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By ARIEL KAMINER
July 16, 2013

It was supposed to be a feather in the cap for the City University of New York’s ambitious honors college. Or perhaps a careful first step back into public life for a leader sidelined by scandal.

One way or another, the news that David H. Petraeus, the former C.I.A. director and commander of the allied forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, would be a visiting professor at the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY this coming academic year was supposed to be great publicity all around.

Instead it turned into a minor scandal all its own, as some professors and politicians expressed outrage over his six-figure salary, and others accused the university’s administration of lying about just what the salary was.

On Monday, it was announced that Mr. Petraeus would, on second thought, teach for just $1.

“The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money,” said Robert Barnett, his lawyer, who, along with CUNY, confirmed the salary change. “Once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money.” So Mr. Petraeus proposed waiving his salary “to remove money as a point of controversy,” Mr. Barnett said.

Mr. Petraeus declined to comment.

When CUNY appointed him in April to teach a seminar now called “Are We on the Threshold of the North American Decade” each semester and deliver two public lectures, his salary was said to still be under discussion. But according to documents obtained by Gawker through a Freedom of Information Law request and later reviewed by The New York Times, he and the CUNY chancellor at the time, Matthew Goldstein, had agreed
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Mr. Petraeus declined to comment.

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Mr. Petraeus, who earned a doctorate from Princeton University, later wrote Ann Kirschner, the dean of Macaulay, to thank her for her interest and to confirm his own, noting, “The truth is that I could have had gotten more money or more prestigious places.”

Those documents and others provided by CUNY reveal an extensive and friendly e-mail correspondence between Mr. Petraeus and Dr. Kirschner. The two went back and forth about the seminar, an op-ed article they contemplated writing together, and even their
day. They do not appear to have exchanged e-mail about reducing his salary until word of his compensation — far more than most CUNY professors receive, for far less work — began making headlines.

CUNY officials insisted that those headlines were wrong, that despite the offer of at least $200,000, Mr. Petraeus had agreed to a smaller sum, all from private funds. To back up that point, Dr. Kirschner then wrote him a letter “memorializing our discussions over the past few months regarding your appointment as Visiting Professor at Macaulay Honors College at $150,000.”

That “memorializing” letter failed to convince critics. So a while later she released a document that was described as an early draft of the agreement. But that draft had never been sent, making its relevance unclear, and it was not included with the original cache of documents that had been released.

A chorus of observers accused CUNY of a cover-up. State Assemblyman Kieran Michael Lalor wrote a letter of protest. City Councilman Brad Lander started a petition. Bill de Blasio, the public advocate and a candidate for mayor, urged CUNY’s interim chancellor to renegotiate the salary. Salon.com declared the matter “a veritable second Petraeusgate.”

The skepticism in part reflects the disparity between what CUNY offered Mr. Petraeus and what it pays other professors. The average salary for full-time faculty members is $89,768. Adjunct professors, who currently teach more than half of CUNY’s courses, get just a few thousand dollars per course.

Most professors teach multiple courses each semester and do all of their own grading.

Mr. Petraeus will teach one seminar with 16 students, and CUNY has arranged for two graduate students to assist him, in addition to the three Harvard graduate students who helped him assemble the syllabus.

In his downtime from CUNY, Mr. Petraeus — whom Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Company has hired to be chairman of its new KKR Global Institute — will be on the lecture circuit and teach at the University of Southern California, a job that he said paid extremely well.

Dr. Kirschner said, “We felt that we had the opportunity to bring somebody of extreme stature to be with our students and that whether the salary was $200,000 or $150,000 he was absolutely worth it.” The dean also said, “I sympathize with the concerns about salary, but I also believe he is an extremely valuable teacher for our students.” As for the controversy, she dismissed it as “unfortunate.”
David Petraeus trades $200,000 New York university salary for $1 after outcry

By Ryan Gorman
July 15, 2013

Former Central Intelligence Agency director David Petraeus has decided against the huge payday from the City University of New York.

In the face of mounting public outcry, the retired four-star general and top spy Monday announced that he has decided to forgo the offered $200,000 salary from CUNY’s Macaulay Honors College and take a token salary of $1, according to reports.

No stranger to scandal, Petraeus quickly decided this was one battle not worth fighting.

Explaining that Petraeus didn’t take the job for the money, his lawyer Robert Barnett told the New York Times that ‘he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching,’ causing him to propose the change.

First reported by Gawker, the astonishingly high salary, worked out to about $2,250 an hour, according to the site. An average full-time faculty member pulls in just under $90,000, and adjuncts in the CUNY system usually make less than $3,000 per course, according to reports.

The salary sparked outrage among faculty routinely seen picketing through the streets of the city demanding higher wages and better health insurance, among other things.

Though eventually lowered to $150,000, the salary still infuriated the CUNY staff union.

‘It is obscene for a university that operates on a bare-bones budget to pay anyone $150,000 for a single course,’ Professional Staff Congress President Barbara Bowen said in a statement. ’Every dollar raised at CUNY, whether from public or private sources, should go to providing broad access to a quality college education,’ the statement continued.

The Brooklyn chapter of the PSC even accused CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein of ‘stealing from PSC members to pay Petraeus’ bloated salary.’

In addition to working only three hours per week, Petraeus was given access to graduate student support ‘course research, administration, and grading, as well as limited travel funds,’ according to the offer letter first obtained by Gawker and reviewed by Mail Online.

As time passed, vitriol over the shocking pay only grew.
Brad Lander, a city Councilman, began a petition demanding CUNY 'rescind the $150,000 payday for David Petraeus, and put those funds toward supporting low-income students or hiring more teachers.' The petition has 3,200 signatures to date.

City Advocate Bill DeBlasio, currently running for mayor, prodded CUNY to reconsider the pay it offered to their big ticket hire.

Correspondence between Petraeus and university administrators uncovered by Gawker showed that CUNY planned to fund the salary through 'funds from a private gift.' That gift appears to have never materialized.

To his credit, Petraeus, in emails exchanged with a dean, didn't seem preoccupied with the salary, even bragging he could have made more and chosen a more prestigious institution.

CUNY administrators defended the salary, telling the Times that Petraeus is 'an extremely valuable teacher for our students,' and called the furor over the pay 'unfortunate.'

Mail Online was unable to reach CUNY or Petraeus for further comment.
Former general and CIA director David Petraeus lowers his CUNY salary to $1
By SHEILA ANNE FEENEY
July 15, 2013

Former CIA director David Petraeus' $200,000 salary to teach a single seminar at CUNY has all but evaporated, as he will now collect only a single dollar, The New York Times reported Monday.

Petraeus, who resigned last year after news broke of an extra-marital affair, was set to teach a course at CUNY's Macaulay Honors College for $200,000.

After the deal was reported on Gawker.com, it was bumped down to $150,000, but Petraeus' attorney told the Times that the 60-year-old former general will make only $1.

"The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money," Petraeus' attorney, Robert Barnett, told the Times. CUNY didn't respond to a request for comment.
David Petraeus swaps $200,000 New York university salary for $1 following uproar
July 16, 2013

Former CIA Director David Petraeus will be earning one-dollar-a-year for visiting the City University of New York as a guest lecturer.

Petraeus took the decision for a major cut in his pay, after facing a firestorm of criticism for taking a 150,000 dollars salary for teaching just three hours a week at CUNY.

His lawyer, Robert Barnett, said that the general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money.

Barnett added that once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money.

According to the New York Post, a school official said that Petraeus proposed waiving his salary because he wanted it to be seen as public service.

CUNY announced in April that it had hired him to lead a seminar on US standing in global affairs.

Petraeus is set to lead a seminar on "Are We on the Threshold of the North American Decade."

Petraeus' career as the director general of the CIA was ensnared for his extra-marital affair with Paula Broadwell.
Retired General Petraeus Will Get Paid $199,999 Less Than What He Was First Offered To Teach A College Course
By Brian Jones
July 15, 2013

When David Petraeus signed on to teach a course at the City University of New York honors college this year, it was a win for both the publicly funded urban college and the disgraced former CIA director. But after Gawker revealed that CUNY was paying the retired Army general $200,000 a year to teach one course, it turned into a bit of a scandal.

After initial criticism, CUNY scaled back the general’s pay to $150,000.

Now, the New York Times is reporting that Petraeus will make just $1.

The claim that his salary would be mostly paid by a private donor just wasn’t flying with critics.

"It is obscene for a university that operates on a bare bones budget to pay anyone $150,000 for a single course per semester," said Barbara Bowen, president of the CUNY professors labor union. "Every dollar raised at CUNY, whether from public or private sources, should go to providing broad access to a quality education."

Petraeus is slated to teach a course called “Are We on the Threshold of the North American Decade?” It will meet one day a week for three hours, and have grad students to help him in his duties.

The median salary for a non-tenured professor in the CUNY system is $47,500.

“Once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money,” Robert Barnett, Petraeus’ lawyer, told the New York Times.
PSC: ‘Obscene’ To Pay Petraeus So Much for So Little
By DAVID SIMS
July 15, 2013

The City University of New York is wasting $150,000 hiring tarnished former CIA Director David Petraeus that would be better spent on giving raises to Research Foundation workers, the Professional Staff Congress charged last week.

The union had its members at the CUNY Research Foundation stage a one-day strike on July 1 protesting an expired contract (the workers are not covered under the Taylor Law and have the right to strike).

Short Hours, Long Pay

That week, details on the financial package Mr. Petraeus will receive as a guest lecturer at CUNY’s Macaulay Honors College were disclosed by the website Gawker. The school is paying him $150,000 per semester for an estimated three hours of work and two lectures. Some of the funds will be donated to charitable organizations, according to CUNY.

“It is obscene for a university that operates on a bare-bones budget to pay anyone $150,000 for a single course per semester,” said PSC President Barbara Bowen in a statement. “Every dollar raised at CUNY, whether from public or private sources, should go to providing broad access to a quality college education.”

CUNY spokesman Michael Arena said the funds for Mr. Petraeus’s hiring will be raised privately through the Research Foundation, which administers grants throughout the university.

The PSC’s chapter leader at the Research Foundation, Anthony Dixon, pointed out that the funds would be enough to cover the increases sought by his members, whose contract expired at the end of 2012.

‘Could Cover 3% Raise’

“That $150,000 for Petraeus is almost enough to cover a 3% salary increase for our entire bargaining unit,” Mr. Dixon said in a statement. The unit covers more than 100 members.

Mr. Petraeus’s salary dwarfs that of typical CUNY Adjuncts, who make about $3,000 per class, and they never have CUNY-funded graduate students to work with them, as Mr. Petraeus will.

“This appointment moves CUNY in the wrong direction and sends the wrong message about what is needed,” said PSC Vice President Steve London. “We need smaller classes, more financial aid for students, more fulltime faculty and better learning conditions for all our students.”
Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, whose mayoral campaign has been endorsed by PSC, is also calling on CUNY to cancel the Petraeus deal.

**Questions Priorities**

“While I understand Gen. Petraeus’ salary comes from private fundraising and not taxpayers, the decision still raises serious questions about whether this represents the best use of these resources,” he said in a letter to Interim CUNY Chancellor William P. Kelly. “Public universities should never put headlines ahead of affordable education.”

He noted that the money could alternatively be used to pay for the full tuition of 26 students, or for the books and supplies of 120 students.

“To spend $150,000 for an instructor who will teach just one class once per week that will reach just 15-20 students seems to be a misallocation of vital educational resources,” Mr. de Blasio said. “I urge you renegotiate this salary with General Petraeus to a rate that matches other professors in similar teaching arrangements, and direct the remainder of the money into tuition and resources that will better serve CUNY students.”

Mr. Petraeus resigned as CIA Director last November after an extramarital affair was discovered during an FBI investigation. Before working at the CIA he was a four-star General who commanded all American troops plus international coalition forces first in Iraq and then Afghanistan.
CUNY drops its pay for Petraeus

CUNY has retreated from its plan to pay former CIA director and former U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus at least $150,000 to teach a single seminar at Macaulay Honors College throughout the coming academic year.

Instead, he will teach at CUNY for just $1, his attorney told The New York Times in a story posted on its website yesterday.

"The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money," Petraeus' attorney, Robert Barnett, told the paper.

"I'm glad to hear the priorities were changed: It sounds like all the protests and the petitions being circulated had an effect," said Steve London, first vice president of the Professional Staff Congress, which represents some 25,000 CUNY staff and faculty members.

A firestorm of protest from the union, elected officials and students erupted after news broke this month that Petraeus would receive at least $150,000 to teach a single seminar. Many complained that a lavish salary for a single seminar was a misuse of assets when adjuncts received about $3,000 per semester.

CUNY contended his salary was coming from private funds and that Petraeus, who would also give speeches to the entire CUNY community, had a unique perspective that would be valuable to the university.
Petraeus Takes a Pay Cut: $200K to $1
CUNY revises his 'visiting professor' salary amid criticism
By Ruth Brown
July 15, 2013

David Petraeus and the City University of New York have been embroiled in a minor scandal this month, after it was revealed the former CIA chief was going to be paid $200,000 a year to teach at the college part-time. Now CUNY has revised his "visiting professor" salary—to $1, the New York Times reports. The original salary was first uncovered by Gawker, which reported Petraeus would do a seminar and two lectures a year for the money (though later revised down to $150,000)—with grad students taking care of things like "course research, administration, and grading"—while the average first-time adjunct professor at the college is paid $25,000 for a full-time course load (the average full-time faculty member makes $89,768, adds the Times).

After several weeks of public criticism, CUNY announced the pay cut today. "The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money," says Petraeus' lawyer, per the Times. "Once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money." The dean of CUNY's honors college, nevertheless, stands by the price tag. "We felt that we had the opportunity to bring somebody of extreme stature to be with our students and that whether the salary was $200,000 or $150,000 he was absolutely worth it," she says.
Petraeus OKs Teaching Pay Cut From $200,000 to $1
By Tom Topousis
July 15, 2013

Former CIA director and retired Gen. David Petraeus has agreed to take a major pay cut, from $200,000 to just $1, for his new teaching job at the City University of New York after his six-figure salary drew howls of protest from faculty and city politicians.

"The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money," his lawyer, Robert Barnett, told The New York Times while confirming the salary change.

"Once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school, and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money," Barnett said, adding that Petraeus proposed waiving his salary "to remove money as a point of controversy."

Petraeus is set to teach a course starting this fall entitled, "Are We on the Threshold of the North American Decade?" The class of 16 students would meet once a week and Petraeus would be assisted in grading by graduate students, according to the website, reported Gawker.com, which first reported his salary July 1.

The disclosure that Petraeus would be paid $200,000 by the taxpayer-funded City University caused an uproar, despite university claims that part of the salary would come from private sources.

The average salary for a full professor at CUNY is $89,768 to teach multiple courses.

Adjunct professors who teach more than half of the university's courses make far less, The New York Times reported.

Petraeus is no stranger to scandal. He resigned from his CIA post in November after the FBI discovered he had an extramarital affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell, while he was serving as commander of U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

In addition to teaching a course at the City University's Macaulay Honors College, Petraeus is chairman of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Company's new KKR Global Institute, the Times reported. He also is on the lecture circuit and teaches at the University of Southern California.
After Controversy, David Petraeus Will Now Earn $1
Teaching
by Eyder Peralta
July 16, 2013

Former CIA Director Gen. David Petraeus has decided to take a huge pay cut. The former commander of the allied forces in Iraq and Afghanistan will now make $1 to teach a course at City University of New York's honors college.

As you might expect, the concession comes after a bit of controversy. The gossip site filed a Freedom of Information Act request and found out the general was offered $200,000 a year "to work three hours a week." Here's how Gawker framed the story at the time:

"A first-time adjunct professor teaching a full course load at the City University of New York can expect to pull in. If you recently resigned as C.I.A. director over, however, you can expect to be paid eight times as much for a fraction of the work."

that professors and politicians expressed outrage and then Petraeus and the university relented. The paper reports:

"The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money," said Robert Barnett, his lawyer, who, along with CUNY, confirmed the salary change. 'Once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money.' So Mr. Petraeus proposed waiving his salary 'to remove money as a point of controversy,' Mr. Barnett said.

"Mr. Petraeus declined to comment."

Petraeus will teach a class called "Are We on the Threshold of the North American Decade."
Petraeus now cut-rate
CUNY salary slashed from 150G to a buck
By DAVID K. LI
July 16, 2013

After facing a firestorm of criticism for taking a $150,000 salary for teaching just three hours a week at CUNY, former CIA Director David Petraeus will now earn $1 for the year.

“The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money,” his lawyer, Robert Barnett, told The New York Times.

“Once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money.”

The retired general — and former commander of allied troops in the war on terror — proposed waiving his salary “because he wanted it to be seen as public service,” a school official told The Post.

CUNY announced in April that it had hired him to lead a seminar on US standing in global affairs.

The Web site Gawker later obtained internal school documents — through the Freedom of Information Law — to show how CUNY aggressively courted Petraeus.

Remarkably, school officials patted themselves on the back for getting him for only $150,000.

Petraeus is set to lead a seminar on “Are We on the Threshold of the North American Decade.”

Ann Kirschner, dean of CUNY's Macaulay Honors College, still insisted Petraeus would have been worth a six-figure salary.

“We felt that we had the opportunity to bring somebody of extreme stature to be with our students and that whether the salary was $200,000 or $150,000, he was absolutely worth it,” she told the Times.

“I sympathize with the concerns about salary, but I also believe he is an extremely valuable teacher for our students.”

In the FOI documents, CUNY officials seemed eager to hire Petraeus in hopes of elevating the school’s status to Ivy League heights.
Petraeus, 60, is a West Point alumnus who picked up his master’s and doctoral degrees at Princeton.

“The Macaulay students are talented, smart, and inquisitive, and they have academic profiles comparable to students at Ivy League institutions,” then-CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein wrote on Feb. 22, asking Petraeus to enlist at the City University.

In an April 23 note to Kirschner, a self-effacing Petraeus joked about his moral lapse and need to live up to his academic résumé. Petraeus resigned from the CIA after admitting to an affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell.

“I have acknowledged publicly that I made a big mistake — and I paid a huge price,” he wrote.

“Now it’s time to show that I actually accomplished some of what is on my CV prior to screwing up.”
After Uproar Over 6-Figure CUNY Salary, Petraeus Will Teach for $1
by Nick DeSantis
July 15, 2013

The City University of New York drew fire this month when it was revealed that David H. Petraeus, the former CIA director, would earn a six-figure salary as a visiting professor of public policy at the institution’s Macaulay Honors College. The details of Mr. Petraeus’ pay became the subject of widespread condemnation on social media.

But on Monday, two weeks after the initial wave of criticism, The New York Times reported that Mr. Petraeus’s salary would shrink all the way to $1.

The news Web site Gawker had previously obtained documents through a public-records request showing that Mr. Petraeus, a former Army general who resigned last year as director of the Central Intelligence Agency amid revelations of an extramarital affair, would earn $200,000 at CUNY. The university said later that the $200,000 figure was inaccurate and that his pay would be $150,000, financed with private money.

The smaller salary failed to satisfy CUNY’s critics. The Professional Staff Congress, CUNY’s faculty union, called Mr. Petraeus’s salary “obscene” in a written statement protesting his hiring.

Robert Barnett, Mr. Petraeus’s lawyer, confirmed to the Times that his client’s salary would be $1 and said Mr. Petraeus “never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money.” The Times reported that the university also confirmed the salary change.

Once the controversy over Mr. Petraeus’s pay arose, Mr. Barnett added, his client “decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school, and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money.” He said Mr. Petraeus had proposed waiving his salary “to remove money as a point of controversy,” according to the Times.
David Petraeus will take $1 salary for CUNY teaching post
Instead of earning $150,000 to lecture three hours a week at CUNY, former CIA director David Petraeus will earn $1.
By Bill Hutchinson
July 16, 2013

Former CIA director David Petraeus has taken a pay cut — instead of earning $150,000 to lecture three hours a week at CUNY, he’ll receive $1.

Petraeus’ lawyer, Robert Barnett, and CUNY officials confirmed the salary cut on Monday.

“The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money,” Barnett told the New York Times.

The move came just days after the six-figure salary was blasted on the Daily News’ editorial page and called “obscene” by CUNY’s faculty union.
Report: Petraeus Waives Large Salary For CUNY Teaching Post
By Perry Stein
July 15, 2013

City University of New York confirmed that former CIA director David Petraeus's new salary for his visiting professorship would be rolled back to $1 after both the university and Petraeus received backlash for his originally reported salary of $200,000, the New York Times reported Monday.

"The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money," Robert Barnett, Petraeus' attorney, told the New York Times. "Once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money," Barnett said Petraeus suggested eliminating his salary "to remove money as a point of controversy."

Petraeus is slated to teach a seminar called "Are We on the Threshold of the North American Decade" each semester and give two public lectures.
Petraeus to receive $1 salary for CUNY teaching job
By Laura Shin
July 16, 2013

Former CIA director David Petraeus will receive a salary of $1 for his job as visiting professor at the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY this coming academic year, The New York Times reports.

Petraeus was under fire earlier this year when reports that he would be receiving $200,000 for the part-time job made headlines.

“The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money,” Robert Barnett, his lawyer, told the Times.

“Once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money,” he said.

CUNY announced in April that Petraeus would teach a seminar called “Are We on the Threshold of the North American Decade.”

Documents obtained by Gawker via a Freedom of Information Law request revealed that Petraeus and then CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein had agreed on a yearly salary of $200,000, according to the Times.

When outrage ensued, CUNY insisted the agreement was made on $150,000, all from private private funds.

Full-time faculty members at CUNY earn just under $90,000 per year. Adjunct professors make a few thousand dollars per course.

“We felt that we had the opportunity to bring somebody of extreme stature to be with our students and that whether the salary was $200,000 or $150,000 he was absolutely worth it,” Ann Kirschner, dean of Macaulay. “I sympathize with the concerns about salary, but I also believe he is an extremely valuable teacher for our students.”

The announcement was made on Monday that he would be receiving $1 for the job.

In addition to teaching at CUNY, Petraeus works as chairman of the KKR Global Institute and teaches courses at the University of Southern California. Petraeus resigned from the CIA last year after admitting to having an extramarital affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell.
We're Sorry for Costing David Petraeus $199,999
By Cord Jefferson
July 15, 2013

Two weeks ago, Gawker contributor JK Trotter published evidence that the City University of New York was offering General David Petraeus a $200,000 salary for conducting a seminar on "developments that could position the United States...to lead the world out of the current global economic slowdown." Faced with only three hours a week of real work, the disgraced former CIA chief was set to be paid about eight times the salary of a first-time adjunct professor at CUNY, and all without having to teach a full course load. Today, it looks as if that deal has been scrapped.

According to a new article from the New York Times, Petraeus and CUNY have now decided that a $1 salary is probably more appropriate for the general's cushy gig.

On Monday, it was announced that Mr. Petraeus would, on second thought, teach for just $1.

"The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money," said Robert Barnett, Mr. Petraeus's lawyer, who, along with CUNY, confirmed the salary change.

"Once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money," Mr. Barnett added, so Mr. Petraeus proposed waiving his salary "to remove money as a point of controversy."

Mr. Petraeus declined to comment.

The minor controversy within this controversy has been that General Petraeus' CUNY salary was actually going to be $150,000, a paltrier amount he supposedly agreed to after being offered up to $200,000 by the school's administration. But as the Times notes, evidence of the $150,000 salary agreement is bolstered only by shaky proof.

Either way, the general is now getting about enough to cover a cup of terrible coffee at a deli. Don't spend it all in one place.
David Petraeus Decides Against Accepting Six-Figure Salary From CUNY To Teach One Class
By Tyler Kingcade
July 16, 2013

Four-star general and former CIA director David Petraeus will not accept a six-figure salary to teach one class as a visiting professor at the City University of New York honors college, The New York Times reported Monday. His new salary? One dollar.

CUNY announced in April that Petraeus would teach a class in the university system's Macaulay Honors College, months after he resigned from the CIA amid revelations of an extramarital affair with a biographer. Gawker revealed on July 1 that Petraeus was offered $200,000 as payment by CUNY.

After Gawker published its scoop, CUNY said the sum was lowered to $150,000, supplemented by private funding rather than tax dollars, and the former CIA director pledged to donate some of it to "veterans' organizations." Still, the compensation to teach one class was a significant amount more than the average $56,664 to $102,235 full professors earn at CUNY, and the $24,644 an adjunct earns teaching four courses a year.

"That $150,000 for Petraeus is almost enough to cover a 3 percent salary increase for our entire bargaining unit," Anthony Dixon of the Professional Staff Congress, CUNY's faculty union, said in a statement.

Local lawmakers like New York Assemblyman Kieran Michael Lalor, Public Advocate Bill de Blasio and City Councilman Brad Lander also criticized Petraeus' compensation.

"Once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching, and not have it be about the money," Robert Barnett, Petraeus's lawyer, told The New York Times.

Gawker apologized for costing the general $199,999.

Petraeus also accepted a position as a Judge Widney Professor at the University of Southern California, a private school in Los Angeles. In the emails released by Gawker, Petraeus told CUNY dean Ann Kirschner: "The truth is that I could have had gotten more money or more prestigious places (you won't believe what USC will pay per week)."
Criticized Petraeus to take $1 salary at NY school
July 15, 2013

Former CIA director David Petraeus is taking a big salary cut for his visiting professorship at the City University of New York's honors college after being criticized for how much he was getting paid.

Petraeus, a hero of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who quit the CIA in scandal last November after it was uncovered he'd had an affair with his biographer, will teach a seminar at Macaulay Honors College in the next academic year for $1, The New York Times reported (http://nyti.ms/13n0A8O) on Monday. That's down quite a bit from the $200,000 that Gawker.com first reported he was getting paid based on documents it obtained.

The high salary for someone teaching one class spurred outrage in a system in which the average full-time faculty member salary is just under $90,000.

Petraeus, who was a four-star general, proposed the salary reduction "to remove money as a point of controversy," his attorney said.

"The general never was taking on this teaching assignment for the money," said the attorney, Robert Barnett. "Once controversy arose about the amount he was being paid, he decided it was much more important to keep the focus on the students, on the school and on the teaching and not have it be about the money."

Petraeus has a doctorate from Princeton University and has written widely on international relations, military strategy and tactics and national security issues. He's scheduled to start his job as a visiting professor for public policy on Aug. 1.

When Macaulay announced Petraeus' new job in April, he said he was pleased to teach at the college, where most students are the children of immigrants. He said he looked forward to leading a seminar on the global economic slowdown.

Macaulay Honors College's dean, Ann Kirschner, said Petraeus has "engaged the Macaulay and CUNY community with generosity and energy."

"From what I've already seen, he is focused on how best to support our students — in their research, classroom activities and professional aspirations," she said in a statement.

"He will bring the classroom a rare perspective drawn from decades of mentorship and leadership in global initiatives."
**Top 50 Professors Revealed by CheapOnlineColleges.org**

Students across the country have voted in droves and now the list of the best university and junior college professors has been revealed at cheaponlinecolleges.org.

**July 15, 2013**

A good professor can shape an education, and so can a bad professor. That’s why CheapOnlineColleges.org has released its rankings of the top university and junior college professors for 2013.

By visiting http://www.cheaponlinecolleges.org, current and future students can find out where the best university and junior college professors are.

Cheaponlinecolleges.org is an online resource dedicated to helping prospective students choose the best college and university for their future. The list of the top 50 university and junior college professors is the latest ranking to be revealed by the website, which also houses informative articles, tips and blogs.

“**A professor can make or break your university or college experience. Our list means students can read profiles of inspiring and challenging professors and learn more about the schools where they teach,”** said the spokesperson.

The Best 50 Professors list is compiled by those in the know – the students. Through professor and teacher review sites, students have the opportunity to rate their college professors on aspects such as helpfulness, clarity and easiness. At the end of each year, student ratings are tallied up and rankings of the top professors are compiled.

“We decided to combine the data from the most trustworthy sites to not only reveal who the best professors are, but also where they are, what they teach and why they stand out,” said the spokesperson. “This is valuable information for any future students choosing where to study.”

Topping the University list is Kevin Rainford of the College of Southern Nevada, with a score of 9.94. Students praise the Business professor for a caring attitude that goes above and beyond. His university biography says he sees the enormous potential for global economic diversification based on the talented students emerging to change the world.

In second place is Professor Caroline Seefchak, an English professor from Edison State College, Florida. The majority of her reviews can be summarised by just one: ‘Hard class, cool teacher. She has a lot of energy and loves what she does.’

Top of the class for the Junior College Professors with a score of 9.9 is Sam Blank at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Professor Sam Blank is an adjunct speech professor for BMCC and has been recognized as the number one junior college professor
on various occasions. 'Funny,' 'sincere,' 'enthusiastic', and the 'best professor ever' are some of the phrases students used to describe Professor Sam Blank. Students also say he is knowledgeable, well prepared for class instruction and thorough with his class reviews.

“It’s great for professors to be acknowledged for the work they do. However, more importantly, it’s a great way for future students to find out where the best learning experiences can be found,” said the spokesperson.

To read the full list of the top 50 professors of universities and junior colleges, visit http://www.cheaponlinecolleges.org.
Leonard Garment, Nixon Lawyer and Watergate Figure, Dies at 89
By ERIC LICHTBLAU
July 15, 2013

Leonard Garment, a Wall Street litigator who was a top adviser to President Richard M. Nixon at the height of the Watergate scandal and who went on to flourish as one of the capital’s most powerful and garrulous lawyers, died on Saturday at his home in Manhattan. He was 89.

His daughter Ann Garment confirmed the death.

As White House counsel, Mr. Garment played a central role in some of Watergate’s highest drama, discouraging Mr. Nixon from destroying White House tapes, pushing unsuccessfully for the president’s early resignation in 1973, and recommending to his successor, Gerald R. Ford, that Mr. Nixon be pardoned.

Mr. Garment himself stepped down as Mr. Nixon’s Watergate lawyer in late 1973 once it became clear to him that the scandal was moving inexorably toward the president’s downfall.

Long after many Watergate figures had gone to prison or faded into ignominy, Mr. Garment remained one of official Washington’s most sought-after lawyers, known for his quick puns, a gift of gab and savvy media skills. He often represented powerful figures in trouble, among them Attorney General Edwin Meese III and Robert McFarlane, a national security adviser to President Ronald Reagan.

But for all his later successes, Mr. Garment remained linked in many minds to Mr. Nixon, his longtime friend and former law partner, and the scandal that brought him down. Mr. Garment regarded Mr. Nixon as an older brother of sorts.

Yet the two made for an odd pairing. Mr. Garment was a liberal in a Republican administration, a Democrat who voted for John F. Kennedy over Mr. Nixon in the 1960 presidential election. He was a Jew from Brooklyn working for a native Californian given to making anti-Semitic comments in private. He was a gregarious man with a talent for jazz who counseled a dour president. He was a champion of human rights in an administration that many blacks considered hostile to minority issues. And he was regarded as a voice of conscience in a White House that had lost its ethical bearings.

In later years, Mr. Garment viewed Mr. Nixon with an uneasy mixture of reverence, nostalgia, conflict and disappointment.

“My feelings about Mr. Nixon remained the same until his death — a tangle of familial echoes, affections, and curiosities never satisfied,” Mr. Garment wrote in his 1997 autobiography, “Crazy Rhythm: From Brooklyn and Jazz to Nixon’s White House, Watergate, and Beyond.”

He added: “The Nixon who was despised by millions of strangers, and who aroused powerful ambivalence in close associates because of his nasty mood swings between grandiosity and pettiness, was not the Nixon I knew. I was exposed mainly to his attractive sides — his intelligence, idealism, and generosity. Only by ‘hearsay,’ mainly tape-recorded, did I ‘see’ the fulminating stranger I was happy not to know.”
Leonard Garment was born on May 11, 1924, "on a kitchen table," he wrote, in a three-room tenement apartment in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. His father, who owned a dress factory in Queens, had immigrated from Lithuania and his mother from Poland, and the immigrant roots in his neighborhood ran deep; Mr. Garment likened Brownsville to a semirural European shtetl, with the street peddlers hawking their wares in Yiddish.

He went to Samuel J. Tilden High School in East Flatbush, Brooklyn College and Brooklyn Law School, where he was editor of the law review and graduated first in his class in 1949. But his first brush with celebrity was not in law or politics, but in his first love — music.

Mr. Garment had taken up the clarinet at age 13 and mastered the saxophone as well. As a young man he played jazz gigs from Manhattan to the Catskills. For a time he led his own nine-piece band, enjoying a posh life that offered an escape from what he saw as the dreary confines of Brooklyn. He paid for part of his college education by playing tenor saxophone and clarinet in Woody Herman's band, and in Henry Jerome’s band he teamed with an aspiring young economist named Alan Greenspan, also on saxophone.

(When Mr. Nixon sent Mr. Garment to the Soviet Union as his emissary in 1969, he took up a clarinet at a Moscow cabaret and led an long jam session.)

After law school, Mr. Garment signed with the New York law firm of Mudge, Stern, Williams & Tucker and became a partner in 1957, heading its litigation department and representing mainly Wall Street clients. It was the law firm that brought him together with Mr. Nixon in 1963, when the former vice president — fresh off his failed run for the governor's seat in California — joined the practice.

Despite their political differences, Mr. Garment saw Mr. Nixon as a powerful figure, a man who could help him to pump energy into a law career going stale.

"I couldn’t have cared less that Richard Nixon was the political Antichrist of eastern liberalism," he wrote in his autobiography. "He was also an opening to a different life and the possibility of salvation."

When Mr. Nixon looked to rehabilitate his political career in the mid-1960s, Mr. Garment joined a small nucleus of trusted advisers.

Their differences in temperament were apparent even then. After Mr. Garment helped Mr. Nixon in a triumphant round of campaigning for congressional candidates in 1966, Mr. Nixon told him: "You’re never going to make it in politics, Len. You just don’t know how to lie."

Mr. Garment was a key adviser in Mr. Nixon’s successful presidential campaign in 1968, serving, by his own admission, as an “odds and ends” utility man: media consultant, policy adviser and talent scout. He recommended another law partner, John N. Mitchell, as campaign manager. Mr. Nixon later named Mr. Mitchell attorney general. In the Nixon White House, where conservatives like Mr. Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman wielded more power, Mr. Garment was "the resident liberal conscience," wrote William Safire, the former Nixon speechwriter and columnist for The New York Times, in his book, "Before the Fall: An Inside View of the Pre-Watergate White House."
Mr. Garment was initially a special consultant on an odd assortment of issues, grouped as “civil and human rights, voluntary action and the arts.” His duties ranged from placating American Indian protesters at historic Wounded Knee in South Dakota to recruiting a new director for the National Endowment for the Arts.

But his most crucial role was in defending Mr. Nixon as White House counsel, a job he accepted only grudgingly after John Dean 3rd was dismissed.

His aggressive advocacy for Mr. Nixon drew criticism. When it was disclosed, for instance, that in talking to the Justice Department he had suggested candidates for the post of special Watergate prosecutor, lawmakers were outraged.

It was Mr. Garment who went before an openly incredulous White House press corps in May 1973 to present Mr. Nixon’s first detailed defense in the Watergate affair, which began in 1972 when a White House team of burglars, the so-called Plumbers, broke into the offices of the Democratic opposition at the Watergate complex during Mr. Nixon’s re-election campaign. Mr. Garment likened the news conference to “a public stoning.”

Still, he said later that he had often felt cut off from key information, like the existence and scope of the Watergate tapes that chronicled Mr. Nixon’s office conversations, and that he had increasingly been shut out of Mr. Nixon’s inner circle.

After the taping system’s existence became known and prosecutors demanded access to the Watergate tapes, it was Mr. Garment who was credited with persuading Mr. Nixon not to destroy them.

“I told him it would be an obstruction of justice,” he said in a 1987 interview. “My lawyer’s view was that it could be the first count in a bill of impeachment.”

Mr. Garment came to regret that recommendation. If he had it to do over, he wrote, he would probably have told Mr. Nixon that “the tapes will kill you,” and that “now you alone must decide what to do with them.”

In the fall of 1973, amid a cascade of widening investigations, damaging revelations about a cover-up of the Watergate burglary and other illegalities and the infamous “18½ minute gap” in a crucial White House tape, Mr. Nixon suggested to J. Fred Buzhardt, a partner to Mr. Garment on the Watergate defense team, that he fabricate a tape-recording to comply with a subpoena.

The suggestion, Mr. Garment said later, “went over the line,” and it prompted him and Mr. Buzhardt to travel to Key Biscayne, Fla., where the president was vacationing, and recommend to the presidential aides Alexander M. Haig and Ronald Ziegler that the president resign. General Haig delivered the recommendation to Mr. Nixon, who rejected it without seeing his lawyers.

Not long after, Mr. Garment decided to phase out of the Watergate defense because, he said, he had “outlived my usefulness as the president’s lawyer.”

Mr. Garment was such an integral figure in the Watergate story that he was long rumored to have been Deep Throat, the enigmatic source used by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein in their Watergate coverage for The Washington Post. (In 2005, W. Mark Felt, a former No. 2 official at the F.B.I., revealed that he had been Deep Throat.)
Although he sometimes bristled at his Watergate notoriety, Mr. Garment professed no lasting scars from the episode, the biggest political scandal of the century. When he gathered with former White House colleagues like Bebe Rebozo and General Haig in 1990 for the opening of the Nixon presidential library in Southern California, he described Watergate as a kidney stone that "worked its way out of everybody's system a long time ago."

"You won't find this group wallowing in Watergate," he said.

After leaving the White House in late 1973, he worked for the United Nations on human rights issues, then returned to private practice and a position as one of Washington's "power lawyers."

"If you qualify for becoming Len's client," Robert McFarlane said as he faced charges in the Iran-contra affair, "you have a lot going for you already."

Mr. Garment also represented Mr. Meese when allegations of financial improprieties threatened his nomination for attorney general in 1984. (A court-appointed investigator found no basis for bringing criminal charges.) Mr. Garment's client list also included the televangelist Oral Roberts, the fugitive financier Marc Rich and corporate giants like Toshiba and Fiat.

When Robert H. Bork was nominated to the Supreme Court in 1987, Mr. Garment took up Judge Bork's cause as well — and contributed tens of thousands of dollars of his own money — in a failed but spirited public-relations campaign against what he saw as an unfair attack on conservative legal tenets.

In the early 1990s, Mr. Garment returned to one of his passions — promoting reforms in international human rights law to protect American citizens tortured or killed abroad.

After many years as in-demand lawyer, he made some of his last big headlines late in his career after his Philadelphia law firm slashed his pay and implicitly criticized his work.

He countered with a $1 million age-discrimination claim in 1999 and, like many clients he had represented, ended up settling.

Mr. Garment's first wife, the former Grace Albert, a writer for the daytime soap opera "Edge of Night," was found dead in 1977 in a Boston hotel room. The medical examiner ruled the death a suicide. His daughter Sara Elizabeth Garment died in 2011 at 51.

Besides his daughter Ann, he is survived by his wife, the former Suzanne Bloom, a lawyer and editor, whom he married in 1980; a brother, Martin; and a grandson.
SCHOR--Joseph. We mourn the passing of Joseph Schor, husband of our dear friend Laura Schor, founding dean of Macaulay Honors College and professor at Hunter College. So many were inspired by his remarkable, wide-ranging intellectual curiosity, dedication to family, and his generosity. Our hearts are with Laura and Joe’s family. Ann Kirschner Dean, Macaulay Honors College.
Universities Commit to Graduate Majors in Green Chemistry
July 15, 2013

Much is being made of the shortage of skilled people to fill positions in science, math and engineering, and 13 colleges are coming together to make sure some of those skills are green.

In an effort to transform chemistry education in the US, they have signed a "Green Chemistry Commitment" promising to graduate chemistry majors proficient in the theory and practice of developing environmentally responsible chemicals.

University of California/ Berkeley, University of Minnesota and Northeastern University are among those that signed on, saying that an emphasis on green chemistry gives chemical companies a competitive advantage.

"Supporting green chemistry education gives chemical companies a competitive advantage by providing a quicker time to market by reducing the environmental impact of manufacturing, reducing worker injury by minimizing exposure to toxic chemicals, processes, and waste; and increasing efficiency and productivity of new employees who are better prepared after graduating from academic programs," says organizer Beyond Benign.

By placing more focus on environmental impacts at the earliest stage of innovation and invention, hazardous materials are removed from processes, all hazard-related costs are removed as well, significantly reducing hazardous materials handling, transportation, disposal and compliance concerns. Environmentally benign technologies have been proven to be economically superior and function as well or better than more toxic traditional options, they say.

"When we modify our teaching labs by substituting drugstore-variety hydrogen peroxide and other greatly reduced toxicity chemicals instead of hazardous solvents and suspected cancer-causing agents, we show the principles of green chemistry in action," says Professor Irv Levy, Chemistry Department Chair at Gordon College. "Students learn the same concepts and principles of chemistry they need, but they also learn how to achieve results in a way that's safer for them, the community, and the environment. It's just the right thing to do."

The other schools that have signed on are: Bridgewater State University, Gordon College, Grand Valley State University, Kingsborough Community College, Michigan Technological University, Simmons College, South Dakota State University, St. Catherine University, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Washington College.

"The goal of green chemistry is for the term to disappear and it simply becomes how we practice chemistry," says Dr. John Warner, one of the founders of the field of green
chemistry and president of Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry and Beyond Benign. "One day, we'll be able to clean up a tanker's chemical spill with water and a broom. It might take decades to get there, but that is what green chemistry will achieve."

The green chemistry industry, which is working to replace petroleum-based and toxic chemicals with safe, renewable bio-based products and materials, is expected to grow to a $100 billion by 2020, up from less than $3 billion in 2011, according to Navigant Research (formerly Pike). That's a drop in the bucket in the $4 trillion global chemical industry, but greener chemicals will save the chemical industry more than $65.5 billion by 2020, they say.

3 major themes are driving green chemistry forward:

- Waste minimization in the chemical production process
- Replacement of existing products with less toxic alternatives
- A shift to renewable (non-petroleum) feedstocks

Green chemical companies are currently among the biggest recipients of cleantech venture capital and a slew of them have gone public in the past couple of years. Each year, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the Presidential Green Chemistry Awards.

Verdezyne has a pilot plant to make "green" nylon, used for engineered plastics, carpets, clothing and other textiles, and Agilix is turning non-recyclable plastics into oil that can be converted to crude in refineries, for example.
The forever conflict: Will America’s war on terror ever end at home?
by Alex Kane
July 12, 2013

The war on terror has continued to wreak havoc on Americans’ civil liberties. Will this war at home ever be shut down?

The short answer is not anytime soon. But a conversation over its domestic costs has been sparked by new revelations about a surveillance state that has grown out of control, collecting massive amounts of data and tracking the online and phone activities of millions of Americans.

The leaks from former National Security Agency contract employee Edward Snowden have refocused attention on the domestic war on terror and infringements on civil liberties. Snowden and The Guardian have revealed that the U.S. government is collecting data from millions of Americans’ phone calls; that the communications of Americans are routinely swept up even if the NSA targets foreigners; that the Obama administration continued a program until 2011 that collected e-mail records of Americans in bulk; and that a secret court has signed off on these programs.

In all, the leaks reveal that the war on terror at home continues to grind on, capturing in its dragnet millions of Americans and foreigners, many of them innocent of any crime.

The war on terror has become institutionalized, and the domestic costs of this war continue to mount: privacy is being eroded; communications are being monitored; and dissent is being cracked down on. The primary targets of the domestic war on terror continue to be Muslims and Arabs, though it is now clear that the sweep of the domestic war has ensnared millions of other Americans. And there is no end in sight to this domestic juggernaut.

“The NSA revelations underscore the war-time footing of the administration, and of the previous administration as well,” said Naureen Shah, an expert on U.S. counter-terrorism practices and the former acting director of Columbia University Law School’s Human Rights Clinic. “The US approach to terrorism treats war as perpetual and boundless geographically, and also in terms of who can be targeted for surveillance [and] for prosecution.”

How did we get here?

The story begins in the immediate aftermath of September 11. Individual acts of hate-crimes against Muslims, or those perceived to Muslim, dramatically accelerated. But it was the state that had the ability to do the most damage to Muslims and Arabs—and they did.
The Federal Bureau of Investigation led the way in tracking down, rounding up and detaining hundreds of Arab and South Asian Muslims in the U.S. They were thrown into jail, held on minor immigration violations and detained for questioning. Many were deported.

The U.S. government and its law enforcement agencies then instituted counter-terror policies that disproportionately impacted Muslims in America. One of these policies is the no-fly list, where people are arbitrarily thrown onto a list that prohibits them from freely traveling into and out of the U.S. Another was the National Security Entry/Exit Registration System, a government program that singled out non-citizen Muslim males for special registration in the U.S. immigration system. Many of those who registered, thinking it would put them on a path to citizenship, were instead deported. The program was dropped in April 2011.

And the other major iteration of the domestic “war on terror” is the use of surveillance and informants to keep tabs on the Muslim community wholesale. The FBI, for instance, has used a so-called “mosque outreach” program in California to keep tabs on Muslim leaders. From 2004-2008, FBI agents visited mosques to ostensibly collect reports on hate crimes, only to turn around and retain information on Muslims’ religious beliefs, practices, travel and the location of mosques. The FBI has also used undercover informants. One of the more notorious cases involved a man named Craig Monteilh, who told The Guardian in 2012 that since 2006, he infiltrated mosques in southern California, pretended to be a convert and recorded conversations with Muslims.

Monteilh told The Guardian’s Paul Harris that the FBI gave him the go-ahead to even have sex with a Muslim woman he was targeting. Eventually, Monteilh’s rhetoric at mosques grew so extreme that members of the Orange County Muslim community reported him to the FBI, not knowing he was in fact working for them.

The story of Monteilh rings true throughout Muslim communities in the U.S, where informants have become a routine part of life.

“Sometimes at our ‘know your rights’ workshops, we’ll be at a mosque and ask how many people in the room--either themselves or if they know someone--have been questioned by the FBI, and every single hand in the room will go up,” said Diala Shamas, an attorney with the City University of New York School of Law’s Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility (CLEAR), which provides legal services to Muslim and other communities dealing with the domestic war on terror. “The impact [of the war on terror] has been disproportionately felt in one community, and that’s the American Muslim community...The fact that this community is viewed as one that is not empowered, one that doesn’t have political clout, and one that may be afraid to speak out given the climate of fear, allows these policies to continue. This very silencing breaks the system of checks and balances that our democracy relies on.”

By far the most extreme example of the pernicious targeting of American Muslims has been the New York Police Department’s extensive program of surveillance, which began
following the September 11 attacks and was exposed by the Associated Press. Instituted with the help of the Central Intelligence Agency, the police’s Intelligence Division has mapped Muslim-owned businesses, recorded innocuous conversations, infiltrated student groups and urged informants to bait Muslims into saying inflammatory things about violence.

Critics charge that the surveillance program is based on the unconstitutional notion that the more devoutly Muslim you are, the more likely a terrorist you are. In 2007, the NYPD released a controversial policy paper, with that notion at the heart of it. The paper charges that radicals are “incubated” at places like “mosques...cafes, cab driver hangouts, flophouses, prisons, student associations, nongovernmental organizations, hookah (water pipe) bars, butcher shops and book stores.” The paper also states that you can pinpoint radicalization if a person begins to give up “cigarettes, drinking, gambling and urban hip-hop gangster clothes,” wear “traditional Islamic clothing” or grow a beard and become involved in “social activism and community issues.”

The NYPD has continued its program of surveillance, though a number of legal challenges have been lodged against it. One of the thrusts of a lawsuit that charges the police have violated federally-imposed guidelines on how to conduct religious or political surveillance is that “the program is interminable...[A] surveillance program of the sort that the NYPD conducts has no end. Its pervasive injurious effects must increase as people become more aware of the surveillance. This is the essence of a police state.”

But the way the NYPD sees it, there’s no reason for the surveillance to end--ever. In their eyes, as long as the war on terror continues, and as long as the threat of homegrown terrorism is ever present, the surveillance program is needed. In recent court filings, the NYPD pointed to the Boston bombings as well as a host of other local plots to justify why the judge should dismiss a lawsuit challenging the program. But the NYPD’s justifications cite a number of plots that were created with the help of NYPD informants who baited and, critics would argue, entrapped young, struggling Muslims--many of whom had no way to actually carry out the plot they were charged with.

The use of informants to fuel alleged terror plots is part of the circular logic that justifies the perpetual war on terror domestically. Both the NYPD and the FBI point to the plots their informants concocted to show why they need to continue to be vigilant against terrorism—a vigilance they say necessitates mass surveillance.

There are also institutional reasons why the the NYPD and the FBI want the war on terror to continue. Thousands and thousands of jobs are at stake. Billions of dollars in counter-terrorism budgets are at stake, too. As Trevor Aaronson, author of The Terror Factory: Inside the FBI's Manufactured War on Terrorism, recently told AlterNet’s Joshua Holland, “the reason we’re seeing these really aggressive sting operations is the result of something of a bureaucratic evil. That is every year Congress allocates the FBI’s budget, and they set the counter-terrorism budget at $3 billion...From the highest levels of the FBI, there’s pressure to build counter-terrorism cases because they just received $3 billion from Congress and that pressure then flows down to the field offices.”
But now it's not just Muslims who are being affected. As the NSA revelations have shown, the war on terror has metastasized into an all-encompassing dragnet affecting nearly every American. To critics of the war on terror like CLEAR's Shamas, the NSA leaks prove that the executive branch's powers need to be curbed.

"That these policies are still happening under the Obama administration is proof of what many have long observed, which is that the executive is not likely to reign itself in," she said. "It's institutionally not inclined to yield any discretion or gains that it's made, and it's institutionally inclined to try and continue to garner more power. That is the trajectory we're going to continue to see unless and until there is push back from communities and voters organizing - and from the courts if that doesn't work."

But the combination of a powerful and largely unaccountable executive branch and a compliant judiciary and Congress seems to indicate that until there's a massive movement against the war on terror at home, it will continue to grind on. Naureen Shah says the war at home won't end until two specific laws are changed.

"The Patriot Act, the Authorization for the Use of Military Force--these are pieces of legislation passed after 9/11 in response to a horrific attack on U.S. soil that gave the U.S. government unprecedented power that we've never really rolled back, more than 10 years on," said Shah. "We can expect the government to continue using these powers it has until we force it to relinquish those powers by changing the law."
Spitzer, Weiner lead NY races in comeback attempts
By Francesca Trianni
July 15, 2013

Disgraced politicians Eliot Spitzer and Anthony Weiner are frontrunners in their comeback races, a poll released on Monday showed, with most voters more forgiving about sexual misconduct than financial corruption.

"Notoriety has earned the 'Tabloid Twins' ... good initial numbers in the polls," said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute which conducted the survey.

Nearly two months before the September 10 Democratic primary, Spitzer is leading the race for New York City comptroller five years after resigning as the state's governor in a prostitution scandal.

Weiner, 48, is running for New York mayor two years after a sexting scandal forced him to resign as a congressman.

Spitzer, who shook up the New York political establishment with his 11th-hour bid for the post last week, is leading Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer with a 15 percent advantage.

Of those polled, 48 percent of registered Democrats said they prefer Spitzer, while 33 percent said they would vote for Stringer.

"While I didn't take a poll to enter this race, the results of these early polls are gratifying," Spitzer, 54, said in a statement.

Spitzer became New York governor in January 2007 after serving as the state's attorney general for 7 years. His aggressive campaign against white collar crime earned him the nickname "Sheriff of Wall Street."

Weiner's race for mayor, which he announced in May, is backed by 25 percent of registered Democrats. [ID:nL2N0DA2PB] City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, the early frontrunner and a close ally of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, trails with 22 percent, the Quinnipiac poll showed.

Weiner, who had represented parts of Brooklyn and Queens for six terms, resigned after admitting he had sent a lewd picture of himself over Twitter and then lied about it repeatedly. He did not return calls for comment.

The poll found that strong support among black voters propelled both Weiner and Spitzer to the frontrunner position in their respective races.

About 61 percent of black Democrats favor Spitzer, compared with 26 percent for
Stringer. Among white voters, Stringer leads with 44 percent, versus 36 percent for Spitzer.

"They are better known than their opponents and some of what we've seen at this point is name recognition," said Hunter College Professor Kenneth Sherrill. "There is some indication that African American voters are in fact more forgiving than other voters and this might be another case of it."

The poll also showed that 69 percent of respondents thought financial impropriety was a worse offense for an elected official than sexual misconduct, which was considered more offensive by 22 percent.

"That is not surprising, because in the eyes of voters money in politics is more corrupt than sex in politics," said Professor Julian Zelizer of Princeton University. "Voters don't like sex scandals but they don't matter to their daily lives, while financial improprieties matter to them."

As recently as February, most city-wide polls had Quinn, who would be the city's first female and openly lesbian mayor, leading the race to City Hall with nearly 40 percent of Democratic support.

Trailing behind in the mayoral race, former Comptroller Bill Thompson has 11 percent, followed by Public Advocate Bill de Blasio with 10 percent and city Comptroller John Liu with 7 percent.

The survey of 738 New York City registered Democrats was conducted last week and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.
Why Cooling Centers Go Empty
By Matthew Schuerman
July 16, 2013

New York City opens as many as 500 or so cooling centers each time a heat wave descends. Yet, experts who have studied them say these centers do not work—or at least they do not in the way one would expect them to.

"We were struck by how few people come and stay," said Christina Zarcadoolas, a professor at the School of Public Health at the City University of New York who researched cooling centers last summer. "Lots of elderly folks will come at lunch time, a few will gather an hour before lunch, and go back either to their apartments—which are not cooled—or even go outside and sit under a tree."

Cooling centers are generally public or semi-public places like libraries or senior centers that are likely to be open anyway, but where anyone looking for a cool place can take refuge. (For the closest one near you, visit the city's web finder.)

About half a million New Yorkers are considered at risk for heat exposure, according to surveys from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. That is roughly how many people do not have air conditioners, and are either elderly or have chronic health conditions.

The health department estimates about 250 to 300 New Yorkers die directly or indirectly from heat each year, a number that will likely climb as global warming makes summers more intolerable.

"People tend not to go to places that are really out of their ordinary circles during crises," said Eric Klinenberg, a sociologist at New York University who wrote a book about the 1995 Chicago heat wave, Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago. "People who are socially isolated or physically isolated, older people and sick people who live alone are especially vulnerable during heat waves. They're the ones who can get very sick without themselves recognizing it and without anyone else noticing."

Health officials say cooling centers are one of several important strategies the city uses to try to combat heat-related illnesses and deaths, even if they do not attract many people who come just to keep cool.

"I think it's helpful when we're talking to the public, when there's an announcement made that there is a heat advisory," said Tom Matte, an assistant commissioner at the health department. "It's helping to convey the idea that this is a serious matter. It's not just uncomfortable."

Since a pair of heat waves in the 2006, the city has made changes to how it responds to high heat.

Heat advisories are now declared whenever the heat index is forecast to reach 95 degrees two days in a row. Previously, the threshold was 100 degrees. Also, nonprofit service providers call their high-risk clients each morning during heat waves, and follow-up with visits if necessary.
Photos: N.Y. Philharmonic brassy and bold in concert at College of Staten Island

By Michael J. Fressola
July 15, 2013

Even after three visits, the New York Philharmonic Brass (amplified this year with percussion) has a surprise or two to spring on unwary listeners.

This time, for the annual, free summer concert Sunday afternoon in the College of Staten Island's Concert Hall, it was the third movement of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony with French Horns subbing for the violins. It was, well, just what you'd expect - brassy, odd and interesting.

As it has in the past, the brass section brashly paraded its adaptability. "We're shameless about stealing other people's repertoire," chortled trumpeter Philip Smith, the afternoon's affable master of ceremonies.

The brass visit is what's left of the old free concert-in-the-park series, a longstanding city summer tradition. The full orchestra still plays some warm-weather gigs, like Central Park. The outer boroughs usually get smaller-scale presentations.

No complaints were heard yesterday in the nearly full, 840-seat hall. The program was mostly summery and patriotic, opening with "The Star-Spangled Banner" in the kind of ornate arrangement a pop vocalist might easily co-opt.

Fanfares were made for brass musicians and vice versa, and there were two on the program: A short and stirring "Ceremonial Fanfare" by Johan de Meij and an intricate, interesting version by Randall Svane, who was in the audience and took a bow.

If Svane's piece and Earl Zindars' "The Brass Square" were on the playlist to demonstrate the ensemble's versatility, than choices like the "Armed Forces Tribute" and "Music for Shea" (George Cohan selections, "In the Good Old Summertime" and various baseball anthems) were there to showcase its popular strengths.

What about "Hernando's Hideaway" (from "The Pajama Game") and "The Tiger Rag"?

Well, brass musicians can swing and play blues and they will stop at nothing. When they played a raucous "America," one of the comic highpoints of "West Side Story," without its lyrics, they may have gone one toot too far. Or maybe not.

These neighborhoods are hardly the orchestra's most diverse. Nearly all of the 17 musicians were male except for Leelanee Sterrett of the horn section.

Smith encouraged children in the audience - there were dozens - to notice how much fun the musicians were having and to consider taking up brass or percussion.

New Yorkers Didi and Oscar Schafer are the summer season's principal sponsors.
NYC teen envisions constant profiling, death threat after
Zimmerman verdict
The verdict has shown me that someone can shoot a young black male and get away with it.
I can’t trust anyone … It’s unfortunate, but this verdict sends a message that if you’re a
young black male and you get into an altercation with someone of a different race, chances
are they are going to get off. Where is the justice?

By Justin Francis
July 15, 2013

I’m a 17-year-old black male from Queens and I could have been Trayvon Martin.

I feel like my very way of life is threatened by this verdict. I have to be more wary. I have to be
more cautious of how I’m carrying myself. I’ll be looking over my shoulder just to walk down
the block, and it shouldn’t be necessary in this day and age. It’s totally unfair.

The verdict has shown me that someone can shoot a young black male and get away with it. I
can’t trust anyone. Not to mention, I’ve lost all hope in the legal system. I don’t trust it.

If George Zimmerman was black, they would have thrown him under the bus.

It’s unfortunate, but this verdict sends a message that if you’re a young black male and you get
into an altercation with someone of a different race, chances are they are going to get off.

Where is the justice?
For me, Saturday night’s “not guilty” announcement was a hard pill to swallow.

The ruling has made it clear to me that as minorities, we have to be as cautious as ever not to be viewed as intimidating or threatening.

I’m not sure I can walk alone anymore just to go the local corner store. I’m scared that someone might think I’m trying to rob someone or break into a house.

We now have to be careful where we go, change the way we walk and talk, and strip away parts of our identity in an effort to separate ourselves from a stereotype that cost Martin his life.

Unfortunately, it’s a grim reality that truly hurts my heart.

I have friends who have gotten stopped and frisked for no reason, other than that they were black or Hispanic, so who’s to say that racial profiling won’t now escalate from simple searches to fatal encounters?

How am I supposed to feel knowing that simply because of the color of my skin, I can be stopped, searched, and now possibly even killed by the police at any time? Is it all right for my privacy to legally be violated, or for my life to be brought to an abrupt end because I’m black?

It most certainly is not, and the fact Zimmerman could follow and shoot an innocent black male and get away with it, by claiming self-defense, makes me scared to step out of my house.

Whether it’s a vigilante like Zimmerman, or a police officer using excessive force, my odds of dying unjustly have skyrocketed due to the fact that I’m a minority.

I’m instantly viewed as a threat due to the actions of a few. You come to accept the soul-crushing status quo once you realize people clutch their belongings a little tighter when you step on the train.

The ruling in the Trayvon Martin case has set a precedent: No longer can minorities such as myself freely roam without being targeted and when we are targeted, it will be justifiable under the law.

It’s unjust that we have to be treated like second-rate citizens because of racial paranoia and ignorance. It’s not fair to me that I can’t wear my hoodie up at night because it might scare people. It’s wrong that I have to keep my hands visible at all times when I go to a store because of the actions of a few.

But the worst consequence of all is that I have to walk to church, to school and home every day, knowing that day could be my last.

Justin Francis, 17, is a senior at Queens High School for the Sciences at York College. He’s an aspiring journalist.
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SUNY to act on plan to spin off high-tech center
By MICHAEL GORMLEY
July 15, 2013

The State University of New York has begun spinning off its most successful high-tech research center from the University at Albany to create a college focused on creating jobs statewide.

A resolution obtained by The Associated Press for a board of trustees meeting on Tuesday outlines a lengthy procedure to determine how the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering will separate from the university beginning in the 2014-15 academic year. It would remain part of the SUNY system. The idea was first reported March 13 by the AP based on an extensive, privately circulated proposal.

The resolution calls for the appointment of Professor Alain Kaloyeros, a close Cuomo ally who founded the nano center, to become CEO of the new college. Kaloyeros would report to the Board of Trustees and Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, who is scheduled to make the presentation to trustees on Tuesday. The board must approve the new direction and the rare addition of a school to the 64-campus system.

The updated plan calls for making the SUNY College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering "a unique world-class education and innovation resource ... for the SUNY system and the entire state of New York."

The plan claims the action would help the nanoscale college streamline its academic and business projects in Albany, Utica, Saratoga County's town of Malta, and Rochester. The degree-granting college would work closely with the SUNY Research Foundation in securing grants and patents and attracting top talent and employers.

The center already offers master of science degrees in nanotechnology management with the University at Albany School of Business. But the new college could expand to public health, public policy, social sciences, natural and biophysical sciences and engineering.

The new college would fit well with Cuomo's plan to attract new employers and to retain startup companies spawned from public and private universities by providing full tax relief for 10 years to companies and their employees. Under the plan approved by the Legislature in June, the companies would have to be closely associated with public and private colleges and operate on or near campuses.

The new college also fits the established "Power of SUNY" plan that Zimpher advanced shortly after taking the chancellor's job in 2009. She has focused on matching SUNY research to employment opportunities statewide and works closely with Cuomo.

Cuomo, SUNY and the biggest union at SUNY, United University Professions, had no immediate comment Monday.
Thousands of Jews gather at Western Wall to mourn Tisha Be’av

Jews mark the destruction of the two Temples, as well as other tragedies that occurred on the same day in Jewish history.
By DANIEL K. EISENBUD
July 15, 2013

On the eve of Tisha Be’av, thousands of Jews gathered at the Western Wall Monday night to mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples, pray for the creation of a Third Temple, and express hope for peace.

Tisha Be’av (the ninth day of the month of Av in the Hebrew calendar) is considered the “saddest day in Jewish history.” Jews fast to commemorate the Temples’ destruction, which occurred on the same day, 655 years apart.

Several other significant tragedies also befell Jews on this day, including their expulsion from England and Spain in 1290 and 1492, respectively; Heinrich Himmler’s presentation of the “Final Solution” in 1940; and the Nazi deportation of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto in 1942.

Gutman Locks, a Torah scholar and teacher originally from New York, helped parishioners wrap tefillin and pray a few meters from the Wall.

“What’s so special about coming here on Tisha Be’av is that this is the location where the Temples were destroyed – just on the other side of the Wall,” Locks said. “And that’s where the third one will be built when the Messiah comes, and that one will not be destroyed.”

“Even though it’s the saddest time of the year, we can see Jews come back to the land again, which was prophesized for thousands of years,” he continued. “We can actually see it happening.”

Indeed, Locks said he viewed Tisha Be’av through a prism of sorrow and hope.

“So, on one side it is very sad what has happened in our history, but now we can anticipate the happiest time of all creation, where the whole world will know God – will know peace,” he added. “We see it now, as more Jews live in Israel than any other place in the world.”

Sarit Berko, a retired, non-observant native Israeli, who came to the Wall to observe Tisha Be’av from her home in Tel Aviv, said she has made the pilgrimage since she turned 10 years old, following the Six Day War.

“My generation is so lucky to be born in Israel and not experience the Holocaust,” she said. “As I get older and more spiritual I believe this is my land and I am so grateful that I can come to mourn at this Wailing Wall, even though I’m not religious.”

Berko also expressed hope that the sorrow Tisha Be’av engenders will one day be transformed into joy.

“During Passover most Jews say ‘Next year in Jerusalem,’” she said. “As an Israeli I pray, ‘Next year may the Third Temple be built and last for eternity.’ We’re going to convert all our
mourning into a festival, this is my prayer.”

Rabbi Steven M. Gruber, who leads a congregation in Long Island, came to Jerusalem with his wife and two daughters to observe the day of mourning.

“Of course I think about the destruction of the Temples, but I see Jews rebuilding Israel – rebuilding Jerusalem – so it’s not really a sadness I feel, rather a keen awareness of every bit of history that’s gone on here from the time of David to today,” said Gruber.

“I feel privileged to be alive at this juncture in history because I can be here as a free Jew and I can extrapolate toward the wondrous future I see in this country for our people,” he added.

Gruber’s 19-year-old daughter Leora, a student at Queens College, said she viewed Tisha Be’av as a time for personal reflection.

“For me, I’d say that putting all historical reasons [to mourn] aside, this is more of a time to reflect on yourself as a Jew and to be a part of a larger community,” she said. “I think that’s why we’re here – to identify with our own Judaism and with each other.”

Meanwhile, Morrie and Millie Kaporovski of Netanya, who made aliyah 29 years ago from Montreal, expressed conflicting feelings of hope and frustration regarding the lack of tolerance among Jews.

“Today means commemorating all the horrendous deeds that were done in the name of religion to the Jews,” said Millie, a grandmother. “All kinds of horrible things happened on Tisha Be’av, so we’re so lucky to have our country. It is our home and no one will take it away from us again.”

Morrie said he was troubled by a lack of tolerance among Jews in general, and in Jerusalem specifically.

“For me, I mourn for our own people – that we haven’t learned a thing in the last 5,000 years about how to be tolerant of other Jews,” he said. “Because it’s Tisha Be’av it’s a sad day and I’m [also] saddened by the fact that I am fast learning how to dislike the city of Jerusalem because of the lack of tolerance and acceptance of different ways of being Jewish.”

Still, Millie said that despite unpleasant infighting, she was heartened to live an unrivaled degree of freedom never experienced by her Jewish predecessors.

“Just looking at the Kotel brings tears to my eyes because of all the Jews who haven’t been able to come here,” she said. “For us to be here, it’s a dream come true.”

Fasting for Tisha Be’av ends Tuesday night at 8:15 pm in Jerusalem and 8:18 pm in the Tel Aviv area.
Moody's assigns Aa3 to State University of New York's $600M Ser. 2013A Dormitory Rev. Bonds and affirms Aa2 on $1.5B outstanding bonds; outlook stable

$1.8B rated debt including current offering

July 15, 2013

Moody's Rating
Issue: Revenue Bonds (State University of New York Dormitory Facilities), Series 2013A; Rating: Aa3; Sale Amount: $600,000,000; Expected Sale Date: 8/22/2013; Rating Description: Revenue: Public University Limited Pledge

Opinion

Moody's Investors Service has assigned a Aa3 rating to the State University of New York's (SUNY) $600 million of Dormitory Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2013A, reflecting a one notch differentiation from SUNY's Aa2 rating due to a limited and subordinated revenue pledge. This is an initial rating under a newly created legal structure for one of the largest US public university systems with strong ties to the State of New York, sound student market position and growing patient care exposure. The outlook is stable. The bonds will be issued by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY). We have also affirmed the Aa2 rating on the prior $1.5 billion of Dormitory Facilities Lease Revenue Bonds that benefit from a broader and senior pledge (now closed).

SUMMARY RATING RATIONALE

The Aa2 rating with a stable outlook on SUNY's Dormitory Facilities Lease Revenue Bonds reflects the general obligation pledge for the system that serves the State of New York (GO rated Aa2 stable). SUNY has $9.4 billion diversified operating revenues, including significant research activity in its role as the dominant provider of higher education in New York with favorable tuition pricing aided by strong state support.

Credit challenges include growing patient care exposure, deficit operations at the University Hospital of Brooklyn, and growing post employment benefit liabilities. The stable outlook is predicated on management's ability to successfully execute the Sustainability Plan for the University Hospital of Brooklyn that includes finding a partner to operate Long Island College Hospital (LICH) and $89 million of state restructuring assistance in FY 2014 and FY 2015.

While the Downstate Medical Center and LICH present operating and legal risk for SUNY, we view that risk as manageable at this rating level given their small portion of the system's overall revenue base.

The Aa2 rating heavily incorporates an assumption that the State will continue to pay debt service on SUNY's Educational Facilities Bonds ($1.5 billion outstanding in FY 2012) and Personal Income Tax Bonds ($5.1 billion outstanding in FY 2012 -- paid directly by the state, with no contingent obligation on the part of SUNY). The Aa3 rating reflects the narrower and subordinate revenue pledge supporting the Dormitory Facilities revenue bonds.

STRENGTHS
Large enrollment base (nearly 200,000 full-time equivalent students in fall 2012) enrolled at SUNY's 34 state-operated college and university campuses located across the State of New York combined with authority to increase tuition prices at a pre-determined rate through the 2015-2016 academic year and competitive price advantage for resident students.

Strong demand for student residential facilities (67,882 utilized beds in fall 2012 with 95.8% occupancy rate), supporting strong debt service coverage on prior and new bonds.

Large, diversified operating base with student charges comprising 24% of operating revenue, 15% from grants and contracts, 31% state operating appropriations, and 26% health-care related revenue derived from SUNY's three medical centers in Stony Brook, Syracuse, and Brooklyn.

Expectations of ongoing state support and close ties with state in recognition of SUNY's academic, research, economic development and health initiatives.

State support for debt service on Educational Facilities Bonds that comprised 72% of pro forma direct debt of $9.2 billion, especially important as offset to escalating operating leverage with pro forma debt to operating revenue at 0.97 times.

CHALLENGES

Remarkably weak operating performance and challenging payer mix for medical centers especially acute for Downstate Medical Center which has deeply negative operating cash flow.

Following hospital acquisitions, patient care revenue became a larger portion of overall revenue than tuition and auxiliaries in fiscal 2012. Process to find partner to operate Long Island College Hospital will take more time and could drain cash reserves in the absence of extraordinary support from the state.

Very large unfunded actuarial accrued post-retirement health liability (OPEB) which will continue to depress SUNY's net assets as the liability is recognized on SUNY's balance sheet over the 30-year actuarial timeframe. The OPEB liability was $3.1 billion in SUNY's fiscal 2012 financials.

Past pressure on state operating appropriations.

Significant additional capital needs, comprising in large part a significant amount of critical maintenance projects, likely resulting in additional borrowing. Dormitory capital plans call for approximately $625 million of bond proceeds in fiscal years 2015 through 2018.

Outlook

The stable rating outlook reflects our expectation that SUNY's operating cash flow (excluding non-cash expenses such as the non-cash portion of the annual OPEB expense) will remain healthy and that SUNY's cash and investment balances will remain satisfactory despite pressure on net asset values related to the recognition of the OPEB liability. Rapid increases in debt absent growth of flexible reserves and revenue to support debt service could pressure the rating longer-term as could long-term pressure on state support or the state's credit profile. The stable rating outlook is also predicated on ability of management to correct the operating deficits at UHB.
WHAT COULD MAKE THE RATING GO UP

Upgrade of the state general obligation debt rating coupled with significant growth of SUNY's financial resources to better cushion anticipated debt and improved cash flow performance

WHAT COULD MAKE THE RATING GO DOWN

Deterioration of debt service coverage on the dormitory bonds; deterioration of operating cash flow from medical center deficits or other causes; additional borrowing absent growth of resources or revenue to cover increased debt service; deterioration of state's credit profile; ongoing significant reduction of state support, including payment of debt service on the Educational Facilities debt; weakened ability to generate net tuition revenue growth

PRINCIPAL METHODOLOGY

The principal methodology used in this rating was U.S. Not-for-Profit Private and Public Higher Education published in August 2011. Please see the Credit Policy page on www.moodys.com for a copy of this methodology.

REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

For ratings issued on a program, series or category/class of debt, this announcement provides certain regulatory disclosures in relation to each rating of a subsequently issued bond or note of the same series or category/class of debt or pursuant to a program for which the ratings are derived exclusively from existing ratings in accordance with Moody's rating practices. For ratings issued on a support provider, this announcement provides certain regulatory disclosures in relation to the rating action on the support provider and in relation to each particular rating action for securities that derive their credit ratings from the support provider's credit rating. For provisional ratings, this announcement provides certain regulatory disclosures in relation to the provisional rating assigned, and in relation to a definitive rating that may be assigned subsequent to the final issuance of the debt, in each case where the transaction structure and terms have not changed prior to the assignment of the definitive rating in a manner that would have affected the rating. For further information please see the ratings tab on the issuer/entity page for the respective issuer on www.moodys.com.

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Weiner's top fundraiser: his wife, pulling in $149G

BYLINE: BY MATTHEW CHAYES AND EMILY NGO matthew.chayes@newsday.com emily.ngo@newsday.com

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Anthony Weiner has raised $828,886 since entering the New York City mayor's race, and his top fundraiser is his wife, Huma Abedin, according to campaign finance data released yesterday.

Abedin, the Hillary Clinton aide who has stood by Weiner after the scandal that cost him his seat in Congress, raised $149,440 as an intermediary, or bundler, according to the report filed with the city Campaign Finance Board for the period from May 12 to July 11.

Donors rounded up by Abedin included Washington figures such as lawyer Robert Barnett, who gave $1,000.

Weiner's fundraising effort was his first since the scandal. He had raised $5.1 million for city races before his 23-month political exile.

Weiner's strong showing in the polls "may have encouraged donors," said Michael Krasner, Queens College associate professor of political science.

Other than Weiner's wife, his biggest bundler is Harvinder Singh, chief executive of Bolla Management Corp., a Nassau-based owner of gas stations, convenience stores and car washes across the metropolitan area, who helped raise $27,450. Also helping are real-estate development heavyweights Jed Walentas of Two Trees Management, who bundled $7,500, and David Kuperberg of Cooper Square Realty, who helped raise $19,850.

A smaller contributor was Eugene Podokshik, 33, an insurance broker from the Mill Basin section of Brooklyn who gave $175. He said he has been a Weiner fan since he saw the then-councilman address his graduating class at Edward R. Morrow High School in 1997.

"He's going to think of the people, and he's a good person, and everybody makes mistakes," Podokshik said. "If he worked it out with his wife, then good for him."

Meanwhile, Eliot Spitzer's late entry into the Democratic primary race for city comptroller was followed by a surge in contributions to his opponent, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, according to Stringer's campaign.
In the last two-month period, Stringer raised $150,778, according to a campaign statement. Of that, spokeswoman Audrey Gelman said, $110,461 came in the last four days - 73 percent the total. The former governor announced July 7 that he would challenge Stringer.

Stringer's late contributions included at least $24,550 in union cash, with donors including the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators and from 32BJ SEIU, the building service workers, according to CFB data. He also received $2,950 from the Partnership for New York City, a top business group.

Council Speaker Christine Quinn, a mayoral candidate, raised $463,300 in the two months to add to almost $7.2 million donated previously. Figures for former Comptroller William Thompson's campaign said it had raised more than $600,000.

Spitzer is paying for his campaign from his family real estate fortune and not participating in the public system.