

Berkeley violated Civil Rights Act



BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — The University of California at Berkeley violated civil rights laws in its handling of sexual harassment complaints against the campus police, the U.S. Office of Civil Rights has found.

The federal office found UC Berkeley violated Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, according to the office.

The findings of an investigation were made public Dec. 2. The report said certain procedures used by the university were "confusing and misleading even to persons exercising reasonable diligence in ascertaining their rights."

UC Berkeley must comply with Title IX to receive federal funds. The school did not admit to wrongdoing but said it would work to change 13 procedures cited in the federal findings.

One of the changes will be to extend the time students can file a complaint against the campus police

from 30 to 90 days.

The federal investigation stemmed from a complaint filed by Kathleen Russell, a psychology student who alleged she was falsely arrested by police during a demonstration against the Persian Gulf War on March 14, 1991.

Russell, 27, filed a complaint claiming the arresting officer sexually harassed her.

"He was pressuring me for personal details, basically treating me as if we were sitting in his living room," she told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "He was coming on to me."

Russell also has filed a civil lawsuit against the university.

Russell said she was moved from office to office when she tried to file a complaint, and when she received the correct papers she was told the 30-day deadline had passed.

"If UC Berkeley administrators cannot decipher or agree on the applicable procedures and filing deadlines, students cannot be expected to do so," the federal office found.

Lack of day care brings kids to class

HOUSTON (AP) — Hundreds of students at Texas Southern University are taking their young children to class because they can't find affordable day care.

"There are three- and four-year-olds running around classrooms; there are infants being breast-fed in unsanitary bathrooms — it's all over campus," said Student Government Association President Tamar Sterling.

Sterling said she asked 500 randomly selected students and found 361 had children and 223 took them to school. There are more than 11,000 students at the university.

Sterling on Friday asked the Board of Regents to set up an affordable day-care facility so the image of TSU students doesn't become "books in one arm, a child in the other arm and another child on the back."

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