America. The problem of the United States is that it is composed of people from different countries, like a nation of nations. When the United States became united to become independent they were looking for a name and they didn't find one, so they called themselves provisionally the United States of America.

"It is very difficult to say what to call a person from the United States. A person from Britain is British, France French, Puerto

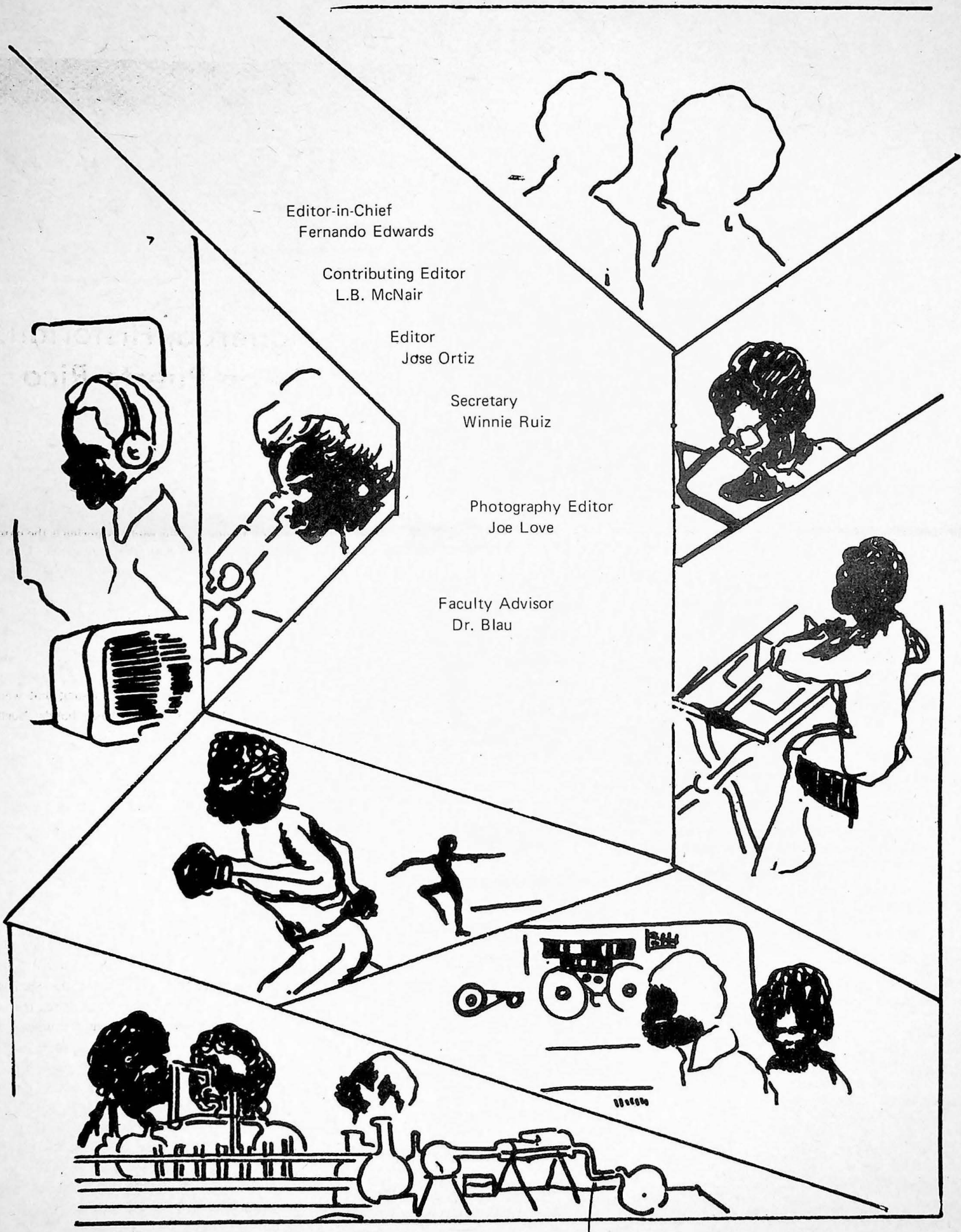
Rico Puerto Ricans, etc. What do you call a person from the United States?" One of the members answered, "An American."

She said, "America is the name of both the Continents. I have found a name to call them, "United Stators." I don't want you to get confused with Americans because we are all Americans in the South Central, and the North. During the last war they had a song that went, "America shake hands North, Central and South."

"How come the United States possesses Puerto Rico? Are you sure that Puerto Rico is a possession of the United States? It is better for us to understand that we are property of the United States. Don't deceive yourself saying that we are part of the United States"

She said, "Puerto Rico was obtained by the United States from Spain after the Spanish-American War. The United States had entered the war because it said it wanted compensation for humanitarian reasons. The United States knew that Spain didn't have any money to pay them for expenses, therefore, they asked for Puerto Rico. Spain couldn't continue fighting because she was completely vanquished."

Mrs. Figueroa went on to discuss various aspects of Puerto Rico's history, centering on the problem of the Puerto Ricans status as a possession of the United States.



Reality

By Carolyn Rivers

Reality, what is it? How real is it?

I look out my window and I see reality everywhere.

It's hiding behind every corner and doorway, looking out from behind every pole, window and sign.

I stared out at reality as it stares back at me and we're both trying to out stare the other.

I'm surrounded, it's swallowing me, smothering me; I cry out but no one hears me.

I reach out only to find emptiness. Help me, please help me! Why do I struggle so to arouse your senses to me?

Is there a way to open my eyes to see the light that I am blind to?

If there is a way to attract you please direct me because I don't know the way.

Reality is a view of life, an emotion, but it's real; an unexplainable real. Real like life and death.

It's hard to face sometimes but it has to be dealt with.

It's the bitter-sweetness of life, the harshness, cruelty, humiliation, joy, laughter, and love.

Reality is a new day, a new feeling, a new feeling that comes at the right time; like a good full feeling of

knowing that you're needed, knowing how to make someone happy.

Reality is a feeling of insecurity, like the times that he hurt me and left me and just as I began to get

a taste of true loneliness he returned.

It's a feeling of not being able to hold back my morning tears.

It's the rays of the sun nourishing the grass, the leaves, and the spring flowers.

It's the wind before a rain calm and at ease as it whispers

through the trees. Yeah, it's the wind awakening

the grass beneath the stars on a stormy night.

It's the snowflakes falling from the sky gently covering the

earth with a soft white covering.

It's obvious, like yesterday's dreams

today's joy and tomorrow's insights.

It's a question, a question that's hard to answer such as;

Where does the sky end? It's a new born baby soft and cuddly.

It's the blood sweat and tears of our

ancestors.

It's a strong wild little manchild.

It's cornrowed kinky haired, satisfied me.

Yeah, it's me, I'm a solitary individual of blood, flesh, and

bones; I am not imaginary, I am real.

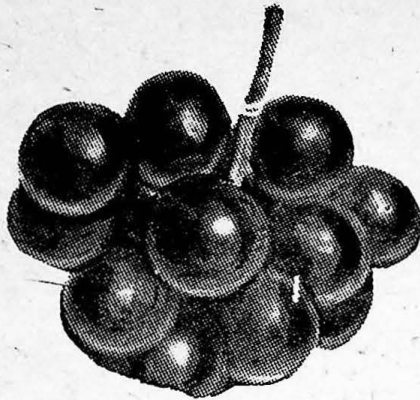
Reality is today's grief, sorrow, the tears of tomorrow

yesterday's sadness.

It hurts sometimes; a deep down hurt, a feeling of loss.

Loss like gone, not having something anymore,

gone like forever.



Reality is an experience; like indulging in making love.

It's a smug feeling of fulfillment and enjoyment during an exhausted sleep after making love.

Reality is something good which covers all the blemishes the bad left.

It's living in a world of knowledge but never really knowing enough.

Reality is waking up each morning rushing to get a seat on a crowded subway to get to school hoping one day

to obtain enough knowledge to better myself in life.

It's getting home from a long, tiring, frustrating day; crossing the dirt path (where grass once grew) to my

building. It's the building itself with echoes

of laughing children (yes, we have happy children in the ghettos).

It's the gratified walls of the lobby, the urine in the elevator and the vomit and empty wine

bottles on the staircases. It's this morning's garbage still

sitting in front of the incinerator along with empty cans of KING SPRAY ant and roach killer.

It's hard working parents, welfare mothers, dealers, hoods, party freaks, students all por-

traying a part of reality.

Reality, it's Sunday's scorn and Monday's tears. It's knowing

that today doesn't promise tomorrow but if tomorrow does

come, today will only be a fragment of my memory. It's loneliness and

frustration; frustration of knowing that I must continue

fighting a never ending battle of misfortune. Sometimes it seems as

though

unhappiness
is the only reality
I know.....

SALSA

By Jose L. Borrero

Musica ardiente

En ella oigo una cultura sin iguales

Pensamientos de mi pueblo
Su sentimientos espirituales

La musica es el alma del pueblo
Mi mente capta palabras tan bellas

Que preciosa son mi gente
O Boriquen que linda es ella

Con alegria

Tristesia y lamentos del corazon
Se oye la banda

Tambien el pregon

Expresiones de un alma

Oigo yo

Bolero Montuno

Y Guaguanco



SALSA

By Jose L. Borrero

Ardent music

In her I hear a culture without compare
Thoughts of my nation

The music is the Soul of the nation
My mind captures words so beautiful

How beautiful are my people
OH!! Boriquen how pretty she is with happiness

Sadness and lamentings of the heart
One hears the band and his vibrations

Expressions of the Soul

I hear
Boler, Montuno and Guaguanco

LATINA

By Jose L. Borrero

Tu tienes un modo que esta rodeado de sentimientos

Ojos que son misticos
Una sonrisa tierna

Algo precioso
Es Ver Tucara
Suave y tibia
Llena de gracia

Tu amor por mi
Es puro y bueno
Ectasia es lo que tu mandas
Atraves de mi ejerpo y mi mente

Quando te miro
No es dificil entender
Que entre todas las mujeres
Tu eres un regalo de dios para los hombres

MORIR

By Jose Ortiz

Si debemos morir, que no sea como cerdos

Cazados y acorralados en un lugar sin gloria

Mientras a nuestros lados ladran ambrientos perros

Mofandose de nuestra certera victoria

Si debemos morir, que sea con nobleza

Que al caer un cuerpo se alsen otras manos

Y asi, el repulsivo monstruo que tanto nos desprecia

Despues de sus mentiras tendra que honorarnos

Hermanos, tenemos que tumbar a el comun explotante

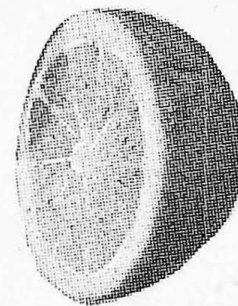
Y sus corporaciones que propagan pobresa

Tenemos que aplastarlas para salir triunfantes

Y al el final sera nuestra tierra, la mayor recompensa

Peleamos todos juntos, esto es muy imporatante

Prensados, muriendos pero siempre adelante.



LATIN

by Jose L. Borrero

You have a manner
To which feelings surrender
Eyes that are mystic
A smile so tender

Something to cherish
Is to see your face
Smooth and warm
So full of grace

Your love for me
Is pure always kind
Ecstasy is what it sends
Through my soul, body and mind

When, I gaze at you
It isn't hard to understand
Among all women
You are God's gift to man

The Carter Politico

By D. Delman

There are various meanings to be found in the N. Y. Times article entitled "Carter Defends All-White Areas." Yet the basic message remains that of a plea for 'Acceptable Racism' which does not exist.

In the first paragraph, Mr. Carter obviously associates 'change' with integration and vice versa, or not a natural happening so to speak. Next, how does "ethnic purity" relate with "economic homogeneity," and of "well-to-do-suburbs," no less! Here lies the paradox. He makes a contradictory statement that might at first seem true, an argument that obviously derives self-contradictory conclusions from acceptable premises.

He next excuses racist discrimination, terming it a natural inclination "of the people." Even though he is quite aware of the 'forced' poverty areas, and perpetually forced ghetto conditions that exist in the U.S. today. He then states that he would oppose exclusion IF he were president. Why not now? (Oh- "the Power that Corrupts"!) If people can afford it, (mentally, physically and economically) why not live wherever we desire? Let us not forget that Mr. Carter is well aware of "K.K.K." tactics used to maintain their so-called "ethnically Homogeneous neighborhoods."

We again read another contradiction. Carter had said earlier that the government should not take the 'initiative' in

these matters. Now he says he would use "the full resources of the Federal Government to enforce," a tempting bait. He then continues with some rhetorical jargon, and becomes defensive. Notice his continuous use of the word intrusion, and HOW he uses it, in relation to specific ethnic groups sharing a mutual environment. Of course, he proudly adds that he lives "almost within a stones throw" of those integrated places. Hear the plea of personal sacrifice for public image sake. The next statement is a humdinger. "In Atlanta, for instance, there was adamant opposition to the intrusion of Blacks into these all-white neighborhoods." (That one speaks for itself.) Next, we have it- Defensive Guilt. "I'm not trying to keep Blacks and Whites apart." His last statement could well be described as tricky. "The neighborhoods in Atlanta with which I AM FAMILIAR have been fairly PURE, although they've been much more integrated since I passed MY Open Housing Bill. BUT the schools are quite thoroughly mixed."

Mr. Carter takes the cake, eats it, and spits it out at the public with what can only be called 'Honest Racism, Self-Righteous Appeal, and Appeals,' that he just might get where he wants to go. For he does an excellent job of 'hood-winking' the voters.

However, Politicians are people, as human as any of us, their lack of humanness remains a reflection of their society.

Thoughts About Open Admission

By Reginald J. Myler

I sit here with a feeling of helplessness. The future of the City College looks dim, along with that of many Blacks and Puerto Ricans who will want to enter college.

Two and a half years ago, I was one of those students. It was eight years since I had been in a classroom. I was an unprepared student with deficiencies in my academic make-up.

Chancellor Kibbee's plan, as well as the New York City's fiscal problems, were not around then. The only people who were around were Zoe Malino, Dean Harris, and President Birenbaum, and all those countless others who thought education should be for everyone, not just those who could afford it. Most of them are gone now to their ideological heaven, and those who are left await the ideological, fiscal, and political axe.

There are many students like me, who, were it not for Open Admissions and programs that

are offered at Staten Island, would still be in an abyss of ignorance.

I will graduate in June of this year with an A.A.S. in business. Two years ago, if someone had asked me what an A.A.S. was, I would not have known.

Chancellor Kibbee, I don't know the answer to the problems that you and New York City are having. What I do know is that Open Admissions, Special Programs, Hostos Community College, and Staten Island Community College are working and needed.

By ending Open Admissions, this city's unemployment, welfare, and crime rates will be much higher, and much costlier than they are, now that Open Admissions is giving people a chance to better themselves. When the final chapter to this problem is written, I hope it states that Open Admissions will be saved, even if we lose some of our community colleges through merger.

E.M. de Hostos A Brief Biography

The illustrious "Citizen of America" was a writer, philosopher, newspaperman, lecturer and teacher. A tireless defender of the right and liberties of America, he was also a proponent of education for the Spanish-speaking people.

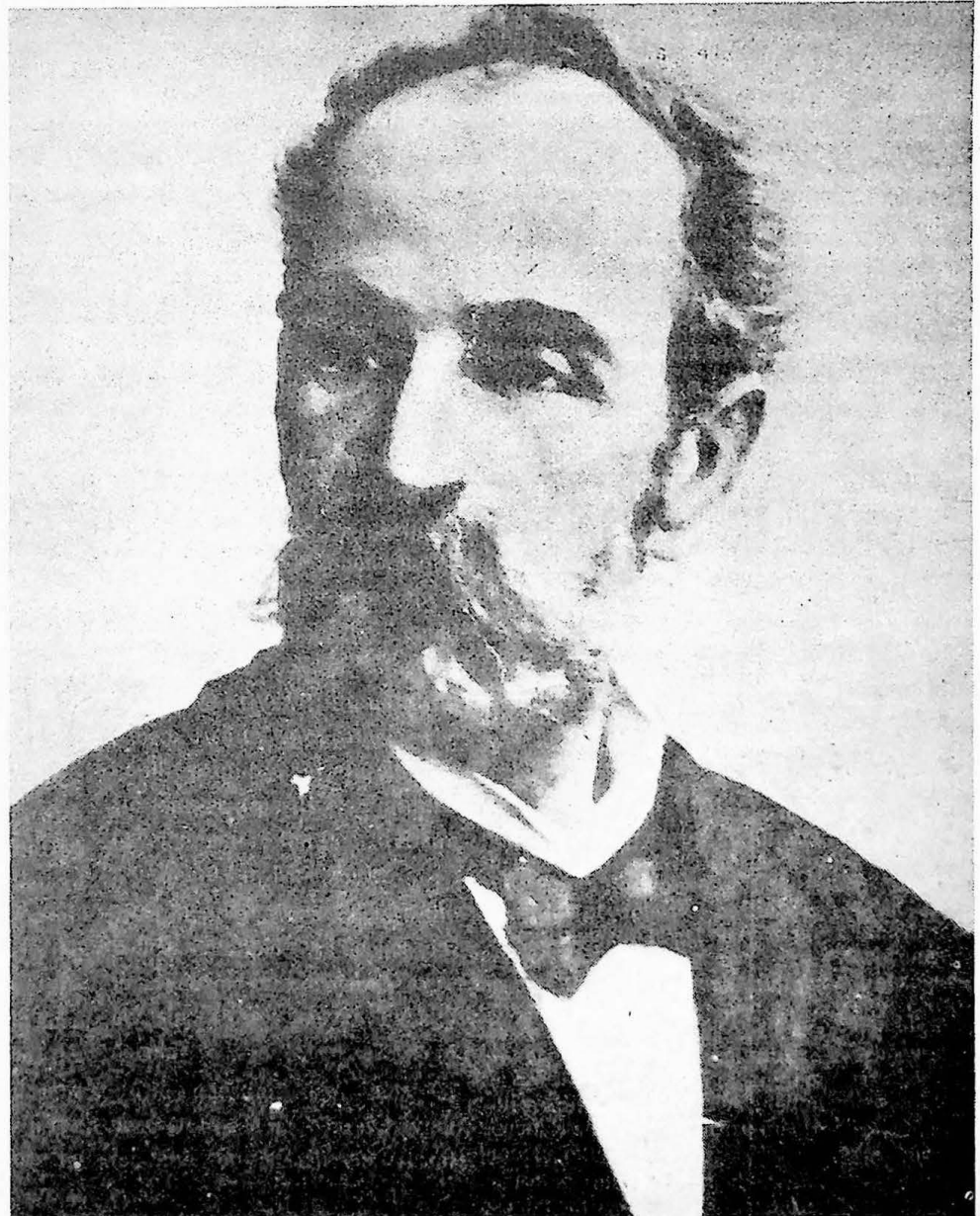
Hostos was born in the district of Rio Canas, in the region of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, on the 11th of January, 1839. He received elementary education in his hometown and secondary education at the University of Bilbao, Spain, and obtained his lawyer's degree from the Central University of Madrid.

Eugenio Maria de Hostos campaigned in Spain on behalf of the slaves of Cuba and Puerto Rico. Later, he began his pilgrimage about the world and visited Paris, New York and several South American countries, everywhere, teaching, writing and founding schools.

During the first war of Independence, Hostos tried to enter Cuba in 1875, but a terrible storm forced him to return to Newport (Rhode Island) six days after having embarked in Boston. Thanks to that, he was saved from death in the jungles of Cuba, together with the Cuban patriot Marti, Pachin Marin and many others who left New York fired by patriotism and never came back.

Between 1895 and 1898, Hostos cooperated with the revolution in Cuba in the hope of achieving the freedom of Puerto Rico. From 1898 to 1900, it was his monumental task to obtain from the United States a plebiscite for Puerto Rico.

Hostos died in Santo Domingo, where he had been asked to go to teach, on August 11, 1903.



Stop The S.I. Bill



S.I. Borough President Robert T. Connor Presenting Coach Evan Pickman, on the "Day of the Dolphins" With a Proclamation Honoring the Basketball Team.

The Puerto Rican Organization Presents "Latin Vibration"
By Ferrando Edwards

On March 24, the Puerto Rican Organization, sponsored a performance by the "Latin Vibracion" in Staten Island. They are from Brooklyn. Dean Gonzalez, a member of the Puerto Rican Organization staff and lead singer of the "Latin Vibracion," was instrumental in bringing this band to Staten Island Community College.

This performance greatly helped to increase the Puerto Rican Organization's membership and to make the members feel at home.

The audience eagerly awaited each song. The "Latin Vibracion," played 10 songs, each song representing the music of the Hispanic people. The songs which they played were:

- Cu-Curucuen Paloma
- Bailando y gosando
- Just My Imagination
- Madre Querida
- La Banda
- Perfidia
- Merengue-Yono puedo
- Arrimase Usted
- El Nuevo Nacimiento

The show was well organized by Henry Tirado and staff, and this accounted for such a beautiful performance by the entire group. There were many delightful moments during the performance. Also, there were beautiful singing done by Dean Gonzalez and Kako Sanchez. The backup players were: Bass, Anthony LeGure; Piano, Georgie Valencia; Lead vocal, Dean Gonzalez; Sax, Tommy Rivera; Timbales, Frankie Colon; Trombone, Mike Raffles; Trumpet, Pete Fuentes; Bongos, Kako Sanchez.

At the conclusion of their performance Latin Vibration was given the biggest ovation of the day. Lovers of Spanish songs will not, fortunately, have to wait another year to hear the "Latin Vibracion," because they hope to return for PRO's Spring dance.

