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OPINIONS

Letters to the Editor

Reidy: A quack and a crook

To The Editor:

While Valerie Reidy, principal of Bronx Science, may have been cleared of fiscal improprieties, she is still a crook [Bx Science principal: she is not a crook, 1/18/07]. One meaning of "a crook" is "a person given to fraudulent practices." I submit that Ms. Reidy is a crook as well as a quack!

All that Richard Condon's office is interested in is whether Ms. Reidy stole funds or services from the City. In 2005 I asked Judge Alfred Lerner of the NY State Commission of Investigation to determine whether Ms. Reidy and her cronies had violated the City Charter by fabricating documents to justify giving me a "U" rating and to terminate my employment. Judge Lerner passed off to Condon's office. The investigator, Nes Matos, requested evidence of fiscal impropriety even though this was not my charge. Ultimately his determination, which I had

to obtain under the NY Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), was that he could find no evidence of Reidy's "incompetence," though I had not charged her with incompetence.

Because of her limited knowledge of science and science education, she has, in fact, been stealing from Bronx Science students. Her promotion of "pure discovery" is a minor part of the problem. She has driven off good teachers while harboring poor ones. (Two current chemistry teachers had difficulty passing the NYS teachers' exam.) Although she has unused funds at her discretion, and even returned checks to jWIN, she has failed to place computer workstations in the chemistry and physics labs. In fact, when old TI-83 calculators and temperature probes used in chemistry failed they were not replaced. Students instead returned to thermometers. Modern labs ought to be outfitted

with computers and a variety of probes for data collection. To compete at the prestigious universities students need the equivalent of a junior college education in high school, but under Reidy, Bronx Science has regressed to a level far below Stuyvesant and Brooklyn Tech. Ms. Reidy is not equipped for her job, yet refuses input from those in the know.

I have been told that many think I am a "nut." If so, why did Purchase College rehire me for summer 2007—my 6th year with them—in early December of 2006? Why does a school district in Connecticut currently pay me over \$90,000, nearly twice my Bronx Science salary? However, my appeal to regain my City license was thwarted by Ms. Reidy with a new set of fabrications last October. Ms. Reidy is indeed a crook, and unqualified to continue as principal.

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