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LOS ANGELES VANGUARD

NO. 3

THE WEEKLY ALTERNATIVE

April 16, 1976

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jim Horwitz, Dave Lindorff, Ron Ridenour, Dorothy Thompson, Tom Thompson
Subscription rates: \$25 per copy; \$10 per year; \$18 for two years.

Unsolicited manuscripts, FBI/CIA/Police inquiries, love letters and hate mail must be accompanied by stamped self-addressed envelope if response is desired.

The Vanguard is a non-sexist, non-racist, worker-controlled publication.

Cover Photo
Mark Jones

Don't Watch What We Say Dept.

Cops: crackdown or slowdown

Dave Lindorff

Crime is on the rise in Los Angeles, according to Los Angeles Police Chief Ed Davis, whose budget — now at one-third of a billion dollars and rising — accounts for over a third of the entire city budget.

That should be enough to handle any situation, right?

Well, you start to wonder when you see how the LAPD men in blue often operate.

Last week, three officers pulled up to a liquor store in Venice in two squad cars. After a short conversation outside on the street, they raced in, hands on guns, faces grim and voices stern.

"What's the problem?" one asked the Korean owner behind the counter.

The man looked at them blankly for a few seconds.

"Wasn't there a rape reported in progress here?" said the cop impatiently.

"Oh," said the proprietor. "She's already had the baby."

The rape attempt had been reported from the store several hours earlier.

Things aren't much better on the campus of UCLA.

Melissa Hoyt, an undergraduate student, was walking down a corridor in Schoenberg Hall recently, when she saw a man who fit the description of an attempted rapist circulated by the campus police.

He was 6'2" tall, extremely skinny, "very very dirty," with grey hair and beard, was barefoot, and was carrying a stack of tattered papers and folders under his arm.

"You couldn't help but recognize him as fitting the description," said Hoyt.

Having spotted him in the building, she promptly ran into a phone booth and called the campus police emergency number.

She was told by the responding desk officer that her call would have to be transferred to the detectives department.

After waiting, she finally got a detective, who said it was a matter for police emergency.

Patient still, she called back the emergency number. This time, she was told she should talk to the "lady who handles the rape cases." Unfortunately, he told her, the "rape lady" was out to lunch.

On the fifth call she was finally asked by an officer, "If I thought the department should dispatch a patrol car."

Hoyt said afterwards, "It seems to me they didn't want to run the risk of sending out a car on a false call."

Of course, by the time she had gotten that far in her civic duty, she had to recommend against dispatch of a vehicle. "By now he must be out of the area," she told the efficient officer.

Compare this to the incident last quarter, when campus police harassed and questioned dozens of blacks of all sizes and shapes on campus for days, allegedly seeking a rapist who had been described, and shown in a police composite drawing, as being short and freckled.

The police in this town seem to be having problems with their reaction time. But what, then, are 30 vice squad officers doing hanging around the Paradise Ballroom trying to entrap gays?

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

The column "Between the Lines" in this issue makes the statement that size of government and business must go through cycles in a "free" society.

This statement begs the question of what is a "free society." What is so free about being laid off from your life-long occupation at the whim of a capitalist who is interested in keeping his profits up? (See story on page 8).

And what is so free about a society which considers a certain level of unemployment (usually set at the arbitrary figure of 3 or 4 percent) to be necessary?

The truth is that "freedom" in this society is for the powerful. As you move down the economic scale, you find the freedoms decreasing too. Moreover, the very existence of big business and big government run counter to the idea of freedom.

The reality of American society

is that even the Bill of Rights at the factory gate and government office doorway. Try out freedom of speech, press and assembly — your company if you're a worker/employee. You'll be in the "free" streets in no time. The bottom line is that we need capitalists and bureaucrats anyway. They rake off the easy profits from labor. Our brothers and sisters in Italy and Argentina have shown that workers can run the factories, produce the products, without "benevolent bosses" and need be on top while most of us are on the bottom. Let us use our work for ourselves, not for the profit of a few who simply make all the decisions about what we do and live.

Dave Lindorff
Ron Ridenour
Vanguard Staff Members

Phil Ochs

Singer, songwriter and political activist Phil Ochs was found dead in a room of his sister's suburban New York home late last Friday night, where he had apparently hung himself. He was 35.

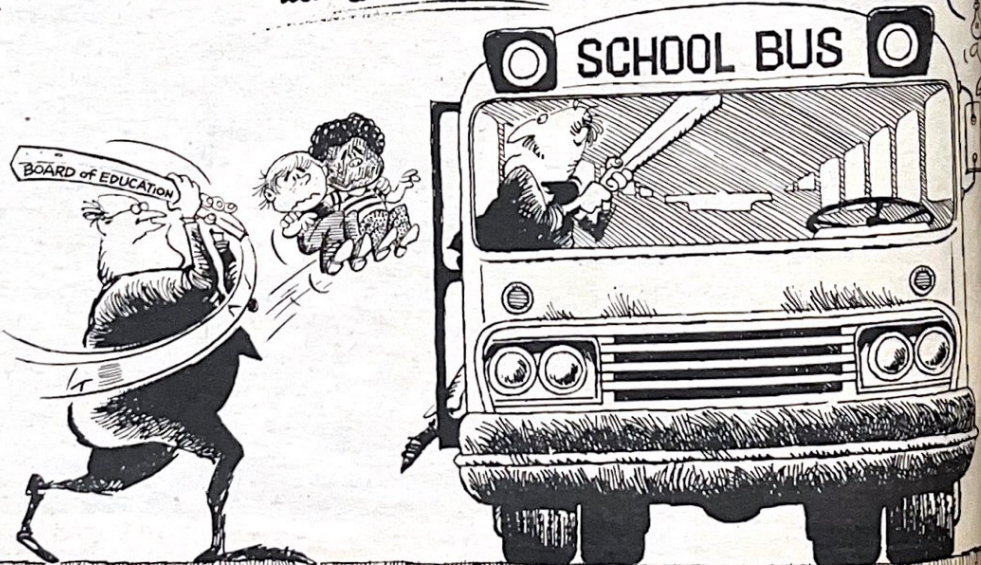


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THINGS ARE NOT ALL BLACK 'n WHITE ...

FEATURING **BUSING**

NO MATTER HOW
LOOK AT IT, IT'S
NOT FUNNY.



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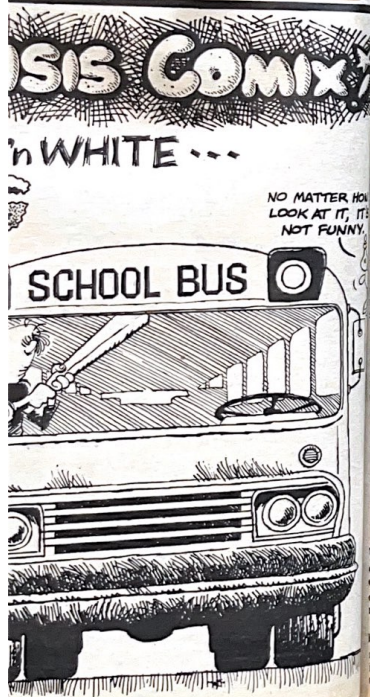
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Phil Ochs

Singer, songwriter
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suburban New York
home late last night, where he
apparently hung himself.
He was 35.



FIGHT BACK

You can't scare me...

UCLA teaching assistants make the union stick

Reece Newman and John Stick

Professor: Why do you see yourselves as being co-workers with the faculty?
Teaching Assistant: What do you mean? We do more work than the faculty does. Who do you think leads the discussion sections, consults with students, and does all the grading?
Professor: Well, somebody has to take out the trash.

This dialogue took place in a UCLA department meeting. The issue was whether teaching assistants should be allowed to select the courses they would teach. The faculty voted unanimously to retain the "right" to make these decisions. The vote was a setback for the department's graduate students, but only a minor one. Defeat had been expected. Now it was time to organize.

What was irksome was the attitude expressed toward teaching assistants — an attitude which only worsens the plight of the roughly 1,200 student academic employees who are responsible for an estimated 40 percent of lower division instruction at UCLA.

(University regulations state that a full-time teaching assistant should "expect to work" 16 to 20 hours per week. Many work twice this long.)

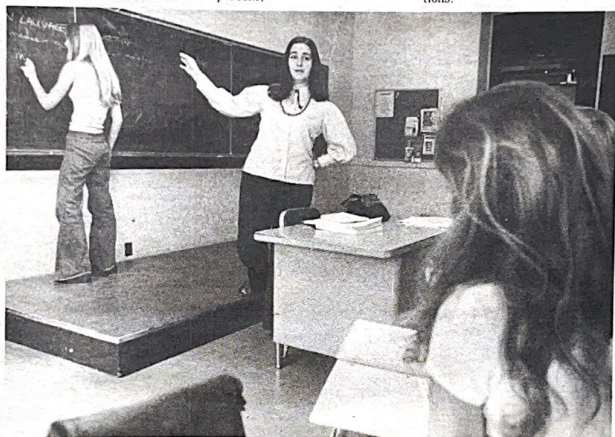
"The biggest problem TAs face is the high student-TA ratio," said Ralph Alvy, a graduate student in philosophy. "In seven quarters as a teaching assistant, I only once averaged fewer than 20 hours a week, and I was able to do that only by severely limiting the time I spent evaluating each student's work. I could have worked longer than I was being paid for only at the expense of my own academic progress."

Mike Balter, a graduate student in biology, voiced a similar concern. "In the last five years the number of undergraduates in biology has risen from 700 to over 2,000, with no increase in the hours of instruction. As a result, the quality of education offered to undergraduates has deteriorated seriously."

UCLA teaching assistants formed a union, Local 1781 of the American Federation of Teachers, at the height of the anti-war struggle in 1970. After successfully organizing the philosophy department and winning \$11,000 in back pay for five theater arts student

responsible for basic language courses, and for fulfilling the usual TA duties of correcting homework, grading exams, and consulting with students.

These tasks often take between 25 and 30 hours a week. Yet the employees are paid as 20-hour-a-week TAs, not as instructors. They do not receive proper recognition and pay for what they do.



Pat Demel, a teaching assistant in the French department, teaches a class of 30 students at half the pay of an instructor. (Photo by Mark Jones).

As graduate students, language TAs also are under pressure to make academic progress. As one graduate student in French pointed out, "TAs here must satisfy requirements for a masters degree by the end of the second year, or their TAships will not be renewed. For most of us, the TA job is the sole source of income, so we just have to continue as grad

graduates received four units of credit as "pay" for leading discussion sections, attending lectures and grading mid-terms and finals in psychology courses they had previously completed as students. These "volunteer" TAs spent an average of 10 hours a week doing for credit exactly what regular TAs do for pay. The university is obviously all too willing to exploit those eager to educate themselves.

In order to alleviate the plight of student academic employees, the UCLA TA's union recently sent six demands to the administration.

—decrease the student-TA ratio by doubling the number of TAships by a campus-wide average of 50 percent;

ears. UCLA's administration didn't even bother to reply. "There are many reasons for the local's powerlessness," explained Ralph Alvy. "Some graduate students think the union will always be weak. They don't join because they

"Graduate students, like many of the white collar workers they want to become, tend to be very individualistic. Some fear that organizing would mean a loss of autonomy. They don't want to be told they must strike or act collect-

"The demands have fallen on deaf ears.

UCLA's administration didn't even bother to reply."

see no possible benefit coming from it. Others feel that even if the local were strong, nothing could be done to improve working conditions.

Ivily, I suppose they don't see themselves as workers, but as "professionals." They don't want to be associated with the rest of labor. This will continue to hinder organizing until they begin to realize that TAs are the bottom rung of exploited teaching labor."

According to Mike Balter, "Graduate student support is being cut back and the job market is tight. Rather than organize collectively to do something about this, grads tend to pursue back-biting individual solutions. They often spend time convincing themselves that they are intellectually superior to their colleagues. Unfortunately, they are just cutting their own throats with this blade of elitism."

Despite all the obstacles, more and more grad students are realizing the need to take collective action. TAs are beginning to form departmental shops. Within a year, the union hopes to be strong enough to force the university to improve working conditions and upgrade the quality of education, so that TAs and their students will no longer be treated as trash.

Reece Newman and John Stick, graduate students at UCLA, are organizers in the Student Employees Union Local 1781 on campus.

"Unfortunately, they are just cutting their own throats with this blade of elitism."

employees, this student academic employees local has decided to organize the language departments this spring quarter.

There, graduate students are hired and paid as TAs, but are required to do the work of instructors — a clear violation of university regulations. They are

students. But the workload is so heavy that both our teaching and our scholarship suffers. You start to feel like you can't even sit down and think things through any more."

Not all TAs are underpaid for the work they do. Some aren't paid at all. Last quarter, 10 under-

—specify TAships for minorities and women, without decreasing the total number of positions;
—pay graduate students as paid instructors when they are required to do the work of instructors;

—pay all "readers" — students who only grade papers — at an hourly rate equivalent to that of TAs;

—enforce the 20-hours-a-week maximum teaching load for full TAs and the 10-hours-a-week maximum for half-time TAs, and

—prohibit the hiring of TAs at less than full-scale pay.

The union argued that decreasing the number of students per TA would allow the TAs to evaluate exams and papers better and to improve their relationship with their students. Specifying TAships for minorities and women, who hold few at present, would help compensate for the de facto racist and sexist admissions and financial aid policies of the university by making it possible for more minorities and women to pay their way as students.

The demands have fallen on deaf

IT'S BEEN ONE OF THOSE ALL STRUGGLE, NO UNITY DAYS."



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