Schools' Mildred Bautista: What Are Qualifications?

By Sharon Woodson
(News School Reporter)

Who is Mildred E. Bautista?

Not, perhaps, the multi-talented young woman described in a four-page list of accomplishments provided to The News by Ann Arbor public school officials when she first arrived in town.

When Dr. R. Bruce McPherson took over as superintendent of schools here in July, 1971, he brought with him from Philadelphia three of his colleagues. They were appointed to key positions in the new administration.

Among them, was Miss Bautista. The 25-year-old woman was named assistant to the superintendent at $20,000 a year.

She also was appointed to serve as the secretary of the Ann Arbor Board of Education.

Her resume says Miss Bautista received a BA degree from the University of California in Berkeley. She also is listed as working on her PhD from the Berkeley campus. The chairman of her doctoral review committee, according to the resume, was Dr. Paul Zinner, chairman of the Political Science Department, University of California.

University of California (Davis campus) undergraduate records show that Miss Bautista enrolled there in September, 1964, was placed on academic probation in June, 1965, and dismissed for poor scholarship in February, 1966.

University of California (Berkeley campus) officials say they have no record of her ever being admitted there. Alumni records and the registrar's office report no record of a degree ever being granted to Miss Bautista.

The political science department also has no record of Miss Bautista. Dr. Paul Zinner is the chairman of the department at Davis, not Berkeley.

Dr. Zinner told The News, "I can say without a doubt that I am not chairman of her reviewing committee. I do remember her name vaguely as an undergraduate enrolled here several years ago in a freshman political science class. But I didn't teach that particular class."

Who is Mildred Bautista?

Under academic publications listed in her resume, it is stated that she wrote an article for "The American Journal of Political Scientists" in April 1967. It says also she wrote an article for "The International Law Quarterly" in September, 1968.

A check by The News indicates that the University of Michigan can find no record of any such publication as the American Journal of Political Scientists in its libraries. And the International Law Quarterly stopped publishing in 1951.

A spokesman at the U-M says he has no knowledge of any such professional organization as the American College of Political Scientists although in her resume Miss Bautista states that she is a member.

Miss Bautista's summary sheet describes her as a Phi Beta Kappa scholar. It states she received a Zellerbach grant for graduate studies in the social sciences at the University of California, Berkeley. It adds she was named Beaver College (Pennsylvania) "Renaissance Woman of the Year."

The national office of Phi Beta Kappa in Washington says it has no record of Miss Bautista. University of California reports it does have a Zellerbach grant, but that award is in the field of forestry. A Beaver College spokesman told The News it knows of no "Renaissance Woman" award.

Who is Mildred Bautista?

Her resume indicates her talents include poetry. It states she published a poem in the Atlantic Monthly in June, 1968. But a check of this particular edition at the Ann Arbor Library discloses no evidence that she wrote for it.

Mildred Bautista: who is she?