BAD MAN BADILLO

by Sandra Barros
Special to the Envoy

Gathered in front of CUNY's central administrative offices on Monday, September 29th, approximately 100 CUNY students and faculty joined together to picket the CUNY Board of Trustees for the exclusion of students and faculty from the search for an acting CUNY chancellor and more specifically, to demand the resignation of CUNY Board of Trustees Vice-Chairman, Herman Badillo.

Since his appointment to the Board in 1990 by New York State Governor Mario Cuomo, Badillo has been a vehement critic of CUNY, repeatedly referring to the University as "an educational disaster" where "phony degrees" are given away because students "just can't cut it." Bob Hollander, the University Student Senate delegate for the CUNY Graduate Center and one of the protest's organizers, said, "Badillo has falsely accused CUNY of grade inflation and low academic standards, creating a public image of the University that legitimates the recent policies he has helped implement through the Board of Trustees."

The policies include, most notably, the recent imposition of new graduation requirements, the unlawful withholding of degrees and changing of curriculum without faculty consent at Hostos Community College, all of which were referred to as "arbitrary and capricious" by New York Supreme Court Justice Kenneth L. Thompsonson, Jr. who temporarily overruled these policies on July 15 of this year.

Mr. Hollander said that "Mr. Badillo's motivations stem from an open hostility to Open Admissions," the policy based on the New York State law which guarantees any high school graduate the equivalent admission to CUNY. Mr. Badillo's position on the Board of Trustees places him in a key position to put forth policies he has helped implement through the Board of Trustees.

Despite three weeks of attempts to contact Mr. Badillo, he did not respond to requests for an interview. As a public servant, this raises questions as to his accessibility to his constituents. He did not provide students with his own perspective on the issues raised by this article.

Mr. Badillo entered the New York political arena in 1961 on the reform wing of the Democratic Party. An orphan of humble beginnings, this native of Puerto Rico and graduate of City College and Brooklyn Law School easily captured the imagination of the Puerto Rican community. To a recent immigrant community with little political clout, Badillo represented triumph in the face of a political machine that had historically ignored the needs of the Puerto Rican community.

Mark Torres, community activist and member of the Socialist Action Movement, recalls the infectious excitement around Mr. Badillo's 1973 bid for the Mayoral primary. "I remember being eight years old. Me and some Puerto Rican kids were around our block with a shopping cart and placards, shouting Badillo! Badillo!" And indeed Mr. Badillo broke the ethnic line. Elected Bronx Borough President in 1966, he was the first Latino elected president of a New York City Borough. In 1970 he became the nation's first Puerto Rican Congressman.

"Because he looked and spoke like them, because he was Latino, the community believed he was one of them and would fight for their issues," said Mr. Torres. Yet despite the optimism initially inspired by Mr. Badillo, his actions would soon prove disappointing for the community.

"I have never seen Badillo as anything other than an opportunist, the epitome of a vende papa, a sell out," said Esperanza Marcell, a community activist of 30 years and member of Pro-Libertad, The Campaign to Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and War.

"Beginning in the early 1960s, Badillo was a central figure in the gentrification of Puerto Rican and Black communities all over the city through the so-called Urban Renewal projects. The neighborhood I grew up in was uprooted to make room for Lincoln Center. We called it Urban Renewal," said Mrs. Marcell. "Between 1962 and 1965, Badillo was the New York City Department of Housing's Deputy Commissioner. During the late 60s, Mrs. Marcell was a member of El Comite, a grassroots community organization and was actively involved in organizing against the city's efforts. Between 1969 and 1970 a squatters' movement grew in response to the problem of scarce and substandard housing. "The movement gained some concessions," said Mrs. Marcell. "Some of the private development projects were forced to make 30% of their buildings public housing. Badillo fought us every step of the way."

A Liberal Democrat in the 60s and 70s, Badillo was well known for his actions at the Arctic prison uprising, his opposition to the Vietnam War and his role in creating Honors Community College. "These were the late 60s. Black and Latinos were pressured by social movements to take progressive..." continued on 4.
Little Kids Go To School With Mama

Childcare at Hunter

by Sonia Robinson

Staff Writer

Although there is great demand for childcare, there are only fifty slots open to the kids of students who show up on registration day, January 3rd, at the crack of dawn. Many people have been known to spend the night just to try to secure a place for their child. On the issue of not having enough room to accommodate every parent, the Director of Childcare Zully Papa said that she "would like to help everybody who applies to the center, but the space we have is limited."

The center's operating budget for a year is estimated to be around $385,000. This money comes from Hunter Education State funding, Federal Block Grants, student activity fees and from user (parent) fees. Fees are based on a sliding scale which range from $15 to $122 per week for the semester. Although the center hasn't been the recipient of any drastic cut-backs, they haven't had a budgetary increase in ten years. Certified teachers employed by the center have no benefits packages. Papa says that the one thing she would like to do for her teaching staff is provide them with a pension fund.

Unfortunately though, the budget does not allow for that. She also said "when one of my teachers get sick, they don't get paid. If there is a holiday, they don't get paid." She has had a high turnover rate on teaching staff because she is unable to accommodate salary requests. Papa has realized that the teachers on her staff have internalized how important it is to establish a good foundation for young children and that is what keeps them here. Child care workers are among the lowest paid workers in the nation.

Many of the center's parents are dependent on Public Assistance, and the number of who fall below the poverty level is uncomfortably high. The students the center has lost to the work fare program have increased drastically. Last semester 62% were on FA, compared to this semester's 28%. "Welfare reform has scared people in general and caused a lot of parents to leave school. It's a shame because these work fare program have increased drastically."

"Welfare reform was a very helpful to young students who are potty trained before they can attend.

Colette Draut, a sophomore and Theatre and Film major, said: "I think it's a great center with a good staff and it's very helpful to young students who are also parents." She also stated that "the reports of peace of mind the students feel having their children in the center makes all the difference. There are eleven child care centers CUNY wide but Fishman said that "we have a model center and we have done everything right." Child care is provided while parents attend classes in the Spring and Fall, summer sessions I and II, college work study and during the winter intercession while students make up grades of incomplete or for internships. Time is also provided for study time during finals week and for various center related fundraising purposes.

There are 3 classrooms with children ranging in ages from 2 years and nine months to 5 years of age. The child to teacher ratio is 3:1 with occasional College Work Study students and interns added to the teaching staff. One very important detail that parents need to tend to is that their children be potty trained before they can attend.

Little one at the Center

Photo by Kai Mendez

Graphics by Jef

Collette Draut, a sophomore and Theatre and Film major, said: "I think it's a great center with a good staff and it's very helpful to young students who are also parents." She also stated that "the reports of peace of mind the students feel having their children in the center makes all the difference. There are eleven child care centers CUNY wide but Fishman said that "we have a model center and we have done everything right." Child care is provided while parents attend classes in the Spring and Fall, summer sessions I and II, college work study and during the winter intercession while students make up grades of incomplete or for internships. Time is also provided for study time during finals week and for various center related fundraising purposes.

There are 3 classrooms with children ranging in ages from 2 years and nine months to 5 years of age. The child to teacher ratio is 3:1 with occasional College Work Study students and interns added to the teaching staff. One very important detail that parents need to tend to is that their children be potty trained before they can attend.

Little one at the Center

Photo by Kai Mendez

Graphics by Jef

Colette Draut, a sophomore and Theatre and Film major, said: "I think it's a great center with a good staff and it's very helpful to young students who are also parents." She also stated that "the reports of peace of mind the students feel having their children in the center makes all the difference. There are eleven child care centers CUNY wide but Fishman said that "we have a model center and we have done everything right." Child care is provided while parents attend classes in the Spring and Fall, summer sessions I and II, college work study and during the winter intercession while students make up grades of incomplete or for internships. Time is also provided for study time during finals week and for various center related fundraising purposes.

There are 3 classrooms with children ranging in ages from 2 years and nine months to 5 years of age. The child to teacher ratio is 3:1 with occasional College Work Study students and interns added to the teaching staff. One very important detail that parents need to tend to is that their children be potty trained before they can attend.

Little one at the Center

Photo by Kai Mendez

Graphics by Jef

Colette Draut, a sophomore and Theatre and Film major, said: "I think it's a great center with a good staff and it's very helpful to young students who are also parents." She also stated that "the reports of peace of mind the students feel having their children in the center makes all the difference. There are eleven child care centers CUNY wide but Fishman said that "we have a model center and we have done everything right." Child care is provided while parents attend classes in the Spring and Fall, summer sessions I and II, college work study and during the winter intercession while students make up grades of incomplete or for internships. Time is also provided for study time during finals week and for various center related fundraising purposes.

There are 3 classrooms with children ranging in ages from 2 years and nine months to 5 years of age. The child to teacher ratio is 3:1 with occasional College Work Study students and interns added to the teaching staff. One very important detail that parents need to tend to is that their children be potty trained before they can attend.

Little one at the Center

Photo by Kai Mendez

Graphics by Jef

Colette Draut, a sophomore and Theatre and Film major, said: "I think it's a great center with a good staff and it's very helpful to young students who are also parents." She also stated that "the reports of peace of mind the students feel having their children in the center makes all the difference. There are eleven child care centers CUNY wide but Fishman said that "we have a model center and we have done everything right." Child care is provided while parents attend classes in the Spring and Fall, summer sessions I and II, college work study and during the winter intercession while students make up grades of incomplete or for internships. Time is also provided for study time during finals week and for various center related fundraising purposes.

There are 3 classrooms with children ranging in ages from 2 years and nine months to 5 years of age. The child to teacher ratio is 3:1 with occasional College Work Study students and interns added to the teaching staff. One very important detail that parents need to tend to is that their children be potty trained before they can attend.

Little one at the Center

Photo by Kai Mendez

Graphics by Jef

Colette Draut, a sophomore and Theatre and Film major, said: "I think it's a great center with a good staff and it's very helpful to young students who are also parents." She also stated that "the reports of peace of mind the students feel having their children in the center makes all the difference. There are eleven child care centers CUNY wide but Fishman said that "we have a model center and we have done everything right." Child care is provided while parents attend classes in the Spring and Fall, summer sessions I and II, college work study and during the winter intercession while students make up grades of incomplete or for internships. Time is also provided for study time during finals week and for various center related fundraising purposes.

There are 3 classrooms with children ranging in ages from 2 years and nine months to 5 years of age. The child to teacher ratio is 3:1 with occasional College Work Study students and interns added to the teaching staff. One very important detail that parents need to tend to is that their children be potty trained before they can attend.
Bad Man Badillo, from page 1

stances. As times become more conservative, you assimilate and follow the mainstream. Now Badillo's a Conservative Republican down with Giuliani, no matter what that means to his people," said Mr. Torres.

The Reform Democrats of the early 1960s were not concerned with issues of housing, jobs, health care or education, the main concerns of the Puerto Rican community in New York. Mr. Badillo was acceptable to the reformers because of his willingness to cater to the city's middle classes. Though he received overwhelming support from the Puerto Rican community, his early supporters were predominantly Jewish and included upper class Protestants.

Mr. Torres and Ms. Marcel both pointed to Mr. Badillo's support of fiscal exigency measures during the fiscal crisis of the mid 1970s. A Congressman at the time, he supported slashing social welfare programs and the first implementation of tuition at CUNY. "All this while supporting tax breaks for the middle class," said Mr. Torres. From 1984 to 1986 Mr. Badillo served as chairman of the New York State Mortgage Agency. In 1986 he joined the law firm now known as Fish, Badillo, Wagner, Harding and by 1988, he had completed four failed attempts at the mayoralty.

Today Mr. Badillo is one of the most influential people in New York City. He is Mayor Giuliani's special advisor on education and liaison to Hispanic groups, one of the Mayor's two unpaid personal advisors. Mr. Badillo's proximity to the Mayor has been the topic of controversy in recent months. Fleishman, Badillo, Wagner, Harding has seen a prosperous increase in its lobbying clientele since Mr. Badillo was brought into the Giuliani camp. His firm's lobbying clients, "whose executives acknowledge that they hired... to try to gain an advantage in winning contracts or favorable ruling from the Giuliani administration," according to the New York Times, have increased from 3 to nearly 60 in the last four years.

US Servis, one of the companies represented by the firm, has repeatedly been accused of mismanaging a $16 million contract with the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation. Dr. Miche- len, a former high ranking hospitals agency official told the New York Times that the agency hadn't broken the contract because Mr. Badillo told him Mr. Giuliani would be angry if US Servis lost the contract.

In another case, A.H.A. General Construction, a company involved in a 1993 building collapse in Harlem that injured 5 workers, received lighter penalties than originally proposed because Mr. Badillo's firm lobbied on their behalf.

In light of his political history and his current status as liaison between big business and the Mayor's office, what does CUNY's future with Badillo mean for students? "If high schools aren't preparing students, CUNY has to do it. Slashing funds and cluttering CUNY isn't going to prepare anyone. Only investment in education will prepare students," Mr. Badillo isn't taking leadership on that because it won't gain him favor with Giuliani. His record speaks for itself. "Students have to be prepared to stand up to Badillo," said Mr. Torres.

The Roving Photographer is a joined entity of Mike Gutierrez and the lovely Kai Mendez.
Messinger puts her spin on our lives.

**AND SPEAKING OF POLITICS**

**Feel Like You’re Going Mad**

Envoy Gives the Lowdown on Anxiety Attacks

by Richard Lambert

Contributing Writer

Panic disorders are a debilitating condition, striking over fourteen million Americans. According to the latest survey, 5% of the population suffers from some form of anxiety or panic disorder. According to research, anxiety and panic usually strike during stressful life events such as the death of a loved one, triggering the onset of anxiety and panic. Research has shown that people with panic disorders seem to develop from a variety of psychological and physical factors. A panic attack is usually an acute reaction to a real danger; the alarm is “true,” yet, for those who suffer from these disorders, the alarm goes off even when there is no danger.

This “abnormal” belief system is often a contributing factor in the brain’s alertness, which triggers the flight-or-flight stress response. The brain signals danger even though none exists,” said Dr. Steven Dubovsky in the December 1993 edition of Parade Magazine.

The term “panic attack” was officially recognized in 1990 by the American Psychiatric Association. The DSM-III-R, which is the formal handbook of psychiatric disorders, describes the disorder as “discrete periods of intense fear or discomfort...often with feelings of impending doom.”

The DSM-III-R states that a person suffering from panic or anxiety exhibits at least four of the following symptoms, including and not limited to: shortness of breath, dizziness, faintness, palpitations, trembling or shaking, choking, nausea, de-personalization, numbness or tingling sensations, flushing or chills, chest pain and feelings of being out of control.

Those who suffer from anxiety and panic disorders begin to avoid places such as the movies, shopping malls, grocery stores and crowded places in fear that they will have no escape from their perceived danger during an attack. This begins the process of agoraphobic avoidance and can lead to a devastating reality of being locked up at home twenty-four hours a day in fear of re-experiencing the onset of anxiety and panic. The onset of anxiety and panic can lead to depression, which in turn can lead to further anxiety and panic attacks. For many, the cycle is a vicious one.

Recent research has found that over ninety percent of anxious disorder sufferers who receive appropriate medical care have an excellent prognosis. One effective form of treatment is cognitive-behavioral therapy. Cognitive behavior therapy, described briefly, is (1) education, (2) cognitive restructuring, (3) Behavioral Training, (4) Situational Exposure, and (5) Interpersonal Exposure. Each step is intended to help alleviate panic attacks, agoraphobic avoidance, chronic anxiety and depression associated with panic disorder.

In New York there are several clinics and hospitals which specialize in anxiety disorders. One is the Montefiore Hospital’s Anxiety and Depression Clinic, reachable at (718) 920-2111.

Q. Why is the importance of CUNY to New York City and why should CUNY students vote for you?

RM. I think that CUNY is one of the most important institutions in the City of New York. It has been the route for generations of New Yorkers to move into higher education, and to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to get jobs in the work force. It’s more important now than ever before because many, many more of the jobs in this city and country currently require college education than was the case not so long ago.

I think the campuses do a great job of meeting student needs provided that they are adequately funded to do that. I’m someone who believes in the City University, has taught at branches of the City University, is the granddaughter of a graduate of City College in its earlier days, and will work with the Board of the City University to be sure that the branches of the University are educating all students for the demands of the 21st Century. I will be a mayor who will work with the students against tuition increases and for an expansion of the TAP program, and I think students should vote for me because I think students should exercise their franchise, and I think they should exercise it in their self-interest, and I’m much more invested in their education than is the incumbent mayor.

Q. About 18,000 students at CUNY are on welfare, and they are currently required by Giuliani to perform about 20 hours a week, who argues that work fare prepares people for life in the real world. How do you feel about this?

RM. I believe that federal requirements for people on public assistance need to be adhered to, but that CUNY students are involved, that students that made to me about a year and a half ago, which is to slightly reduce the required hours, and more important, to make sure that the time is flexible and that they’re allowed to do their work and assignments on campus in a great many places where the campus can make use of their skills is the right argument, and I supported that position very strongly in all of the branches of the City University, just like I have in the past supported the creation of daycare services on every campus.

I’ve raised this issue of protecting on-campus assignments for work fare workers with the President of the United States when he was here talking about welfare reform at Riverside Church several months ago. And I was a supporter of the legislation which has now been adopted in Albany, which mandates that CUNY students on work fare be allowed to do their work on campus.

Q. Akin to those differences between the police and CUNY students haven’t always been friendly, for example, several demonstrators at Hunter College were arrested around three years ago when they were protesting budget cuts. As mayor, how would you improve relations between CUNY students and the police?

RM. Well, it works on both sides, it seems to me. Students have to follow the law, and the police department occasionally needs to have free speech and free assembly rights - to be sure that they are respecting those rights. They should not be harassing students who are engaged in a legal protest.

Q. Do you think that the professors at CUNY also need to have their standards raised?

RM. I don’t know much about that. I think the biggest problem at City University is the huge number of faculty that are teaching not on tenured lines, and the large number of adjunct faculty that are making up the faculty base on some of the campuses, I think, almost in violation of standards for college accreditation. I think that’s bad for a campus, but many of the faculty know at branches of the City University are very dedicated to trying to find ways to teach, and it’s just that they are also being hampered by lack of tenure opportunities, by overcrowding of classes, and by a fair amount of uncertainty as to what the future holds on each and every campus, both to the budget and to other rules that they fear the Board may make that harder for students.

Q. One of Giuliani’s main themes has been quality of life. Obviously for you, one main equality of life is education; are there any other quality of life issues that he hasn’t addressed, that you would address, as mayor?

RM. I guess you can call everything quality of life. It seems to me, education is a univeneus unto itself; another critical area is the economy of the city which I think needs to be stimulated, needs to grow and there needs to be a great deal of attention to creating jobs for New Yorkers. There’s a great deal that City government can do to provide additional help to smaller business people, to require that businesses when they get a city contract, are required that some of the jobs go to New Yorkers, kind of a linkage agreement. And it’s very possible to do this; other cities have done it. I’ve done it in some small ways with some businesses that have done business here, and just to have to be serious about job creation, and that should be a tremendous importance to City University students.

One of the things that I have proposed that would I seek to create is a program at the City University where students at the City University who finish an accredited teacher education at the same time that they get their degree, and then agree to teach for five years, to teach in the schools in the city that are not doing so well, that those students would have some college loan forgiveness.

Q. As someone who is a strong advocate for the creation of daycare services on every campus, both to the budget and to overcrowding of the schools, some of their loans would be forgiven.

So it’s education, economic development and job creation, much more attention to the problem of police brutality which you asked about before. And when you talk to quality of life that way, one thing I would add, I think, is that the mayor thinks a lot about addressing community quality of life problems, but it really turns out that a great many of the quality of life problems that the mayor tries to address are those that can be addressed by the police. And that’s important. You know, in some neighborhoods, car theft is a serious problem, and in some neighborhoods, drunk driving on a public street is a problem, or other serious problems. But there are lots of neighborhoods where the quality of life problems are different, where they have to do with getting trees pruned so the trees won’t fall on over school buses and kill children; they have to do with...
Why Messinger Will Lose and What It Means For the Future of New York City

by Jed Brandt

Editor-in-Chief

Maybe in her mind, Ruth Messinger is making a difference. But after decades prowling the corridors of New York municipal politics, most likely she's just following a bureaucratic inertia that compels her kind to run for higher office. She didn't have the common-sense opportunism of Ferrer, who's waiting for Giuliani to get dumped by term limit; or the demagogic pizzazz of Sharpton who's got to keep busy somehow. No, Ruth Messinger is the last liberal making her last stand.

And it is a last stand. Filled with parochial and a certain pride, Messinger is witting on a sickly vine with the rest of the Democratic Party. All over the country, liberals are getting trounced. When the nightly news claims a conservatising of the electorate, they're right. That doesn't mean everybody is getting more conservative, just the "electorate." Who is this? Chances are, not you. More likely than not, you don't vote, won't vote, can't vote and ultimately have no hope for the casting of paper to transform your life in any meaningful way. And, truth be told, you're right. The government doesn't work for us and it shows.

The Democratic Party has dominated local and national politics since the 1930s. That's how they've been waiting for their chance, for the people to turn it around. But since I have a great deal of respect for the CUNT system and since I have been privileged to have taught at Queens College and at Hunter, and to have done a great deal of work with daycare on campus and a great deal of work providing funding and support for various programs at all of the branches in the University in Manhattan - Borough of Manhattan Community College, City College, Baruch, John Jay - I think I've a pretty strong track record of being a strong friend and supporter of City University. And it is not an exaggeration to say that if every student was an eligible voter and voted themselves and brought their families to vote, it could turn the election around.

No, Ruth Messinger is the last liberal making her last stand...