Who’s calling the shots at City University? What you don’t know about the CUNY Board of Trustees may surprise you. Clarion spotlights the 17 board members, their political histories, their connections and who is supporting them. Several members are new, and quite different from each other. With looming budget battles and other crucial votes coming up, you’ll want to know how the power flows.

PAGES 6-7

ACCESS

Regents review policy on remediation
The ban at senior colleges affects who gets in.

PAGE 5

ELECTIONS

This year, it’s politics as unusual
Unions backing Republicans, third parties blossoming, and – maybe – NY’s first black governor. Expect the unexpected.

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RESEARCH FOUNDATION

RF workers ready to rock and roll
While RF workers at the central office press for a contract, RF staff at BCC and KCC are organizing for union recognition.

PAGE 3

VOX POPULI

Your needs, your voice, your representation
From the Welfare Fund, to a new PSC questionnaire, to a meeting with education workers from other countries – your voice is needed.

PAGE 9

CIRCUITS OF POWER

Who’s calling the shots at City University? What you don’t know about the CUNY Board of Trustees may surprise you. Clarion spotlights the 17 board members, their political histories, their connections and who is supporting them. Several members are new, and quite different from each other. With looming budget battles and other crucial votes coming up, you’ll want to know how the power flows.

PAGES 6-7
Retiring HEOs and CLTs must be replaced

As Higher Education officers and College Laboratory Technicians, we need to be constantly on the alert to make sure our rights are protected. We urged the PSC to urge the Chancellor to include HEOs and CLTs in the Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) and we were pleased to find ourselves included.

However, in the same letter that the Chancellor announced ERI for all instructional staff, he stated that all faculty would be replaced and he also stated that only one HEOS and CLTs will be replaced. He wrote that the colleges should see the vacancies as “an opportunity to re-structure administrative support in a manner that reduces costs and provides greater efficiencies.”

HEOs and CLTs are already stretched too thin. In some colleges, professional staff are working from 9 am to 9 pm, twelve hours per day, four days a week, and from 9 to 5 on Fridays. We have seen an increase in enrollment without an increase in staff. We could save the university millions of dollars in competent fees if the university would ask us how our work could be organized more effectively and for suggestions about how to increase enrollment.

CUNY needs more staff, not less.

– Jean Weisman
CONV Center for Worker Education

Pay hikes and inflation

We have all heard the UFT boast that they have protected pay and are paid less than surrounding communities. Why doesn’t the PSC boast the fact that we got paid significantly less than the UFT? The maximum salary for a UFT member used to be exactly the same as that for an assistant professor. The PSC has covenanted the UFT breaking this tie and now a kindergarten teacher at maximum gets even more than an associate professor at maximum. (The city has some excellent kindergarten teachers but it also has excellent assistant and associate professors as well as lecturers and instructors.) Is this supposed to make CUNY more attractive to the best qualified scholars and teachers out there?

Those at the top of their scales might be interested to know that the final years of our last three contracts increased pay by 18% over the time interval October, 1994 through October, 2001. During this time interval the consumer price index in the New York City area rose by 17.9%. I don’t recall the PSC publicizing this fact. What were they thinking and what were we thinking when this contract was approved?

We were probably thinking that some back pay is better than nothing. It’s about time that we had a contract negotiated on time without, “We got the best deal that we could.”

– Michael Brozinsky
Queensborough

Editor’s note: During the last contract fight, a front-page story in the Summer 2001 Clarion did report that since 1972 inflation had eroded real salaries for CUNY faculty and professional staff by 27% to 41%. The contract approved this summer reverses this trend, with salary increases above inflation. The October 1994 to October 2001 time period cited by Brozinsky includes three years (1995, 1996 and 1997) during prior contracts in which there was no increase at all.

As beautiful as Brooklyn?

It’s beautiful up here on the bluff above the Harlem River. Have you visited the Bronx Community College campus? Come on up. BCC was the original campus of New York University, designed by Stanford White early in the previous century. The highest point in the five boroughs is at the center of the campus, providing breathtaking views of the Hudson, the Palisades across the river, and the Manhattan skyline. The campus’ Hall of Fame of Great Americans is a national landmark. Soon the flaming fall review of autumn foliage will envelope the campus and paint the landscape as far as the eye can see. Bring lunch. Come on up. We’ll save a spot for you.

– Ben Carney
BCC

Needed: national drug plan

If the richest nation in the world can’t benefit our own union’s Welfare Fund, we would truly be saddled with a $6 million deficit. The lack of nationalization of health care and prescription drugs is one of the weaknesses of our democracy. The corporate lobby and male chauvinists vilified Hillary Clinton for her efforts to introduce a national health care plan for the country.

I would hope that the PSC, working with the union movement as a whole, could mount a formidable effort to fight for national health care coverage. As an alternative, could we union create a for-profit “entity,” using the expertise of our business, finance and economics professors, assistant business managers, marketing and computer experts (HEOs) to create a corporation to finance our prescription needs. CUNY’s management should be asked to assist in footing the bill for this.

– Constance Fennell
Manhattan EOC

PSC President Barbara Bowen responds: The PSC is committed to negotiating the same salaries for our members at EOCs as for the rest of the PSC membership. The representation EOC members are receiving at the bargaining table is with one exception equal to that received by the rest of the membership. In fact, this is the first time that EOC faculty and staff themselves have been part of the negotiating team. The writer is incorrect about the bargaining history. EOC salaries have always involved a separate negotiation, although it has usually been concluded within the framework of the larger contract. This time, however, management has introduced a sweeping set of demands that would imperil both our working conditions and the future of the Centers themselves. The bargaining is taking longer than usual because we are refusing to concede.

Online research solutions

Nowadays online research is as common as cellular phones and e-mail. There is a research tool, Serial Solutions, that is unique and indispensable for the online researcher. It has been offered by CUNY for about a year. Oddly enough, it appears on the CUNY-wide listing of e-journals but remains off the CUNY-wide database screens under a generic description, “Alphabetical List of Full Text Materials” rather than as “Serial Solutions.”

What does it do? On campus or off, you can access Serial Solutions by clicking on the only red button on the CUNY-wide listing of e-journals and reference databases. You can view the CUNY-wide list, which contains Serial Solutions by entering the URL, http://libraries.cuny.edu/resource.htm. When you hit the only red square, you will see a complete list of every full-text electronic journal and database that our University offers. You will know with the click of a mouse, the title and time coverage of every journal title purchased by the CUNY consortium. It is easy to use, requires no training and will make your online investigations much quicker and easier.

– George Thorsen
QCC

Write to Clarion

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

On Oct. 6, PSC members joined over 20,000 people in Central Park to demonstrate against a US war on Iraq. The “Not in Our Name” rally was one of dozens held across the country are taking anti-war positions, including the California Federation of Teachers, SUNY’s United University Professors (UUP), 1199/SEIU, the New York Central Federation of Labor in Albany, the San Francisco Labor Council, and the Washington State Labor Council.
UAPC workers demand union recognition

By MAGGIE DICKINSON

“Well, it’s your right, so I guess if a majority of you want this, we’ll have to recognize the union and sit down and negotiate a contract.”

A loud cheer burst out of the 40 University Applications Processing Center (UAPC) employees who had gathered on Oct. 9 to demand union recognition. They represented the 80% of UAPC workers who had signed cards to be represented by the PSC. After the UAPC director’s response, “the room just erupted,” said UAPC worker Robert Booras. “There were cheers and hugs everywhere,” said Gillian Anderson.

People were clapping and cheering a mere five weeks after first making contact with the PSC. “This place was ripe for it,” said Stefan Triers told Clarion. “There’s a lot of frustration here with the situation, especially with low salaries and having no cost-of-living adjustments or pay raises.” The lack of a grievance procedure is also a problem, Booras said. “There’s a lot of frustration here with the situation, especially with low salaries and having no cost-of-living adjustments or pay raises.”

RF employees at BCC organize

Union election to be held

By TOMIO GERON

Employees of the CUNY Research Foundation (RF) at Bronx Community College are organizing to form a union. The Clarion reported on RF workers at BCC to vote on their rights and benefits, as their union sisters and brothers who are paid by CUNY. Workers asked for a response within a week on whether management would voluntarily recognize the union.

Braced for a fight, the employees were overjoyed to hear Jacobs’s response. “Everyone is still very excited, and waiting to see what happens on the 18th when they give us a response,” said Anderson. “I’ve been here just a year and a half, and I can only imagine what it’s like for people who’ve been here for years and years.”

Strike vote at RF Central Office

By PETER HOGNESS

On Oct. 4, PSC members at the central office of the CUNY Research Foundation voted to authorize their bargaining team to call a strike. The proposal was approved by a vote of 88%. At press time, a new negotiating session had just been scheduled.

The action came after Research Foundation (RF) management rejected a union request to try resolving their differences through mediation. There had been no bargaining session since July, when management walked away from the table.

“I think that’s why the voting was almost unanimous.”

FIRST SINCE 1973

This is the second strike vote in PSC history. The first was in 1973, when the new union was negotiating its first contract. “We did it because we weren’t getting anywhere with CUNY,” said Irwin Yellowitz, now chair of the Retirees Chapter. “We thought this would make a difference, and it did.”

PSC members voted to authorize a strike as of Oct. 1, 1973 if no agreement was reached; the contract was settled in September.

A strike of CUNY employees would have been illegal under New York’s Taylor Law, which bans work stoppages by public workers. “It would have been no joke,” commented Yellowitz.

In contrast, workers paid by the Research Foundation have the legal right to strike, as the National Labor Relations Board recently ruled that the Research Foundation falls under the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Act.

RF workers at BCC organize

Union election to be held

The PSC already represents employees on all of CUNY’s campuses. Workers asked for a response within a week on whether management would voluntarily recognize the union.

Braced for a fight, the employees were overjoyed to hear Jacobs’s response. “Everyone is still very excited, and waiting to see what happens on the 18th when they give us a response,” said Anderson. “I’ve been here just a year and a half, and I can only imagine what it’s like for people who’ve been here for years and years.”

The UAW filed unfair labor practice charges against the RF some time ago, and the election cannot be held until those charges are resolved. “RF workers see the successes of the PSC and want to be included,” says Mary Ann Carlese, PSC associate executive director. “We hope to make that happen.”

RF workers are getting excited about forming a union. “There’s a tremendous amount of enthusiasm,” says Pita. “Suddenly there are all kinds of complaints about working conditions. People are talking about what it would be like if they had a union and could demand fair treatment.”
Gov race is up for grabs

Some legislative races special for PSC

By EILEEN MORAN
PSC Legislative Committee

In early October the Board of Directors of the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), the PSC’s statewide affiliate, decided to make no endorsement in this year’s election for governor. The move left local unions within NYSUT free to back different candidates.

The PSC’s Executive Council has voted to recommend both Democrat Carl McCall and Green Party candidate Stanley Aronowitz to the PSC’s Delegate Assembly (DA), and the DA was set to decide the issue at its October 24 meeting. The 140,000-member United Federation of Teachers has given its backing to NYSUT vice president George Pataki.

At its August endorsement conference, in which the PSC was an active participant, NYSUT endorsed incumbent Eliot Spitzer for attorney general. The NYSUT’s Board of Directors, which includes 3 PSC officials, also voted to back Alan Hevesi in the race for state comptroller at its meeting in early October. NYSUT is supporting candidates in 227 of 245 races for State Legislature.

HIGH STAKES

Public education and higher education have much at stake in the legislative races, and the PSC is highlighting several candidates as particularly important to support: Vincent Gentile, George Martinez, Kevin Parker and Seymour Lachman in Brooklyn, and Liz Krueger in Manhattan.

Last February, Krueger won a tough special election for state senator from Manhattan’s East Side, replacing Sen. Roy Goodman. This fall she faces a well-funded Republican opponent, former NYC Councilman Andrew Eristoff.

Krueger has emerged as an outspoken critic of Albany’s closed political system. She argues that “business as usual” will never break the cycle that has undermined state support for higher education and repeatedly shortchanged New York City. When she got to Albany, Krueger says, she was appalled to learn that Republican senators sign their proxies to vote as he sees fit.

Krueger has emphasized issues that include more funding for public education, protecting tenants, repealing the Rockefeller drug laws, ending the death penalty, support for women’s health care and the right to choose, and prescription drug assistance for the elderly.

Her Republican opponent, Andrew Eristoff, represented the Upper East Side on the NYC Council from 1993 to 1999 and served as Mayor Guiliani’s Commissioner of Finance from 1999 until 2002. Like Goodman before him, Eristoff strives to distance himself from some conservative positions of the Republican State Senate leadership. For example, he has stressed his support for gay rights legislation, rent regulation and funding for the arts. But at the same time, Eristoff calls for limiting state spending and does not mention public higher education in his campaign literature or position papers.

Eristoff contends that being part of the Republican majority in the State Senate will make him more effective. Krueger responds that the city’s failure to get its share of state dollars occurred while the seat was held by Republican Roy Goodman.

STRONG CUNY SUPPORTERS

Since she arrived in Albany, Krueger has been a strong supporter of increased funding for CUNY, and has worked closely with the PSC. With an impressive history as a grassroots activist on issues of hunger, housing and health care, Krueger has been endorsed by a long list of labor and community organizations, including the National Organization for Women and Tenants PAC. A Democrat, Krueger is also running on the Working Families Party and Green Party ballot lines.

Other candidates especially important for CUNY include Vincent Gentile, Democratic state senator from the 3rd District. Sen. Gentile, who has been a strong advocate for CUNY, is in a tough race against Republican Martin Golden, who is outspending him 4-to-1. The district includes Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights and Bensonhurst.

CUNY CANDIDATES

The PSC is backing two CUNY candidates who are each both adjuncts and doctoral candidates. George Martinez is running in the special election in NYC Council District 38, which includes Bay Ridge, Sunset Park and Windsor Terrace. He has turned out many demonstrations for CUNY budget and contract issues, as both a student and an adjunct activist.

In the 21st State Senate District, Kevin Parker is another CUNY adjunct and doctoral student endorsed by the PSC. Parker won an upset victory in the Democratic primary; his district includes Flatbush and Borough Park.

In a district that spans Staten Island and Brooklyn State Senator Seymour Lachman, a former professor at Baruch, is opposed by CUNY Trustee Alfred Curtis, a Giulianacci appointee (see p. 2). Former head of the NYC Board of Education, Lachman has fought for increased CUNY funding as a member of the State Senate’s higher education committee.

The PSC Legislative Committee invites members to help with mailings, phone calls and other Election Day activities. If you’d like to help, please e-mail Eileen Moran at eymoran@earthlink.net or call the PSC office.

Members discuss Welfare Fund changes

By TOMIO GERON

PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund (WF) Trustees are holding meetings with members to discuss options for important changes the Fund. At press time, meetings had been held on behalf of CUNY’s campuses and with retirees.

The Fund is facing an operating deficit that is currently $6 million and rising. “If we do not take action very soon, in less than a year we will run out of reserves to cover the deficit and we will have to slash benefits,” Steve London, WF Executive Officer for Member Relations and Planning, told the meeting at York.

Turnout at the events has been high, sometimes as large as any union chapter meeting in years. After an opening presentation, members have peppered Fund representatives with questions and feedback.

“We really want to have a back-and-forth on the various options and to hear members’ opinions,” London said. “We will take them to heart.”

WF Trustees have based restructuring proposals on two general principles. One is “that we want to make the impact of the changes least burdensome on our sickest and most plan-dependent members.” WF President Barbara Bowen told the meeting at Lehman. The other, as London told the meeting at City Tech, is “to maintain substantial equality of benefits between active and retiree members, though out-of-pocket costs may differ.”

Reaction so far has been generally supportive of the two principles, though some concern has been expressed about the departure from past practice as the following additional proposals.

1. Coverage of out-of-pocket costs may differ.” Recommendations have included increasing the percentage of CUNY retiree members, though out-of-pocket costs may differ.” Recommendations have included making the passage of the new coverage more straightforward.

In addition to Liz Krueger, two CUNY candidates have been endorsed by the PSC.

The PSC Legislative Committee invites members to help with mailings, phone calls and other Election Day activities. If you’d like to help, please e-mail Eileen Moran at eymoran@earthlink.net or call the PSC office.

The September Clarion’s special section on WF issues is still available: on the Web at www.psc-cuny.org/clarion_sept_02.pdf, or call the PSC office for a copy.
Regents review remediation repeal

December vote on three-year-old policy shift

By TOMIO GERON and PETER HOGGNESS

December vote on three-year-old policy shift

In a decision that will affect thousands of current and future CUNY students, the New York Board of Regents will vote in mid-December on whether CUNY can continue to ban remedial courses at its senior colleges.

The policy change was phased in starting in 2000, along with a requirement that community college students complete all remedial work before they can take credit-granting classes. “It is clear from the data...that the new policy has been successful,” Louise Mirrer, CUNY’s vice chancellor for academic affairs, wrote in an Aug. 22 memo to Chancellor Matthew Goldstein. “CUNY’s baccalaureate programs are now attracting a stronger applicant pool,” Mirrer stated, citing a 2% rise in SAT scores of those admitted in Fall 2001 compared to Fall 1999. While the proportion of entering freshmen who were black or Latino dropped by almost 5%, from 49.6% to 45.0%, Mirrer asserted that “the racial composition of the entering freshman class changed very little.”

In Fall 2001, 25% of freshmen entering CUNY’s four-year programs were white, 23% were Latino, 22% were black and 20% were Asian. White and Asian percentages grew 2% to 3% from Fall 1999, while the figures for black and Latino freshmen were the lowest in the last 10 years. Some of these shifts in CUNY’s enrollment appear to run counter to other trends. In New York City, the proportion of Latinos among new high school graduates grew during the same period. Nationally, black and Latino college enrollment was rising four to six times as fast as white enrollment at the time of CUNY’s policy change, according to a recent report from the American Council on Education.

PROPORTION FALLING

However, it is hard to draw firm conclusions from CUNY’s 1999-2001 data. The proportion of black freshmen entering four-year programs at CUNY was falling even before 1999, and the proportion of Latinos has fluctuated in the past decade.

A new report by CCNY psychology professor Bill Crain and Sandra Del Valle of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund raises a different concern. “The most important measure for CUNY is not diversity but access,” Crain tells Clarion. “Measures of diversity can provide useful information, but the fundamental question is: Who is being turned away?”

Under the current policy, applicants to a four-year program must not only meet its general admissions requirements but must also pass three skills tests as proof that they do not need remedial classes. CUNY also accepts certain SAT or Regents scores for this requirement. Through the first layer of testing, say Crain and Del Valle, has excluded thousands of African American and Latino students who would otherwise have been admitted.

For the Fall 2001 semester, Crain told Clarion, 21% of white students, 42% of African-American students, 42% of Hispanic students, and 27% of Asian students were denied admission due to the additional testing requirements, with a total of 4,472 students kept out in this way. “CUNY is disproportionately excluding students of color solely on the basis of highly questionable tests,” says Crain.

University Faculty Senate (UFS) representatives met with State Education Department staff in May to express concerns about the tests in reading and writing, designed by ACT, Inc. “ACT themselves say that these tests should be used only for advisement and course placement, not for admissions – which is how they are now being used,” said UFS Secretary Lomere Bealy in September.

UFS President Susan O’Malley questioned the use of SAT and Regents’ scores in this process, pointing out that no writing is now required on the SAT and that some students who get the required Regents score still have deficits in basic skills. “The faculty think standards have been lowered through the same means through which the Trustees...supposedly raised them,” she wrote in the September Senate Digest.

PSF President Barbara Bowen urges the Regents to take a hard look at the new remediation policy’s effects. “If this policy leads to the whitening of CUNY, especially at a time when minority enrollment in college nationally is growing, New York City will not stand for it.”

The scramble to change CUNY’s policies on admissions and remediation was to a great extent sparked by former Mayor Giuliani, who charged that CUNY had become “a glorified high school” with low standards and called for eliminating remediation altogether. Supporters of the University argued that remediation had made it possible for thousands to succeed. They pointed out that remediation was still available at all SUNY schools and four-fifths of all public four-year colleges, as well as at elite private institutions like MIT.

DISCOURAGING EFFECTS

David Lavin, professor of sociology at the Graduate Center, says that to see the full effect of the new remediation policy would require a thorough study of which NYC high school students choose to apply to CUNY. “These discussions of policy change have discouraging effects on people’s behavior,” Lavin says, citing studies in California and Texas of the effects of ending affirmative action in college admissions.

Susan DiRaimo, head of the CUNY ESL Council, thinks both the perception and reality of the new policy could be a factor in the declining number of English as a Second Language students at CUNY. “Since ’99, if ESL students fail the math test, they can’t get into a senior college,” DiRaimo says. “This maze of testing discourages students from coming to CUNY.”

Matt Ward, director of the ESL program at Lehman College, says that the effect of the new remedial policy on ESL students is not yet clear. “It’s too early to tell,” he says. “Almost all students who got in the last five years have had remedial classes and ESL students have been admitted to senior colleges in high numbers.”

At press time, the New York Board of Regents had not scheduled any public hearings on remediation.

LABOR NEWS IN BRIEF

Firefighters rally

Thousands of New York City firefighters rallied in Central Park in the pouring rain on Oct. 11 to demand a settlement in their contract talks. Union delegates rejected an offer of an 11.5% raise over three months by a vote of 365-2. Praise for firefighters’ sacrifice on 9/11 won’t pay the bills, many said: one carried a cardboard sign that said, “Will fight fires for food.”

Labor press returns

A union newspaper editor banned from attending school district news conferences was allowed back in after an order from a federal judge. Annette Katz, editor of the United Teachers of Dade’s newspaper, UTD Today, had been handcuffed and arrested by police for trespassing. But this summer the court ruled that a school district policy limiting access to members of general circulation press violated the First Amendment.
CUNY's Board of Trustees: the Board who voted against banning remediation

Only four current members of CUNY's Board of Trustees were on the Board in 1998, when the BoT voted to eliminate remediation in CUNY's senior colleges (see p.5). Today many of the issues faced by the University have changed – but others feel much the same.

What will these Trustees do about the storms now gathering over the State and City budgets? How will they handle future struggles over access to education? Where will they stand on academic freedom, as our country heads towards war?

Below is a very brief introduction to CUNY's Board of Trustees. You will be getting to know all of them better in the years to come. (A longer version of this article is available on the Web, at www.psc-cuny.org.)

BENNO SCHMIDT, JR.
Appointed: 1999, by Gov. Pataki
Term expires: 2006

Over the last 10 years, Schmidt has been President and then Chairman of Edison Schools, a corporation devoted to private management of public schools. Whether Edison has helped students to learn more is hotly debated, with cumulative losses of close to $300 million, it has yet to earn a profit.

Schmidt served as dean of Columbia University’s law school in the mid-1980s. He joined Columbia’s faculty in 1968 after clerking for Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren. From 1986 to 1992, Schmidt was President of Yale University. He earned a reputation as a highly effective fundraiser, overseeing the growth of Yale’s endowment from $1.7 billion to almost $3 billion at a time when buildings needed urgent repair. But his brusque management style made Schmidt unpopular with Yale’s faculty and staff. Faced with a $20 million annual deficit, in 1992 Schmidt proposed cutting Yale’s faculty ranks by 11% and eliminating the sociology, linguistics and engineering departments. Within months he had resigned under fire.

In 1998 Mayor Giuliani appointed Schmidt as head of his advisory task force on CUNY’s future. Its recommendations included greater reliance on standardized tests in admissions and placement, issuing vouchers for remedial classes so students could obtain them outside CUNY, grouping CUNY’s colleges into more clearly stratified tiers, increased collaboration with the NYC public schools and more centralized management of CUNY. Schmidt became interim Chair of the BoT when Herman Badillo resigned. In July 2001, Schmidt made a $50,000 donation to Gov. Pataki’s re-election campaign.

JORDAN H. CALANDRA
Appointed: 1996, by Gov. Pataki
Term expires: 2005

Calandra is a corporate litigation attorney representing Fortune 500 companies for the law firm of McDermott, Will & Emery. Previously he was a litigator at Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

He has volunteered in the public schools, and serves on the boards of the Coalition of Bilingual-American Sociations and the Bronx Columbus Alliance. CUNY’s John D. Calandra Italian American Institute is named for his father, a former NY State Senator.

Last fall Calandra and Wiesenfeld agreed to work in tandem to persuade the BoT to end remediation at CUNY’s senior colleges. Though their recommendations were not adopted by the Board, their arguments were heard.

KATHLEEN PESILE
Appointed: 1998, by Gov. Pataki
Term expires: 2004

Pesile is an investment advisor who has operated her own Staten Island-based firm since 1996. She was Vice President of Finance and Administration at Capital Cities/ABC in the early 1980s, a JP Morgan VP from 1986 to 1993, and then chaired the American Bankers Association until 1994. She has taught business courses and served on the boards of the College of Bilingual Education from 1983 to 1988. She has taught courses in bilingual education at Hunter College.

SOTO RUZI
Appointed: 1996, by Gov. Pataki
Term expires: 2008

Soto Ruiz is Superintendent of the NYC Board of Education’s Office of Monitoring and School Improvement. An elementary school teacher in the 1970s, she has worked for the NYC public schools since, heading the Office of Bilingual Education from 1983 to 1988. She has taught courses in bilingual education at Hunter College.

JOHN BONNICI
Appointed: 2002, by Gov. Pataki
Term ends: 2008

Rev. John Bonnici is director of the New York Catholic Archdiocese’s Family Life/Respect Life Office. His nomination sparked opposition from many academics, elected officials and the PSC; they cited his lack of experience in higher education, Faculty in lesbian and gay studies expressed particular concern about whether Bonnici would be a fair judge of curriculum questions and promotions within their field. Bonnici played an active role in organizing against a 1999 Westchester human rights bill because it included protections for gays and lesbians.

Bonnici has kept a low profile on the Board so far. At his first meeting in May he said he looked forward to learning about CUNY.

SOTO RUZI is the only Trustee still on the Board who voted against banning remediation at CUNY’s senior colleges in 1998, a stand at odds with the position of Gov. Pataki.

Her husband, former City Council-member Israel Ruazi Jr., is a Democrat who endorsed Pataki for governor in 1994; he has worked for the Dormitory Authority of New York (DASNY) since 1998.

Soto Ruiz has a BA from City College, and an MA and a doctorate from NYU.

remediation. Though her nomination was not approved in time, Pesile did vote against remediation when it came up again in January 1999.

Pesile sits on the Trustees’ Council of Lynn Cheney’s American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA). She was also a member of the short-lived “deecency panel” that Mayor Giuliani appointed in the wake of his attempt to censor the Brooklyn Museum.

Pesile got her AA at COSI and her bachelor’s degree and an MPA at Baruch.
he powers that be

HUGO MORALES
Appointed: 2002, by Gov. Pataki
Term expires: 2009

A psychiatrist and Dominican community activist, Morales was director of the psychiatry department at St. Francis Hospital in the mid-1960s. In 1965 he founded the Bronx Mental Health Center in an effort to bring mental health services to people with low incomes, and he remained its Medical Director until 1999.

When Morales heard in 1996 that his name was being floated as a potential head of Mayor Giuliani’s new Office of Hispanic Affairs, he told a reporter that he was unlikely to get involved in the “wasp’s nest” of politics. And yet he’s been political for years and is a regular donor to political candidates. In 1995, for eight years and is a regular reporter that he was unlikely to get his name was being floated as a po-

KENNETH COOK
Appointed: 1997, by Gov. Pataki
Term expires: 2004

Kenneth Cook was a science teacher at Brooklyn’s JHS 232 for 25 years, until 1994. He has also worked as a counselor with potential high school dropouts. His nomination drew fire from Democratic state legislators, including some members of the Black, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caucus, who argued that Cook had little knowledge of CUNY. Cook has run for state office on Republican and Conservative lines, and shared the same political base as former BoT chair Anne Paulucci.

In 1988 and again in 1999, Cook voted to end remediation at CUNY’s four-year colleges.

He holds a master’s degree in biology and chemistry from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, and a master’s in psychology from LIU.

VALERIE LANCASTER BEAL
Appointed: 2002, by Gov. Pataki
Term expires: 2009

Beal is an investment banker at M.R. Beal & Company, where she has worked on financing for the capital budget of Washington, DC. Previously she worked at Citicorp. Before becoming a banker, she worked for the Government Operations Committee of DC’s city council.

Beal works with Bronx Comm.

MARC SHAW
Appointed: 2002, by Mayor Bloomberg
Term expires: 2007

Shaw is NYC’s deputy mayor for operations. From 1996 until joining the Bloomberg administration he was executive director of the MTA. He also sits on the board of directors of the Grand Central Partnership, a group of midtown Manhattan property owners which runs the Grand Central Business Improvement District.

“He is experienced in all levels of government and has the smarts of a chess player,” Gene Russinoff of the Strap-hangers Campaign told Crain’s NY Business. “And Marc is wonder-ful at locating pots of money.”

Shaw worked for the State Senate Finance Committee in the 1980s, until becoming finance director for the NYC City Council. Shaw moved over to City Hall in 1983, and was Giuliani’s finance commissioner and then budget director.

Shaw has a master’s degree in anthropolgy from SUNY Buffalo.

CAROL ROBLES-ROMAN
Appointed: 2002, by Mayor Bloomberg
Term expires: 2008

Carol Robles-Roman is counsel to Mayor Michael Bloomberg and holds the newly-created post of deputy mayor for legal affairs. She has served in several jobs in the NYS Office of Court Administration, among them heading up a unit that investigated bias complaints within the court system. Robles-Roman worked under state Attorney General as an assistant AG in the state Civil Rights Bureau. Her husband, Nelson Roman has been a civil court judge in the Bronx since 1986, elected with the support of the county Democratic organization. “I’m happy to be representing the mayor’s office on this very prestigious board,” she said at her first BoT meeting last June.

SUSAN O’MALLEY
Ex-officio, University Faculty Senate
Elected: 2002

As chair of the University Faculty Senate, O’Malley is a member of the BoT but has no vote. She has played various roles in the UPS for the last 12 years, most recently as its secretary and editor of its newsletter. O’Malley has been a member of the English Department faculty at Kingsborough Community College since 1974, and a full professor there since 1991. She also teaches at CC-

RICHARD NUNEZ-LAWRENCE
Ex-officio, University Student Senate
Elected: 2001

Nunez-Lawrence is just ending his term an ex officio voting member of the BoT, as chair of the University Student Senate. He earned his AA from LaGuardia, a BA in English from CCNY, and is now a graduate student in political science at Brook-

JOSEPH LHOTA
Appointed: 2001, by Mayor Giuliani
Term expires: 2008

Lhota returned to the private sector this year as an executive VP at Cablevision. Like “Trusted Randy Mas-

friend and confident of former Mayor Giuliani. From 1985 to 1989 Mas-

"I think the mayor is wonder-ful at locating pots of money."

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Federal study of CUNY & WTC disaster

Post-9/11 problems with breathing and mental health

PSC campaign asks, “Got Air?”

You can’t teach or learn without it

Clarion | October 2002
**UNION VOICES**

**Vox Populi**

By BARBARA BOWEN

PSC President

When you elected us as union leaders, one of the most significant responsibilities you gave us was to become your voice on matters related to employment at CUNY. I can imagine few weightier responsibilities than speaking for someone else, and that charge remains the one that keeps me up at night and also propels me through the day. This month the union is especially engaged in the project of coming to voice, as we enter into dialogue with you about the Welfare Fund and the contract, and as we prepare for an international conference designed to strengthen the voice of public education on October 26.

**WHAT IS A UNION**

As I have traveled around the campuses to discuss the Welfare Fund, I have been moved by the generosity of your answers to the question of restructuring. A key issue is how to reduce our highest costs without unduly burdening those who are sickest and thus most dependent on the Fund for prescription drug support. In meeting after meeting, you have said that we must design a slightly higher out-of-pocket costs if that’s what it takes to protect those with catastrophic illnesses and drug costs that would otherwise be in the thousands each year. In some ways, the public discussion of the Welfare Fund has forced us to grapple face-to-face with what it means to be a union.

Members on the campuses have sharpened the focus of the issues for me, while also making fresh suggestions. Several of you have put the Fund crisis in new perspective – as did the member who commented on how absurd it is that corporate interests into academic life— are connected to a much larger effort to subordinate education to the needs of the market. It’s un

canny to read academic union newspapers from Sao Paolo or Mexico City or Vancouver: you feel as if you're reading about your own life. To talk to our counterparts from these cities is to experience a dramatic expansion of understanding. Come to one of the workshops or plenary sessions at the PSC. The next contract needs your input.

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Our fight on bread-and-butter contract issues has the best chance of success if we understand how these issues are implicated in a broader politics. On Saturday, October 26 the PSC will host an event that is the major US contribution to a hemisphere-wide initiative to reclaim public education from a global market and war economy. "Globalization, Privatization, War: In Defense of Public Education in the Americas," brings together scholars and activists from Canada, Mexico, Latin America and the US to develop coordinated responses to the worldwide assault on public education. The PSC is part of an international network of unions working on the project, and the conference is designed to signal the beginning of a week of events that give voice to academic unions from Buenos Aires to Toronto.

The issues we face at CUNY—chronic underfunding, intrusion of corporate interests into academic life—are connected to a much larger effort to subordinate education to the needs of the market. It’s un

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THIRD PARTY?

A strategy likely to fail

By KEN SHERRILL

D

do the costs exceed the benefits of organizing a third party in American politics? Third-party proponents claim their strategy will bring long-term benefits, opening up the system to new ideas and political alternatives. But the short-term costs of this strategy can be severe, and the promised payoff is unlikely to ever arrive.

In New York this question is more complex, because ours is one of a handful of states that allows cross-endorsement. Thus, third parties in New York often have a different purpose: activists aim to provide the margin of victory for a major-party candidate – generally when one has strong moral reservations against any candidate who is likely to win. But if one’s greatest concern is for CUNY, it is hard to imagine that abstention or a third-party vote would be the best possible option in the race for governor of New York.

McCALL

The next governor will be able to name at least seven members of CUNY’s Board of Trustees. There has not been a major-party candidate for governor of New York in the last 25 or 30 years as committed to public higher education, or to the type of student body we have at CUNY, as Carl McCall. And in this election, the practical effect of third-party efforts will be to hurt McCall’s chances.

There’s a romance to third parties, and it’s easy to be caught up in it. But diverting votes to losing candidates and strategies that limits, rather than maximizes, progressive influence. Progressives might take a lesson from the religious right: it has avoided the third-party temptation, and has seen its power grow.

Ken Sherrill is a professor of political science at Hunter College, center of Hunter’s Political Science Department and a member of the PSC’s Legislative Committee. The views expressed here are his own; at press time the PSC had not yet made an endorsement in the governor’s race.

THIRD PARTY?

Building a real political alternative

By STANLEY ARONOWITZ

A
merican democracy is in critical condition. As the country moves headlong toward the right, our two-party system fails to offer alternatives or even a real debate on the issues.Democrats get the votes of working people, African Americans, Latinos, women and the left, even as they repudiate the legacy of the New Deal and refuse to represent our interests once in office. Progressive efforts to influence the Democratic Party from within have been no match for the huge amounts of money corporations spend on campaign contributions and lobbying. On bottom-line issues – war on Iraq, tax cuts for the rich, the gutting of public services and social benefits – the Democrats have gone along with the Republican program, wrangling over details but never questioning the basic pro-corporate, militarist thrust of national policy.

It’s in this context that I’m running for governor of New York on the Green Party ticket. In the past I’ve been skeptical that any alternative party can make an impact on our winner-take-all, corporate-financed electoral system. I still believe that, ultimately, only a popular social movement can turn the country around. But I also believe that progressive unions can’t afford to ignore the electoral arena, since to most Americans elections are what defines politics.

TWO FRONTS

The Greens are organizing on both fronts, as an insurgent social movement and a political party. Weak, contentious and broke though it is, the Green Party has shown it can effectively raise issues that the major parties ignore. In 2000, Ralph Nader was the only presidential candidate to attack corporate corruption, a stance since vindicated by Enron, Worldcom and other scandals, and he won almost 3 million votes. Nader’s positions on globalization and workers’ rights led both the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters to flirt with his candidacy, and the Teamsters called for him to be included in the televised debates.

Since the Green Party of New York gained ballot status in 1998, the number of its local organizations and registered voters has quadrupled. Today Greens are in the forefront of the struggles to close the Indian Point nuclear plant, repeal the Rockefeller drug laws and end the death penalty.

Admittedly, some progressives find this dismaying. Won’t Green candidates just be spoilers, electing right-wing Republicans? Didn’t Nader elect Bush? Actually, Bush lost; he’s president not because of Nader but because of massive vote fraud in Florida and a right-wing Supreme Court. Still, it’s true: Green candidates may defeat Democrats. And even I would argue that in some races the Greens should stay on the ballot. But, that said, we can’t forgo building a genuine left simply out of fear of the right. To remain loyal to a Democratic Party that takes our votes for granted and betrays us every time is a political disaster. At best it means that America will move rightward more slowly.

In New York, the governor’s race does not pit a liberal against a right-winger; both major party candidates are corporate “moderates.” Though the state faces a budget deficit that may reach $88 or $89 billion and the prospect of drastic cuts in public services, including higher education, I am the only gubernatorial candidate to call for raising taxes on those best able to pay. Pataki, of course, has already given away billions in tax cuts for the wealthy; McCall (a former vice president of Citibank) calls himself a friend of education, but denies that new revenues are needed to pay for it. In fact, when Independence Party candidate Tom Golisano recently floated the idea of restoring NYC’s commuter toll, he was promptly attacked – by McCall.

At a time when the president has declared that domestic needs must defer indefinitely to the imperatives of the war machine, I have opposed Bush’s war policies and raised the issue of their impact on the state; none of my major opponents has done so.

REAL ALTERNATIVE

People ask me why they should waste their vote on a third-party candidate who can’t win. But elections are not just contests for power; they’re an opportunity to gain a public forum and influence the debate, to make sure that the left’s issues are not ignored, and, in the long run, to build a constituency for a real alternative politics. In my own case, if people who support my stands vote for me, they will help the Green Party win the 50,000+ gubernatorial votes it needs to stay on the ballot. This enables local candidates, who can win, to run and ensures that our oppositional voice will continue to be heard. We are truly running as a third party and a Democrat who stands for nothing, instead of a Socialist who is likely to win. But if one’s greatest concern is for CUNY, it is hard to imagine that abstention or a third-party vote would be the best possible option in the race for governor of New York.

Stanley Aronowitz is a distinguished professor of Sociology and Urban Education at the CUNY’s Graduate Center and a University-wide Officer of the PSC. The views expressed here are his own; at press time the PSC had not yet made an endorsement in the governor’s race.
EQUALITY AND LABOR

In search of democracy

By CECELIA MCCALL
PSC Secretary

The journey toward democracy for people of African descent has been long and tortuous. African Americans have experienced the economic consequences of inadequate political representation and the lack of a voice in powerful bodies. The Black Codes of the post-slavery South led to legal separation, and de facto segregation was the practice in the North. The de-basement and oppression of black people was legalized by the Supreme Court of the United States when it denied, in Plessy v. Ferguson, equal accommodations to blacks. While the Supreme Court recanted in its 1954 school desegregation decision Brown v. Board of Education, which held that separate is not equal, practice and lack of political will have trumped the law and we remain largely a segregated people in city, state, and country. One of the lessons of this history is that even a majority can act in ways that are undemocratic.

In New York State today, the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) is fighting an important battle in the struggle for democracy with its suit to achieve just funding for K-12 education. The CFE charged that NY State had not provided NYC with its fair share of school aid: for example, under the STAR program, NYC receives $74 per pupil compared to a statewide average of $413. More fundamentally, the CFE argued that Albany had ignored the state constitution’s requirement to provide “a sound basic education” to all.

8TH GRADE?

In response, attorneys for NY State argued that an eighth-grade education was adequate for the public school children of New York City, the overwhelming majority of whom are black and brown. This stance reflects a paternalistic attitude reminiscent of the worst of southern patriarchy. When Justice Leland DeGrasse rejected this claim and decided in favor of the children, Pataki appealed and won in a second court. (That decision is now under appeal.)

Based on similarly narrow thinking, other unions, which have until this moment supported Carl McCall, have decided to back Pataki. Looking at 1199 and UFT, one might argue that a quid pro quo arrangement had occurred. Endorsements were made after specific demands, such as wage increases in the instance of 1199 and UFT, were accommodated. Unions basing their allegiance on the narrow interests of their own members may be one result of the 2000 national election, when labor backed Al Gore and George W. Bush immediately retaliated once the presidency was secured. So now it’s every union for itself and an apparent abdication of solidarity, unity, and long-standing friends like Carl McCall.

Over the 30 years of his career, McCall has shown himself to be a friend of CUNY and the PSC. NYSTL first went to him to secure the permanent COLA for retirees. He made increased take-home pay possible for TRS members in Tier 3 and IV who no longer have to pay into their pensions. He has befriended this union’s new leadership in small and large ways, most recently by ensuring that members receive retroactive checks and increases in a timely way. Yet as this paper goes to press, it is uncertain that even the Delegate Assembly of the PSC will endorse McCall.

Even more important than pensions and retroactive pay are the bigger issues at stake in this race. All should be concerned about struggles for equality and justice. It has been almost 50 years since the Brown decision, but we have not yet secured integrated and equal education for our children. As one member of 1199 put it, you can’t “separate what is good for health care workers from what is good for healthcare workers’ children.”

Carl McCall certainly knew when he became one of the original plaintiffs in the CFE suit. McCall is PSC Secretary and chair of the PSC Legislative Committee. The views expressed here are her own; at press time the PSC had not yet made an endorsement in the governor’s race.

By MARYLIN HACKER

Morning news

Spring wafts up the smell of bus exhaust, of bread and fried potatoes, tips green on the branches, repeats old news: arrogance, ignorance, war. A cinder-block wall shared by two houses is new rubble. On one side was a kitchen sink and a cupboard, on the other was a bed, a bookshelf, three framed photographs. Glass is shattered across the photographs; two half-circles of hardened pocket-bread sit on the cupboard. There provisionally was a plastic truck under the branches of a fig-tree. A knife flashed in the kitchen, merely dicing garlic. Engines of war move inexorably towards certain houses while citizens sit safe in other houses reading the newspaper, whose photographs make sanitized excuses for the war.

There are innumerable kinds of bread brought up from bakeries, baked in the kitchen: the date, the latitude, tell which one was dropped by a child beneath the bloodied branches.

The uncontrolled and multifurcate branches of possibility infiltrate houses’ walls, windowframes, ceilings. Where there was a tower, a town: ash and burnt wires, a graph on a distant computer screen. Elsewhere, a kitchen table’s setting gaps, where children bred to branch into new lives were called for.

Who wore this starched smoked cotton dress? Who wore this jersey blazoned for the local branch of the district soccer team? Who left this black bread and this flat gold bread in their abandoned houses? Whose father begged for mercy in the kitchen? Whose memory will frame the photograph and use the memory for what it was never meant for by this girl, that old man, who was caught on a ball-field, near a window: war, exorted through the grief a photograph revives. (Or was the team a covert branch of a banned group; were maps drawn in the kitchen, a bomb thrust in a hollowed loaf of bread?)

What did the old men pray for in their houses of prayer, the teachers teach in schoolhouses between blackouts and blasts, when each word was flensed by new censure, books exchanged for bread, both hostage to the happenstance of war? Sometimes the only schoolroom is a kitchen. Outside the window, black storms on a graph of broken glass, birds line up on bare branches.

“This letter curves, this one spreads its branches like friends holding hands outside their houses.” Was the lesson stopped by gunfire? Was there panic, silence? Does a torn photograph still gather children in the teacher’s kitchen? Are they there methodically learning war-time lessons with the signs for house, book, bread?

Sameer Pandya: A life in the day

Starting a career at CUNY

By TOMIO GERON

One recent night Sameer Pandya, a new assistant professor at Queens College, caught a cab home from Manhattan. The driver was playing reggae music on the radio, but abruptly switched to French music as he neared Pandya’s apartment in Fort Greene.

Pandya asked if he spoke French.

“Yes, I’m from Senegal,” the driver said. “The French colonized us.”


“Where are you from?” asked the driver.

“I’m Indian,” he said, handing him the fare.

“Ah,” the driver said with a knowing look, handing him the change.

“Gandhi. Nehru. We learned about them in school.”

A CONNECTION

It was the kind of encounter that happens every day. But for Pandya, a new New Yorker, it now stands out as his first “New York moment”: a meeting with a total stranger, in a city of 8 million, that led to an unexpected connection. “That was nice,” Pandya says. “It made me want to stay here.”

For Pandya, who studies the interplay between national and colonial and post-colonial literature, the encounter was also a reminder of the contemporary resonances of his work. “It’s really interesting when you look at these cross-pollinations of culture,” he says – and in New York they happen every day.

Cultural diversity was one attraction of CUNY for Pandya. “One of the things that really got me interested in Queens College was when I came to visit was sitting in on a SEEK class,” he says. “The instructor showed me the class list and the languages that they speak. It was really unbelievable: Arabic, Bengali, Spanish, German and Polish.”

In his first semester at Queens, Pandya is teaching an intro composition course and an introduction to literary study. At this early point in the semester, he says, “my students are still checking me out.” And Pandya is checking them out as well, getting a sense of how his students respond to different pedagogical approaches. “In the beginning you’re not sure whether an exercise will take 10 minutes or an hour,” he remarks.

When Pandya greets this reporter on an early morning in Fort Greene, he is reading a profile of the tradition-ral Western canon who has argued that literature has been on the decline since Shakespeare.

For Pandya, the alleged loss of attention to Western civilization is not really the point. “I don’t think most people are really against the works in the canon,” he says over orange juice, “but rather how the canon is formed.” Pandya eagerly teaches Kipling and Conrad in his course this semester. “I like the canon,” he says with characteristic enthusiasm, “as long as I can teach it the way I want to teach it.”

The classic Western literary texts are important to study, he says – both in themselves and for what they say about society.

FROM KIM TO LILI KIM

Pandya is a specialist in South Asian literature and will teach courses on the subject at Queens. During the hour-and-a-half commute from Brooklyn to Flushing, he talks about how his academic interests relate to changes in the humanities. Despite the “culture wars” of the 1990s, there are increased opportunities for scholars who focus on the literatures and societies of non-Western or non-European peoples. “Several years ago, someone like me wouldn’t be hired to teach this subject,” he says. “I would just be teaching Kipling and Conrad.”

Once on campus at Queens, the intellectual focus shifts from Kim to Lili Kim, a hip-hop diva whose work and image are the subject of a lecture that Pandya had made plans to attend. The topics of gender, sexuality, race and representation are all part of the mix in the presentation by Michelle Smith-Berniss, a Queens College graduate who is currently a visiting assistant professor of English at George Mason University.

Pop culture is not his specialty, but Pandya appreciates the freedom to cross-train between social-cultural analysis of popular culture and imperial British literature. He studied at Stanford’s interdisciplinary Program in Modern Thought and Literature and says this kind of intellectual mixing makes academic life fascinating. “That’s what you can appreciate about a broadly defined training in literary or cultural studies,” he says. “It gives you the opportunity to study historical figures like Gandhi and then apply the same reading strategies to contemporary figures.”

Pandya is asked to do similar multi-tasking in his teaching, as he will teach both skill-building classes in the SEEK program at Queens and more advanced classes in literature and literary theory.

His new colleagues have been very welcoming and easy to work with, he says. Several are doing related work on literature from other areas of the world. “One of things I like about my colleagues is that there are other people who do post-colonial studies,” he says. “Others work on Africa, the Caribbean or ethnic America, from [a similar] kind of critical stance.”

INDIAN NATIONALISM

Pandya’s research currently focuses on autobiographies of Indian nationalist leaders, especially Gandhi and Nehru, from the 1920s to the 1950s. He is interested in exploring both the autobiography as a genre and the character of nationalism in the Indian independence movement. In the works he is studying, Pandya says, “issues get solidified that shape the way we think about decolonization, and that shaped social and cultural life in India in the ‘50s and ‘60s.” He notes that autobiography in India “does take some inspiration from the genre in West, particularly for Gandhi, who wrote in Gujarati.”

Gandhi’s work is influenced simultaneously by Gujarati literary history and by the general tradition of autobiography, providing an instance of the “cultural cross-pollination” that drives Pandya’s interest on the streets of New York.

Pandya looks forward to using the new junior faculty reassigned time, as provided for in the new PSC contract: “It’s a great thing because it gives you a summer and a semester to do your work,” he says; Pandya will gain the concentrated time he needs to turn his dissertation into a book.

In some ways the biggest adjustment for this longtime Californian will just be living in New York. During the trip back to Brooklyn on the G train, the E train and Q74 bus, Pandya talks about the excitement of moving here. Everything is new to him and often a bit of a mystery on first encounter, from the subway system to cultural institutions like the Brooklyn Academy of Music. His first real introduction to New York came in July when he came with his wife to look for an apartment.

The 95 degree heat and the humidity came as a shock, since Pandya had lived in the San Francisco area since he was eight years old. “It just wore us down,” he says. After seeing apartments the size of walk-in closets and meeting with several less-than-trustworthy landlords, they finally found their place in Fort Greene.

Now Pandya is settling in, getting to know his new neighborhood and his new department. But he does not expect the students and the cab drivers of New York to stop surprising him.

 Send it in!

All active PSC members were recently mailed a membership survey, asking for your views on contract demands, benefits and other union issues. What are the main problems you face at work? What do you think the PSC’s priorities should be?

Results of the survey will also be a valuable source of data for the union’s next round of contract bargaining. By documenting problems in working conditions at CUNY, the survey results will help to demonstrate to management why change is needed.

Please return only one survey. Please return only one.

The survey takes about a half hour to fill out, so this month we’re asking you to “Go the extra mile” to do it more. But your responses shape the PSC’s decisions, so it’s worth taking the time to do it right. Responses are due back by October 29 — so fill out your survey today!