

Sexual harassment at Yale?



It comes as a shock to most people. Maybe you read about it in the newspaper over the summer. Yale being sued for condoning sexual harassment of women students. Or maybe someone who knows you go

to Yale asked you about it. "Does this really go on at school?" Probably you don't know much about it. Or you don't believe anything like this could go on.

Unless it's happened to you. Or a friend. Sexual harassment of women students by male faculty members occurs. It is a problem that has been long ignored. Often, it is not even seen as a problem. But it occurs not only here at Yale but at schools everywhere. The accounts of victims are numerous and disturbing.

Sexual harassment in education is particularly disturbing because of its effect on women's ability to learn. How can women students expect to get a thorough education if we cannot feel free to seek conferences with male faculty members because of fear of assault? The point is not that every male faculty member is "attacking" his female students. The point is that Yale has no procedure through which students can complain about sexual harassment. When it happens, it is allowed to go on unchallenged.

Women are denied an equal opportunity to learn from professors. We must always be wondering whether our teachers are respecting us not for our academic performance-- but for our sexuality. This is not to say that faculty and students should not "socialize." But it is important to recognize the inherently unequal power relationship of faculty to students. When the unequal power relationship of men to women is added in, the female student's vulnerability to harassment is very great.

In this society, male harassment of females is the norm in many contexts. This lawsuit challenges that norm-- and the acceptance of sexual harassment.

We need your help. If you have any information-- or if you'd like to help by giving some time to the work being done-- please leave your name and telephone number below and give it to the person handing out this leaflet. Or take down these numbers and address: 562-7560/777-2265/4761 Yale Station. Or drop by the Women's Caucus office, third floor Hendrie Hall.

-- Thanks for your time.--