



Women drop racial complaint

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -

The University of Pennsylvania dropped charges of racial

harassment against a white

student who called a group of



when they made noise outside his dormitory.

University President Sheldon Hackney informed 18-year-old Eden Jacobowitz that the school's charges against him were being dropped because the women withdrew their complaints Monday.

Jacobowitz, a freshman who has denied the comment was racial, could have been expelled from the Ivy League school of 22,000 students if he were found guilty.

The women, in dropping their charges, said the judicial process had not allowed them to tell their side of the story, while Jacobowitz attracted a national media audience. They said he had an unfair advantage and that pressing their case would be futile.

Jacobowitz and his faculty adviser, history professor Alan Charles Kors, "chose to circumvent the process and try this grievance among students in the national media, making it an issue of freedom of speech and political correctness, while blanketing the real issue, racial harassment," the woman said at a news conference to announce their decision.

Nikki Taylor, Ayanna Taylor, Colleen Bonnicklewis and Denita Thomas, appeared at the news conference. The fifth complainant, Suzanne Jenkins, was absent, but concurred, the others said.

'These words likened us to beasts and banished us from an intellectual environment to one more suited for animals, like the zoo.'

 Statement from women who filed original harassment complaint

Hackney said that Penn should review its judicial procedures to ensure everything is being done "to promote a wholesome and mutually supportive campus community."

After learning of the school's decision, Jacobowitz said at a separate press conference with members of the American Civil Liberties Union that he, too, felt victimized by the judicial process.

> "This all could have been settled a long time ago" said Jacobowitz, who claimed the school thwarted his efforts to apologize to the women.

> The women, members of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, said that on Jan. 13 they were barraged by racial slurs and epithets with sexual overtones as they participated in their annual Founder's Day celebration outside Jacobowitz's dormitory.

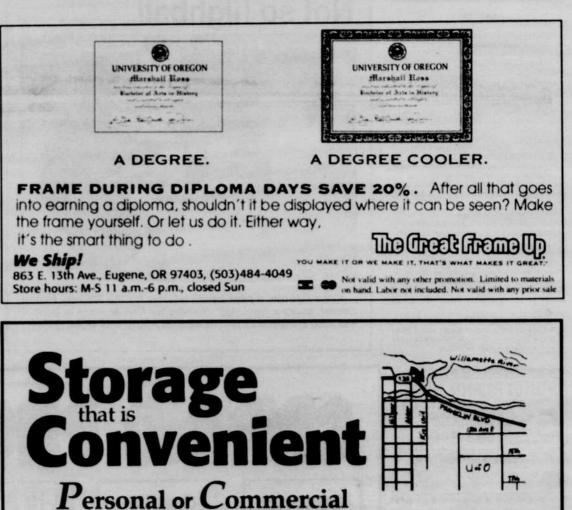
> Among the slurs they heard were "Shut up, you black water buffalo" and "Go back to the zoo where you belong," said Nikki Taylor.

"These words likened us to beasts and banished us from an intellectual environment to one more suited for animals, like the zoo," the women's statement said. The women contacted the campus police.

Jacobowitz, who admitted his role in the shouting, told investigators that he shouted "Shut up, you water buffalo," then added "If you're looking for a party there's a zoo a mile away."

Jacobowitz said the women attributed to him things shouted by other people.

"I would still like to be friends with them," he said.



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