

Speaking out against sexual violence

Jonathan Butz | Executive News Producer | Posted: Monday, September 20, 2010 3:52 pm

Students at New Mexico State University had a chance to speak out against sexual and dating violence at a T-shirt designing contest hosted by the Wellness, Alcohol and Violence Education program on Monday afternoon.

Throughout the day, a number of students designed T-shirts with messages against sexual and dating violence. Assistant Coordinator at WAVE John Rivers said the event is leading up to the annual RAINN Concert, which begins at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the NMSU Recital Hall.

The concert aims to bring more awareness about RAINN (Rape Abuse & Incest National Network,) as the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. Additionally, RAINN offers a telephone hotline and online instant messaging hotline.

"The event is going to serve as an outlet for the community to express and vocalize their ideas regarding sexual violence," Rivers said. "All the T-shirts made today will be on display at the event, too."

The concert is free and will feature local bands A Promise of Tomorrow and Cadence, but students are encouraged to leave a donation for the local non-profit La Piñon Sexual Assault Recovery Services. Rivers said La Piñon has worked extensively with WAVE in its efforts against domestic, sexual and dating violence in the community.

"[La Piñon] is the number-one resource in this community and we want to make sure students are aware of the resources available to them," Rivers said.

Rivers said organizations like La Piñon and WAVE are working to bring overlooked issues such as sexual violence to light.

"A lot of students don't realize how prevalent sexual violence is - one in six women will experience sexual violence at some point in their life," Rivers said.

Aside from outside resources such as RAINN and La Piñon, Rivers said WAVE is available for prevention and education, while he also said he recommends the NMSU Counseling Center for students struggling with any type of issues - whether they be domestic, sexual or work-related.

Visit the WAVE Web site for more information.