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INSIDE



A&E

CSUN's radio station provides mostly classical music, and students are disinterested. see page 7



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Marriage equality should be universal and not based on personal opinion. see page 8



LIFE & STYLE

A new networking site joins the ranks of Facebook and MySpace. see page 9

ONLINE

A Matador fan shares his thoughts about the CSUN men's basketball team.

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Advocates against violence rally for justice



SUNDIAL FILE PHOTO

A shirt created for the Take Back the Night Rally in 2007.

MEGAN BLUMENTHAL
STAFF REPORTER

Tonight CSUN staff, students and the surrounding community are planning to "Take Back the Night" (TBTN). This event is dedicated to speaking out against the violence and abuse affecting men, women and children.

Domestic violence affects everyone; according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence which found one in every four women will experience some kind of domestic violence in her lifetime. According to Batteredmen.com 835,000 men are domestically abused each year.

The first TBTN is believed to have taken place in 1877 when women protested fear and violence on the streets of London, England, according to TBTN's official Web site. Since then it has grown to a nationwide event advocating awareness and change for years to come, with the first march taking place in San Francisco.

It's about paying attention to the violence and the number

of women that are raped and sexually molested and trying to do something about it, said Dr. Sheena Malhotra, CSUN associate professor of gender and women's Studies.

CSUN's 6th annual TBTN will consist of two parts. The first will be a resource fair of clubs and organizations at the Plaza del Sol at 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the University Student Union (USU). Activities will include poster making, which is what women did at the first TBTN event, a tradition that has continued through the years.

"It's a really worthy cause. It's important that more students learn about it so they can get involved next year," said Casandra Rodriguez, president of the Women's Studies Student Association (WSSA).

Live entertainment featuring the music of the Pristines and All or Nothing HC can be heard during the event. American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters will be provided for the entire rally.

Speakers will include representatives from the Native American Women Association (NAWA), Valley Trauma Center and Project DATE, a CSUN pro-

gram specializing in dating and abuse prevention, among others. After a few keynote speakers there will be a candlelight vigil where participants will embark in a march from Plaza del Sol to the newly renovated Women's Resource and Research Center (WRRC). It's located at 18356 Halsted St., next to the Asian American Center, said Stephanie Montes, CSUN Women's Resource and Research Center assistant director.

The second part of the event will be at the WRRC where an open mic session will take place. Participants will have an opportunity to protest the violence and help raise awareness.

The gender and women's studies department, WRRC, WSSA and Associated Students are sponsoring the event.

"It provides a space for survivors of violence and abuse to vent and eventually heal on the path to recovery," said Rodriguez. "It's more than survivors, it's about creating awareness."

TBTN is about making the night and public space safe for women to walk around without

See **RALLY**, page 3

Get the most out of FAFSA

OFELYA MARTIROSYAN
STAFF REPORTER

The priority deadline to submit the application for federal student aid (FAFSA), March 2, is fast approaching.

Times are tough, money is short and there are too many expenses. These are phrases heard too often lately, but there is hope for CSUN students.

Although CSUN financial aid services experienced a 10 percent increase in aid applications, there was a 12 percent increase in awards this year alone, said Lili Vidal, director of financial aid.

During the award year 2008-09, more than 21,000 students were granted aid, said Vidal. The financial aid office expects an even higher number of applicants for 2009-10 due to the recession. The bad economy and job losses for students or their parents will contribute to the increase in applications, said Vidal.

It will be the first year applying for aid for Joshua Rosenberg, 24, cinema and television arts major. "My parents help me out, but this year I'll have to apply."

See **FAFSA**, page 4

Racism: lesson never learned



JENINA SIMPLICIO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kashif Powell describes, "The Jena Six," where three nooses were hung from a tree at a high school in Louisiana.

ALEXANDRA CHAVEZ
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dialogue sparked between CSUN students at the Jena Six performance Wednesday afternoon.

The event, sponsored by the University Student Union and hosted by the Black Student Union (BSU) at the Grand Salon, featured a one-man auto ethnographic performance depicted issues of racism, lynching, and oppression from the past and present events.

Racism still happens today whether it gets noticed or not and "although this particular event took place in Jena and it was brought to the light there, there's so many situations just like this one that don't make it into the light, that happens here. That happens all over our country and it's not always African Americans that are the victims of this injustice," said Eboni Blanche, the BSU president.

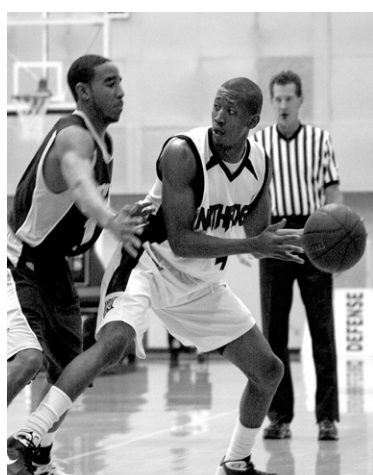
Author, performer and California State University, Long Beach graduate, Kashif Powell concentrated on the injustices of the Jena Six in his performance as well as the struggle to define black male identity.

Powell actively involved the audience in all aspects, from asking for volunteers to handing out props. Powell told the audience if they felt uncomfortable they should leave, "If you're not willing to be a little uncomfortable about history you're prob-

See **JENA**, page 3

JESUS ESQUIVEL /
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rob Haynes, right, and the Matadors were on the winning end of a struggling 62-57 game against UC Santa Barbara on Wednesday night. Haynes had six points and two steals for Big West Conference-leading CSUN. See page 12 for full story



Corrections:

Does CSUN really "Stand to loose \$3.5 million?" No. CSUN stands to lose \$3.5 million. We would like to thank our readers for quickly and enthusiastically pointing out this glaringly obvious misspelling that appeared on the front page on Tuesday Feb. 24.

In the Feb. 24 news story about the USU Board of Directors meeting, Director Dan Monteleone's name was misspelled at the end of the article. His name was spelled 'Monteleon' instead of Monteleone.

JENA

Continued from page 1

ably not willing to change it either," said Powell. He stressed by showing the history of racism and oppression, from the crucifixion of Jesus Christ to the lynching of African Americans. Today racism is just as overt, but with differences and help of media. The black spectacles of famous entertainers and celebrities are an example from the portrayals of African Americans in movies and TV shows as well as the injustices of six black boys in Jena, La.

In Sept. 2006, Jena High School held an assembly where one black student asked the principle if he could sit under a tree that was considered to be whites only. The principle told the student he could sit wherever he liked and the next day black students sat under that tree.

The following day three nooses were hung on that whites only tree. These series of events ignited the racial tension in Jena, Louisiana. "In Dec. 2006 during lunch time six boys jumped [a white

student] who called them the wrong word and they were charged with attempted murder and the court said that their tennis shoes were deadly weapons," said Powell.

Progress has not happened at least not to the degree people believe it has. Racism and segregation is experienced and seen on campus. "We have spots around campus where only certain ethnicities hang out here. If you are of a certain race you're not going to be sitting over in Sierra Hall, or you're not going to go sit in front of Manzanita. Because it's segregated, it's for a certain group of students," said Blanche.

Students created dialogue at the end of the performance with the idea of spending too much time dwelling opposed to focusing on the future. "I understand we shouldn't dwell on the past but if you don't learn what happened in the past and really try to understand it and make sure it doesn't leave your mind you won't have a chance to make sure it never happens again. How can you not dwell on something that happened in the past that's actually happening today?" asked James Darby IV, political science major.

RALLY

Continued from page 1

fear of violence, said Malhotra.

She has a degree in media and communications and chose to focus on gender and race as well because she believes in, "social justice for all people...for men and women of all colors and social classes."

Students are encouraged to attend and support to become one voice and declare, "the violence must stop," as stated on CSUN's TBTN flyer.

CSUN's TBTN will end at the Women's Resource Center where both men and women

who survived abuse, rape and violence will share stories.

"It is one of the most empowering and moving things to watch," said Malhotra. "Because survivors who have kept silent for so long, are speaking about it."

On Average nonfatal intimate partner violence consisted of 22% of females age 12 or older and 4% of males aged 12 or older between 2001 and 2005 according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. 1.5 million women are domestically abused each year according to the CDC.

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By Pierre Corneille. Freely adapted by Tony Kushner

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What to bring:

You are not required to bring anything, but for best results bring:

- ~Your 2008 tax return & W-2
- ~Your parents' 2008 tax return & W-2s
- ~If 2008 is not available, bring 2007



Workshops will be conducted by the CSUN Financial Aid & Scholarship Department
<http://www.csun.edu/finaid>

FAFSA

Continued from page 1

To process the increased number of requests, the financial aid office is looking to streamline their processes, said Vidal. "We're continually upgrading our technology and ability to handle more and more applicants and we're looking at different ways of awarding."

Through upgrades, the hope is to save time and be more effective. "A lot of what we do, we have to do manually and the system takes a while to catch-up," said Vidal.

Her advice to students is to apply for FAFSA before the priority deadline, answer correctly and immediately return any additional documents the financial aid office may request. "They can apply after the deadline, but the grants are committed after that point," said Vidal.

Yomara Barrios, 23, liberal arts major, said she finds the application process very straightforward. "It's pretty easy. You just need your parents tax forms and yours and just plug-in the numbers."

In addition to grants, there are also loans and a few different scholarships available. Federal Work-Study programs may be another option for qualified students.

For scholarships, there is generally a 3.0 or higher GPA requirement, though there may be a few that do not have that prerequisite.

"Students just need to do their very best in academic work," said Vidal.

If students are having any problems paying for their classes, need support or budget advice, Vidal encourages them to visit the financial aid office on the first floor of Bayramian Hall and see if they can help. "That's what we're here for. They can always come in and talk to us," said Vidal. "Any student, who's eligible to apply, will get some awards." The general formula for determining aid is by subtracting family contributions from college costs.

Last year Kenneth Arlington Jr., 28, a cinema and television arts major, said he did not attend school because he did not receive any financial aid. This year he received a small amount. "They've cut my financial aid. I get like \$300 and loans pay the rest." Arlington is a senior and won't be applying for aid for the upcoming year. He said, "I'm pretty much done, so I haven't asked."

After graduation, students are expected to begin repayment of loans. Vidal said students often think work-study and loans don't constitute aid, but they do.

If any changes occur after applying, students can go in and ask for an income appeal and financial aid will take another look at their application, said Vidal. "If it's in the same academic year and they're still enrolled, we can go back and look at it."

There is a FAFSA workshop today from 2 to 4 p.m. in Jacaranda Hall, room 3516.

TUTOR

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