

Just the facts

Conduct code enforced

by Georgia West Babb

Violations of the Student Conduct Code may be reported to Liz Baldizan, who is the chair of a Sexual Exploitation Prevention Committee. The Department of Human Resources' Health Division recently awarded the committee a grant to reprint a sex exploitation booklet that Baldizan authored.

The booklet contains vital information for anyone who feels they have been harassed or exploited, either by an employer, teacher or another student. Since each case varies, the booklet can guide the victim in the right direction.

Baldizan describes her responsibilities as efforts "to document and track complaints so there is no double tracking."

"I get the facts and follow through," Baldizan said.

People with complaints are asked to fill out a reporting form as a first step. Baldizan then interviews the parties involved.

"I bring in both parties and find out what happened," Baldizan said. "A person may

come in feeling threatened by someone else's actions or words. This harassment could take the form of nasty notes on the car windshield or hang-up phone calls. Sometimes during the interview I may find that both parties are at fault. One leaves a nasty note, the other bends a car antennae," Baldizan added. "Our jurisdiction is on campus, but the problem may have actually started elsewhere. If a person violates the student conduct code, that student may face disciplinary action ranging from a warning to expulsion."

Educating others about sexual exploitation is part of Baldizan's job and she draws on campus and community resources to help her accomplish this task.

There are many resources available to help with the different types of problems that constitute sexual exploitation. There is the Equal Opportunity Board, psychologists, personnel representatives, health center representatives, pastors and dorm personnel.

"An employee of UNLV may want to go to the Equal Opportunity Board, but a student who feels harassed by a professor or another student may need to



Liz Baldizan.

be directed elsewhere," Baldizan said. "Everyone has the right to explore and question if they feel threatened. Something good can come out of reporting an incident - perhaps there is a drinking problem involved for instance."

The discussing and reporting of an incident isn't the end of the story, however. "We still have to deal with it after the fact. Both parties could still see each other on campus," Baldizan said. Safety is paramount, according to Baldizan. She stressed the importance of notifying university officials or police if a student feels threatened, or is threatened, or if they have taken steps such as filing a restraining order against someone on campus.

RAPE

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choice to press charges after reporting.

"Once a victim has been victimized, what they have experienced is loss of control," Rodriguez said. To get that control back she needs to make decisions and take action for herself. "A medical evaluation is very important, to check for STD's, HIV, vaginal tearing or scarring, bruises. There may be problems a woman may not be aware of."

A medical evaluation gathers evidence and can be used to convict a rapist even months after the rape has occurred.

For further information and counseling contact the student health center, the center for religion and life, or affirmative action.

"If you say no and they continue, it is definitely rape," Rodriguez said.

SUICIDE

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changes in sleep habits, loss of appetite, weight loss, loss of interest in friends or activities that were once enjoyed, anxiety, nervousness, lethargy, crying, inability to concentrate or isolation.

4) There have been preparations for death. These include making out a will, putting affairs in order and giving away personal possessions.

5) There has been a sudden lift in spirits. This is often a signal that people have de-

cidated on suicide and are relieved because they know that the problem will soon be over.

Of all persons in Clark County who committed suicide in 1990, 136 used a gun, 29 overdosed on drugs, 13 hung themselves, nine used carbon monoxide poisoning, four cut themselves to death, and three jumped from a high building.

Hammond said that the cardinal rule of suicide prevention is "Do Something." Get help. Talk to someone.

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