

# Grads say TAs abused

**EDMONTON (CUP)**—University of Alberta teaching assistants are poorly paid, ill-treated and used in place of higher paid sessional lecturers, say members of the university's graduate student council.

Garth Clarke, graduate student council vice-president of services, says some department administrators use TAs to teach classes instead of spending extra money to hire sessional lecturers. Clarke says TAs should not teach courses without a professor's help, but many are forced to do so because departments are financially strapped or tenured professors refuse to teach large undergraduate classes.

"Teaching assistantships were instituted to help graduate students financially and to give them some teaching experience, not to save departments money," he says.

TAs should be paid the same amount as sessional lecturers if they are forced to teach unassisted, he added.

While the university has given teaching assistants more duties with no increase in pay, it has also cut back on the number of graduate students hired and lowered their real wages, says graduate student council president Gary Genosko.

Genosko says the university has cut back the number of hours from the highest paid positions from 12 to five or six a week and failed to increase TAs' salaries to keep up with cost-of-living increases in the past two years. Clarke added some graduate students must perform secretarial tasks and refuse to speak up for fear of losing their jobs. "One chairman even has grad students doing typing for him," Clarke says. "That's illegal."

The university's graduate studies department says it cannot respond to TAs' concerns because the offending departments are under the authority of their own faculties. Administrators and department heads, however, widely accept that the problems stem from underfunding and the university's attempts to cut corners.

Peter Meekinon, administration vice-president academic, says the graduate studies budget should be restored to its former level of three per cent of the university's operating budget. It now only makes up about 1.8 per cent.

# Security raids students rooms

**WATERLOO (CUP)**—While some University of Waterloo students vacationed at home during the Christmas holidays, three campus security officers broke into their residence rooms without search warrants.

The officers removed any property they believed to be held there illegally, including road and government signs and cannabis plants. The search occurred in the dead of night Dec. 21, 22 and 23.

The security staff only requested permission midway through the search, which was conducted without prior knowledge of either security director Al Romenco or Waterloo president Doug Wright.

Residence warden Ronald Eydt granted permission when requested, but now says, "this sort of thing is terribly upsetting. . . it sounds out of character for security to act this way."

"During the 60s and 70s when you smelled marijuana in every third room, security didn't bother us at all," he said.

Security staff formerly retrieved signs by asking Eydt to demand that residence students return them voluntarily. Eydt said this method was successful in the past.

University ombudsperson Dean Nadon is undertaking an inquiry into the search and Eydt plans to form a special committee with the residence's council, dons and tutors to investigate the incident.

A security officer who wished to remain nameless, said the three officers, jokingly referred to as the "SWAT" team by some security staff, 'took it upon themselves to search the (residences) in order to retrieve stolen signs.' A rift among security has developed as a result, with the staff divided as to whether the search should have taken place.

Though president Wright expressed "a sense of regret that the search was ever undertaken," he claimed the action was legal. He referred to a residence contract that provides for searches without warning or warrant, and could not make any assurances that

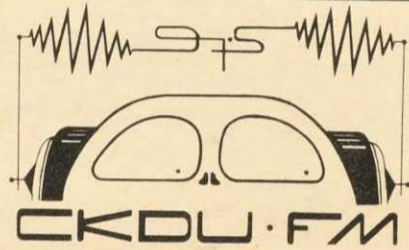
such an action would not happen again.

"The students demonstrated an element of irresponsibility that was evident in the quantity of stolen merchandise removed from the rooms," he said.

Ontario attorney-general Roy McMurtry, however, has informed a student that the officers' action is a "reasonable breach" of search and seizure laws.

Student council president Tom Allison said he thought security acted in an "incredibly irresponsible manner" and hopes that residents will be able to charge the force with theft.

Said director Romenco: "Government property will be returned to the respective cities or ministries. A corporation has a right to the premises that they own and in that regard the search was totally legal."



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