

March 1978

Dear Friend:

What is the price of a woman's education? We are asking your support to help insure that it will no longer include sexual harassment by male professors.

*Alexander v. Yale* is a landmark lawsuit charging that Yale University condones the sexual harassment of women students in violation of Title IX\*. The plaintiff was offered an "A" in a course in her area of specialization if she would comply with her professor's demands. She flatly refused and walked out of his office. She complained orally and in writing to responsible Yale officials even before the grade of "C" was given. Because she is a black woman, her complaints were not only viewed as inconsequential, but were ignored more blatantly than complaints of white women. Not until one and a half years later, after *Alexander v Yale* was filed, did Yale act. Officials then claimed to review the grade, but ignored the sexual incident entirely. The grade was not changed.

The lawsuit asks for a grievance procedure as a remedy and preventive measure, not for damages from individual offenders. With a procedure, the responsibility for abuse of faculty power will remain within the University, but students will be guaranteed an effective channel for complaint for the first time.

Sexual harassment ranges from sexual propositions and pressures for intimacy to molestation and rape. Sexual harassment in education is particularly oppressive because of faculty power over student grades, recommendations and eventual employment and careers. Sexism makes higher education a difficult experience for women. Sexual harassment threatens and can destroy women's intellectual autonomy and opportunities for advancement.

Legally, the case has already won major victories for women students across the country. Magistrate Latimer, in his decision on Yale's Motion to Dismiss, held that sexual harassment is sex discrimination and that the plaintiff can sue a private institution under Title IX. Connecting sexual harassment in education with employment, he stated:

... It is perfectly reasonable to maintain that academic advancement conditioned upon submission to sexual demands constitutes sex discrimination in education, just as questions of job retention or promotion tied to sexual demands from supervisors have become increasingly recognized as potential violations of Title VII's ban against sex discrimination in employment. . .

He held institutions responsible when victims complain to officials who fail to act.

Politically, the case connects women's education with fair treatment for women workers. It has stimulated widespread organizing and consciousness-raising on campus. It unites black and white women against a common expression of their subordination. It allows supportive men to ally themselves with women against this form of male domination.

Before the suit was filed, a group of concerned women from the Yale Undergraduate Women's Caucus asked the administration to investigate complaints of sexual harassment and to take appropriate action. Since



She wanted it.  
No one's going to tell  
me she didn't want  
it. "Sexual harassment"?!  
-How absurd.



Of course she wanted  
it. A brilliant, young  
(though slightly aging)  
professor like me....  
How could she not want  
it?



There she was, always  
trusting me, always  
seeking my wisdom...  
She was begging for  
it....  
She came to me several  
times... did she think  
she'd get it all for nothing?  
She wanted it, of course  
she did.



If she wanted to  
get into medical school,  
she wanted it.

the case was filed, the Grievance Committee has been investigating the scope of the problem, educating the University and New Haven community about it, and working to establish a grievance procedure. We are organizing student, faculty and staff support for the suit, and raising money to fund it and our other activities.

What is the price of this lawsuit? This attempt to challenge the policies of a wealthy university has cost thousands of dollars in expenses and lawyers fees—and the bulk of the work is yet to come. We need your help. The Grievance Committee has raised some money and is planning benefits. But this will cover only a fraction of the costs. We need your financial contribution to continue our fight against Yale's defense of the power of male professors to sexually harass us. We attend college to study, not to be playthings or sex objects for male faculty members.

Your contribution will support the next steps the lawsuit requires and enables the Grievance Committee to continue its organizing. Tax deductible checks may be made out to The Capp Street Foundation and returned in the enclosed envelope.

If you would like more information about the lawsuit, the Grievance Committee or The Capp Street Foundation, please contact us at the above address.

Sincerely,

*Phyllis L. Crocker*

Phyllis Crocker for the  
Grievance Committee of the  
Yale Undergraduate Women's Caucus

----- TEAR OFF -----



Yes, I want to support *Alexander v. Yale*, the sexual harassment lawsuit.  
Enclosed is my donation of \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me more information on:

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Alexander v. Yale*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grievance Committee, Women's Caucus
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Capp Street Foundation