

CAMPUS

Undergraduate newspaper of the city college since 1907

Vol. 137 - 9

New York, N. Y. 10031

389

Friday, December 5, 1975

Board postpones action on cuts



Photo by GAD/Gregory Durniak

Members of the BHE at Monday night's shortened meeting.

BHE considers admissions change; may impose minimum skills levels

By Liz Carver

The Board of Higher Education will consider this Monday a plan which may virtually eliminate the need for remedial education on the college level. The plan, proposed last Monday by Chairman Alfred Giardino, could save the University as much as \$4-million this spring alone, according to a BHE spokesman.

Under Giardino's proposal, students with a high school average under 75, or who ranked in the lowest third of their class, would have to score at least eighth grade reading and mathematical levels on pre-admissions tests in order to start college level study. Those who did not test out at or above the eighth-grade level would have to spend one year in an "educational opportunity center," which would be funded by the Board of Education, bringing themselves up to standard. They would have only one year in the centers after which they would be dropped if they could not be admitted to the University.

In addition, the Board may adopt a ceiling on enrollment, which would require students to adhere to progress and academic standards in order to retain matriculated status. Another component of the proposal is said to ask that the Board adopt a system whereby students would have to meet as yet unknown standards to be admitted to their junior year of study.

Malcolm Robinson, director of the SEEK Program at the College, said he felt that "we have an obligation to have remediation at the college level . . . because it can be effective. All students should be given support to achieve. Sometimes," Robinson said, "people make decisions based on economic reasons."

Said Prof. Edward Quinn, (Chairman, English) "We're operating on the assumption that there will be a freshman class" in scheduling spring classes. He said the department would have to reschedule faculty hours, adding classes in the evening and day electives. "It will be a first class headache if this proposal gets voted in by the BHE."

The Board will be holding a closed executive session this Monday at which it is expected to discuss this proposal and others

in depth as it attempts to come up with a "rational, orderly, permanent plan, which will include

admissions restrictions and restructuring of the University," according to one College official.

CUNY projects hinge on bond market

By Lisa Rubin

William Sharkey, Executive Director of the State Dormitory Authority, said last night he had "no way of knowing" when construction would resume at City University's senior colleges. "You just don't turn investors' confidence on tap like water in a water faucet," he said, referring to the Authority's inability to sell bonds to finance the construction. "Tuition, increased fees—all these things would contribute to improve attitudes of investors, but this is controversial and can't be done overnight," Sharkey said.

A spokesman from a major stockbrokers' firm which underwrites a large amount of State Dormitory Authority bonds predicts that construction on \$230-million worth of City University construction will not resume until January. He said that investors "feel they've been burned," and that increased confidence in state and city finances would be necessary before the Authority could begin to sell the bonds needed to finish the ten projects.

According to the firm's representative, legislators and Governor Carey's representatives are trying to negotiate a "bridge loan" from a consortium of banks which have so far withheld such loans, citing investors' lack of confidence. "Free tuition and Open Admissions are very controversial policies," he said. "Student fees might have to be raised to help finance long term projects."

William Farley of the City University Construction Fund said he would "speculate" that tuition would be viewed as providing "better security" for the City's

half of University construction costs.

Currently, the State Dormitory Authority, which contracts for all senior college construction in New York State, pays one-half of the costs, as mandated by the 1966 Travia Bill, and the city pays the other half. The city's half is guaranteed by money held in escrow by the Construction Fund, which is made up of a portion of the student fees paid at senior colleges. This money is not usually used and is normally returned to the University for use in its operating budget.

According to Farley, it might

City requests three-year budget plan

By David Wysoki

The Board of Higher Education deferred action on its \$56-million retrenchment proposal Monday night, apparently upon the request of City Hall officials who have asked the Board to devise a "viable" three-year plan for reducing the scope of the University in exchange for an "adjustment" in the City's demand that the University cut the entire \$56-million from next semester's budget.

Chairman Alfred A. Giardino, who opened and closed the meeting in one sentence, said "the Board was fully prepared to adopt the proposal" until a "series of meetings with the Mayor's office, some as late as that afternoon," were held.

A spokesman for Giardino said the chairman was angered by recent criticism of the retrenchment proposal, adding that it [the proposal] was "only a ploy."

The Board's proposal would have saved the \$56-million from the Spring semester's budget by eliminating any new admissions for the semester except for a handful of veterans, force all faculty to take a four-week payless furlough, close the University during Christmas and Easter recesses, implement a \$9-million cut in personnel payroll throughout the University, and add fees from the 1976 summer session to next term's operating budget.

Several of these measures are known to have dismayed both Melvin Lechner, Director of the Bureau of the Budget, and John E. Zuccotti, First Deputy Mayor-designate.

"All savings must be on a recurring basis," a spokesman for

Lechner said, adding that "the payless furloughs are of questionable legality, and would most likely spark a court battle, which we are trying to avoid."

A spokesman for Zuccotti, who said upon his appointment as First Deputy Mayor that "the University can do plenty to help itself . . . including charging State level tuition," said that the Board's retrenchment proposal "was not going in the right direction."

Even if the city allows the University to defer part of the \$56-million cut over a three year period, the University will still be asked to reduce its operating budget an additional \$14-million next year, and even further the year after that, bringing CUNY's total cut to nearly \$80-million.

According to several Board members, Giardino has already developed an eight-point resolution for the restructuring of the University, including the tightening of admission standards and a cutback in enrollment. His proposal was unveiled to the Board at a private meeting held Monday night after the short public meeting.

University Vice Chancellor for Budget and Planning Anthony Knerr said that, "The city has finally decided to look at the problem in a long range sense."

"They [the city] want to see a three-year policy implemented rather than have \$56-million in cuts now, which is publicly hard to swallow," Knerr added.

One University official said that the "new arrangement will now give the University and the city time to argue its case with the state for increased funding."

The city is expected to come up with an "exact dollar figure" that must be cut from the University's Spring operating budget by Monday. In exchange, the University will be asked to save an estimated \$80-million over the next three years.

THE CAMPUS

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Editorial:

No more fun and games

With BHE Chairman Alfred Giardino's angry admission this week that the Board's retrenchment proposal was merely a "ploy," it has become clear to us that the Board's financial leadership has been lacking from the beginning, and has, we believe, seriously impaired chances of receiving increased state funding for the City University.

Even Giardino's new three-year proposal to restructure the University, which includes imposition of tighter admission and enrollment standards, is only the first step necessary to get increased state funding. The City University has found itself in a buyer's market, and now has the task of making itself more financially attractive.

Two proposals we've heard that make financial and academic sense to us are limits on admissions and restructuring of the university over a three-year period. The University, it seems, has finally learned it does not have the resources to be all things to all students.

Limiting admissions to those who can read only at or above the eighth grade level is a positive step. It will finally force the city's high school system to graduate

students according to its own standards, and free faculty to teach knowledge, and not mechanics.

However, Chairman Giardino's proposal has failed to take into account that many high schools may get around their declared standards by inflating grades.

Rather, the Board must more finely identify those needing remedial work, given the city's educational environment, and begin testing people with even higher averages, or those who have done poorly in English, even though they had a good high school average. Also, attention must be given to the need for flexible amounts of time needed in Educational Opportunity Centers—not all students need spend a year there.

We reiterate our support for the gradual restructuring of the University, which will ultimately reduce expenses as it reduces the number of students, campuses, and faculty.

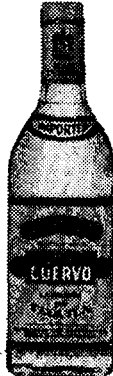
Only by making the University financially viable can the Board and University community expect any significant outside aid.

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TRAVEL TIPS TO MEXICO

With vacation time fast approaching, many of you will no doubt be traveling to Mexico. Some of you might even be coming back. Here are some helpful hints.

1. A man on a burro always has the right of way, unless he appears to be a weakling.
2. In local cantinas, pouring a shot of Cuervo down a man's collar is not thought to be humorous.
3. Falling onto a cactus, even an actual Cuervo cactus, can be a sticky proposition.
4. It is tough to find hamburger rolls in the smaller towns; it's best to bring your own.

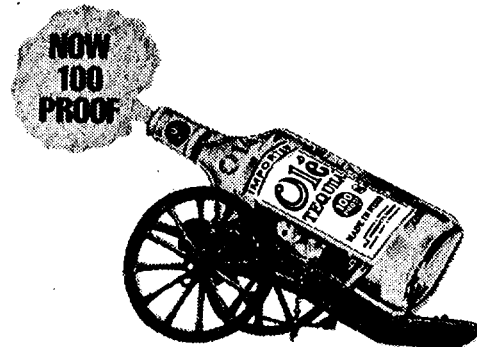


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Nazis' 'glory' and injustice depicted in two new films

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Blimp explodes

The newest entry in the disaster film sweepstakes is "The Hindenburg," an epic production about the final, tragic flight of the luxury dirigible, then the glory of Nazi Germany, which exploded and burned while landing at Lakehurst, N.J. in 1937.

The story centers around the lives of several passengers leaving Germany on the Hindenburg for the United States. Colonel Ritter (George C. Scott) of the Gestapo has been appointed head security officer of the airship to watch the passengers and find a possible saboteur. He has plenty of suspicious characters to choose from, which doesn't make his job any easier.

Ritter's suspicions center on Boerth (William Atherton), an ex-Nazi youth leader who intends to blow up the Hindenburg to protest the "new order." After a bitter dispute, the two men make a deal—they'll explode the bomb only after the 97 passengers and crew have been evacuated. Their plans, of course, go awry.

As with most disaster pictures, it is the climax of the film that is the single element to be talked about and remembered. Director Robert Wise juxtaposes black and white freeze frames against ac-



Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures
The Hindenburg's final fiery moments.

tion shots in order to enhance the impact of the disaster. We slowly view the crash from the beginning of the Hindenburg's fall until the final stages when all that remains is a charred and smoldering superstructure.
—Dennis Norwood

Vichy courts go on trial

In his latest film, "Special Section," director Costa-Gavras once again welds the commercial thriller to a profound political statement, much as he did in his films "Z" and "State of Siege."

The plot, loosely based on actual events, deals with the "special sections"—courts set up during World War II in Nazi-occupied France to deal with terrorists, communists and partisans—and the brutal justice they dispensed.

A group of young French communists shoot a German officer in a train station. Fearing reprisals from the Germans, the French government sets up a special section court to choose six victims whose executions will appease the Germans. The haphazard way they fill this quota makes it anybody's guess as to who will be arrested.

The climactic court selection scene shows that while some men will dumbly follow a government's decree to their deaths, others (here it's journalists) believe that life is a struggle and must be fought for. The judges deciding the sentences are affected by the journalists' words and defy the government, condemning only three men. A beautifully filmed scene in this segment is a flashback of one condemned man's life, contrasting the pathos and humor of human existence.

While "Special Section" is not totally captivating, it does have an important and provocative theme which is, to quote Costa-Gavras, that "the inverted mechanism established by man eventually escapes his control and ends up controlling man himself."

—Joyce Meisner

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Hoopsters drop three in a row in expanded, tougher schedule

By Philip Carvahlo

Playing their most ambitious schedule since the golden heydays of the fifties when the Beaver basketball team was NIT and NCAA champions, the Beavers, with Floyd Lane at the helm, have started off this season with three quick defeats, losing to Louisiana State and Loyola of Chicago this weekend in the Louisiana Classic, as well as to arch-rival Columbia on Tuesday.

Travelling down to Baton Rouge, Louisiana upon the invitation of LSU, an invitation which included a \$10,000 guarantee to cover the team's expenses, the Beavers lost their first round match to LSU, 109-73 and their second game against Loyola, 82-62.

Layne, offering no apology for the team's play, simply summed up the double defeat saying, "Somebody wins and somebody loses. If you can't accept that, you shouldn't be out there."

The Beavers played well during the first half of each contest. Keeping the score close with some good defensive moves, the half closed with the Beavers trailing by only two points against both rivals.

"They played well during the first half," Layne said, "but lost their concentration." The Beavers turned the ball over 32 times against LSU, which is considered one of the top twenty teams in the nation, giving their hosts ample scoring opportunities while limiting their own offensive potential.

However, Beaver star Rich Sil-

vera still was able to pump in 23 points, along with 18 by Andrew Morrison.

Against Loyola, a team which is "not too far over our heads," according to Joel Rosenstein, Beaver athletic trainer, the team didn't fare any better.

Loyola, which finished third in the tournament behind California and LSU, forced the Beavers into 17 turnovers and badly beat the Beavers off the boards.

Despite the defeats, "the trip helped to bring the team together," Rosenstein said, adding "that it was a fine educational experience for the boys."

The team cleared more than \$5000 from the tourney, all of which will go into the diminished athletic department budget for

use by all the teams.

With the team back in New York on Tuesday, the Columbia Lions managed to put down both the Varsity and Junior Varsity basketball teams at Columbia's new Levien Gym. Columbia, who was out to revenge last year's double upset to the Beavers, beat the J.V., 96-66, and the varsity team, 83-77.

Calvin Frazier put in 14 points for the J.V. and teammate Dan Evens managed to score 12.

Once on defense, however, the Beavers lacked the poise they showed on offense.

"That will be our main area of concentration," coach Jeff Sartorius said after the game. "By the end of the season, you're going to see a different ball club."

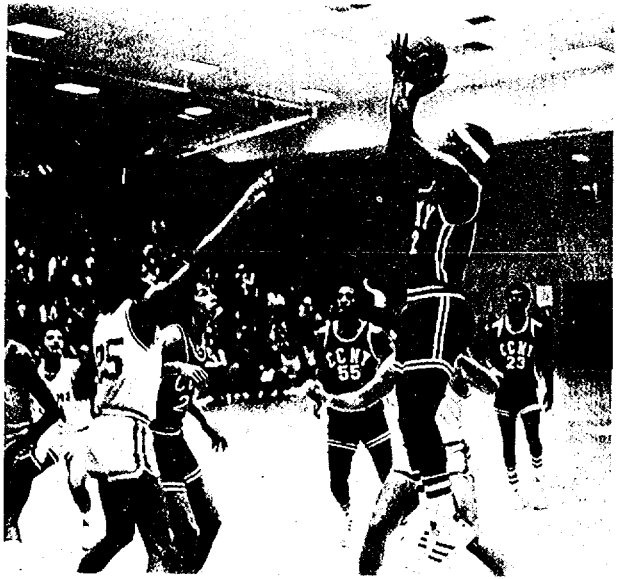


Photo by GAD/Oregory Dumlak

Andy Morrison (12) hits for two against Columbia.

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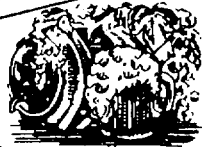
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