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Don’t Watch What We Say Dept.

Cops: crackdown or slowdown

Dave Lindoff

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 wondering when you see how the LAPD men in blue often operate...

Last week, three officers pulled up to a liquor store in Venice and threw 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 when she saw a man who fit the description of an attempted rape circled 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 papers and folders under his arm.

"You couldn't help but recognize him from 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 lied by the 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 of "spying" on the campus.

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 on campus sizes and shapes on four days, allegedly seeking a rapist who had been described, and shown a police composite drawing, as being short and freckled.

The police in this town seem to be having problems with their perception into Being.

But what then, are these 30 vice squad officers doing hanging around the Paradise Ballroom trying to entrap guys?
LETTERS

ar Editor: The column “Between the lines” in this issue makes the point that size of government and businesses must go through the idea of a “free” society. This statement brings to mind the idea of a “free” society. The focus is on the freedom of the “free” society. What is the “free” society? What is the impact of being able to choose to participate in the “free” society? The bottom line is that freedom and opportunities need to be recognized.

And what is so free about a society which considers a certain set of individuals unfairly, without the arbitrary figures of 5 or 4 to be reckoned? The real cost is that freedom in a society is powerful. As a matter of fact, freedom is an illusion. It is a veneer of freedom that is often taken away from individuals. Therefore, the very idea of freedom needs to be reconsidered.

In the reality of American society,

FIGHT BACK

You can’t scare me...

UCLA teaching assistants make the union stick

Breece 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.

The dialogue took place in a UCLA department meeting. The issue was whether teaching assistants should be allowed to strike because they would be unionized. It was decided that the faculty would not recognize the union. The teaching assistants, however, were not satisfied with the decisions.

They argue that the department’s students, but only a few assistants, are unionized. They feel that they should be unionized as well.

Singer, sangwenzing political activist

Ochs was found dead in his home late last night, where he apparently hung himself.

He was 35.

SIS COMIX

IN WHITE...

NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOOK AT, NOT FUNNY.

SCHOOL BUS

Pat Droetz, a teaching assistant in the French department, was one of the 20 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, "The TA here must satisfy requirements for a master's degree by the end of the second year, or their TAship will not be renewed." For most of us, the TA job is the source of income, so we just have to continue as grad students.

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

Phil Ochs

Singer, sangwenzing political activist

Ochs was found dead in his home late last night, where he apparently hung himself.

He was 35.

THE DEMANDS HAVE FALLEN ON DEAF EARS.

UCLA’s administration didn’t even bother to reply.

Graduate students, like many of the white-collar workers they represent, have been feeling the pinch. The economic downturn has led to layoffs and reduced benefits, which have made it difficult for them to make ends meet. The UCLA administration has been especially insensitive to the students’ needs.

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Despite all the obstacles, more and more graduate students are finding their voice. TAs are beginning to form departmental shops. Within a year, the union hopes to be strong enough to make significant changes. The students will improve working conditions and upgrade the quality of their education, so that TAs and their students will no longer be treated as wage slaves.

Steve Newman and John Stick, graduate students at UCLA, are organizers in the Graduate Employers Union Local 1751 on campus.

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