

Cheating becoming a way of life

by Susan Bandler and Rick Boychuk
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Consider the scenario: It's late March and you're in your final year with less than a month to go before you hit the streets with a BA firmly clutched in your hands. One problem: you really haven't been working this term. Two papers due in a week-and-a-half and a first sentence hasn't passed from pen to paper. You chew your nails and drink a lot thinking about it. As you shuffle through to class on an anxiety-ridden day, a notice on a bulletin board catches your eye: **Essay Services**

Prompt Delivery

with a phone number attached.

A moral dilemma? Increasingly now, business for "term paper mills" is booming. Once an alternative available only to those with money to burn, prices

are now well within the reach of the average student.

For the uninitiated, term paper mills are part of a growing phenomenon known within the university milieu as academic plagiarism. Defined as the "submission, for grading, of written work that is not the product of one's own intellectual activity," plagiarism is a matter of concern to the entire academic community.

Plagiarism is not particular to the seventies. There are, however, a number of recent developments to the problem.

Interviewing students for this feature, we found an overwhelming majority only too ready to offer rationalizations in defence of plagiarism. The moral question, they said, must be viewed within the context

of present academic realities.

There are several factors contributing to the recent shift in attitudes. The first is connected with the tight job market resulting from Canada's recent economic stagnation. Students are much more career-conscious than they were ten years ago. The desire to acquire a good liberal arts education has been subordinated to tailoring a degree to fit employers' needs.

The second factor is the change in education policy caused by increased enrollments in the Faculty of Arts. Students are now processed rather than educated. The notion of the teaching staff monitoring students' intellectual growth is largely a luxury of the past. In large classes, a student's contact with an instructor is often limited to a TA. The

student/TA relationship does very little to curb the feeling of alienation. TAs have their own academic work and are often responsible for a large number of students.

The third element is the much publicized illiteracy of today's students. First year university students are expected to know how to research and write a term paper, yet high schools and colleges are graduating pupils lacking those basic skills. Consequently, a common phenomenon among freshmen is a sense of desperation when confronted with paper assignments and firm deadlines.

The last element is the undue emphasis placed on grades. With the decline of a "personal education" marks have become the exclusive means



PRESIDENT'S STANDING COMMITTEES

Archives and Documents Committee

Requires 1 undergraduate student.

Purpose — recommend policy to establish an archives procedure within the University. recommend retention, disposal, and preservation of University documents and historical manuscripts.

Meets — at call

Occupational Health, Safety, Fire & Emergency Measures Committee

Requires 1 undergraduate student.

Purpose — advise President on policy with respect to emergency measures, safety, fire, and health matters.

— available to review policy and administrative recommendations on emergency measures, fire, safety, and health matters.

— carry out policy and administrative reviews.

Meets — at call

Recreational Use of Physical Education and Recreation Centre Committee

Requires 3 undergraduate students.

Purpose — review recreational needs of students and staff as they affect scheduling of free time in the Physical Education and Recreation Centre.

— establish policy for the use of the centre during non-class periods.

Meets — at call.

Security Advisory Committee

Requires 2 undergraduate students.

Purpose — provide a forum for the review and formulation of security policy.

— recommend security policy to the Board of Governors.

— ensure that security policy is in conformity with the law.

— ensure consistent application of security policy on campus.

Meets — at call of Chairman.

Student Employment Committee

Requires 1 undergraduate student.

Purpose — act as a liaison between the University and the Canada Employment Centre on campus for the placement of students in employment.

Meets — at call of the Chairman.

University Collections Committee

Requires 1 undergraduate student.

Purpose — recommend policy regarding acquisitions and disposition of major collections and security, storage, conservation of The University Collections.

— aid in acquisition of outside funding.

— preparations of budgets and priorities in regard to budget

allocations to The University Collections.

— to facilitate liaison between the University and other bodies concerned with exhibition, care, and preservation of similar collections.

Meets — at least 4 times per year.

Committee on the Purchase and Placement of Works of Art

Requires 1 undergraduate student.

Purpose — purchase or commission works of art for installation in new or renovated buildings.

Meets — at call of Chairman.

Deadline for Applications — Friday, 13 April 1979, 4:00 p.m.
Applications and Information — Contact the Students' Union Executive Offices, Room 259 Students' Union Building, or phone 432-4236.

SENATE

Requires — 3 undergraduate students to sit on the Senate
Duties — The Senate's responsibility is to "inquire into any matter that might tend to enhance the usefulness of the University (University Act, 1966)."

Meets — The Senate meets four times yearly.

Deadline for Applications — Monday, 9 April 1979 at 4:00 p.m.

For information and applications, contact Dean Olmstead, President, or Tema Frank, Vice-President (External), Room 259 SUB or phone 432-4236.

YOUR STUDENTS' UNION WORKING
FOR YOU