

THE ALUMNAE NEWS

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

April 12, 1954

Dear Fellow Alumna:

Although I have held office in many organizations since I was twelve years old, I have never had such a trying time as during the last few months as your president. I have tried, during the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Council, to keep the Associate Alumnae on an even keel. I have tried to meet the many new problems which arose fairly and honestly. That I have in some measure succeeded is attested to by the many letters and words of encouragement I received from

old friends and many new ones in the organization.

The interest which this election has aroused should be utilized to continue those projects which we deem important and to initiate new ones that will be of the greatest benefit to graduates and undergraduates alike. In this way we can be a greater force for good in our community.

May I publicly say 'Thank You' to all whose advice and council have helped me over these difficult times.

Gratefully yours,

FRANCES R. ABRAMS

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Fondiller, in a letter dated Feb. 9, 1954, which she sent to the Editor of the ALUMNAE NEWS, wrote as follows (of the action of the Nominating Committee in not nominating Mrs. Berliner as President of the Alumnae): "The issue here is not parliamentary law but the fact that the Alumnae have been deprived of one of the finest administrations we have ever had, with no reason given. Indeed, no reason or explanation offered could bear the light of day."

Mrs. Blossom M. Goodman, in a letter dated February 20, 1954, which she sent to the Editor of the ALUMNAE NEWS, wrote as follows: "I am one of the alumnae who read, with no little shame, the last issue of the ALUMNAE NEWS. It therein appears that the forthcoming election of officers has degenerated into a contest to be resolved in terms of parliamentary law and distortion of fact."

In the April issue of the ALUMNAE NEWS, the Editor wrote the following paragraphs apropos of the statements quoted above:

"We invite Mrs. Goodman to send to the News one example of distortion of fact committed by the adherents of the slate which she is opposing!"

"We invite the writer of the letter in question, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Fondiller, to send to the News a statement of any reason or explanation for the decision of the Nominating Committee not to renominate Mrs. Berliner that 'could not bear the light of day!'"

On Friday, April 16, Mrs. Fondiller telephoned the Editor and said that she "accepted the challenge" in the April NEWS and would send the Editor a communication on the subject. She was very insistent that this communication be printed in the May NEWS, and the Editor assured her that it would be.

On Saturday, April 17, Mrs. Fondiller telephoned the Editor and said that she was not going to send her the communication that she had announced on the previous day. The reason that she assigned for her change of mind was that she did not wish to hold up the May NEWS. She was assured that if she sent her statement promptly, as she had volunteered to do in the conversation of the previous day, she would not be delaying the May NEWS. She then gave a different reason for not sending the statement, namely, that she was "under instructions" not to do so.

On Wednesday, April 21, Miss Hamburger telephoned the Editor and said that she was speaking for Mrs. Berliner, Mrs. Fondiller, and Mrs. Goodman. She declared that none of these three was willing herself to speak to the Editor, because they objected to the April NEWS, but that all wished to send statements to the May NEWS, Mrs. Fondiller and Mrs. Goodman in answer to the Editor's "challenges", and Mrs. Berliner in answer to the editorial. She refused to have these statements reach the Editor until Sunday, April 25.

On Monday, April 26, the Editor finally received the promised "answers", mainly in the form of questions, and an article from Mrs. Berliner. See pp. 8-9.

The Editor deeply regrets the necessary delay to the May NEWS, which, as she had promised in the April issue that she would do, she was trying hard to have appear in time. She also apologizes in advance for possible misprints in this material, which there may not be time to proofread adequately. But the April NEWS was indubitably — and unaccountably — late, and so for the benefit of those wishing to reply to it the Editor has extended the dead-line fourteen days, because she believes fair play demands it.

On February 19, Miss Louisa M. Webster, second Principal of Hunter College High School, died after a long illness.

Miss Webster was born in 1864 in New York, and lived for many years in her family's homestead in the Yorkville section of the city. She attended Hunter College (then called Normal College) and was graduated in 1881. She taught first in the elementary schools of New York, but in 1896 became an Instructor of Mathematics in Normal College, and in 1913 an Assistant Professor.

In 1920, Miss Webster was appointed Principal of Hunter College High School, succeeding Miss Grace B. Beach, who had retired. From then until her own retirement in 1934, Miss Webster was the Principal. During the summers she maintained a private summer high school for boys and girls, one of the first summer high schools in the city.

Miss Webster was remarkable for her scholarship, her vigor, her independence of mind, her integrity, and the high ideals which she set for herself, her teachers, and her students. She combined the rigorous standards of the Victorian era with a keen sense of humor which gave perspective to her point of view. Her alert mind was aware of every detail of the school, to which she gave her unstinted devotion. No one who was associated with her could fail to appreciate her personality, her idealism, and her achievement.

DOROTHY C. BUNKER
