

Free Tuition Rally

All Alumni in New York State are urged, before June 2, Primary Day, to question candidates for the Assembly and the Senate of both parties as to their stand on free tuition.



President Meng presenting Free Tuition buttons to Comptroller Abraham Beame and Stanley H. Lowell, Chairman, New York City Commission on Human Rights.

Early this spring our Free Tuition Committee, under Morton Berkowitz '61, chairman, conducted a widespread letterwriting campaign, to urge all Hunter graduates in New York State to express their views on the need for the free tuition mandate to their Albany representatives, during this session of the Legislature.

In cooperation with the undergraduate representatives of the Student Council both in the Bronx and at Park Avenue, our Committee organized a rally, on March 13, to protest the action which the State Legislature took on March 3, when it voted *not* to release the free tuition bill from committee.

Alumni President Anna Trinsey opened the Rally at the College, and turned the chairmanship over to Morton Berkowitz. Among the notable speakers who addressed the eight hundred students and alumni were Bess Myerson Grant '45, Mercedes McCambridge, Ruby Dee '44, President John J. Meng, Dr. Gustave Rosenberg, Comptroller Abraham Beame, Stanley Lowell, William Booth and Earl Ubell.

WCBS-TV and WNBC-TV carried reports of the Rally on the evening of March 13, and there was good newspaper coverage.

Excerpts from Dr. Rosenberg's address

It gives me special pride to have been asked to speak for Mayor Wagner today as well as for myself. The Mayor has led his administration in the kind of practical support for the full program of the City University of New York that has meant much in its development.

He is on record. Not only is he in favor of free tuition. He is fighting for it. And he asks for your help.

We believe in free tuition for the baccalaureate programs of our senior colleges where it has been in effect for 117 years. We believe in extending free tuition to the associate degree program of the community colleges. That would give us a uniform policy throughout the City University. Mayor Wagner put it well, in January, when he said, before the City University Alumni Committee for Free Tuition:

"There is no more reason to charge tuition at a public college today than there is to charge tuition at a public high school or elementary school."

The Mayor continued, "The city, the state, and the country need more trained men and women. We need more college graduates. We need to stretch out the educational period. While every educational authority in the country is talking about the drop-out danger, including the drop-outs between high school and college, we are being asked to abandon one of the central features of our city colleges . . . that feature which makes it possible in this city for a New Yorker to obtain a free education from kindergarten through college." . . .

I am convinced that, in our battle to maintain and extend free tuition, we are playing an important part in history. Some of the arguments we have put forth over the years for free tuition are now being recognized in proposals of the Educational Policies Commission of the N.E.A. and of Secretary of Labor Wirtz that two years of education beyond the high school be free.

Opportunity and training must be expanded, not curtailed. There is no question that tuition presents a

Continued on page 26

Da Silva, Mrs. Elaine *Wilk* Cohen, Mrs. Anne *Kahan* Segal, Mrs. Estelle *Mazer* Noto, and Dr. Anna Samuelson.

The annual birthday luncheon gave many of us an opportunity to meet again, with ample time to socialize in the spirit of a delightful afternoon.

There will be an afternoon Tea Dance in May for the benefit of the Scholarship and Welfare Fund. We strongly urge all to attend. Our plan is to invite all alumni members and guests, to meet at an early hour and to socialize for this one afternoon so that we may add to the Scholarship and Welfare Fund.

The last meeting of the year will be our Annual Garden Party on June 13th. This is always a lovely occasion and the chance to renew old friendships and make many new ones.

BRONX CAMPUS SECTION

Saturday evening, March 7, saw the Annual Homecoming of the Bronx Campus Section of the Alumni Association at Hunter College. Following an alumni victory over the faculty in basketball, the group of about 150 graduates and faculty adjourned to the east lounge of Student Hall for food, drink and entertainment. Music was supplied by "The Live Ones" while singing was done by Miss Nancy Hollenbeck.

SOUTH FLORIDA

We welcome most heartily the South Florida Chapter which was formed at a reunion of Hunter College Alumni living in the area held on March 10, 1964.

Mrs. Byrdie *Elkind* King was elected president pro tem and fifteen of the fifty-

two present volunteered to serve on committees.

Among those present were Sadie *April* Glotzer and Ida *Rosenblum* Livingston of the class of 1901 and Frances Gleason and Pauline Kuhn of the class of 1904.

We are grateful to the "pioneers" who have been working actively on this project for nearly a year: June *Pestronk* Abel '50, Harriet *Messer* Annis '42, Bernice *Tolmach* Gruber '42, Ruth *Boehm* Seligman '17 and particularly to our constant correspondents, Anita *Horton* Rodstrom '38 and Marilyn *Maslan* Winters '48.

To our newest chapter we send greetings and best wishes for success.

BEATRICE K. WEINBERG
Chairman of Chapters

Continued from page 20

major barrier to students from low socio-economic backgrounds. Free tuition has opened doors of opportunity to the children of minority groups who have come to this city over the years. . . . Often I speak of the accomplishments of our alumni as a realistic reminder that public higher education and free tuition are economic investments which pay the greatest dividends to society itself.

In recent months, students and alumni have rallied to the cause of free tuition in order to preserve a tradition that has been a part of the American dream. That tradition has meant opportunity for you, and you intend to preserve it for today's young people and for those to come.

Excerpts from Comptroller Beame's address

Back in my college days, I was one of the poor boys who received his education because City College made it possible without tuition. It would have been absolutely impossible for my family, or for me, to pay anything.

Things have not changed since then. We still have many worthy, intelligent young men and young women who want to go to college, and who depend on free education. They need our free institutions, and we need their skills and capabilities for the health of the economy of our City, State and Nation. We need them also for our stockpile of human resources for national defense, in this Space Age.

Albany's callous disregard of our needs and our wishes should not discourage us in this fight for our tradition of free tuition. I know that it will not discourage me, and, from what I have seen of the spirit among the undergraduates and alumni of the City Colleges, it will not discourage you.

Just recently, I learned that groups of our under-

graduates have been making forays into the districts of State Legislators who have ignored the needs of our City colleges, and supported the upstate pressure against us.

They have talked to men and women on the streets, in the stores, on subway stations and in ferry lines. They have spread the word, and I know they will continue to do it, until the swelling roar of protest will have to be heard in Albany.

I am proud of these students, and I am proud of you, who have gathered here today for the same crusade. The fact that all of you are taking up this responsibility, in behalf of free education, is in itself a justification of the importance we place in our college system.

But you must remember, it is not enough to button-hole voters during the legislative session. It is not enough to hold rallies and talk things up at the start of the year. You must plan and organize for the long pull — for year round campaigning to keep our elected representatives aware of their responsibilities all the time. You must talk to your friends and relatives and their friends and relatives. This is an issue that cannot be allowed to die down if we are to protect our free tuition system and preserve it.

We must make it clear to the Republican leadership at Albany that this is not a question of partisan politics. It can be no retribution against political enemies. The victims of such thoughtless action must be not only the younger generation on whom the future of our City and State depend, but all of our people, who depend upon the future technicians, scientists and administrators we must train here.

We cannot afford to drive one worthy youngster away from our college doors. I know that your efforts, and those of the people you can enlist in this cause, will finally force the elected representatives of the people to see justice, and reason.