



# TECH TO TECH

## Newsletter

of the College Laboratory Technician Chapter of the PSC/CUNY

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No. 2

## The Fight For Promotions

### \*\* ROUND 2 \*\*

On Feb. 15, 2007 there was a special meeting of the PSC Delegate Assembly to discuss and ratify the proposed contract demands. A number of demands were ratified, including our main demand for a promotable CLT line beyond Senior CLT.

Thanks and kudos go to the fifteen CLTs (out of over 900 CLTs in CUNY) who acted in support of the whole Chapter by attending the meeting, holding up placards, and making our presence and our resolve known to the delegates, the negotiating team and the union leadership.

### We Can Win Promotions If We Organize, Mobilize and Vocalize

This first round was the easy round; we were essentially preaching to the choir. Now we will have to contend with MANAGEMENT! And management, as you know, has little love for CLTs. They will test our resolve for real, because there is little incentive for them to relinquish any of their control.

The impetus to move management off their present position will have to come from us— you and me, ALL CLTs. If CUNY's

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## The Future of The Chapter

As you already know, the chapter chair and vice-chair have retired. They are finishing out their terms until the elections of April 2008—that's only about one year from now. At that time they go from our chapter to the retirees chapter (if they so choose).

Here's the problem, YOUR problem for the future: There are not enough CLTs involved or experienced in chapter/union affairs to fill our slate. You see, only a few campuses have CLT councils. Few CLTs attend campus and/or chapter meetings. Three campuses have no campus representatives. There are no grievance counselors in training. This does not bode well for your future as CLTs. Our chapter needs to be more organized and more CLTs need to be involved.

The major positions of chair, vice-chair and secretary will definitely need to be filled; other positions may be vacant, too. If CLTs have no one willing to serve, no chapter leadership, no one to handle grievances, the chapter could be dissolved and CLTs absorbed into their respective campus chapters. These chapters are made up of professors, instructors, lecturers, librarians and adjunct teaching staff. Typically, CLTs would comprise less than 10% of the chapter. CLTs would become a small voice within a teaching staff chapter.

Perhaps you are thinking "It wouldn't be so bad, having others take care of me." Imagine

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## The Future

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how well you would be represented among them. Imagine how your suggestions, contract demands, visions of the future would be received and acted upon. Imagine how your grievances (often involving some of the very people in your chapter) would be handled. Right now, CLTs have 5 delegates to the Delegate Assembly, the policy-making body of the union. How many CLT delegates do you think would be elected from a campus chapter? CLTs have a seat at the chapter chairs' meetings. How many CLTs do you envision being elected chapter chair?

To my mind, it's a pretty dismal scenario. It's one that previous CLT leaderships have fought hard to resist for

## Will You Step Up To Shape The CLT Future?

the 30-odd years that I know of. Will you continue the tradition? Who among you is willing to work to keep CLTs independent? Who will make up the next executive committee? Who will handle CLT complaints and grievances? Who will write this newsletter? Will YOU be involved?

Time is running out to groom and prepare other CLTs to handle the business of the chapter. One needs to learn the faces and roles of those in the PSC hierarchy, to understand how to support our union, to know how and to what extent to exert pressure in order to attain our goals and to learn how to keep in touch with the chapter's widespread membership.

Preparing a grievance counselor is also a time consuming task. During April, the PSC will be running grievance workshops/training sessions. (Call the PSC, 212-354-1253 for info and to register). Some CLTs need to attend so that, come next year, we will be prepared.

The word has been given to the (hopefully) wise. **You need to be involved!** E-mail me at smendlinger@pscmail.org to see how the chapter can use your help. Participate in your campus CLT council. If you don't have a council, START ONE.

Ensure your future now!

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Shelly Mendlinger

## Letters To The Editor

*[This is a new feature of Tech to Tech. It is being instituted it so that you can make known your opinions and insights, and offer feedback to the information given in this newsletter and/or other sources of information. Please contribute to this column, because a free exchange of ideas will strenghten our chapter. E-mail me at smendlinger@pscmail.org]*

To the editor,  
I read the CLT e-list message about annual evaluations. What if you are already tenured? Do you still need to be evaluated?

Naitram Baboolall  
Hunter College

*Naitram,  
Evaluations may be important to a tenured CLT when applying for a promotion. The more positive paper in your file, the better. If there are some unfavorable documents in your file, then your rebuttals to them will also be seen by the appropriate committees. -Ed*

# 'To Your Health

## DON'T HAND ME THAT OR GOOD HAND HYGIENE

Many bugs are now on the loose. Hospital bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, which is resistant to many antibiotics and *Clostridium difficile*, found in feces, have now been found elsewhere—schools, jails, sports teams, etc. Most flu viruses are transmitted through the air in virus-laden droplets propelled by coughs and sneezes.

Our hands are an important link in the chain of transmission of all of the above and many more microbes. Good hand hygiene is one of the most critical control strategies in outbreak management.<sup>1</sup> This includes the bird flu epidemic.

### Hand Washing and Drying

The fundamental principal of hand washing is removal, not killing. Rub all lathered surfaces briefly and vigorously followed by rinsing under a stream of warm water. Take your time. Be thorough. Wash for at least 20 seconds. This can reduce transmission of pathogens to other people, food, water and objects such as doorknobs, hand railings, etc.

Too much rubbing is not useful. Damaged skin can give pathogens a place to grow. Use hand lotions, especially in winter, to keep your skin intact. Don't use a nail brush, but close attention should be paid to nail areas as well as between the fingers.

Dry your hands completely. The residual moisture determines the level of bacterial and viral transfer following hand washing. Careful hand drying is a critical factor for bacterial transfer to skin, food and environmental surfaces. Repeated drying of hands with reusable cloth towels should be avoided when possible. Single use

paper towels, air drying and single use cloth towels are recommended.

### Hand Washing is Required After:

- \* Using the toilet
- \* Cleaning toilets and bathrooms
- \* Handling potentially contaminated or soiled clothes and bed linens
- \* Cleaning up after a vomiting or fecal accident
- \* Cleaning and sanitizing environmental surfaces
- \* Before preparing food
- \* After eating, drinking and smoking
- \* After removing gloves

Antibacterial soap doesn't kill many bacteria. Many researchers believe that widespread use of antibacterial soap will worsen the problem of antibiotic resistance.

### Alcohol-based Hand Antiseptics

Use of alcohol does not replace washing with soap and water. Ethyl alcohol (60-90%) kills most bacteria and many viruses. It is much more effective when used after washing. Use it liberally over all surfaces. It is a good adjunct to proper hand washing.<sup>2</sup>

- \* Soap thoroughly
- \* Rinse liberally
- \* Dry completely
- \* Use alcohol generously
- \* Trim fingernails regularly

For more information see:

[www.CDC.gov-enter](http://www.CDC.gov-enter) HANDS  
[www.health.harvard.edu](http://www.health.harvard.edu)

**Ezra D. Seltzer**

1. General information on hand hygiene, Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, 28 December, 2006
2. Harvard Health Letter, Harvard Medical School January, 2007.

# The Fight For Promotions

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past behavior is any indication of future negotiations, there will be the need for union tactics, such as the ones used in the previous contract negotiations that helped move management off their position of 1.5% over 4 years.

This will be a test of our chapter's organization, mobilization and determination. ***Fifteen techs showing up just won't cut it!*** To achieve a promotable series, the odds are we will need massive numbers of CLTs walking, marching, sitting-in, carrying signs, making our voices heard.

Ready yourselves—especially you younguns; this is for your future at CUNY. Start to plan for action: meet on campus and discuss 1) actions to take on campus, 2) actions to take off campus, 3) contingency plans. Keep in touch with your campus representative (listed on the next column). If you don't have a campus rep, meet and elect one, because communications between you and the CLT executive committee are essential.

Yes, most likely there will be a fight. And yes, we can win, if we act in solidarity with determination and steadfastness.

**Shelly Mendlinger**



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## E-Info

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To subscribe send e-mail to:

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In body of message type the command:

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CLT Discussion-list [psc-clt@groups.yahoo.com](mailto:psc-clt@groups.yahoo.com) (to send e-mail)

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