

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re: Austerity Program - McCausland

I wish to begin by stating that I am not writing this letter as a nurse which I have on occasion been, but as a concerned citizen.

Facts are difficult to obtain. Correspondence from the Ministry of Health is addressed to the administrator or the Board of Governors and is apparently not for public perusal.

Many board members are "not available" these days or answer questions with "I wasn't on that committee" or "I wasn't at that meeting". This has happened often enough to lead me to wonder if in fact many decisions were made by the board as a whole or if the solutions were delivered from above via a lightning bolt.

I found the statement from the Board published in the Terrace Bay News last week March 24, 1976 edition vaguely misleading.

It states in part: General and Emergency Health Services cannot be met without Lab and X-ray facilities in our hospital. Is it not a fact that ESSENTIAL lab and X-ray examinations have been done for years in our hospital?

Why and when did it become necessary that our hospital obtain a lab licence and therefore employ a registered technician?

Bearing in mind that there has been a budgetary deficit for some time, on whose recommendation did the Board install in the Lab, a Coulter Counter - cost approximately \$6,500.00 to do blood counts which were already being done manually?

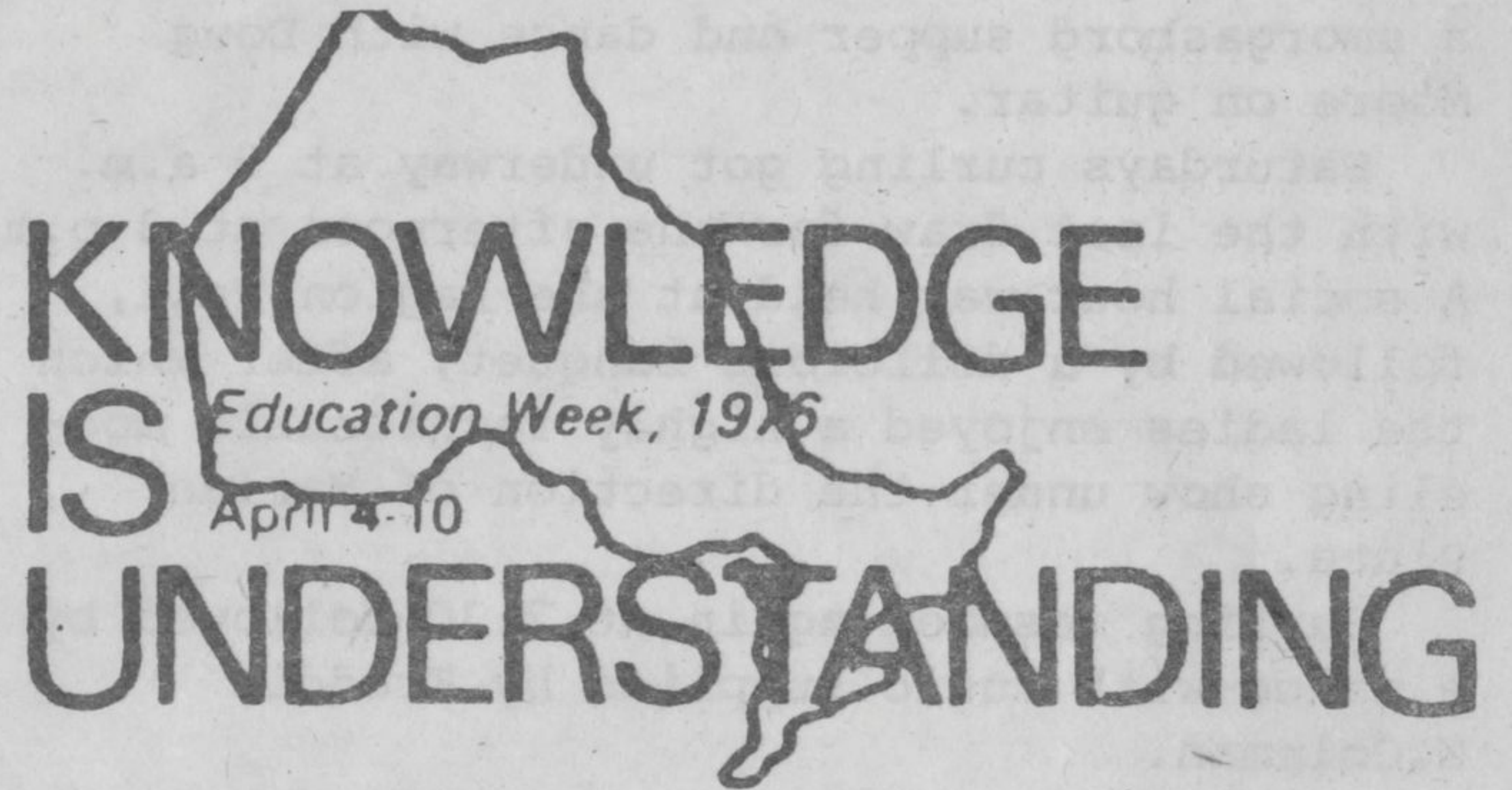
In a time of financial stress where will funds come from to pay technicians and purchase the additional equipment required to "up-date" the lab?

Why is a qualified person under utilized?

The present Director of Nursing has never been involved in the decision making related to reduction and revision of the hospital staffing. Who was better equipped with a basic knowledge of job descriptions and staff organization than she?

Who governs the Board of Governors?

(signed) Althea Graham.



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