



Letters to the Editor

Axed teacher headed to greener pastures

To The Editor:

I want to thank your staff for your support of my plight at Bronx Science with such articles as "Quack Principal Fires Chem Teacher" (8/24/05). I have, in fact, taken a position on Long Island paying 30% more than I was making at Bronx Science. And I will be teaching the honors courses I was denied at Bronx Science, which Ms. Reidy gave to a complete novice.

And there lies the problem: This principal and her assistant principals make really bad decisions out of politics, spite or stupidity instead of serving the students under their care. When I was asked to participate in the writing of new experiments for the chemistry program, at the request of the chief writer, my request was denied even though I have authored a two-semester college lab manual. I was removed as a college mentor even though people praised the letters I wrote and my dedication to students, including the mother of a Riverdale senior who was a mentor herself! I

helped get her son into Harvard.

Ms. Reidy stopped me from traveling as a judge/chaperone for the debate team even though it meant paying extra to hire a judge at the tournament. She routinely rewards her cronies and supporters with odd jobs that pay extra, passing over more qualified personnel she dislikes.

But most importantly she has, by deed or reputation, driven away excellent, experienced teachers, even those with Ph.D.s,

and has hired inexperienced teachers instead. This past June the school picked two first-year teachers, one each in chemistry and physics, as "most experienced" from the applicant pool. Bronx Science should be attracting experienced teachers from all over the city, but it is not. Why?

Parents, taxpayers and politicians ought to be seeking answers to this question: How does such a quack principal get away with these things?

Robert F. Drake, Ph.D.