

TAs support families via loans, luck

Editor's note: The Jan. 10 Emerald reported that a report was made to the Graduate Student Council which alleged that the TA wages are "set at a level insufficient to sustain decent minimum standards of living." The Emerald, in a follow-up to this story, interviewed four TAs. Whether or not these four TAs represent the norm is unknown. Other TAs in other departments may be in different positions.

By **LES BLUMENTHAL**
Of the Emerald

Marvin Feuerberg is 29 years old, has a wife and two preschool children, is finishing his M.A. in sociology, and has been a teaching assistant in that field for the past three years. Feuerberg is paid \$2,400.

"Without loans I wouldn't be able to continue my education. I was supposed to have a National Defense Loan this year, but two weeks before school

started they told me the money had not come through.

"I was sweating it, but I came up with a State Guarantee Loan. I am willing to insure the debt, now almost \$5,000 worth. I am not willing to let my wife work — this would have a negative consequence on the kids. I would quit school rather than have her work," he said.

Feuerberg and his family lived in the Amazon Park Housing project for two years, but due to the need for more space they moved into a place that has double the rent. Last year one of his children had a sickness that was not diagnosed for a year. "I felt the pinch. My salary can't sustain any mishaps," he said.

Feuerberg ideally sees a TA assistantship as part of professional training for a teaching job. He feels, though, that departments have not systematically developed the assistantship so that training occurs.

His first year he was paid \$2,000 for his work, the second year \$2,200. This year he figures that he puts in 15 hours of work a week correcting papers, making up test questions and seeing students.

"Salaries should be based on need. Maybe there should be a children's allowance. It appears to be in my department that most TAs are single, or are married with the wife working, or they have no children, but there are some in my position. Even given the existing limits on funds there should be provisions made for those TA families that have children," Feuerberg said.

Jan Newton, a TA in economics, is married to a student and has two young children. "The small salary forces you to go outside for other sources of income. We have taken out large loans and are subsisting," she said.

No Correlation

She sees no correlation between teaching and money as motivation, and says she tries to do a good job, because of pride.

"Becoming a TA was my very last alternative. I had a fellowship that payed almost twice as much but that ran out. I applied for a research grant from the government and other teaching jobs, but these didn't come through. This was my last resort, and we had to have something to live on," she said.

Mrs. Newton feels that this selective process filters people down to those who become TAs as a last resort.

"I will go from a subsistence level to a substantial level this summer, as hopefully my salary will leap from \$2,200 to \$11,000 if I become a real member of the faculty. I will have the same duties and the responsibilities as I now have, without any real change in my experience," she said.

Some Discussion

She also mentioned that there had been some discussion among TAs in economics departments who maintain that they take over the duty of the principals who are now teaching courses in the 200 sequence, and divide the salary of the professors accordingly.

Richard Block is married and his only means of support, besides his previous savings, is his salary for being a TA in psychology. "The Graduate Student Council's report is very true and very relevant. I estimated my salary on an hourly basis and that wasn't too bad, and

the experience is excellent, but making a living on this salary is something else.

"I'm breaking about even, and we haven't been starving, but that is about it," he said.

Block said he knew what the pay was and could have gone elsewhere, but he decided to come to the University after four years at Michigan.

'Limited Budget'

"I came here because it is a good department, the cost of living is lower out here, and the general geographic location was what I wanted. I don't know what can be done, everyone these days are working under a limited budget," he said.

Al Mandelberg, a TA in philosophy, isn't having too bad a time, but "I don't see how married TAs, especially with kids, could possibly live on a TA wage.

"I know a man in the department who 10 years ago at Nebraska was getting \$1,800 as a TA; today at the University I'm getting \$2,000 and the price

of living has certainly doubled," he said.

He sees TAs as "plastic imitation faculty members" and the teaching as a job that can be negotiated and strikes called.

"The financial aids department views the TA salary as a scholarship, and if you're caught on another job, you lose that scholarship. TAs should negotiate themselves with the administration, and not let department chairmen do it for them. It's the virtual limit of what you can live on," he said.



MARVIN FUERBERG
"My salary can't sustain any mishaps"

Cover approved for EMU court

By **KATHY KUCERA**
Of the Emerald

The University Buildings and Grounds Committee approved plans Thursday for a translucent plastic roof to cover the presently open court in the EMU.

The structure will be permanently installed over the area to control leakage. Water leakage in the basement bowling area through the tile floor of the court makes some kind of flooring repair necessary.

Several alternatives have been proposed but all methods of controlling the leakage have been termed risks. No definite source of the leakage has been discovered by Physical Plant officials and others who have investigated the site. University architects

have devised the roof method to hopefully prevent the leakage. They are reasonably certain that it will work.

Committee members approved the motion by a vote of 4-3. Unless a suitable alternate proposal is presented soon, the plans will be carried out as soon as possible.

The roof will be financed with money from the rehabilitation fund of the EMU at a cost of about \$6,000. During the past year \$3,000 has been spent in patchwork on the tile floor, according to Dick Reynolds, EMU director.

"I am disheartened with the result of the committee's vote," said Reynolds. "We are quite reluctantly going to go ahead."

He explained that because of shifts in the cement beneath the tile the area has been repaired three times within the last year and a half. No definite cause of the leaking has been found, despite tests to determine the source of the water. A temporary structure below the ceiling of the bowling alley now collects and drains off the water.

In other committee business, preliminary plans for the development of the Eugene Sand and Gravel Co. property north of the campus were presented. The committee directed suggestions for further studies to the architect present. No formal action was taken.

The committee reviewed general policy concerning parking permits and granted a parking permit to a petitioner.

Police arrest two on drug charge

EUGENE (AP)—Two Portland men who police said had 45 "lids" of marijuana hidden in suitcases, were arrested as they walked on a street near the University of Oregon campus Friday night.

Charged with illegal possession of narcotics were Norman John Brindley, 20, and Bruce Gordon Fraser, 19.

The two were not University students.

They were held in lieu of \$2,000 bail each on the felony charge. A "lid" is a small plastic bag of marijuana.

University writer is among best

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP)—Wandalyne Rice of Monmouth, Ore., a sophomore at the University, is one of 82 of the nation's best journalism prospects as selected by the Newspaper Fund. She will receive a \$500 scholarship after a summer of work as a beginning newspaper reporter.

The Newspaper Fund reported that more than 300 college students applied for the fund's scholarships. The program is intended to give each student at least 10 weeks of practical experience in newspaper reporting.

Photographers needed

The Emerald is looking for more photographers. Anyone interested may inquire at 301 Allen or call the Emerald office, ext. 1817.

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