



OSHPP E-News

Winter 2008

Office of Sexual Harassment Prevention & Policy (OSHPP)

This electronic newsletter provides an update on sexual harassment and gender discrimination issues.

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NEW YEAR'S TRAINING RESOLUTION

If you are a staff supervisor or academic appointee and you have been meaning to take the mandatory 2 hour sexual harassment prevention training, there is still time! The UC Office of the President has extended the deadline for compliance until March 1, 2008. All supervisors may comply with the state requirement by attending an in-person program offered through Staff Education <http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu> or by completing the online program. If you have lost your individualized link to the online program, you should contact uctraining@ucop.edu. Frequently asked questions about the requirement are answered on the OSHPP website at <http://oshpp.ucsd.edu>.

CSU FRESNO'S HAT TRICK?

California State University at Fresno was on the losing side of another lawsuit alleging sex discrimination. In December 2007, a jury awarded \$19.1 million to a CSU Fresno former women's basketball coach. This case was the third blow to Fresno State's athletic department during 2007. Last July, a jury awarded \$5.85 million (later reduced to \$4.52 million) to a former women's volleyball coach who also sued for sex discrimination, and last October, the university settled a sex discrimination case filed by a former associate athletics director for \$3.5 million. The lawsuits against Fresno led the California State Senate to reevaluate Title IX compliance at all Cal State and UC campuses. Current Fresno athletics director, Thomas Boeh, who came to the university after the events prompting the three lawsuits, stated that changes have been implemented in the athletics department. Fresno plans to appeal the most recent verdict.

MAYOR'S TEXT MESSAGE SCANDAL

Flirtatious text messages between Detroit Mayor, Kwame Kilpatrick, and his former chief of staff, Christine Beatty, were discovered by the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News. The disclosure could result in both Kilpatrick and Beatty being charged with perjury.

During a 2007 whistleblower case involving two former police officers, Kilpatrick and Beatty denied under oath that they were having an affair. The former officers argued that they were terminated in retaliation for investigating claims that the mayor used his security team to cover up his extramarital affairs. The mayor's relationship with his chief of staff was of concern because he may have misled the city into settling with the officers for \$8.4 million. Another allegation is whether Kilpatrick and Beatty used city funds to cover personal travel expenses. Beatty resigned as chief of staff on January 28, 2008. OSHPP reminds readers that the UCSD Policy on Conflicts of Interest Arising out of Consensual Relationships addresses romantic and sexual relationships between supervisors and subordinates. Whistleblower complaints may be directed to the UCSD Hotline at (877) 319-0265.

WOMEN OF BLAXPLOITATION

Please join us for a special film screening in honor of UCSD Black History Month. "Baadasssss Cinema: A Bold Look at 70's Blaxploitation Films" will be shown on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 6:30 pm at the Cross Cultural Center. The documentary provides an overview of the blaxploitation genre and its impact on popular culture. A discussion of racial and sexual stereotypes will follow the film. There will also be a drawing for the book, *Women of Blaxploitation: How the Black Action Film Heroine Changed American Popular Culture*. This event is free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by OSHPP, the Cross Cultural Center and the African American Studies Minor.

DID YOU KNOW...?

It has been 10 years since the United States Supreme Court decided that same sex sexual harassment is prohibited under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The decision, *Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services*, involved a male oil rig worker who was repeatedly harassed and physically assaulted by his male co-workers. This was a unanimous opinion authored by Justice Antonin Scalia. Although federal law does not protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation, the Oncale decision is recognized as a landmark gay rights case.

PUZZLED ABOUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT? SOLUTIONS FOUND HERE. Office of Sexual Harassment Prevention & Policy (OSHPP) 201 University Center, (858) 534-8298, <http://oshpp.ucsd.edu>.