

Censorship of lesbian term incites protest

Students reacted by mimicking the sexual act and taping their mouths shut.

By **STEPHANIE RIVERA**
Staff Writer

About 24 theatre arts majors protested in front of Brotman Hall on Wednesday by tribbing with one another, a lesbian sex act commonly known as "scissoring."

The demonstration was in response to Cal State Long Beach's refusal to advertise a play on the Seventh Street marquee because "tribades" is in the title. The play, called "The Night of the Tribades," is about playwright August Strindberg's relationship with women.

The play is part of the graduate

acting program, Cal Rep, at Cal State Long Beach.

According to theatre arts major Courtney Knight, tribade is an archaic Greek term for lesbian. Knight said the school refused to advertise the play on the marquee because of the word's similarity with tribadism.

"When you put tribade into a Google search image, apparently it comes up with the word tribadism, which is a sex act and they decided it was inappropriate," Knight said.

In response to CSULB's refusal to promote the play, the group of students conducted a different type of protest. According to the flyers they handed out, the protest was a "flash mob," where a group assembles in a public place to raise awareness of something via physical gesture or act.

For a little more than 10 minutes, protesters paired up and posed in positions known as tribadism, more commonly known as "scissoring." Some



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Pedestrians walking near Brotman Hall react to two unnamed participants protesting.

protesters wore shirts with the word "tribade" and taped their mouths with "censored" written on the tape.

Knight said it is not fair for the school to arbitrarily pick and choose what to advertise.

"This is the same marquee that has words on it such as genocides, such as

rape, and these produce far more violent graphic images than tribadism," she said.

"I feel this is our art being censored," Knight added.

Protesters plan to discuss the issue after "The Night of the Tribades" at the Queen Mary on Nov. 20.

Union's nonprofit Candy Corner stand, Fresh Foods Café Express is a business, said Kristine Ojala, senior psychology major and Candy Store worker.

"From what I heard, they just left," junior consumer affairs major Mark Abing said. "I came [to the rec center] Sunday and the products were gone. It sucks because people who workout here need to go buy food elsewhere, pack a meal or find a different place to eat."

Student workers at the café were notified the day before it shut down. "[Fresh Foods] was a fun job, but I wish it lasted longer," said Jeremy Theimer, junior child development major. "Business was really good, and then it slowed down as the rec center's popularity died down."

Some students are concerned about the absence of a food place at the rec center.

"They didn't give it much time and now it's inconvenient that there aren't other places nearby," senior criminal justice major Natasha Charlisle said.

According to ASI, the rec center is looking for a new vendor to sell healthy and affordable foods to its 2,500 to 4,000 visitors daily.

Students spread wings, take flight with Marines

CSULB students joined with aviation officers of the U.S. Marine Corps to fly aircrafts from John Wayne Airport.

By **STEPHANIE HEMMENS**
Contributing Writer

In the scorching hot cockpit of an eight-passenger airplane, Zachary Cowen put on his bulky aviator headphones and took charge of the controls with sweaty palms.

The junior criminal justice major at Cal State Long Beach was ready to fly alongside a United States Marine Corps aviation officer.

It was the morning of Nov. 5 at John Wayne Airport, when Cowen was given the opportunity to fly a King Air 200 up and down the Southern Californian coastline, turning and diving as he saw fit. The G-forces were so strong that the flight felt like a roller coaster

ride traveling in different directions. The movements had Cowen regretting his decision to eat a hearty breakfast that morning. Cowen and the other passengers slid back into their seats, unable to move an inch as the plane accelerated.

"Flying the plane was radical," Cowen said. "Just being in the cockpit and looking out over the ocean was insane, but when the pilot sits next to you and just eats a sandwich while you fly ... awesome!"

See **AVIATION**, Page 3



STEPHANIE HEMMENS

Daily 49er reporter Stephanie Hemmens got a chance to take control of the cockpit during a Marine Corps promotional event on Nov. 5.

FEATURES

3

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Thursday, November 18, 2010

AVIATION

Continued from Page 1

Cowen — along with other college students — had fear marked across his face during the hour-long flight. Anxieties and emotions ran sky-high as everyone's nerves got the ultimate workout. The absence of air conditioning on a hot day only added to the excitement as sweat dripped down their faces.

The students took turns flying the plane, carefully stepping in and out of the control-filled cockpit about 2,500 meters above sea level. The cockpit was crammed with dozens of buttons and switches surrounding the pilot and co-pilot seats.

Students flew south from Newport Beach to Camp Pendleton and back again. The birds-eye view from the plane showcased houses and buildings the size of ants on one side, Catalina Island on the other and the Pacific Ocean directly underneath.

He said it was an exhilarating, once-in-a-lifetime experience he will remember forever.

"The most interesting thing was how little effort the pilot used to control the plane," he said. "He had flown so much that he didn't even have to think about it."

Capt. Jason Kurz, the aviation officer, wore a beige jumpsuit. He signaled to each student that they would be flying a special Marine Corps jet. To their surprise, they were about to fly a passenger plane used to transport people around the United States. Although it wasn't built for flips, the plane flew with ease as students operated several dips and sharp, jerky turns.

The purpose of the free event was to

promote the Marine Corps aviation officer positions by providing college students in Southern California with the hands-on experience of flying a plane. Along with students from CSULB, those from other universities, including the University of California Irvine and Chapman, were also at the event.

"I attended because I'm interested in the Marine Corps Officer Candidates School, and really how can you turn down the chance to fly a plane?" Cowen said. "It was an unbelievable experience, and gave me a new view on what the Marine Corps has to offer ... I will definitely make [this career choice] a strong possibility."

When the aviation officer took over to land the plane on the runway and the students stepped onto the black asphalt, they were anxious to ask several Marine Corps officers questions.

"I learned a lot," Cowen said. "The pilot answered all my questions about the lifestyle, the training and the opportunities available to Marine Corps pilots."

Flight school gives men and women the chance to gain real world experience, such as learning how to fly on and off aircraft carriers. Although they identify their preference of flying a diverse fleet of cutting-edge jets and helicopters, their aptitude and performance determines the type of aircraft they will be flying.

"You can learn to fly a multimillion dollar jet in less time than it takes to get a B.A.," Capt. Paul Lowman said. "I think it's pretty reasonable."

According to Lowman, to be a Marine and a pilot, one has to be "someone who performs beyond all their peers."

Cowen encourages other students to go to the next event.



(Above) Students from Chapman University and UC Irvine gather in front of an airplane after having flown it. It was part of the Marine Corps promotional event of their aviation officers position.



(Right) A Chapman University student flies alongside a pilot from the Marine Corps. The pilot gave the student advice on how to fly the aircraft.

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