

Male Students at Hunter A Recent Phenomenon

By LARRY FINKELSTEIN *Arrow, May 9, 1960*

Male students were first admitted to the Bronx campus of Hunter College in 1946. These men were part of a widespread veterans movement to return to American universities after the end of the second world war.

The American colleges and universities, related Dean of Students Harry Levy, "met this battle of the bulge" by allowing veterans to attend institutions of higher education, which heretofore had been totally female, on a temporary basis.

Dean Levy, who was for a period of time following the war on the administrative staff of the college, reported that gradually between 1946-1949 the "veterans and the girls shared more and more classes in common.

Up until 1949, the veterans were only allowed to have a two year curriculum at Hunter. In February 1949, it became apparent that the male and co-educational colleges and universities could not absorb and provide an adequate education for all the veterans. It was then, according to Dean Levy, "that the momentous decision to permit those veterans in attendance to go to Park Avenue to finish their studies."

The first full fledged matriculated male student entered Hunter in September, 1951. Mr. Lawrence Dempsey, a librarian at uptown Hunter, was among those that entered in September, 1951.

Mr. Dempsey recalled many incidents which happened during the first years that Hunter College in the Bronx was a co-educational institution. He remembered that "amusingly, the instructors always called the men Miss and then always embarrassingly apologized." Mr. Dempsey thought that there was more genuine school spirit among the students then, than there is now.

What has been the effect of co-education at Hunter? Dean Levy feels that "it has given the Bronx campus a most distinctive charm." Dean Levy ended by pointing to some of the good that has come out of co-education and asserting; "Vive la difference."
