

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
HOLLINGWORTH LABORATORIES

Barnard College

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK 10027

April 27, 1968

Barnard College
Columbia University

Dear Colleague:

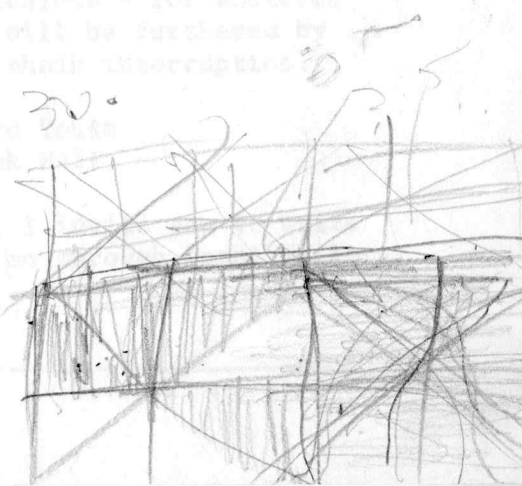
Last night I wrote a letter in an attempt to express my positive feelings toward the value of education. It was also, I confess, to relieve a feeling of depression, or perhaps oppression, about recent events. If you agree in substance with my letter (copy attached), I hope you will let me know. Also, if you disagree.

I shall probably send my letter, along with any replies, to the President of Barnard to assure her that some feel that Barnard's educational mission is the most important one.

Sincerely,

s/ Richard Youtz
Milbank Hall

607/0211



April 27, 1968

Dear Colleague:

As a member of the teaching staff at Barnard College, I am appalled at what is happening on the grounds of Columbia College.

As I write, on Friday evening, April 26, 1968, several buildings of Columbia College and Graduate School are occupied by about 5% of the Columbia students, who are denying the use of these buildings for educational purposes to the other 95% of the students. As nearly as I can understand it, this small group of students is "sitting in" in the hope that their actions will somehow help the neighboring population of Harlem to enjoy a better life. It seems to me that this small group of students is mistaken in its methods for producing desired social improvement. Their actions seem to me to go beyond the usual spring madness.

However, I know more surely that they are denying the overwhelming majority of Columbia College students the opportunity to pursue the studies for which they came to college - just at an important time before the final examinations for the semester and year when a great deal of useful studying is usually done.

I hope and believe that Barnard College will continue with its job as an educational institution without such interruption. I trust that all lawful and appropriate means will be used to prevent such an interruption.

I believe that in our democratic form of society we will progress most rapidly and surely toward our ideals of social justice through a rule by law, not through a rule by persons.

With occasional temporary setbacks we have, as a nation, done very well this way. Not perfectly, but better than most. I don't know of any forms of society in which perfect justice prevails. And I strongly distrust any society which tries to progress by coercion of the many by the few - under whatever banner.

I strongly believe that the work of colleges in teaching, research, and creativity in science and the arts is a work of the utmost importance to the students, the faculty, and the nation. Anything which interrupts this work - anything - is to be avoided.

Each citizen of the student body, the faculty, and the nation has other civil responsibilities, but these responsibilities need not interrupt the work of the colleges. I lean strongly toward the feeling that we are all engaged in the race between education and disaster. The educational work of the colleges must be protected from interruption by zealots - for whatever worthy cause. The worthy causes of which I am aware will be furthered by the continuous education of our young people, not by their interruption.

s/ Richard Youtz
Milbank Hall

(If you agree with me in substance, if not in detail, I invite you to write your name in the space below and return the sheet to me through local mail. An extra copy is included for your files.)

Name _____ Department _____