

THE ALUMNAE NEWS

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WHY THE BRONX BUILDINGS OF HUNTER COLLEGE SHOULD BE RETAINED FOR COLLEGE USE

1. More young New Yorkers, war veterans and recent high school graduates, will seek to go to college this year than ever before. The crisis is the most severe in American educational history.
2. Most of the New York City students who will be denied a college education if the Bronx Buildings are not retained are from income groups so low that it would not be possible for their parents to send them elsewhere to college, even if they could gain admission. All the boroughs will be affected, not just the Bronx, where the buildings in question are situated, and Manhattan, where the crowded skyscraper building of the college stands.
3. Because of their limited facilities, other colleges will accept only a token representation of women—most of their space will be devoted to veterans, as it should be. But—should several thousand girls be denied the right to a college education because of their sex?
4. In this general overcrowding of colleges, the chances for an education for students from those groups which have too often been discriminated against diminishes even more. Hunter, a liberal college as well as a liberal arts college, discriminates against no student because of race, creed, or color.
5. It is now quite difficult, in many instances impossible, for qualified New York City residents to enter colleges outside the city. Practically every state university will be crowded with students from its own state. Private colleges, even the women's colleges, are drastically limiting admissions.
6. With the Bronx buildings, Hunter will probably be able to accommodate twice as many students as are now attending the college. If present plans work out, 2,500 of these will be men war veterans.
7. The Bronx buildings were architecturally designed and constructed to serve as college buildings. Other colleges are planning to put students into deserted army camps, even into abandoned contagious-disease hospitals. If the Bronx buildings can be retained, this strain on educational facilities in the New York area will be measurably lessened.
8. The Bronx buildings will not be used primarily for work in home economics and physical education, important as these are. Most students will be taking liberal art courses. That is a significant reason why the buildings should be retained—so that the present crowded library and laboratory facilities may be expanded to meet the greatly increased need.
9. Hunter was among the first colleges to offer their facilities to the nation at the outbreak of the war, and for many months Hunter students have gladly worked in overcrowded quarters. Had they selfishly kept the Bronx buildings, there would be no question of their continuing right to them. Should they be penalized for this outstanding patriotic service?
10. Present facilities at the Park Avenue building are so crowded that 1500 of the girls must attend classes in an obsolete five-story public school building. In this building there are no elevators. The washrooms are on the first floor. Rooms are partitioned by thin rolling walls, so that the voices of students and instructors in adjacent classrooms often mix, with resulting confusion.
11. Handicapped students are further handicapped by the fact that their programs must be limited because they cannot take courses in the obsolete building, which has no elevators.
12. Because the main building is crowded, between classes elevators are nearly always packed to the safety limit. The cafeteria is so crowded that many students eat their luncheon on the basement steps.
13. About home economics—there is a shortage of and a growing demand for trained young women to take charge of school lunch programs, institutional cookery, institutional management, etc. The facilities to be provided by the Bronx campus are highly desirable if Hunter is to do its share in meeting this demand. Without these facilities students may not receive professional recognition.
14. As to physical education—this program too is important, among other reasons because trained physio-therapists will be needed—are needed now—for the hospitals which are taking care of ill or wounded war veterans. Hunter would like to share in this work, as it has loyally shared in every other venture connected with the war.
15. Sacrificing education is the most costly and dangerous sacrifice that could be asked of a democracy. There can be no question that the college, students, faculty, and alumnae, wholeheartedly support the UNO. But we cannot afford to sacrifice education if there is any alternative solution. Education and the UNO should be partners, not rivals.
16. There are a number of suitable sites in and near New York City whose use by UNO would not affect detrimentally the future of our young people.

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