

A LETTER TO THE CLASS OF 1972 from Sample N. Pitman, Associate Dean of Students,
Fremont, October 14, 1970

It is a tradition for a Dean to greet students on occasions such as this. It was particularly hard for me to put thoughts together because I wanted to say so many things to you, especially during your first few days on campus.

You are eager excited freshmen about to begin one of the most rewarding ventures of your life: your college education. You are to be congratulated for having taken the first step that will shape your future. What that future will be certainly depends upon you.

You should be warned however that for the next two years or more the realities of the college community you will face will be a world of study and tests, of concentration, of book reviews, of striving for passing grades and of disappointments. There are microscopic signs at our college that a normal school year could be disrupted. There are indications of an increased militancy and social awareness on the part of many students at Manhattan Community College. So while I heartily congratulate you, I must add my hope that you will, as so many students have before you, commit your energies to the search for truth and its concomitant freedoms. And in this quest for truth, may you achieve freedom -- freedom from prejudice, freedom from anxiety, freedom from arrogance and insecurity, freedom from recklessness and irresponsibility. All too soon, your college days with peers, faculty, and administration at BMCC will be over. We in the department of Student Life sincerely hope that your experience with us will be one of the high points of your life.

Finally I should like to say that BMCC is in a state of enormous change, caused partly by external pressures and partly by an internal effort to do a better job. You should know that your faculty and administration recognize that the preeminent responsibility of the College is to win you over to the intellectual enterprise, to help you develop a sense of responsibility, and to help you define and attain your personal goals.

This final note should be remembered. Following your graduation you will find that admission to other colleges will be highly selective. As an applicant you will be expected to present credentials showing evidence of rigorous training during your Freshman year and Sophomore years at Manhattan Community College. So make the most of your opportunity and best wishes to you.