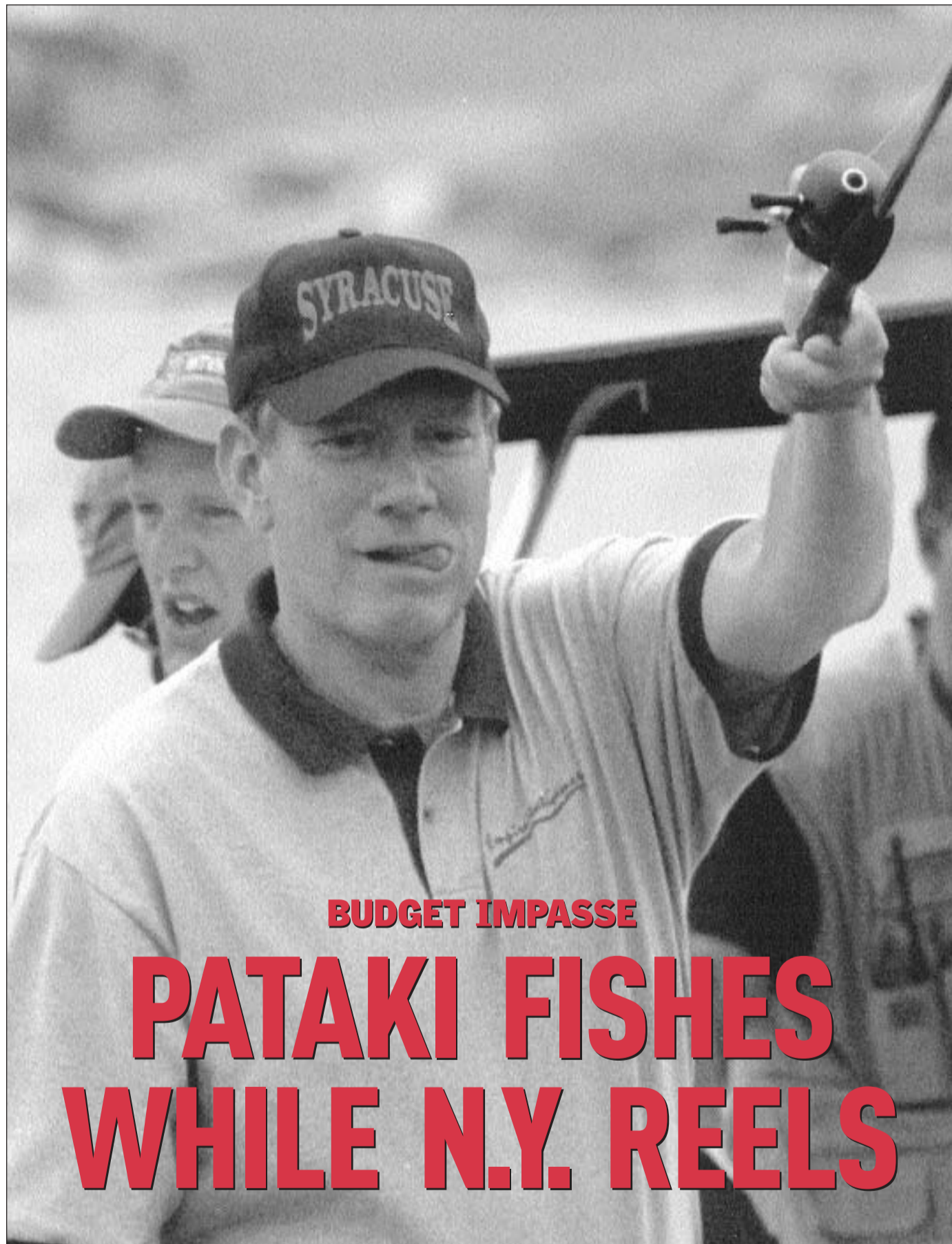


# Clarion

NEWSPAPER OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONGRESS / CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 2001



## BUDGET IMPASSE

# PATAKI FISHES WHILE N.Y. REELS

Frustrated by Governor Pataki's refusal to negotiate over the state budget, the New York State Legislature has adopted a high-risk strategy to force a compromise. The State Senate and Assembly have passed a "bare-bones" budget, with drastic cuts in many programs – including CUNY. They aim to pass a supplemental budget in the fall with more adequate funding, hoping that Pataki will not dare to block it. CUNY was on the verge of winning major increases in state funding, but those gains are now at risk. **FULL REPORT ON PAGE 5**

The Post-Standard / John Berry

## ADJUNCTS

### Why I joined the union



Five part-timers tell why they signed a card

PAGE 5

## SOLIDARITY

### Join PSC contingent at Labor Day march

On Saturday, September 8, the theme of the Labor Day march is "Save Our Schools." Join us – let's tell New York that CUNY faculty and staff need a good contract. See Calendar.

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## CITY COUNCIL

### CUNY candidates in September 11 vote

The shape of a new City Council will be decided in NYC's primary election on Tuesday, September 11. PSC-endorsed candidates are listed on the back page.

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## ESSAY

### On the Web: MIT wants to be free

For-profit colleges on the Internet can't seem to make a buck. Meanwhile MIT is putting its courses up on the Web at a price that's hard to beat.

PAGE 9

# PSC members move into new Baruch building

By **JOAN GREENBAUM & DAVE KOTELCHUCK**  
PSC Health & Safety Officers

Active surveillance and watchful waiting – these are the watchwords as PSC members move into the new classroom and office building at Baruch College this fall. PSC activists observed a number of health and safety problems after the building was partially opened on July 23.

Because doors to construction areas were left open, dust had been drawn into office space, causing res-

piratory problems for faculty, students and staff.

Air filters had become very dirty as a result of construction but had not been changed. Several faculty and staff members have complained about respiratory irritation, and at least one Baruch faculty member had to leave the building due to these conditions.

The open doors presented safety hazards as well, particularly to students wandering into construction areas looking for their advisors. On



The PSC's Dave Kotelchuck inspecting the new building, just before it opened.

one tour PSC representatives observed that doors to the construction areas were not locked or secured shut on any of the floors between 4 and 13, nor were any security personnel present.

Other problems included extremely loud noise in offices located next to elevators, and cracks in sev-

eral of the large glass panels on the building's exterior.

Union officers raised these problems with the Chancellor, Baruch's president and other CUNY administrators in July and August. Baruch's management postponed the opening of office areas one week, but refused to delay the move any further.

While construction is completed, ventilation systems may not run properly. Members who experience poor air quality or other problems should call and e-mail appropriate campus officials, and should inform the union as well.

The PSC brought one potentially serious safety concern to the attention of the Chancellor and CUNY administrators: the railings on the balconies which overlook the soon-to-be-opened atrium are relatively low, presenting a serious fall hazard. Chest-high barriers on these railings are urgently needed. Also, there are open gaps of about three inches between the bottoms of the railings and the floors, through which objects could fall and hurt someone below. Netting or strips of plastic are needed to prevent this.

For latest reports on conditions in Baruch's new building, see the PSC Web site at [www.psc-cuny.org](http://www.psc-cuny.org).



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** | WRITE TO: CLARION/PSC, 25 W. 43RD STREET, FIFTH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10036. E-MAIL: [PSC-EDITOR@ATT.NET](mailto:PSC-EDITOR@ATT.NET). FAX: 212-302-7815.

## Will the next City Council stand up for CUNY?

● On paper, New York City has a representative government. In fact, however, many City Council members abdicate responsibility over policy. Instead, they trade their power and independence for discretionary funds doled out by an all-powerful Speaker for projects in their districts. The upcoming election of a new Council, made possible by term limits and public financing of campaigns, may finally put an end to this "silence of the lambs."

Several candidates propose to bring a progressive agenda and a new activism to the Council. Some bring a record in the labor movement. Steven Banks (CD 39, Park Slope) has defended the homeless as a Legal Aid attorney and was once a shop steward fighting for his embattled local. Robert Jackson (CD 7, Washington Heights), who works with the Public Employees Federation, successfully sued the state for equal funding for New York City schools. Arthur Cheliotis (CD19 Queens) as President of Communication Workers Local 1180 has long raised the call for taxing the wealth in this city to fund needed public services.

We need to build a strong climate of support for CUNY by electing these and other allies of our university and our union.

– Jackie DiSalvo, Baruch

### Don't vote, organize

● Cecelia McCall (Summer 2001) argues that the PSC should campaign for a CUNY-friendly City Council, and has given excellent leadership to the effort approved by the Delegate Assembly. But there are questions for the union here that need deeper discussion. Given where support for the Demo-

cratic Party has left labor, it is time for new thinking.

A "forgotten left" labor tradition, whose slogan was "Don't vote, organize," mistrusted all participation in the electoral system of the liberal capitalist state, and some of the new social movements based in civil society go the same way. A tradition of electoral participation through labor's own parties also exists, but do we have such a party? Debate also raged over the aims of labor electoral work: for reformists, taking some measure of power through elections; for revolutionaries, using elections to educate, agitate, and organize. We should look at all the electoral histories of labor.

The Democratic Party is a capitalist party, anti-labor (NAFTA), racist (workfare), and imperialist (the bombing of Yugoslavia). I understand that the PSC endorsements are not meant to build the candidates' party, but they inevitably do. An alternative for now is to focus on workplace organizing, rebuilding labor as a political force from the ground up.

– Tony O'Brien, Queens College

### For Ferrer

● We urge the PSC to endorse Fernando Ferrer for Mayor. Fernando Ferrer has always been there for CUNY, often standing alone among politicians, and now it is time for CUNY to be there for him. He has consistently and publicly fought for greater student access to CUNY.

Ferrer grew up in the South Bronx, and personally knows the value of opportunity. He is the only candidate so far to deliver a major policy address on the future of CUNY. Ferrer has called for a community college faculty that is 70% full-time and for paying half the tu-

ition of working community college students who also attend school full-time. And he has pledged to discontinue the practice of using CUNY for political patronage.

An endorsement by the PSC will send a message to elected officials that we are willing to go to the mat only for candidates who have demonstrated significant support for CUNY.

– Ruth Messinger, Hunter School of Social Work; Lawrence Rushing, La Guardia; Bill Crain, City College

### 2 views in District 1

● The PSC's decision to only 'recommend' Kwong Hui in the District 1 City Council race is indeed an issue of grave concern. The candidate who got the PSC's endorsement is stained with the dishonor of having crossed the Jing Fong picket line in 1995. Kwong Hui, one of the leaders of the ultimate victory at the Jing Fong restaurant, has the proven track record of standing up against all of the organized elements in Chinatown (located in District 1) that continually keep workers there subject to the vile, unhealthy, and illegal sweatshop system that so pitifully characterizes standard operating procedure in that community. These organized elements include organized crime, organized business, the NYPD, as well as traditional organized labor. Given the struggle the New Caucus waged against the inept old guard at the PSC, it seems somewhat of a contradiction that the new leadership of the PSC would so typically support that candidate who garnered the most big-union money and support. I encourage all progressive rank-and-file members of the PSC who live in District 1 to reject our union's en-

dorsed candidate and instead vote for Kwong Hui, a proven leader, fighter, and proud graduate of CUNY.

– Martin Scott Carter, BMCC

*Peter Hogness, Editor of Clarion, writes: As Carter notes, the PSC's Delegate Assembly voted to strongly recommend Rocky Chin and give him the union's endorsement, while also recommending Kwong Hui as worthy of support. Members can find out more about them at [www.rockychin2001.com](http://www.rockychin2001.com), and at [www.kwonghui2001.com](http://www.kwonghui2001.com).*

*Clarion asked the Chin campaign for a response, and was given a letter from Donald Young, former president of the Chinese American Association (CAA) of the City of New York, which held the 1995 dinner at the Jing Fong.*

*Young states that the CAA, a municipal workers' group that is mostly union members, booked the restaurant at a time when settlement talks had begun in the Jing Fong dispute and demonstrations had stopped. Young argues that the picket at the CAA dinner was an attempt to embarrass him personally due to a separate disagreement with the Chinese Staff and Workers Association, which organized the Jing Fong campaign.*

*The Chin campaign adds: "As an attorney, Rocky Chin has aggressively fought discrimination and promoted equality and dignity for all people. His union credentials are impeccable. He is a founding member of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) and a member of the Advisory Board of New York Jobs With Justice. From the campaign against exploitative sweatshops to the effort to organize workers in greengrocers, Rocky has a proven track record of strug-*

*gling for the organization of workers without union representation. That is why Rocky has more labor endorsements than any other candidate in District 1."*

### In Sunset Park

● George Martinez, one of the PSC's own, is running for City Council in the 38th District in Brooklyn. I urge the union to rally behind him in his remarkable attempt to unseat a lackluster incumbent. George grew up on welfare with his mother and sister in the Sunset Park and Red Hook sections of Brooklyn. He is a product of the open admissions and remediation policies of CUNY, having attended BMCC and Brooklyn College. He now teaches political science at Hunter. George stands for a major reinvestment in public education and greater access to CUNY. He also believes improved police/community relations are essential – especially in communities of color. Four years ago, George co-founded a nonprofit organization called the Blackout Arts Collective, which seeks to empower youth through the arts. Today, Blackout works in the city's schools, and students can take courses offered by Blackout in the arts for credit toward their diploma. If elected, George will be nothing less than a warrior for CUNY.

– Christopher Malone

*[The author, an adjunct at Hunter from 1996 to 2000, is political director of Martinez's campaign]*

### Write to Clarion

Letters should be no more than 150-200 words in length, and are subject to editing.

Pataki rejects calls to raise spending

# Budget impasse puts CUNY funding gains at risk

By PETER HOGNESS

In a high-stakes gamble, the New York State Legislature has passed a "bare-bones" budget in an attempt to force Governor Pataki to negotiate.

The measure includes even less money than the budget Pataki proposed in January, and it will be painful for constituencies throughout the state. Leaders of the State Senate and Assembly hope that public outrage will compel the governor to agree to a supplemental spending bill.

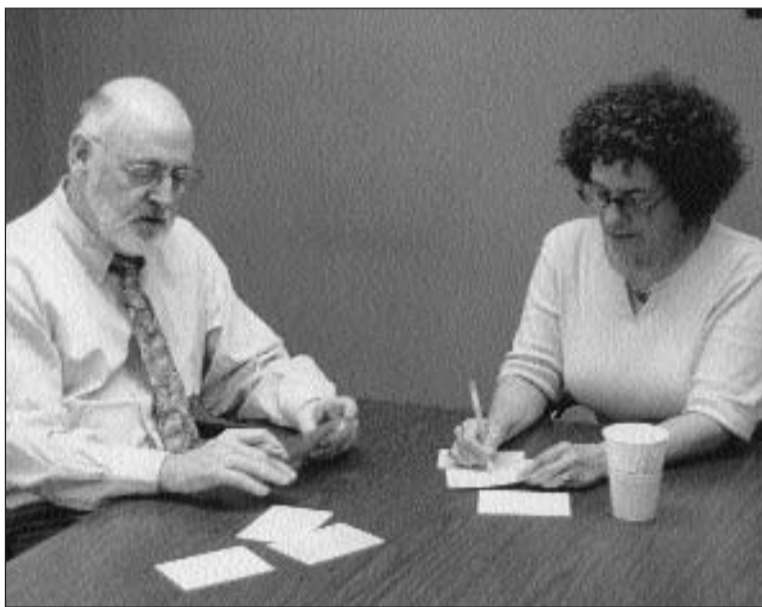
CUNY had been on the verge of winning important increases in state aid, but the impasse puts those gains at risk.

"We were poised to see a renewal of CUNY, with expected budget increases for more full-time faculty lines, for more base operating aid for community colleges and for other programs," said PSC First Vice President Steve London. Instead, he said, "The 'bare-bones' budget puts us in the hole."

## REVERSING THE CUTS

The PSC is organizing to get these cuts reversed and win funding for budget items that the Assembly approved in its version of the budget in April. These include:

- \$20 million for full-time faculty lines.
- \$10 million for base aid for community colleges.
- \$24 million for graduate fellowships, SEEK, Centers for Worker Education, child care and other programs.
- 3% contribution reduction for



Chapter chairs Charles Molesworth of Queens and Joan Greenbaum of LaGuardia write to Albany, demanding funds for CUNY.

participants in TIAA-CREF and similar retirement plans after 10 years of service, to achieve pension equity with TRS.

In August, all PSC members were sent postcards to be mailed to Pataki, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver. "Elected officials must hear from individuals," said PSC Secretary Cecelia McCall, chair of the union's Legislative Committee. "It has an impact!"

The union is working together with NYSUT and the state AFL-CIO, as well as the Chancellor's office and the CUNY Legislative Action Committee, to get a supplemental budget passed that will get CUNY's funding back on track.

Pataki's immediate response to the Legislature's move was defiant. "This is a thin attempt to try to force me to pass a budget that spends billions more than the state can afford," the governor told an upstate news conference on August 3. "It's not going to happen." Pataki crisscrossed the state to argue his case, blasting the Legislature from two directions: on one hand, he accused its leaders of being spendthrifts; on the other, he sought to blame them for the fallout from the austere budget.

Leaders of the Senate and Assembly hope that the governor will not want to be in the position of vetoing a supplemental budget with funding for many popular programs. They calculate that Pataki will not want to

go into an election year as the man who killed aid to education, health care and the environment.

The "bare-bones" budget adds up to \$80 billion, \$4 billion less than Pataki had proposed and \$6 billion less than the Assembly leadership is seeking. The effects of these cuts will be widespread.

For example, New York City Schools Chancellor Harold Levy has told local districts to cut their budgets by \$120 million. Cuts will also affect nutritional services for people with AIDS, housing assistance for the homeless, legal services for the poor, and more.

## CONTRADICTION ASSESSMENTS

Will a supplemental budget be passed in the fall, closing some of these gaps? At the end of the summer, the answer was unclear. Two news stories in *The New York Times*, both published on the same day, had contradictory assessments: one declared that a supplemental budget was likely, while another called it "a cloudy prospect at best."

The CUNY Chancellor's office predicted that the beginning of the Fall semester would not be disrupted, though spokespeople said that cash flow might require some extra attention.

The PSC's leadership called on members to be vigilant. "If your college president or administrators take any action to curtail expected hires or searches and use the state budget as an excuse, let the union know immediately," said London. "Political maneuvers around the state budget must not get in the way of rebuilding CUNY."

## The state budget: a struggle for control

The struggle between Governor Pataki and the Legislature over the state budget is only partly about how much to spend. It is also about who's in control.

New York's governor has more authority over the state budget than the executive in most other states, and in recent years the Legislature's power has eroded further. The "bare-bones" budget passed in August by the State Senate and Assembly is to some extent an act of desperation: they could think of no other way to push Pataki towards compromise, even if many programs that they support got hurt in the process.

"We're cutting ourselves and bleeding all over him," is the way one Democratic lawmaker de-

scribed it to *The New York Times* (August 8).

New York's Constitution gives the power to initiate appropriations bills to the governor, and the Legislature is given limited ability to make changes.

In the past, the Legislature got around these limits by horse-trading, which led to a tradition of three-way negotiations between the governor and the Speakers of the State Senate and Assembly. The brinkmanship that often characterized this bargaining has produced late state budgets for 17 years in a row.

A 1993 court decision increased the governor's leverage. Pataki has recently insisted that the budget he submits in January is not an opening gambit, but a final plan that the

Legislature has a duty to approve. On August 16, Pataki sued the Legislature over the "bare-bones" budget, charging that it infringes on his budget-writing powers.

In the current struggle over the distribution of power, the Republican Senate and Democratic Assembly have made common cause against the governor. Ed Sullivan, chair of the Assembly's higher education committee, says that if a supplemental budget is passed, "it will change the way that budgets are made."

This high-stakes confrontation poses some dangers for CUNY's funding. Pataki may decide to sit tight and refuse to compromise, if he thinks that the public will blame the Legislature and not him for the im-

asse. Pataki could then propose more generous spending next year - when he is running for re-election.

Even if a supplemental budget is passed, there is a risk that any last-minute deal might leave CUNY out of the equation.

"We're smaller than a lot of other interests," comments Andy Beveridge, associate professor of sociology at Queens and the Graduate Center. "We have to be able to make noise at the moment when it would be most effective, and we'll have to pay close attention to know when that is."

By November, will the Legislature's strategy look brilliant or bone-headed? The answer depends largely on how much anger is heard from the public. - PH

## CUNY NEWS IN BRIEF

### Arrests at Hostos

As *Clarion* went to press, four students were arrested at Hostos while some were urging a boycott of registration to demand more Spanish-language class sections. A student and two security officers reported injuries.

"There are different views among faculty, staff and students about these issues," said Hostos PSC Chapter Chair Lucinda Hughey. "But regardless of those differences, it's terrible that anyone was hurt."

The next day, during a protest against the arrests, Prof. Bill Crain of CCNY tried to observe registration. Hostos security officers blocked his path and said he was not allowed to enter the building. "They said, 'You must leave, you're blocking the doorway,'" Crain told *Clarion*. "I told them, 'That's ridiculous - you've got about a 12-foot doorway here.'" Crain was then arrested. "They handcuffed me and took me down to the basement," said Crain. "I was held about 45 minutes, handcuffed the whole time."

Several other CUNY faculty were also denied entry, including PSC President Barbara Bowen, present as an observer. "Students and faculty have a legitimate right to take part in or witness civil protest," Bowen said.

*Clarion* will have more coverage next issue.

### BMCC is #1

More African-American students earn their associate's degrees at BMCC than at any other community college in the US, according to data from the federal Department of Education. *Community College Week* reports that 833 African-Americans graduated from BMCC in the 1999-2000 school year.

Out of over 1,500 community colleges nationwide, LaGuardia was fourth, Kingsborough 19th and Queensborough 20th in the overall number of students of color who earned their AA degree. BCC was 11th in the number of degrees awarded to black students and 13th in degrees to Latinos. Hostos was 27th in the total number of Latino graduates.

### The new "ER"?

Richard Dreyfuss is a professor and Brooklyn College is his workplace in the new CBS-TV series, "The Education of Max Bickford." The Brooklyn campus is being used to film scenes at "Chadwick College," the fictional school where Bickford (Dreyfuss) is a professor of history.

Filming began in late July and will continue through April 2002. The show airs Sundays at 8 pm.

# The photo they don't want you to see

By PETER HOGNESS & LAUREN WEBER

Three uniformed security officers at Baruch College said we weren't allowed to take this photograph. In fact, they threw us out of the building to stop us.

So what's in this picture that's so important? It's Ninfa Segarra's empty office.

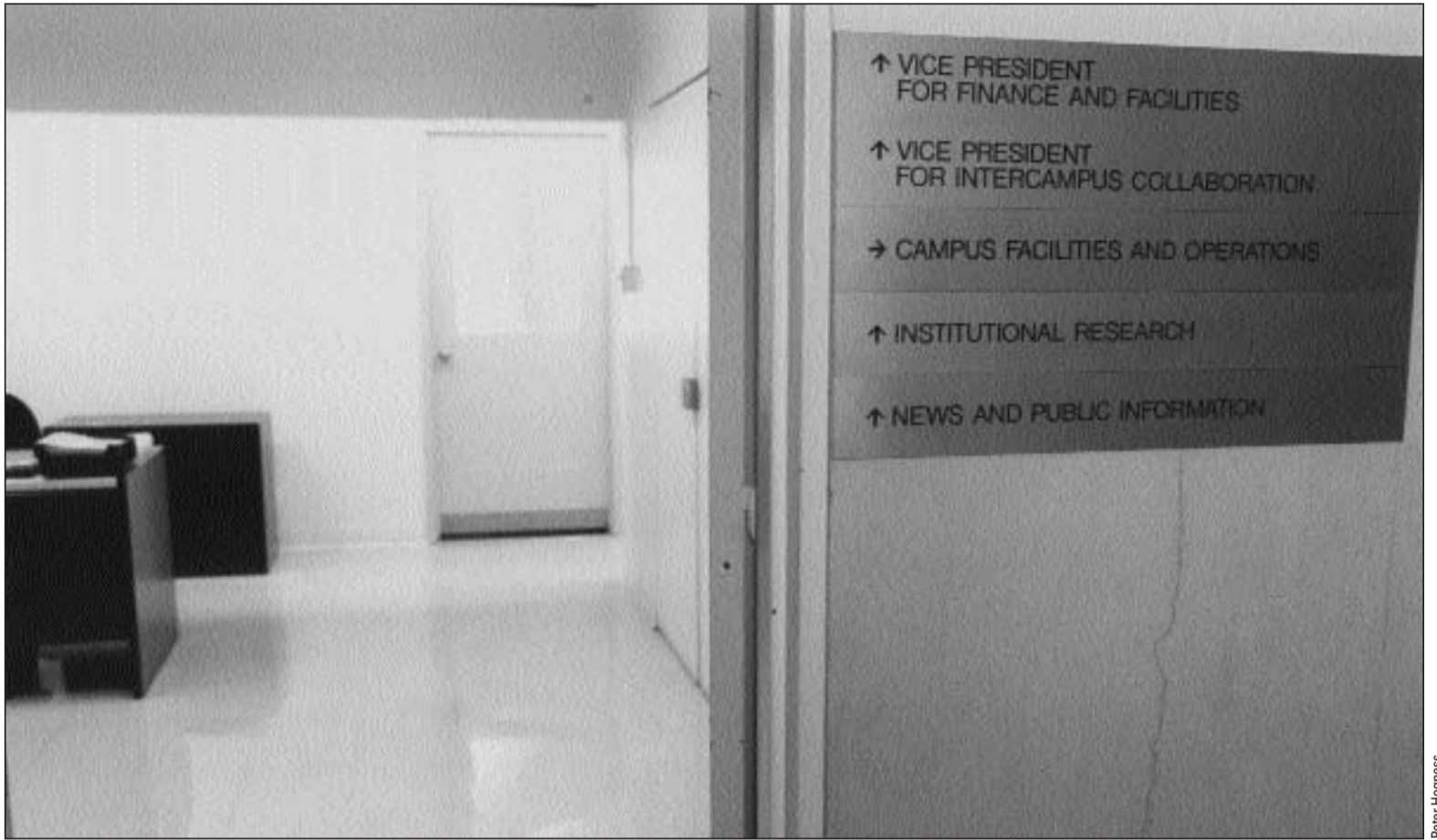
The last issue of *Clarion* reported that Segarra, a close ally of Mayor Giuliani and president of the Board of Education, makes \$115,000 a year as a Vice President of the CUNY Research Foundation – but is almost never in her CUNY office. Even more mysterious, no one would tell us how many hours a week Segarra spends working on her CUNY job as “Vice President for Intercampus Collaboration.” Segarra, Chancellor Goldstein, and RF Executive Director Nina Peyser all refused to answer this question.

The story was picked up by the *Daily News* on July 13, under the headline “Board of Ed Prez Fights Slacker Rap.”

When the *News* asked Segarra how many hours a week she devotes to CUNY, she answered, “I'm not going to give my hours, that's really inappropriate.” At the end of August, *Clarion* filed a request for information on Segarra's schedule under New York's Freedom of Information Law.

*Clarion* also reported that no one seemed to know where the funds for Segarra's salary come from. Goldstein had told the Faculty Senate that Segarra would be “a project employee” on an externally funded grant, but this summer the Chancellor's office could not tell us who had provided the grant or what it was for.

In a July 20 story in *The Chief*, the civil service weekly, CUNY Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson was quoted as saying that Segarra's salary is being paid out of grant



The lights are on, but no one's home: the office of the Vice President for Intercampus Collaboration.

overhead, an amount the RF deducts from each research grant to cover the costs of its administration.

This raises new questions, as official descriptions of Segarra's job contained no reference to the work of the Research Foundation or to the administration of grants at CUNY.

#### QUOTED CORRECTLY

In August Hershenson confirmed to *Clarion* that he had been quoted correctly, and offered this explanation: “Among her responsibilities is to assist in obtaining grants and other funds relating to inter-campus collaborations and partnership programs with the NYC Board of Edu-

cation.”

This appears to contradict a statement made last year by Chancellor Goldstein, who told the University Faculty Senate, “The money [for Segarra's salary] is being fueled by City government. There is no assault on any of the indirect cost recoveries.” Manfred Philipp, chair of the RF's Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) and a member of its Board of Directors, told *Clarion*, “This is the reason that the FAC pursued this in the beginning, because of our suspicion that this was overhead recovery money.”

In August, *Clarion* again attempted to speak with RF director Peyser

about Segarra's duties. As before, she refused to comment and directed all inquiries to Hershenson.

Segarra's office is located on the 6th floor of the Baruch administrative building at 135 E. 22nd Street. Despite the controversy, her appearances there are still rare. In mid-August a clerical worker in the same office suite told *Clarion* that she could not remember the last time Segarra had been around. “I haven't seen her in quite a while,” the worker said.

#### CONFRONTED

When *Clarion's* editor and a photographer arrived at Segarra's of-

fice, we introduced ourselves to an administrator and explained that we were with the PSC newspaper.

Soon after, we were confronted by a Lieutenant McAndrew and two other officers from the Baruch security force, who had been alerted to our presence.

“This is Baruch College property, and you do not have permission to take pictures at Baruch College!” Lt. McAndrew said angrily. We were barred from the building and denied readmittance.

Ironically, the sign in the hall outside indicates that “News and Public Information” can be found in the same area as Segarra's office.

## PSC files grievance against Goldstein's initiative

By MIKE LUMELSKY

The PSC has filed a grievance in response to Chancellor Goldstein's initiative to have department chairs evaluated by the college presidents. The PSC calls the move an assault on both academic freedom and union jurisdiction, as chairs are currently elected by faculty and are protected under the union contract as well.

The Chancellor announced the action in October 2000. “This initiative...is in violation of the collective bargaining rights of the Professional Staff Congress. We object to it in the strongest possible terms,” said President Barbara Bowen in a letter

### Dept. chairs targeted by 80th Street

in reply. The union has circulated a petition among faculty demanding that the evaluations stop. Many department chairs have announced their refusal to cooperate with the Chancellor's efforts.

“Formally, the last contract gives the administration some rights to appoint or remove chairpersons, but only in extraordinary circumstances and under circumscribed conditions,” says PSC grievance counselor Bart Meyers. “There already is an evaluation of department chairs, by their peers. The Chancellor may want more control, but he has to ne-

gotiate with us.”

Prior to a Step 2 hearing on the grievance, expected this fall, the union is examining cases where colleges have responded to Goldstein's initiative and taken steps to evaluate chairs. Medgar Evers was the first to do so. At BMCC the administration has picked up the cause of presidential evaluations with particular zeal. At the May faculty council meeting, President Antonio Perez went so far as to say, “The faculty only recommends a chair – I appoint them.”

“There is no legal basis for that

statement,” says Jim Perlstein, professor of history at BMCC. “The administrators are just feeling their oats. It's an effort to intimidate and control, and to imply that if you don't make me happy you're in danger.”

Chancellor Goldstein, answering criticisms at the March 27, 2001 deliberations of the University Faculty Senate, offered an explanation: “We really can't, with the limited resources we have, allow the campuses to act as a federation of campuses that are going off in every direction.... We really do need to ensure that the president knows what the chair is doing with respect to moving that department consistent with where the college is going and con-

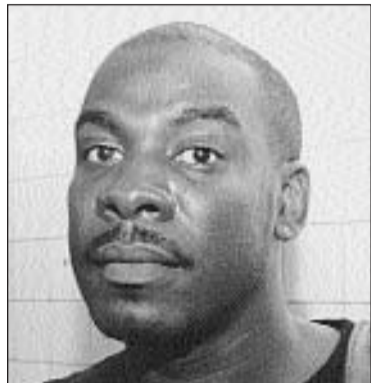
sistent with where the University is going.”

President Bowen responds, “The academic direction for the colleges comes from the faculty. We already have a contractual procedure for evaluation of faculty; to introduce a new evaluation for chairs is to violate the contract.”

The PSC will resume its petition drive against evaluations in the fall. “We urge all faculty to sign the petition, to help maintain academic freedom and the integrity of CUNY's educational mission,” said Meyers. “The administration's desire to centralize its control only serves the politicized goals of mayors, governors, and their appointees.”

# Why did you join the union?

Adjuncts answer our Roving Reporter



Peter Hogness

**TIBAB McNEISH**  
Physics Dept., Hunter

Parity. The union can be very important for securing parity. And we need pay for office hours. I give my students as much time as I can, but there's a limit. Altruism is great – but after a while I get hungry! We need to be compensated for that.

I think the protection that is afforded by a union is vital, because sometimes adjuncts can be taken advantage of. They can. A colleague of mine has been after me to join for years, and I finally relented. Until I sat down and really examined the benefits of union membership, I never realized how important it can be.

I would encourage other adjuncts to join the union, not just because of the benefits, but also to support its mission. The union exists for worker solidarity – and I like that.



Peter Hogness

**ELIZABETH HADDRELL**  
English Dept., Hunter

I'd always wanted to join. I know some of the people who are active in the union, and I agree with their principles. But my finances as a part-timer were such that I felt it was hard to afford.

So once the system was changed so that the money was taken out anyway, I thought it would be insane not to join. I want to have a voice in the decisions.

And I don't think it's a bad idea, to take the money out from everyone. I believe in it, in principle [laughs]. It helps, too, that the dues are now pro-rated by income. It feels more fair, and that's important to me.



Peter Hogness

**FRANK LIM**  
Biology Dept., Hunter

I teach molecular genetics, in Bio 302. I'm finishing up my master's – just concentrating on research I'm doing, and teaching some of the time and taking classes. So I'm looking at these leaflets from the union, and what they say is pretty much what every graduate student wants.

Real health benefits, tuition remission for CUNY graduate students – I think we need all of that. Good health insurance is really important. We're living in New York City, where anything can happen.

Graduate students should get paid enough to live on, too. Some of these people, they're working not only at CUNY but also at a second job. I don't know how they do it.



Peter Hogness

**FRANK MARTINEZ**  
Biology Dept., Hunter

Joining the union, I thought it might help bring in certain improvements. I don't know if it's really going to do any good, but I figured why not try it? It's like they say, there's strength in numbers.

A union is good for workers. I think especially adjuncts, who only teach part-time, they really need the help. Even more than others.

The main issue for me is the medical coverage. The benefits here are nonexistent. We need some improvements there, and some kind of decent wage increase.



Susan Lerner

**MURIEL BENJAMIN**  
English Dept., Hunter

Actually I joined because of the militancy of the union's new leadership. I was very impressed with the mailings I was getting. I think the consistency and energy with which they've dealt with adjuncts' needs has been incredible. They've shown such spirit and intelligence – well, I just thought it would be unconscionable *not* to join.

I'm very curious to see whether all this new effort bears fruit. I mean, there's great drama involved. Everybody's been asleep for years. But I have faith in this kind of activism, and that's why I joined. The mailings reminded me, once again, that it has to happen with numbers. For me, it's almost as simple as that.

## Agency fee collection to begin in Fall

By KRISTIN LAWLER

Starting with the first paycheck of Fall semester, all CUNY adjuncts who haven't yet joined the union will see a deduction for "agency fee." This fee is equivalent to adjunct union dues, 1% of gross income.

Agency fee is based on the principle that the union represents everyone in the bargaining unit and wins improvements that benefit all, member and non-member alike. When someone is fired without cause, both members and non-members have the right to file a grievance. When the union wins a pay increase, it goes to members and non-members alike. Agency fee ensures that everyone bears a share of the costs.

In 1976 a new section of the Taylor Law was passed, which established the right of public employee unions in New York to collect an agency fee. The PSC has collected an agency fee from full-timers for years, and, not surprisingly, the vast majority have joined the union to have a voice in its decisions. The PSC has had the legal right to collect this fee from part-timers as well –

### Adjunct membership expected to soar

but in the past adjuncts' concerns got little attention within the union, and there was no major effort to get them to join. "The failure to collect agency fee was just another example of the union's failure to treat adjuncts the same as any other member," said Eric Marshall, PSC Vice President for Part-Time Personnel. "This ended up disenfranchising most of CUNY's classroom faculty."

No longer, say union activists. The decision to collect agency fee was announced to all CUNY part-timers in early March, in tandem with the kick-off of the PSC's "Strength in Numbers" organizing campaign. Since the start of the campaign, adjunct membership has more than doubled, from around 800 to a new high of nearly 2,000 (out of about 7,000 adjuncts). "The energy of the campaign and the number of new members we've been seeing is extraordinary," said PSC Associate Executive Director Mary Ann Carlese. "But clearly, this is just the beginning. Once the fee collection begins, the union can reach all CUNY

adjuncts with the message that membership equals power."

At the July 17 round of contract negotiations with CUNY management, PSC President Barbara Bowen ended her presentation on the necessity for pay and benefit parity between adjuncts and full-timers with the point that adjunct membership is growing fast, a trend that will accelerate in the months ahead. The new contract simply has to include gains for adjuncts, Bowen said.

#### FIGHT FOR BETTER CONDITIONS

"The fight to improve working conditions for adjuncts is a fight for the survival of the profession," Bowen told *Clarion*. "Nothing has undermined salaries and conditions for full-time faculty more than the exploitation of part-timers. We must remove management's incentive to hire underpaid part-timers rather than investing in full-time faculty."

This fall every CUNY adjunct, returning and new, is receiving a union membership packet in his or

her mailbox on the first day of school. (If you do not get a packet, call Mary Ann Carlese at the PSC central office: 212-354-1252, x225.) Mass meetings will be held on each campus, at which adjuncts can hear from union representatives, voice their concerns, get to know one another and have some fun. Events will be held citywide during Campus Equity Week (October 28 to November 3), a nationwide grassroots campaign to highlight the exploitation of adjuncts and the movement to end it.

The union implemented agency fee to mobilize adjuncts, not to collect more money. "The PSC will just about break even on the collection of the fee," says Ingrid Hughes, Community College Officer and Adjunct Organizer, "given the increased costs of representing more members. But now that adjuncts will pay the same amount of money whether they join or not, they're more likely than ever before to fill out a membership card. Joining the union means joining the struggle for a living wage, decent benefits, and professional working conditions for part-timers. We need the union, and the union needs us."

## CALENDAR

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 / 11:00 am:**

Join the PSC contingent at the Labor Day parade! We'll meet at 44th St. between 5th and 6th Aves., behind the UFT contingent. Breakfast, refreshments and free union t-shirts will be served. Come and demonstrate that we are serious about getting a good contract.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 / 5:30-7:00 pm:**

The PSC Finance Committee will hold an informational forum for members at the Graduate Center (34th St. and 5th Ave.; room to be announced). The purpose of the forum is to review with members the income and expenditures of the PSC budget, to answer questions and to hear comments.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 / 6:00 am-9:00 pm:**

Primary Election Day. Be sure to vote for PSC-supported candidates for City Council. (See article on page 12.)

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 1 / 6:00 pm:**

The next meeting of the PSC's HEO Chapter will be held at the CUNY Graduate Center (34th St. and 5th Ave.) in the Martin Segal Theatre.

**CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS TIMELINE – A BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT**

MAY 2000	JUNE 2000	JULY 2000	AUGUST 2000	SEPTEMBER 2000	OCTOBER 2000	NOVEMBER 2000	DECEMBER 2000	JANUARY 2001	FEBRUARY 2001	MARCH 2001	APRIL 2001	MAY 2001	JUNE 2001	JULY 2001
Intensive schedule of meetings with members to define PSC contract demands	7 – Union Delegate Assembly holds discussions on proposed demands  22 – Delegate Assembly unanimously adopts PSC contract proposals		23 – At bargaining session with CUNY management, PSC makes opening presentation with Statement of Principles; two sides discuss ground rules	15 – PSC formally presents 170 proposals to management; union insists on openness with our members about negotiations	22 – Contract liaisons meet for first time at PSC activists' retreat  27 – PSC presses management to present its own demands; PSC provides more information on union demands on salary, workload, adjunct parity, managerial rights	3 – Management presents its demands, calls on union to drop many of our demands; PSC asks for more frequent negotiating sessions  14 – Over 450 PSC members attend mass meeting on the contract, the first since the 1970s  17 – PSC continues to press for economic offer from management, and presents proposals on PSC/CUNY relations and who's included in the union	21 – PSC argues for right to negotiate in advance over changes in our conditions of work, and presents retiree demands  Over 500 members write letters to Chancellor Goldstein urging acceptance of PSC demands	11 – Municipal Labor Committee wins improvements in health benefits, with PSC playing a strong role; City and State agree to negotiate over including CUNY adjuncts in City health plan  12 – PSC presents demands on improving grievance procedure and ensuring management compliance; PSC objects to management's failure to make economic offer  26 – PSC argues for changes in the disciplinary procedure	2 – PSC presents demands on issues for College Laboratory Technicians and Higher Education Officers, focusing on need for promotion, professionalism and overtime pay  23 – PSC continues to protest lack of an economic offer, and presents HEO demands; union demands all staff members have a desk and a chair; PSC presents educational technology proposals; management balks at negotiating on intellectual property issues	16 – PSC protests management's cancellation of bargaining sessions and lack of an economic offer, presents demands on health and safety and on professional life, including adjunct and junior faculty issues  28 – "Teach CUNY" Day – 4,500 faculty, staff and students show support for the PSC's proposal for a transformative contract	11 – Management responds to PSC presentation on grievance and disciplinary procedures  23 – 700 PSC members picket outside meeting of the Board of Trustees; BoT goes into executive session to discuss negotiations  27 – PSC responds to management proposal on grievance and discipline, and urges management to stay in session until agreement is reached, but they do not	11 – PSC and management argue their proposals on grievance and discipline  18 – PSC members picket outside negotiations at CUNY Grad Center; inside, PSC lays out its main economic issues; grievance and discipline go unresolved after management takes hard line  30 – PSC protests lack of economic offer from management; moves on to non-economic demands, starting with retiree issues	Students and parents show support for PSC contract demands at Graduation  12 – PSC makes counteroffer on retiree demands; management refuses; union argues for right to negotiate changes in terms and conditions of employment  21 – Management presents financial offer of 2%, 2% and 2.5% over 3 years  25 – PSC members picket BoT meeting, denounce 2% offer as a pay cut	10 – PSC begins counterproposal to management's offer; presents proposals on achieving competitive workloads  17 – PSC continues counteroffer, presenting need for substantial salary increases and adjunct parity; management says it will consider union proposals

A look inside negotiations

# What happens at the bargaining table?

By **BARBARA BOWEN**  
PSC President

What happens in our contract bargaining sessions? Over a hundred members have attended as observers, but thousands of the 17,000 people for whom we negotiate have not. We hope more members will be able to participate in the future – but it's important that everyone know what goes on.

Our negotiating team – nine union officers appointed by the Executive Council, assisted by legal counsel and the union's top staff – sits across the table, literally, from representatives of the CUNY Board of Trustees. Negotiations for CUNY are unusually complex, partly because of the diversity and size of our workforce, partly because the CUNY contract involves both the City and the State.

Signaling their close ties to Mayor Giuliani, the Board has hired Randy Levine as a consultant to their negotiating team of Vice Chancellors Brenda Malone, Frederick Schaffer and their staffs. Levine is a long-time Giuliani ally, going back to Giuliani's days as a strike-breaker in the Attorney General's office under Reagan; he later became the City's Labor Commissioner. It's not unusual for CUNY negotiations to take years – the last contract took 2 and 1/2 – but we have tried to change that. We've been hampered, however, by management's obstruction and delays.

While our team answers to no one

but the membership, management's representatives report to the City and State as well as the Chancellor and the CUNY Board. Our negotiating team is empowered to make decisions at the table, subject to ratification by the union's leadership and members, but management's team tells us at critical junctures that they have to wait for "authorization" from the City and State. This has been carried to absurd lengths, such as when management waited ten months to make its first salary offer.

This issue of "authorization" is one of the faultlines at the bargaining table. The union has invited management instead to become our partner in renewing CUNY as a research university. That will mean challenging 30 years of anti-CUNY policy, not waiting obediently for "authorization." Much of our time at the bargaining table has been spent demonstrating in detail why the union's demands would advance the University: why junior faculty need re-

leased time for research, why HEOs need compensation for overtime, why adjuncts need pay equity, why there must be new salary steps added to the top of the scale. We have "costed out" every one of our demands: we know how many employees are at each title, what every fraction of a salary increase is worth, how much it would cost to provide parity for adjuncts and a reasonable workload for full-

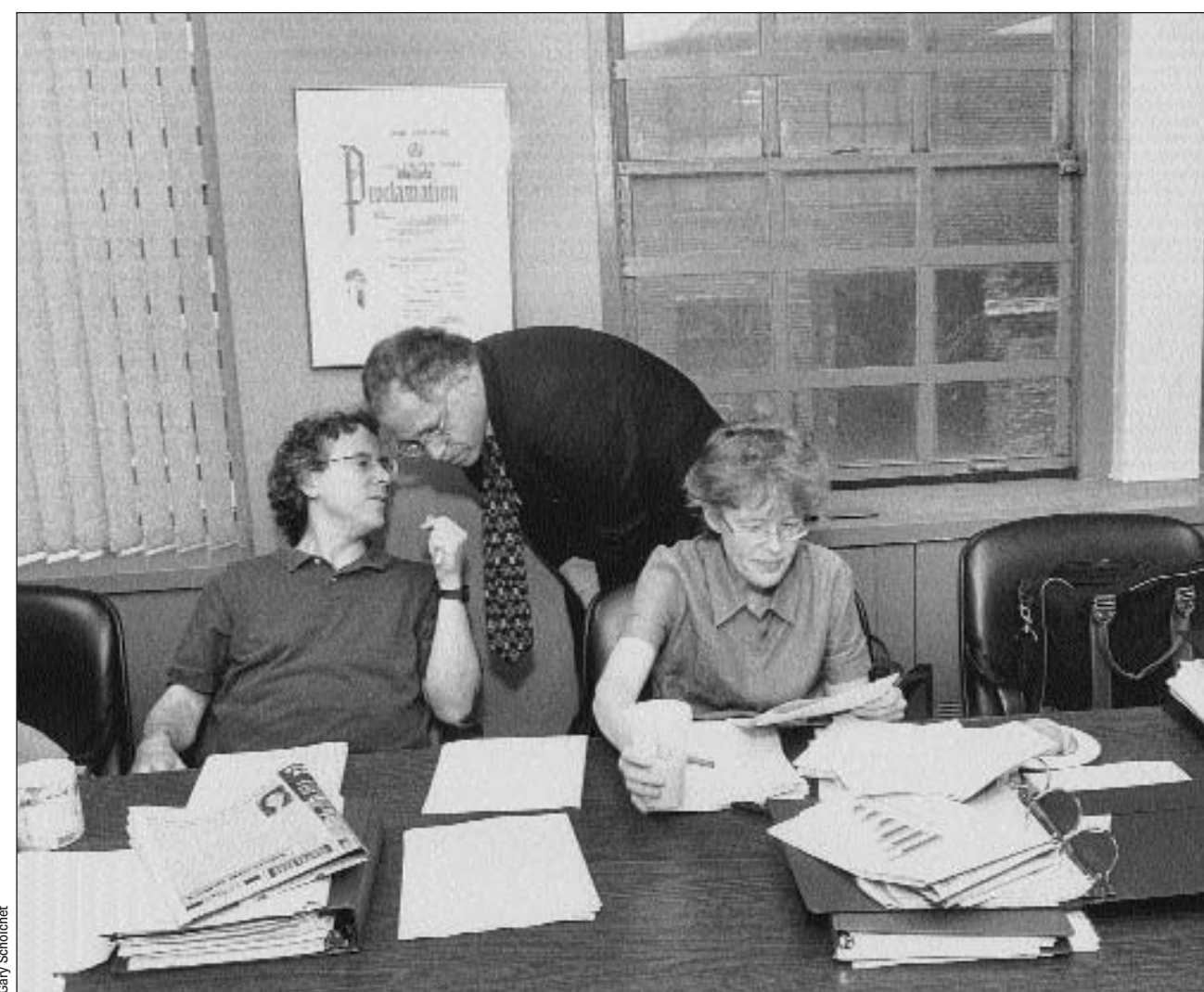
timers. None of what CUNY needs can be done with an increase of a mere 2%.

But many of the issues we discuss at the table are only obliquely related to money, and therefore we have not reduced our counteroffer to a number at this time. A significant portion of our sessions have been dedicated to classic struggles over employee rights. Scores of hours were spent this spring trying to hammer out an agreement on grievance and arbitration, only to have the framework collapse over management's insistence on abridging due process.

Intellectual property, professionalism for part-time employees, and managerial rights have also been tough issues at the table, with the union defending professional autonomy in academic decisions throughout the ranks of employees.

The sessions have ranged from expository to explosive, but negotiations enter a new phase this fall as we present our counter-offer to management's 2%. Other municipal unions have been successful in winning contracts that exceed the City's "pattern"; they've shown that this is possible. Librarians threw themselves into a no-holds-barred campaign of protest and pressure aimed at the New York Public Library board and city government, and after a multi-year campaign they won a double-digit raise.

What happens at the bargaining table? In the end, the answer to that question will be decided by what goes on outside. As librarians' union president Ray Markey put it, "We got what we were strong enough to get."



Gary Schindler



Susan Lerner

ABOVE: First Vice President Steve London (seated) confers with PSC legal consultant Arthur Schwartz. President Barbara Bowen studies document.

LEFT: PSC members picket outside negotiations at the CUNY Grad Center in May.

RIGHT: Hong Wu, Associate Director of the Queens College Asian-American Center, speaks at "Teach CUNY" event.

How you can make a difference

# Building public support for the PSC contract campaign

By **NANCY ROMER**  
Co-Coordinator, Contract Campaign

Building public support for the PSC and for CUNY's students is critical to winning the contract that we need. How can we turn the tide away from disinvestment in CUNY and toward a renaissance of public support for our work?

It won't happen all at once, but we must begin to turn the tide in time to have an effect on this round of contract negotiations.

The PSC leadership, including our hard-working contract liaisons, are planning a series of new actions to create more public awareness of the PSC and the importance of our contract fight for rebuilding CUNY to better serve the people of NYC. One thing is key to the success of this strategy: the participation of a very large number of our own members.

**CAMPUS-BASED ACTIONS** PSC members on each campus (faculty, HEOs and CLTs) will be asked to decide on a plan of local actions to educate the broader campus community about our contract struggle. For example, members might decide to do informational picketing and leafleting of selected public events on campus, such as concerts for community residents or community conferences held on campus.

This would let our neighbors know how all New Yorkers suffer when the faculty and professional staff at CUNY are denied a contract that keeps up with other universi-



Peter Higgins

ties. Members at some campuses might decide to leaflet and picket at events of their local college foundation, so that PSC members can speak with foundation board members and other alumni. We would be sure not to talk down CUNY, but rather let people know how CUNY management is jeopardizing CUNY's ability to serve as a critical resource for all New Yorkers.

**PRESSURING THE CUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES** We have shown that we can make the Board of Trustees respond to public pressure. For months CUNY management insisted that it would make no salary offer until the PSC dropped many of its demands.

But the union's protests and pickets focused public attention on the BoT's stonewalling, and embarrassed CUNY management into putting a wage offer – albeit an unreasonable one – on the

table. Now we need to increase the pressure. There are a range of creative tactics that can focus on the accountability of individual trustees, and put a spotlight on how the BoT is selling CUNY short.

These activities can gain press coverage and help make the trustees uncomfortable enough to change their attitude towards the negotiations.

**PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN** We are currently interviewing a number of PR firms for a campaign to bring our case to the public.

While paid media can play an important role, member involvement

is key here as well. Creative actions can draw more media attention than we could ever afford to buy. It's like the old saying: "If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own."

**REACHING OUR GOAL** As we move forward, each step of the way we will seek your ideas and your participation in taking our message out to the NYC public. No one else is going to do this for us. But working together, we can win public support and get the contract that we need. Please make sure to attend your next chapter meeting, and help move this campaign forward.

## PSC CHAPTER MEETINGS

Chapter	Date	Time	Place
<b>BMCC</b>	Sept. 5	3 - 4 pm	Room N405
	Oct. 16	2 - 4 pm	Room N405
<b>BCC</b>	Oct. 3	2 - 4 pm	TBA
<b>BROOKLYN</b>	Oct. 17	12:15 pm	SUBO
<b>CITY COLLEGE</b>	Sept. 20	12:15 - 1:45 pm	NAC 1/201
	Oct. 25	12:15 - 1:45 pm	NAC 1/201
<b>HEOs</b>	Oct. 1	6 pm	Grad Ctr., Segal Theater
<b>LAGUARDIA</b>	Sept. 9	12 noon	TBA
<b>LEHMAN</b>	Sept. 12	12:45 – 2 pm	Carman B16
	Oct. 24	1 – 2 pm (new members)	Apex 334
	Oct. 24	2 – 4 pm	Apex 334
<b>NYC TECH</b>	Sept. 13	1 - 2:30 pm	Room 701A
	Oct. 25	1 - 2:30 pm	Room 701A
<b>QUEENS</b>	Sept. 10	12 - 2 pm	Rosenthal Auditorium
	Oct. 15	12 - 2 pm	Rosenthal Auditorium
<b>QCC</b>	Oct. 24	1 - 3 pm	Oakland Room
<b>RETIREES</b>	Oct. 1	1 pm	TBA
<b>YORK</b>	Sept. 20	3:30 pm	TBA
	Oct. 17	3:30 pm	TBA

For other chapters, please contact your chapter chair

## Dues change: What to expect in your check

By **DIANA ROSATO**  
PSC Membership Coordinator

Effective September 1, all full-time members and non-members (agency fee payers) will see a change in the amount of union dues or fees deducted from their paychecks. By action of the PSC Delegate Assembly in June, all full-time employees covered by the PSC-CUNY collective bargaining agreement will incur a 1.05% union dues/agency shop fee deduction from their total gross earnings. The dues/fees rate has been restructured from a fixed bi-weekly rate to a percentage-based deduction. The new percentage-based dues or fees are scheduled for implementation on September 6 for those who are full-time at the senior colleges and September 14 for those who are full-time at the community colleges.

Under the old flat bi-weekly rate, individuals who earned the least paid the highest percentage of their income to the PSC. The new percentage-based calculation was approved to create a level of equity and fairness. Those who earn less will pay a lower rate. For the majority, this will mean a decrease in dues and fees.

Part-time PSC members will also see a switch from a fixed bi-weekly rate to a percentage-based rate. For the first time in the union's history, agency fees will be implemented to include all part-time non-members of the PSC (including adjuncts, graduate assistants, continuing education teachers and hourlies). The PSC Delegate Assembly approved implementation of agency fees for all part-timers back in February. However, due to the complexity of the City and State payroll systems it was decided to implement the part-time agency fees as well as the new percentage-based rates with the start of the new academic year.

Dues and agency shop fees will be deducted from each paycheck earned. For example, an individual that is full-time and also working part-time will incur a 1.05% union dues or agency shop fee deduction from the full-time check and a 1% union dues or agency shop fee deduction from the part-time check. Part-timers holding multiple positions will see the 1% union dues or agency shop fees deducted from each of their part-time checks. Graduate Assistants who are part-time will also incur a 1% deduction from each paycheck.

If you would like more information on joining the PSC, or want to check if you are a member, call the PSC Membership Dept. at (212) 354-1252.

# Transit union opposes closing of subway token booths

## PSC backs labor-community coalition to save jobs, protect subway safety

By **CLARION STAFF**

The PSC is working to build support for the campaign of Transit Workers Union Local 100 against the closing of many token booths throughout the subway system.

The TWU has obtained documents indicating that the MTA/NYC Transit may close or reduce hours at 102 booths in 95 of the system's 468 stations, eliminating or reducing as many as 252 token booth positions. The union has challenged the MTA's plan as both a labor and a community issue, and has been building a coalition to defend these jobs with a number of community organizations.

Community representatives have focused on the public safety aspects of the move. Token booth clerks have been very helpful in emergencies resulting from sickness, accidents or crime, and their eyes and ears act as a deterrent to crime in the first place. To many people, replacing this human presence with a Metrocard vending machine is simply not acceptable. One civic activist from Queens said, "They're putting profits above safety. They have the money but they don't want to use



**TWU Local 100 President Roger Toussaint, at right, with elected officials and community leaders opposed to token booth cutbacks.**

it." While the MTA says the move will save the agency \$6.5 million, activists opposed to the move see it as a further erosion of public services that isn't worth the price.

The "Keep the Booths Open Coalition" consists of over fifty organizations, including community

groups such as Citizen Action of NYC, the Straphangers Campaign, and the Queens Civic Congress (itself an umbrella group of 99 community organizations). The coalition's activities have included leafleting, petitioning, generating articles in community newspapers and holding

a press conference at City Hall. The PSC is participating in the coalition, and is studying MTA documents to see how the proposed booth closings might affect CUNY college stops.

"The grassroots coalition being developed by the TWU is a good example of labor-community solidarity, which the PSC is interested in promoting around CUNY issues," said PSC Treasurer John Hyland, chair of the union's Solidarity Committee. "The more people understand that the interests of labor are often the interests of the community, and vice versa, the stronger will be the power of working people throughout the city."

The TWU has gone to court to seek an injunction against the booth closings, charging that the MTA is required to hold public hearings first. A judge was scheduled to hear arguments in late August – but the MTA wants to make the cutbacks final by Labor Day. At *Clarion's* press time, the outcome was still unknown.

For an update, and to find out about activities in your own neighborhood, check the TWU website, [www.twu-100.org](http://www.twu-100.org).

# Pensions and overload teaching, tax changes and retirement funds

By **CLARISSA GILBERT WEISS**  
PSC Director of Pension & Welfare Benefits

**Q** Hi, Clarissa. I am a full-time member of the instructional staff who is a member of the TIAA/CREF retirement plan. Every summer I teach an overload course, and this summer I noticed something different. My check reflected the fact that I was making pension contributions. Is this something new?

**A** Yes. As a result of a settlement agreement with the University and the State, full-time members of the optional retirement programs (TIAA/CREF, Guardian or MetLife) now get pension credit for overload teaching. This is true for overloads taught during the academic year, as well as during the summer. You are required to make your contributions to the plan and the university will

## YOUR BENEFITS

also make the customary employer contributions to the pension. This settlement is retroactive to August 31, 2000. Within the next few weeks CUNY will be mailing a letter to each employee who is entitled to a retroactive pension payment detailing the amount of monies owed to the employee's pension plan.

More information will be forthcoming. But if you do not receive a letter when your colleagues do, and believe you are entitled to retroactive monies, you should notify the PSC immediately.

**Q** I just received my tax rebate from the federal government. Besides a big tax break for the rich and small rebates for the rest of us, I have heard that there are also pension

changes in the tax bill passed by Congress earlier this year. Is it true, and if so how will they affect me?

**A** Yes. Over the next few years, there will be a lot of changes affecting pension plans as a result of the "Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001."

Many are too complex to address in this space, and our pension advisors will be holding on-campus workshops to fully explain these changes. In the meantime, here are a few of the highlights.

1. Currently, the amount employees can defer in their SRA/TDA is limited to \$10,500 per year. The new legislation increases this limit to \$11,000 in 2002, \$12,000 in 2003, \$13,000 in 2004, \$14,000 in 2005 and \$15,000 in 2006. Beginning in 2007, the limit will be indexed to inflation in \$500 increments.

2. Employees at or over the age of 50 may make elective deferrals to their SRA/TDA beyond the statutory limit.

You will be able to contribute an additional \$1,000 in 2002, \$2,000 in 2003, \$3,000 in 2004, \$4,000 in 2005 and \$5,000 in 2006. Beginning in 2007, catch-up contributions will be indexed in \$500 increments.

3. Under federal minimum distribution rules, employees are generally able to postpone distributions from an employer's retirement plan until April of either the year they retire or the year after they turn 70, whichever is later. Distributions from IRAs and previous employers' plans must also be made by April 1 of the year you attain 70. While the bill just passed by Congress doesn't change this requirement, it instructs the Treasury Department to modify the life expectancy tables, which will result in smaller required annual payments.

# For-profit Internet colleges shrink – but MIT wants to be free

By LARRY HANLEY  
City College

*"You have changed the world with one bold move."*

That's what one anonymous e-mailer wrote last April to MIT, in response to the university's announcement that it will make nearly all of its courses available – without charge – to Internet users around the world.

"Congratulations," wrote another netizen, from Johannesburg, South Africa. "You set an example for the world. Strength to your arm."

MIT's project, called the OpenCourseWare Initiative, is not a distance learning program. The university will not grant degrees or award credits through its online venture. Instead, the publication of the university's course and pedagogical materials is intended to aid curriculum development at other institutions, especially those in developing countries; to enable individuals to access ideas and knowledge; and to spur the growth of a world-wide web of shared, public knowledge and learning resources.

The MIT effort is specifically intended to counter the trend toward the privatization and commodification of knowledge, especially in higher education. Explaining the inspiration behind the OpenCourseWare project, MIT Professor Steve Lerman said: "Selling content for profit, or trying in some ways to commercialize one of the core intellectual activities of the university seemed less attractive to people at a deep level than finding ways to disseminate it as broadly as possible." Paul Brest, president of the Hewlett Foundation, explained why the foundation is providing millions of dollars in grant support: "Our hope is that this project will inspire similar efforts at other institutions and will reinforce the concept that ideas are best viewed as the common property of all of us, not as proprietary products intended to generate profits."

## REVOLUTIONARY THING

How did it come to be a revolutionary thing for universities to make knowledge and information public?

As MIT President Charles Vest put it somewhat mildly at the unveiling of the OpenCourseWare Initiative: "OpenCourseWare looks counter-intuitive in a market-driven world." Indeed, if you read *The Chronicle of Higher Education* or *Business Week*, you know that the dot-com rush has been accompanied by an online ed mania. Along with educational service providers like WebCT and Blackboard, dozens of tradi-

tional universities and colleges have joined new, for-profit startups like University of Phoenix and Cardean University to mine the Web for student-customers and revenue dollars. Much of this profit-hunting has been driven by Wall Street, venture capital outfits, and big technology companies. Venture capital investment in education climbed from \$500 million in 1997 to over \$2.5 billion in 2000. The synergy between university administrators, eager to cut costs and "diversify" funding sources, and the corporate sector is evident in a whole new genre of talking and thinking about higher education: administrators' language is now peppered with references to "core business," "high-value," "opportunity costs," "market share," "efficiencies," and other high-calorie, low-nutrition terms.

Given this context, MIT's OpenCourseWare might seem not just counter-intuitive but downright crazy. There's gold in them thar data mountains – but the nutty professors at MIT are giving away their picks, pans and sluices.

On the other hand, MIT's faculty might have recognized something about the realities of dot-com fever: the drive to privatize and profitize knowledge via the Internet isn't working very well.

Last month, Caliber Learning Network, an online peddler of commercial courseware developed in partnership with schools like Johns Hopkins and the University of Pennsylvania, fired 70% of its employees and filed for Chapter 11 protection. Two months ago, Pensare, an online education marketing company partnered with Duke's Fuqua business school, filed for bankruptcy as well. Layoffs began this spring at Unext, whose educational partners include Stanford and Columbia and financial backers like infamous junk bond salesman Michael Milken. Fathom, an ambitious for-profit educational portal underwritten by Columbia University and led by the woman who masterminded pro football's NFL.com, recently announced a radical reorganization and restructuring of its under-surfed site. And just this July, the much-heralded Harcourt Higher Education site, a virtual university owned by the textbook publisher, announced that it would be closing down in the face of meager student demand and higher than expected costs.

Most indicative of the unhappy marriage between cyber-capitalism and higher education is the case of "Virtual Temple." Last winter, Temple University announced its



Rui Ramalheiro

plans to create a for-profit corporation to sell online courses and "take a deserving share of the global educational market." Pushing educational questions and faculty resistance aside, Temple moved forward noisily to become a market player. As summer arrived, however, university president David Adamany sadly announced Virtual Temple's untimely death. "We've closed it down," Adamany declared. "My conclusion was that there was no way for it to be financially viable."

## DEATH OF A BAD IDEA?

Are we watching the collapse of the online ed bubble and the death of a bad idea? Or is this just one of the market's passing storm fronts, sure to leave greener pastures in its turbulent wake? Pundits of the "education industry" argue that all these troubles are just a natural process of shake-out and consolidation. "We're still only in the first or second inning," insists Michael Moe, an educational market analyst for Merrill Lynch. Could it be that, thanks to its quaint altruism and a deranged sense of public mission

and service, MIT will miss out on the next evolutionary phase of higher education?

Not likely. Online ventures like "Virtual Temple" are faltering because they have neither provided good education nor been an effective way to make a buck. They're prisoners of their own educational vision, one that suffers from 3-D astigmatism: the myths of Dollars, Delivery, and Distance.

**DOLLARS:** Universities and colleges often turn to educational technology because they think they can beef up revenues by using technology to increase enrollment and cut costs. This is especially true for public institutions which face declining state support. "Instructional software," writes one proponent of a technology fix, "is essential if we are to solve the productivity problem" in higher education, because technology can reduce "personnel costs in relation to the learning outcomes produced." Unfortunately, a recent series of studies by the Sloan Foundation concludes that "those who assumed it would be possible to create new sources of revenue from online programs quickly... will be disappointed." Online education turns out to be labor- and resource-intensive, which is not what the profit-seekers had in mind.

**DELIVERY:** Most online education ventures conceive of education as course "delivery": course materials are beamed to students, who then consume them. This model of teaching and learning, also known as the "pump and dump" approach, is an old one. Unfortunately, students rarely succeed as the passive objects, rather than active subjects, of instruction, nor do they much enjoy the experience.

Like the "skill and drill" approaches associated with teaching students how to do well on standardized tests, this model forgets – among other things – that students need a reason to learn, beyond the goal of completing a course "module" or passing a test.

**DISTANCE:** As John Seely Brown and Paul Duguid argue in *The Social Life of Information*, simply defeating geographical barriers is no big deal: correspondence courses have been doing it, though with fewer bells and whistles and with more lag time, for a century or more. The real educational problem is how to build active communities of interpretation. The Web and the Internet can help here but Brown and Duguid argue that online sites and activities should be "an extension of, not a replacement for, face-to-face meetings of such a community. Their usefulness is not primarily a matter of geographical distance."

## LESS PROBLEMATIC

Online training, in which someone who already knows a given field wants to acquire a specific new skill or credential – is a less problematic fit for this "3-D" framework. But unless we allow higher learning to be dumb-downed and vocationalized, for-profit online universities are unlikely to succeed. Constrained by a stunted vision of education, online ed-repreneurs will probably end up as scavengers, picking off bits and pieces of the traditional university's far-flung activities.

On the other hand, by using the Internet to reinvigorate a global public sphere and encourage the worldwide production of public knowledge, MIT's OpenCourseWare Initiative can lay the groundwork for a more powerful, vital and valuable role for universities in the new millennium. More strength to your arm!

## Venture capitalists find it's hard to combine ".com" with ".edu"



## THE CONTRACT

## Which side are you on?

By BARBARA BOWEN  
PSC President

The iron has entered our soul. We can see the dimensions of the fight we will have to wage if we want to start rebuilding CUNY with this contract, and we are preparing to dig deep.

Almost a year ago to the day as I write this, the union's negotiating team opened the first collective bargaining session by presenting our Statement of Principles. For a year we have carefully laid out the arguments that the University is in a crisis of recruitment and retention, that it needs a breakthrough on the contract if it is to survive.

In 20 sessions at the bargaining table and many others away from it, we have marshaled the evidence for competitive salaries, reasonable teaching loads, pay equity for adjuncts and others, restoration of shared governance, and professional conditions of work for all. Scores of members have added their voices to ours, offering testimony whose intensity has sometimes stunned management into silence. We have presented reams of evidence: histories of our salary erosion, data on comparable institutions, case histories of the crisis in recruitment and retention, and more.

Yet nothing has moved them. There have been some small advances and some steps toward resolution on non-economic issues, but when management finally signaled their position, they could not have been clearer. We got an offer of a 2% annual salary "increase," well below the 3.3% annual rate of inflation.

"You don't think anything we're moved to do is because of your arguments, do you?" said Vice Chancellor Malone at one bargaining session. In essence, management is boasting that they are impervious to reason. (Their expensive consultant, Randy Levine, comes to the sessions without a note, a pen,



Negotiations, 1647: Cromwell and his officers talk with "agitators" elected by the rank & file.

a copy of our contract, even a piece of paper.) The message from management is plain: they refuse to become advocates for CUNY. They would rather be apologists for the status quo, providing a few "flagship environments" as a cover that allows the radical disinvestment to continue.

But we have not spent the year in argument alone. As management stalled at the bargaining table we readied the union for battle and demonstrated in a series of actions that this contract would not be business-as-usual. Union membership has increased by over 1,500 in a single year. We have asserted our presence in electoral politics and made gains in the City budget and

the Assembly's budget proposal in Albany. Most significant, we have developed a whole new arm of the union: contract liaisons on every campus, who galvanized over 4,000 people for "Teach CUNY" and organized two successful contract rallies.

We have built the structure for a stepped-up level of activism. All of the pieces are now in place, except for one: you.

Over 300 contract liaisons and other union activists have made the campaign a major project in their lives, but by themselves they cannot create the force to break through to a new contract. This is the moment to become involved at a new level, to make the contract fight a priority. That's hard to hear; I know

how overcommitted we are at CUNY, and how tempting it is to retreat into the myth of a private life. But we will never get closer to a reasonable workload, reverse the erosion of our salaries, or rebuild CUNY as a research university without a new level of resistance.

Each of us will have to take on the contract fight as our project – as closely identified with our own intellectual and psychic lives as the scholarly articles we write or the classes we teach. I don't underestimate what it takes to come out as a unionist, especially in academia, but if we're serious about this contract we have little choice. Pressure must intensify where the contract is lived – on the campuses – and members will have to see themselves as taking ownership of the struggle.

I am asking you to be ready to speak to colleagues about the union; to join a picket line on your campus; to inform your students systematically about what is at stake in our fight; to take direct action in your workplace and make it clear what our labor is worth.

Coming out as a unionist means acting in solidarity across the lines that separate part-timers from full-timers, staff from faculty; it means assuring junior colleagues that union activism is a natural part of their CUNY lives – in short, making this our work, in the deep sense of work that academics are privileged to have. Part of that work is insisting that the current contract be observed: management has to be made to feel the pressure immediately about health and safety violations, abuse of overtime for staff, delays in responding to grievances, requiring adjuncts to attend meetings without pay.

None of this is easy, but it's what we must do if want to change the direction of the University with this contract. Think of this year as a test of our desire for renewal of CUNY. In a very real sense, we will get the contract we are strong enough to want.

## PRIVATIZATION

## The assault on social solidarity

By NOAM CHOMSKY

There has been a general assault in the last 25 years on solidarity, democracy, social welfare, on anything that interferes with private power. One of the targets is undoubtedly the system of public education.

A couple of years ago, the big investment firms like Lehman Brothers were sending around brochures to their clients saying, "Look, we've taken over the health system; we've taken over the prison system; the next big target is the educational system. We can privatize the educational system, and we can make a lot of money out of it." This is very much like what the workers in the mills in Lowell, Massachusetts, were worrying about 150 years ago. They were trying to

stop what they called the new spirit of the age: "Gain wealth, forgetting all but self."

We want to stop that. That's not what we're like. We're human beings, we care about other people, we want to do things together. We care about whether the kid down the street gets an education. We care about whether somebody else has a road, even if we don't use it ourselves. We care about whether there is child slave labor in Thailand. We care about whether some elderly person gets food.

There's a huge effort to try to undermine all of that – to try to privatize aspirations so that you're totally controlled. Once you privatize aspirations, private power goes its own way and everyone else has to subordinate themselves to it.

Undermining the idea of solidarity and co-

operation lies at the heart of the attack on the public school system, the attack on social security, the effort to block any form of national health care. In Massachusetts we've seen an attack on the state colleges, which are there for working class people, people who come back to college after they're half-way in their career, mothers who come back, people from urban ghettos. That's what the state college system has been, and it's under serious attack by an interesting method. The method has been to raise the entrance standards without improving the schools.

When you don't improve the schools but you raise entrance standards for people who are trying to go on, it's kinds of obvious what happens. You get lower enrollments, and when you get lower enrollments, you've

got to cut staff because, remember, we have to be efficient, like corporations. So you cut staff, and you cut services, and then you can admit even fewer people. There's kind of a natural cycle, you can see where it ends up. It ends up with people either not going to college or figuring out some way to spend \$30,000 a year at a private college. And you know what that means.

All of these attacks are part of the general effort, I think, to create a socio-economic order which is under the control of private concentrated power.

Noam Chomsky is a professor of linguistics at MIT. This is an edited version of informal remarks posted on the Z magazine Web site, at [www.zmag.org/ZSustainers/ZDaily/2000-05/12chomsky.htm](http://www.zmag.org/ZSustainers/ZDaily/2000-05/12chomsky.htm).



Rui Ramalheiro

## CUNY AND ITS CRITICS

## Remember the big picture

By BILL CRAIN, City College

In June, the media gave considerable attention to a report from the Center for an Urban Future (CUF) that praises collaborative efforts between CUNY and the city's public schools. CUF director Neil Scott Kleiman, the main author of the report, summarizes its conclusions above.

Considered alone, Kleiman's praise for the collaborative efforts might be non-controversial. But his points are embedded in a larger political context.

Kleiman uncritically accepts the Schmidt report as a frame of reference for understanding CUNY. He repeats its central myths as if they were uncontested facts. Hundreds of us – faculty, staff, students and community activists – testified on the Schmidt report's errors and omissions, but Kleiman does not even mention these criticisms.

The Schmidt report ignored City University's successes in the struggle for civil rights, and the thousands of students of color who have improved their lives with a CUNY education. CUNY's remediation programs have played an important role in these achievements, yet the Schmidt report endorsed the remediation ban at the senior colleges. This ban forbids CUNY from offering its working-class students and students of color the same remedial opportunities offered at SUNY and the vast majority of the nation's senior colleges.

When the Board of Trustees initiated the remediation ban, chairman Herman Badillo typically deflected criticism by referring to College Now, a program designed to help prepare high school students for college and the new admis-

sions tests. He spoke as if College Now would solve the problems of access.

Kleiman also celebrates College Now and gives the impression that such collaborative programs will solve CUNY's biggest problems. But so far these programs are mainly promise. We don't know how well they will compensate for the remedial courses CUNY could once offer, and initial reports give cause for concern.

In April, the NY State Education Department reported to the Regents that so far College Now is disproportionately serving white students. Looking at the Fall 2000 freshman applicants who took CUNY's admissions tests, the Education Department noted that whereas white students made up 33 percent of the total, they comprised 42 percent of those who also had attended College Now.

Kleiman told the *Daily News* (6/13), "Many people felt that ending remediation at the four-year colleges would slam the door on many low-income residents. We found those fears were unfounded." This conclusion is premature at best.

Kleiman also extols CUNY's decision to allow students to substitute high Regents exam scores for the CUNY tests. This is an example of coordinating CUNY admissions policies with state public school testing. But Kleiman doesn't ask the larger questions about standardized tests. Is there now so much teaching-to-the test that real education is stunted? Is the great emphasis on these tests fair to students of color and students from the working class?

The full CUF report also praises the higher passing rates on standardized tests in CUNY's schools of education. But this has largely been accomplished

by restricting admissions. As a result, they are contributing to the teacher shortage while excluding many students who might blossom once admitted and make superb teachers in the end. In all likelihood, the new policies are denying careers to people of color in particular. Meanwhile, no one has bothered to provide evidence that these standardized tests are related to other measures of good teaching.

Since 1969 and the beginning of open admissions, CUNY has worked enormously hard and has overcome sharp budget cuts to give hundreds of thousands of students, especially students of color, their first real chance to develop their minds and pursue their dreams. And contrary to the Schmidt report, CUNY has achieved notable success. If, for example, one takes the widely used 8-year graduation rate instead of the Schmidt report's 6-year figure, one sees that CUNY's students are graduating at rates above the national average – despite the fact that they must often hold down jobs outside school and overcome financial hardships. What's more, the number of students going on to earn Ph.D.'s or make their marks in the worlds of business, the arts, and social service has been extremely impressive. But the powers-that-be never liked what CUNY was doing. When Giuliani, Pataki and their appointees came to power, they really began to tear CUNY down.

And what is supposed to rescue CUNY? Essentially, a new, untried program called College Now! College Now might do some good, but let's not start comparing it to CUNY's monumental achievement in civil rights. It is this that we must restore.

## CUNY AND ITS CRITICS

## Time to applaud CUNY progress

By NEIL SCOTT KLEIMAN

Two years ago, a mayoral task force took the City University of New York to the woodshed, pronouncing it "a system adrift." The report – authored by Benno Schmidt, chairman of the board of Edison Schools – was bursting with bad news. The number of students in remedial courses was far too high; CUNY students took much longer to graduate than those at SUNY colleges; the institution was plagued by a lack of accountability and poor leadership, and more.

Yet for all CUNY's shortcomings, the report made clear that one of the main reasons so many undergrads were struggling at CUNY was that too many New York City high school graduates were simply not prepared for college-level work. To improve public education in New York, CUNY and the public schools had to work together. That might sound obvious, but traditionally the divide between the K-12 and college systems has been deep. Though New York had a few standout models of partnership, overall the two systems were miles apart.

Instead of dismissing the Schmidt report as more educational inductive, CUNY and the public schools did something surprising – they listened.

Over the past 18 months, the two systems, encouraged by the close relationship between CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and Board of Education Chancellor Harold Levy, have promoted a multitude of joint programs focused squarely on the issues of remedial education and college preparation. The city has already become a national leader in the area.

The city's flagship collaborative program, College Now, which started with a handful of CUNY campuses, has mushroomed this past year and now links CUNY to virtually every general high school in the city. The program offers college-credit courses to qualified high school students, but also does something even more important. It identifies students who see themselves as college-bound but who are not academically on track, and does so early enough to do something about it. This past year more than 13,000 students participated in the program, registering for more than 11,000 college courses.

New York also recently became the first educational system in the nation to align its high school exit exams and college placement exams. CUNY now accepts a score of 75 on the rigorous English and math Regents tests as adequate evidence that students do not need remedial help. This allows graduates to know exactly where they stand before they knock on CUNY's door.

One of the longest-running efforts is the "middle college high school" at LaGuardia Community College. Students who have the potential to succeed but are on the verge of dropping out are given full access to college facilities and small, seminar-style classes. The results are remarkable: 95% graduate high school and 90% go on to college. The model has already been exported to five other CUNY campuses.

While this and other established programs have proven extremely effective, it will be a few years before we know whether the additional and expanded programs lead to the desired effect of increasing college-going rates. Nevertheless, the movement is impressive.

The quiet revolution linking CUNY and the public schools may not have the dramatic appeal of change resulting from a bitter battle or a plucky grassroots campaign, but it may well be the best chance in the city's history for a true transformation in the quality of public education. Those who were cutting hickory switches two years ago would now do well to throw their support behind this momentous endeavor.

Neil Scott Kleiman is director of the Center for an Urban Future. Full text of the Center's report is at <http://www.ny-cfuture.org/education/building.htm>.

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Editor: Peter Hogness

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# Union targets City Council races

By **CECELIA McCALL**  
PSC Secretary

On Tuesday, September 11, the New York City Council is up for grabs – and the PSC is working hard to make sure that the outcome is good for CUNY.

As a result of term limits, at least 35 new members will be elected this fall. This adds up to two-thirds of the Council, a dramatic change for a body in which incumbents have routinely been elected year after year. The September 11 primary is unusually crowded, and many races will be decided by razor-thin margins.

“The candidates we have endorsed are strong advocates for City University, and we need them on the Council,” said PSC Legislative Committee member Eileen Moran of Queens College. She urged all members to devote a few hours to a candidate between now and the September 11 primary. “This election can bring us closer to a new day for CUNY,” said Moran.

The PSC has made endorsements in seven of the ten Council races in Manhattan. **Gale Brewer** is a long-time activist on the West Side and a former aide to Ruth Messinger and David Dinkins. “I promise to continue my efforts of the last 25 years to increase access to CUNY,” she says, “and to fight for more full-time faculty.”

In lower Manhattan, **Rocky Chin** is a civil rights lawyer who has taught at Hunter College and worked with Haywood Burns in CUNY’s Urban Legal Studies program. He sees CUNY as a critical resource for immigrant communities, and says, “It’s time to give CUNY faculty and staff a contract.”

**Robert Jackson** is a union activist and a crusader for public education. He was the lead plaintiff in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity’s lawsuit to win equal funding for New York City public schools. In-



**Christine Quinn**

cumbents **Margarita Lopez**, **Bill Perkins** and **Christine Quinn** have all been solid allies of the PSC and consistent advocates for CUNY. Lopez and Quinn spoke at the PSC’s contract rally in April, while Perkins played an active role in “Teach CUNY” in March.

**Ydanis Rodríguez** is a public school teacher who led the struggle against Edison Schools’ attempt to privatize PS 161 in upper Manhattan. A former student activist at CCNY, he is dedicated to making CUNY more accessible and affordable.

The PSC was very selective in Council races in the Bronx, supporting candidates in two of the borough’s eight districts. One is **Larry Seabrook**, who has served in both the New York Assembly and State Senate and has been an important supporter of CUNY. The PSC’s other Bronx candidate, **Michael Benjamin**, proudly says that his mother has degrees from three CUNY colleges. Benjamin is on the board of directors of the Bronx Community College Community Center; he sees funding more full-time lines at City University as a key issue.

In Queens the PSC made endorsements in 9 of 15 races. Three of these candidates are PSC members: **An-**

**thony Andrews** of York College, **Jim Blake** of BMCC, and Queens College’s **Jim Gennaro**. All have a first-hand understanding of the urgent need for re-investment in CUNY, and the importance of a fair contract for those who work there.

**Arthur Cheliotis**, President of CWA Local 1180, is a graduate of both Queensborough and Queens running with the strongest labor backing in the city. He notes that the last time a labor leader was elected to the City Council was in 1937. **Helen Cooper-Gregory**, an attorney and a graduate of John Jay College, and **Melinda Katz**, a former member of the State Assembly who has taught at Queens, are both strong supporters of public higher education and organized labor.

Other Queens candidates backed by the PSC include **John Liu**, President of the North Flushing Civic Association and a board member of the Chinese-American Voters Association. Front-runner in a crowded field of ten, Liu would provide a stark contrast to the district’s current Council member, **Julia Harrison**, who has made headlines with her racist remarks about the growing Asian population in Queens.

**Hiram Monserrate** is a former



**Ydanis Rodríguez**



**Bill Perkins**



**Rocky Chin**



**Steve Banks**

New York City police officer who co-founded the Latin Officers Association. He was the first cop ever to be elected as a board member of the New York Civil Liberties Union, and is working towards a master’s in Urban Studies at Queens College. **Peter Vallone, Jr.**, a lawyer and son of the Council’s current Speaker, has been involved with children’s advocacy groups for years, and calls education his top priority.

In Brooklyn the PSC has endorsed **Steve Banks**, **Joanne Seminara** and **Pete Williams**, all community activists who have worked with PSC members around a variety of city issues. They were chosen for their long-time support of CUNY and their grass-roots approach to politics. As a member of the State Assembly, **Al Vann** has been a CUNY advocate, particularly for SEEK. **Angel Rodríguez**, an incumbent Council member, was the budget manager for its Black and Latino Caucus during the recent budget negotiations.

The PSC has backed one candidate in Staten Island, **Libby Hikind**, a former teacher and a strong CUNY supporter. A Brooklyn College graduate, Hikind proudly describes herself as a “product of open enrollment.”

## Citywide candidates and CUNY

The PSC has not yet made endorsements in citywide contests. “There was no consensus around any one candidate,” explained Michael Krasner of the union’s Legislative Committee. In the race for public advocate, committee members were impressed with both **Steve DiBrienza** and **Norman Siegel**, but neither emerged as a clear favorite.

If no candidate gets 40% in the September 11 primary (the most likely outcome in the Democratic race for mayor), the union may make an endorsement in the runoff that would be held two weeks later. Check the PSC Web site ([www.psc-cuny.org](http://www.psc-cuny.org)) or call the union’s Hotline (212-869-1568) for an update.

You can read citywide candidates’ statements on CUNY issues at the Web site of the New York Public Interest Group ([www.nypirg.org](http://www.nypirg.org); click on “NYC Candidates on Higher Education”). Those running for mayor, public advocate and comptroller were asked to respond to questions from NYPIRG and CUNY’s University Student Senate.

– Peter Hogness



### 15-MINUTE ACTIVIST

## Putting flesh on the bones

The “bare-bones” budget passed by the State Legislature is a challenge both to Governor Pataki and to us. By passing subsistence funding, the Legislature hopes to highlight Pataki’s refusal to spend what New York needs, forcing him to renegotiate. But this strategy will only work if people mobilize to pressure the governor.

We cannot wait. Our students cannot wait. We must begin now – in the year of surplus – to restore the university. Contact the governor and your state legislators. Tell them CUNY needs a budget that will give it a future.

You can phone Pataki and your legislators through a toll-free number created by the New York State AFL-CIO: (877) 255-9417. Don’t forget to send them the postcards that the PSC recently mailed to your home. Some PSC members are making a class project out of writing to Albany at the start of the Fall semester.

You can find out who your legislators are on the Web at [www.nypirg.org](http://www.nypirg.org), if you live in New York City. Otherwise try the PSC site, [www.psc-cuny.org](http://www.psc-cuny.org).

# Candidates who will advocate for CUNY

On Thursday, June 14, the PSC Delegate Assembly endorsed the following candidates for City Council. Listed below are their districts and the phone numbers for their campaign offices.

#### MANHATTAN

- 1 / Lower Manhattan: Rocky Chin (212) 334-6558
- 2 / Lower East Side to Murray Hill: Margarita Lopez (646) 638-0866
- 3 / Greenwich Village to Midtown: Christine Quinn (212) 924-0620
- 6 / Upper West Side: Gale Brewer (212) 712-9230
- 7 / West Harlem: Robert Jackson (212) 613-3342
- 9 / Central Harlem: Bill Perkins (212) 926-2900
- 10 / Washington Hts., Inwood:

Ydanis Rodríguez (212) 927-2100

#### BRONX

- 12 / North Bronx: Larry Seabrook (718) 547-8854
- 16 / Highbridge, Morrisania: Michael Benjamin (718) 588-1444

#### QUEENS

- 19 / Upper Queens: Arthur Cheliotis (718) 631-1060
- 20 / Flushing: John Liu (718) 359-0049
- 21 / Jackson Hts., Corona: Hiram Monserrate (718) 429-2601
- 22 / Astoria: Peter Vallone, Jr. (718) 274-0007
- 24 / South Flushing, Briarwood: Jim Genarro (718) 217-4969
- 27 / St. Albans: Helen Cooper-Gregory (718) 264-7715

28 / Jamaica:

- Anthony Andrews (718) 949-2213
- 29 / Forest Hills, Rego Park: Melinda Katz (718) 286-2900
- 31 / Far Rockaway: James Blake (718) 525-5316

#### BROOKLYN

- 35 / Central Brooklyn: Pete Williams (718) 783-9344
- 36 / Bedford-Stuyvesant: Al Vann (718) 604-9720
- 38 / Sunset Park: Angel Rodríguez (718) 439-9012
- 39 / Carroll Gardens to Boro Pk.: Steve Banks (718) 972-9736
- 43 / Bay Ridge: Joanne Seminara (718) 833-8585

#### STATEN ISLAND

- 50 / Mid-Island, parts of Bklyn.:

Libby Hikind (718) 982-5100

*The following candidates were not officially endorsed by the PSC Delegate Assembly, but were recommended as worthy of support by the CUNY community.*

- MANHATTAN: 1/Kwong Hui, (347) 513-3124; 6/Larry Sauer, (212) 268-8400; 7/Mark Levine, (212) 543-3735;
- BRONX: 17/José Marco Serrano, (718) 993-1114; QUEENS: 21/Aida Gonzalez-Jarrin, (718) 271-3360; 23/David Weprin, (718) 347-7300; 31/James Sanders, (718) 471-5574; 32/Joseph Addabbo, (718) 738-1111;
- BROOKLYN: 38/George Martinez, (718) 686-7742; 44/Robert Miller, (718) 449-7042; 48/Michael Nelson, (718) 368-9176