

# newshunter

February 1972





A sketch of the proposed subway station with book kiosk on the right.

## The Shape of Hunter to Come: Plans for Campus Growth

In eight years, present Hunter students simply won't recognize their alma mater. That's because by then (at the latest) the college will have built two new structures and renovated the present building at 695 Park Ave. The new structures, which will include the library, faculty offices, classrooms, lecture halls, arts facilities and communal spaces, are planned for the southeast and southwest corners of 68 Street and Lexington Avenue. A third new building, on the former site of the Hunter High School (the west side of Lexington Avenue between 68 and 69 Streets), is planned for the more distant future.

When completed, the new buildings will nearly double the college's present space in the main structure at 695 Park Ave. That building, completed in 1940 for 2,300 students, now serves 10,000 FTED (full-time equivalent day) students. The college's actual enrollment, including part-time students, is more than 24,000.

At present, the building concepts for the college are of a planning rather than an architectural nature. "They represent," says architect Ulrich Franzen, "broad guidelines for the specific design of the new college facilities." A detailed space program has already been drawn up, and architectural plans for the first two new buildings will probably be completed by early 1973. By mid 1973, demolition and groundbreaking will be underway.

While the new buildings are being designed and constructed, renovation of the present building will also be underway. Contiguous segments of that struc-

ture will be renovated one at a time, to avoid disrupting student flow and normal academic activities.

There are a number of issues — both in planning and design — that will affect the local community. To obtain community involvement and approval of the plan, President Wexler and Mr. Franzen have been working closely with Community Planning Board No. 8 in developing the expansion proposals.

William J. Diamond, chairman of the board, praised the college for presenting the building plans to the community at such an early stage. He said he felt the reaction of the board and the community to the plan was "overwhelmingly positive" and that the Hunter plan "proves that institutions do not have to expand at

the expense of the community." The proposal, which involves no tenant relocation, calls for the new buildings to be erected on land already owned by the city, thereby taking no taxable land off the rolls.

The building plans include covered walkways connecting the buildings at various levels above the street, thus easing pedestrian traffic in the relatively congested area; two open spaces — one a large active "piazza" which Mr. Franzen calls "a people space, an extension of street life." This would be on Lexington Avenue. The other area, on 68th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues, is a more residential and quiet space shielded from street traffic. Also in the plans is a proposed renovation of the 68 Street Lexington Avenue subway station. The station would feature a sunken garden, a book store for students and a system of escalators and tunnels which would connect the station to the various college buildings. Outside the buildings, overhanging arcades will protect students, area residents and passersby from inclement weather.

(See story, opposite page, for more details on the building designs.)

The Community Planning Board gave its approval of the expansion plans at a meeting in November. The plans must now go before the City Planning Commission, and the Board of Estimate. Final designs and detailed costs have to be approved by the Governor and the Dormitory Authority. Funds for construction will come from a State Dormitory Authority Bond issue approved in 1970.

