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UCLA admits to sale of body part as donor's family sue university

By Chris T. Nguyen THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANGELES LOS Officials at the University of California, Los Angeles, acknowledged Monday that parts of bodies donated for medical research there had instead been sold, and apologized for a failure in oversight.

Donors' families, meanwhile, filed a lawsuit against the school, claiming the director of the university's Willed Body Program had been selling body parts illegally for years with the knowledge of other UCLA officials. UCLA has denied knowing about the sales.

The director, Henry Reid, was arrested along with another man accused of helping to sell the body parts.

UCLA officials admitted

Monday that some body parts were sold to companies, but said they were only used for medical research. They promised to revamp the cadaver program.

"These alleged crimes violate the trust of our donors, their families and UCLA," said Dr. Gerald Levey, dean of UCLA's medical school. "We are investigating how our policies failed to detect these employees' illegal activities.'

About 175 people donate their bodies each year to the university for use in anatomy classes, officials said. UCLA officials did not say when the body parts were sold or how many there may have been.

Attorneys representing the

injunction from a judge Tuesday to stop the cadaver program.

We both wanted to help the young doctors learn as much as they could and the best way to do that is with bodies," said Shirley Williams, 73, of Thousand Oaks, whose husband's body was donated to UCLA after he died in 2002 from complications of a stroke. She said she has now decided against donating her body to the school.

These alleged crimes violate the trust of our donors. their families and UCLA.

— Gerald Levey Dean of UCLA medical school

"I just find it so difficult that someone would put money higher than the use of these bodies for research," she said.

Reid, 54, was arrested Saturday for investigation of grand theft for allegedly selling corpses and body parts for profit. He was released from jail after posting bail and has declined to comment.

Ernest V. Nelson, 46, was arrested for investigation of receiving stolen property. A UCLA statement said Nelson,

family members will seek an who also was released on was not a university emplo

Nelson claimed he acted middle man for six years, ret ing body parts from the med school's freezer and selling to research companies. He Reid and other UCLA emplo

knew what he was doing. "I call one of the most gious universities in the w their director gives me the pa col, I follow that protocol they charge me with recei stolen body parts?" Nelson the Los Angeles Times

Monday's editions. He added that he collect the body parts by simply ing into the UCLA Medi Center twice a week with a and taking them. Over the ye he said, he cut up approximate 800 cadavers and sold parts in many as 100 clients.

"If I wasn't supposed to there, why couldn't they tell: Braze that?" Nelson asked.

Louis Marlin, a lawyer UCLA, denied that the univerty knew that the donated box were being cut up and sold others. He said Nelson paid the parts he took with cashin checks made out to Reid.

One other UCLA emplo who is also believed to h accepted money has been pla on leave. That person has been identified or arrested.

Marlin said Nelson hims brought the situation to li when he filed a claim agains university for \$241,000 for by parts he said he paid for and w then ordered to return.

New knee replacement surgery gets patients on their feet faster

By Lauran Neergaard THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Just nine hours after Grover Thomas had his knee replaced, he hobbled home from the hospital. Five days later, he was walking unassisted, no crutch or cane in sight.

Some 300,000 Americans a year have total knee replacements, and many might be green with envy upon reading this: The operation usually requires several days in the hospital and weeks on crutches, not counting arduous physical therapy.

Now, a small but growing number of surgeons are implanting the manmade joint with less of that through a mere 3-inch incision and without cutting a muscle and tendon that are crucial for knee flexing. The changes promise less pain and faster recovery.

Dr. Richard Berger even offers it as outpatient surgery, so far sending Thomas and 22 other patients home within hours of the operation.

It's "a little like building a ship in a bottle," says Berger, of Chicago's Rush University Medical Center. "It takes a little bit of practice and a little bit of skill."

Patients recover three times faster than with standard surgery, says Dr. Alfred Tria of New Jersey's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, who pioneered the new method and has used it on 140 patients.

Less invasive knee surgery

Less pain, less recovery replacement now requires only a 3-incl incision and avoids cutting the quad muscle and tendon which are necessary for the knee to flex.

Women are still being paid less for doing the same job as

Women

Continued from page 1

clubs, Dickey said.

It was not until 1971 that there was an equal basis of admission for women at A&M, Dickey said. By 1973, 43 percent of women in the United States were enrolled in college.

Dickey said women have made accomplishments over the last few years, citing their representation in the U.S. Congress and their positions at higher education institutions. Sixty-one members in the House of Representatives and 13 members of the Senate are women.

Also, 12 percent of corporate officers and 19 percent of college and university professors are female, Dickey said.

haven't yet closed the gap," Dickey said.

"We've made progress, but

progress, but what would define success?" Dickey said. "It is time for equal pay for equal work.'

men, Dickey said, and female

professors receive 12 percent

less than their male counterparts.

"We've made measurable

Dickey also addressed the difficulties encountered by many women forced to juggle a career and family responsibilities.

Dickey said she was initially discouraged from going to medical school because she was told she could not have a career, a husband and children. She was told that if she wanted to make it in a man's world, she would have to do what a man does.

"I'm looking forward to the day when as many men as women know that they should be here," Watson said.

Dickey encouraged women

not to give up on their dream "Women have to have or dence," Dickey said. "Wo need the opportunity to dre be what they want."

At the luncheon, the

ents of the Woman's Pro Awards were named. The dent award was given to Bendoraitis, a graduate dent of education admin tion, who played a role in ting the Silent Witness gram to A&M. The fact award was given to Mary Meagher, associate profe of psychology. Julie Bal assistant vice president ly," D research, and Ann Kier, and fessor and head of Veter Administrati Medicine received the administra awards. A special award given to Betty M Unterberger, the first fee full-time professor at A&M O.R. S.







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