



TECH TO TECH

Newsletter

of the College Laboratory Technician Chapter of the PSC/CUNY

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No. 2

Where are you?

Who are you?

The Case of The Jaded Technician.

Shelly's article in the December 2003 *Tech To Tech* entitled "What's Missing is You" talked about your lack of participation in the Labor Day Parade, the Adjunct Equity Rally, etc. Very few people attended.

The poorer the turnout, the greater is management's tendency to give you nothing in the next contract. The same principle holds true within the PSC itself. If the PSC leadership notices a poor CLT attendance record at meetings and no rotation or change in our chapter leadership over the long haul, it may come to believe that we don't give a damn.

They may be right. When it is time to allocate funds to the membership, received by the PSC through collective bargaining, whom do you think will probably be at the bottom of the list? YOU! Politically it is a safer bet than depriving an active chapter. If you receive peanuts, it will probably be your own fault.

When President John Kennedy said "ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," he was half right. The PSC has the obligation to get as many benefits for you as it can. You have the obligation to help, to be active in PSC affairs.

SO WAKE UP, STAND UP, START MOVING AND GET BUSY.

1. Come to CLT general meetings.
2. Help your CLT campus representative form a campus council.
3. Come to expanded executive meetings of our chapter with your campus representative.
4. Call Shelly or Ellen for openings on CLT/PSC committees-newsletter, recruitment, collective bargaining, etc.

Your CLT campus rep.-see P.4

PSC Central Office: 1-212-354-1252, ask for the CLT extension.

Ezra Seltzer



YOU WILL GET PEANUTS, UNLESS YOU GET OFF YOUR BEHIND!



To Your Health

Fume Hood Safety

A laboratory fume hood system is assigned to protect the operator from undesirable substances being used by enclosing, capturing or receiving emitted contaminants. The hood sucks contaminated air away from the breathing zone of the worker and from her/his immediate work area.

A laboratory operator can greatly increase a hood's effectiveness by the way she/he uses it. For hoods which have a movable front sash, keeping the opening as small as reasonably possible usually increases the flow rate through the aperture and enhances effectiveness.

One source of undesirable turbulence results when air entering the hood impacts on the front edge of the floor of the hood. This effect can be minimized by the installation of an airfoil along the front edge of the hood.

It is sometimes difficult to tell whether or not the fan motor is operating. Without the fan, the individual does not have the protection expected from the system. Airflow monitors are available from scientific supply houses.

Pedestrian traffic in front of the hood induces turbulence and can pull vapors back out of the hood and into the operator's breathing zone. A painted line or length of tape placed on the floor of the room two feet away from the hood will discourage traffic this close to the hood.

Excessive clutter in the hood increases turbulence and reduces hood efficiency.

How to Prevent Office Fires

Every year about 6,000 fires break out in office buildings in the United states. Listed below are some things you can do to protect yourself and your co-workers from fires.

Guidelines for Effective Hood Uses

- Work at least six inches inside hood.
Keep the amount of material in the hood to a minimum. Keep the hood clear of clutter.
- Keep the sash between your face and the experiment. Lower sash to lowest possible position.
- Avoid traffic in front of and rapid movement in the hood.
- Elevate large equipment off the work surface of the hood to improve air flow.
- Use an airflow indication such as an eight inch strip of light material dangling from the sash.
- Use a safety shield in addition to the hood sash if a danger of explosion is present.
- Run water in hood drains often to keep drain traps full. Insure adequate illumination inside hood.
- For most effective fume hood operation, keep laboratory doors closed.
- Always wear protective equipment such as safety glasses, gloves, lab coat, etc., when appropriate.

Call your campus Chemical Hygiene Officer with questions about the operation of your hood.

Ask your Department of Facilities to call Customer Service if you experience mechanical problems with your hood.

(Our thanks to Tom Shelley, Chemical Hygiene Officer, Cornell University, Retired).

**Ezra Seltzer
Randy Smith**



Be aware of electrical equipment problems: Don't overload outlets. Restrict the use of hot plates, portable heaters, etc. If equipment isn't working properly or if it gives off an unusual odor disconnect immediately. Replace any

continued on page 3

Professional Development Is Happening

Implementation of the professional development program for CLTs and HEOs is well underway. The HEO/CLT Professional Development Committee has reviewed and acted upon all applications that were submitted by the Oct. 30, 2003 deadline.

Of the 121 applications reviewed, 100 were approved. Only 24 were submitted by CLTs.

Applications were denied for assorted reasons, including some that were denied because they were submitted after the deadline. This round was the only opportunity for applicants to request retroactive reimbursement. From now on, the committee must approve all applications in advance. Congratulations to all who applied.

The deadline for Spring '04 applications was Jan. 3. The committee has already reviewed all of them. The next deadline is May 1 for activities that will take place over the summer.

To date the fund has paid out over \$20,000. There is much more available. This is real funding for real professional development. I encourage all of you to apply. Applications and information are available at the PSC website: www.psc-cuny.org.

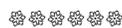
The HEO/CLT Professional Development Committee is an extraordinary, dedicated group. Its members have volunteered many, many hours of their own time in service of their HEO and CLT colleagues. We are very appreciative of their unselfishness and very grateful for their sacrifices.

Also, the service and advice provided by the PSC staff has been invaluable. We are especially grateful to Ms. Linda Slifkin who is responsible for coordinating the entire program and has been present at every minute of every meeting of the committee.

There has been some discussion among the PSC leadership with regard to expanding the committee, which currently consists of 2 HEOs and 2 CLTs. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to serve as members of the committee. It is a great way for you to become more active and it is a great opportunity to serve your colleagues with a rewarding experience.

Please e-mail me at: lqqleh@aol.com, or phone me at: 718-960-8644 if you are interested.

Steve Trimboli



To Your Health Prevent Office Fires

continued from page 2

electrical cord that is cracked or has a broken plug. When using an extension cord: do not put across doorways or any place that it might be stepped on; do not exceed the specified amperage load; do not plug one extension cord into another.

Keep all heat producing equipment (like copy machines and word processors) away from the wall. Let air circulate around them. Turn off

all appliances (like coffee machines and hot plates) at the end of the day. Assign one person to check this out every day.

Do your part to keep storage areas, landings, aisles free of paper, empty cartons and any material that could contribute to a fire or block escape.

Arson and suspected arson is one of the main causes of office fires. Support security measures that keep unauthorized people out of your building.

**Ezra Seltzer
Randy Smith**

Take Me To Your Leaders

The apex of the PSC leadership consists of a dynamic quartet. As individuals and as a group they display the virtues necessary for success.

From a more subjective point of view, they have won for CLTs and others in lower salaried titles, higher than average salary increases for the first time in several decades— even though funds were scarce.

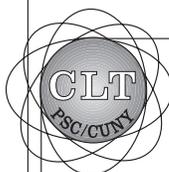
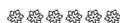
Barbara Bowen, Imperator (President,) is charming and radiant, but a lean, mean fighting machine during contract negotiations with management. Accessible to our chapter leadership. Concerned about our problems.

Steve London, First V.P., exudes confidence and determination. Exhibits catholic knowledge of union affairs. Very supportive of CLT issues in last round of negotiations.

Cecelia McCall, Secretary, prime mover of city and state legislation dealing with CUNY and the PSC. Is no nonsense— you get what you see with a good sense of humor. A master of preserving details of what has transpired at meetings and negotiations.

John Hyland, Treasurer, instills confidence with his strength of character, his honesty and his dignity. He is the guardian of PSC assets and establishes solidarity with other unions.

Ezra Seltzer
Steve Trimboli



TECH TO TECH is the newsletter of the *College Laboratory Technician Chapter of the PSC/CUNY.*

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PSC/CUNY

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