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TSSU

TEACHING SUPPORT STAFF UNION

TSSU

BULLETIN

August 4, 1982

TSSU TO OFFER T.A. TRAINING PROGRAM

Three union members from the Communications Dept. have just received approval to run a five session T.A. training program. Since an earlier, university funded, program was disbanded over five years ago, little has been done to help TA's gain skills that are expert to their effectiveness as teaching staff. Aimed primarily at new TA's, the TSSU program has 3 goals. First, basic information will be provided regarding the role of tutorials, the TSSU contract, relationships with faculty, etc. Second, tips in technique, e.g. facilitating discussion, problem students, cross-cultural difficulties, grade appeals, will be reviewed. Finally, the training program will provide a forum for generating solutions to problems as they arise early in the semester. Contact the TSSU office, or Vicki Renner, Ray Walker, or Ron Sept in the Cmns. Dept. for this fall's schedule. TSSU, at your service.....

PRIORITIES WITHIN PRIORITIES ?

Our contract outlines hiring priorities for TAships based on accumulated base units, viz. 25, 40 or 50 depending on your program. A number of departments, though, have established a more detailed priority system for hiring TA's within the top priority group of graduate students. We are aware of such systems in English, Psychology, Communications, Computing Science, Economics and Biology.

Union stewards and executive would like to hear of any other departments where such systems are in place. We would also like to be made aware of any individual instances where such a system has in the past, or is likely in the future, to cause someone to miss an appointment. This is strictly for informational purposes: our current negotiating committee is trying to grapple with fairness in hiring issues.

TIMMY NEEDS OUR HELP

The BC Lions Society for Crippled Children, sponsors of Timmy's Christmas Telethon, has to start early this year: 25,000 handicapped kids need more money than a depression-year telethon can raise. To help with a Timmy's Easter Seal House, a home away from home for children and families receiving care from the new Children's Hospital, send a wee bit of green to: 300-177 West Seventh Ave., Vancouver. Say that TSSU sent you.

LOW PRIORITY FOR PORNOGRAPHY

The TSSU Executive has endorsed the Student Society's efforts to have Playboy, Penthouse and Hustler removed from the academic community. It was felt that, if indeed the University was responding to economic hard times in an academically responsible way, the library should cut its subscription to Playboy before cutting any more scientific journals. Neither the Chief Librarian, nor SFU's Board of Governors, unfortunately, share this viewpoint.



LOOKING FOR A JOB??

TSSU is taking applications for two organizers for the fall semester. Term of employment will be from August 30 to Oct. 29th (9 weeks). Organizers will be paid the GTA 1 rate of \$12.26 per hour for a minimum of 15 hours per week, and a maximum of 20 hrs/wk each.

The appointees will be subject to the direction of the TSSU executive for the carrying out of their duties, which will consist primarily of contacting non-union bargaining unit employees and signing them up for membership.

Applications and brief resumes should be forwarded to the Union office by Friday, August 20th.

AUCE LOCALS DISCUSS RESTRUCTURING

Some important structural questions have arisen from the AUCE Provincial Annual Convention held last June. A "council of locals" proposal, complete with changed per-capita tax, staffing, etc. will be discussed over the summer. Ask your departmental steward or elected rep-- they'd love to answer unsolicited questions. Just ask them "How will it affect me?" If they can't answer, send them to the author of this wonderful bulletin. Dave Erickson isn't directly involved, but he'd love to give them his opinion.

CRISIS IN UNIVERSITY FUNDING

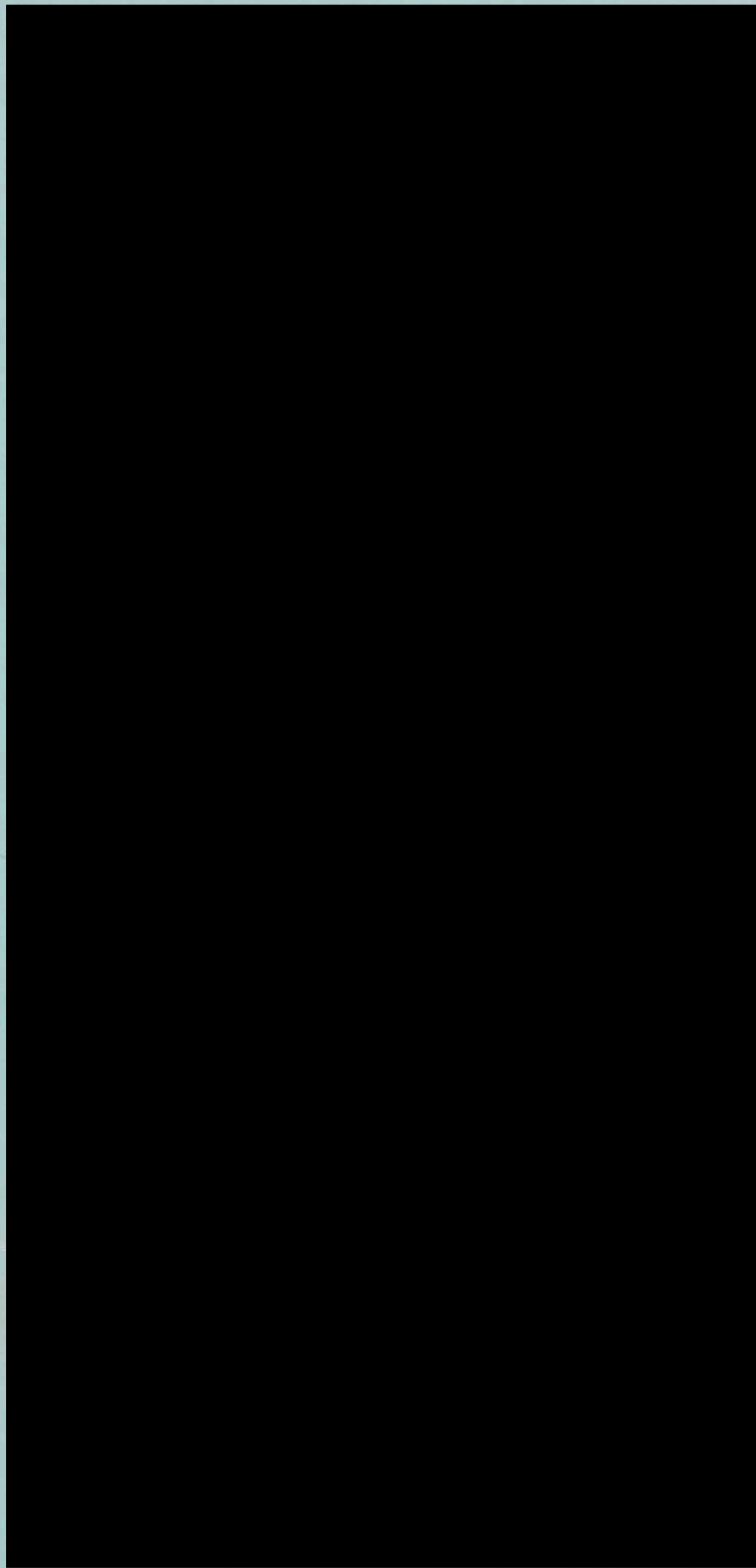
The "six per cent solution" has been extended to BC government funding, and universities get an even harsher series of cutbacks.

The "six per cent solution", originally coined to describe Sherlock Holmes diluted cocaine mixture, isn't going to deaden any of our pain. This round of cuts will make last year's "retrenchment" feel like an anaesthetic. Remember the football team, English 010, \$100,000 from the T.A. budget, etc.? Those measures, and this year's 30.2% tuition fee hike, were taken to make up 2½% (\$1.6 million) from last year's budget. The real-dollar reduction in this year's grant will be the rate of inflation (roughly 14% in Vancouver) less the "6% solution"-- about an 8% rollback. That rate is triple last year's cuts. Worse yet, the 83-84 budget year will be frozen at this (coming) year's rate-- in effect, a cutback equal to the rate of inflation. Add that 14% to this year's cuts of 8% and last year's loss of 2½%, and you have only 3/4 of the University left!

But when times are tight, don't we all have to tighten our belts? Times are tough, but these cutbacks started before the current recession: SFU's grants have been going down (in real dollars) since 1977-78. BC spends less than seven other provinces on universities (as % of Prov. Personal Income), ahead of only P.E.I. and Ontario. Besides, frills should get cut before people's livelihood: provincial government advertising costs \$25 million per year, Transpo 86 will cost \$250 million, and George Pedersen gets free rent on SFU's Presidential Palace.

Maybe when education gets the funding it deserves, maybe when we don't have to worry about maintaining the quality of programs in which we learn and teach, maybe then we can put all of our attention back into planning lessons, writing term papers, and doing our research.

(education-related statistics from SFU's Office of Analytical Studies)



BEN
WICKS

