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Students say building new union is best choice

2,242 voted to determine future of University Union

By April Aven

Rocket Assistant News Editor

The students have spoken.

Now it's up to the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's Board of Governors to listen.

Students overwhelmingly voted in favor of constructing a new 118,000-square-foot union

that would create a one-stop student services center. This option, referred to throughout the process as "Option A," would mean that the university union fee charged to each student would be \$382.80 per semester, but will not take effect until 2011.

Roughly 27 percent of the SRU student body voted concerning the future of the university union, with 2,086 of the 2,242 total votes—or 93 percent—going in favor of Option A.

Option B, which was to expand the current union, and Option C, leaving the current union as is, each received 78 votes each, or about 3.5 percent of the vote.

Option B would mean a university union fee of \$404.30 beginning in 2011, while Option C would have resulted in a \$346 fee, as the

figure increases by \$50 per academic year anyway.

The online voting took place from March 27 until April 1 and was conducted by Student Voice, an independent third-party contractor.

Although the students have voted, the PASSHE Board of Governors must still approve any construction for a new union.

SRU President Robert Smith said that the board will meet April 10 to discuss the funding for the project.

"The voting will definitely help make it happen with the board," Smith said.

In 2005, 588 students voted to build a new union while 159 voted in favor of renovating the current one. A delay in getting the project

approved by the PASSHE back then caused SRU to be held up from receiving the bonds to begin construction on the project.

The PASSHE Board of Governors wanted to confirm students' support for the new building.

Assistant Vice President of Student Life Paula Olivero said that the turnout for the voting was exceptional.

"The students showed their Rock pride by reaffirming student support to build a new University Union," she said.

Olivero said that the University Union Taskforce, a group of student leaders headed by Student Government Association President

SEE NEW, PAGE A-3



IMAGE COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

A 2006 study showed that one out of five high school students goes to school drunk or high at least once a week, and more than 1,700 college students die each year from alcohol poisoning. Local law enforcement representatives are trying to crack down on underage drinking.

Underage drinking no dry issue among Slippery Rock locals

By Alan Jaquith

Rocket Contributor

Teenagers have been making mistakes for, well, as long as there have been teenagers. And underage drinking has been a hot topic since laws have prohibited teenagers from tipping the bottle.

Unwilling to accept this as an unavoidable situation, the Butler County Drug and Alcohol Program held a meeting to raise awareness and discuss a possible solution Wednesday night at a "Town Hall Meeting" in the Eisenberg Classroom Building Auditorium.

The message was clear. Underage drinking is a problem in Butler County, and something needs to be done about it.

According to a study published in the Butler Eagle in 2006, one out of five high school students goes to school drunk or high at least once a week, and more than 1,700 college students die each year from alcohol poisoning.

The Butler County Drug and Alcohol Program's Treatment Needs Assessment in 2007 found that 63 percent of Butler County residents acknowledge an increase in underage drinking in our communities and rate it as a "major problem."

"You folks sitting out there are going to run our country some day, and I'd like to see you do it with a clear mind," Dale Pinkerton, chairman of the Butler County commissioners, said to the smattering of minors in attendance.

Most minors, when considering the downfalls of underage drinking, would undoubtedly think of fines and suspension of the all-important driver's license.

Terry Brown, captain of the Slippery Rock Borough Police and an active member of the Butler County Drug Task Force, stressed more severe consequences.

"You take a young kid who has just received his or her driver's license, and

SEE LOCAL, PAGE A-4

"Up 'til 2" event raises \$20,939 for St. Jude Children's Hospital

By Jessica Moore

Rocket Contributor

On March 25, it was revealed that SRU students raised \$20,939.15 in donations for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Students held a letter-writing campaign for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on Nov. 30, raising donations for cancer research and treatments.

At the all-night event, "Up 'til 2," students stayed awake until 2 a.m. writing letters in an effort to raise money for the patients at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Similar "Up 'til Dawn" events are held by universities all over the nation.

Jamie Russell, program coordinator for Residence Life, said that during the letter-writing campaign, each student brought 50 names and addresses of friends and family members.

Each student then wrote a letter to each of their 50 addresses, informing them about St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and asking them for donations, Russell said.

Russell said that the postage, envelopes, and all other needed

supplies were provided by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The campaign also included activities such as music and games, Russell said.

Russell said that she was told by a St. Jude Children's Research Hospital representative that the donations were roughly enough for one child to receive chemotherapy treatments for one month.

A policy of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is that patients are not required to pay what insurance does not cover.

SEE LETTER-WRITING, PAGE A-2

Eating disorders affecting young adults all around the country

By Sierra Vaughn

Rocket Contributor

The campus community came together Tuesday to discuss how psychological, social and other various pressures play major factors in eating disorders among college students.

Johanna Kandel, executive director of the Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness, shared her personal struggle with eating disorders, treatment and the recovery process.

During the presentation, titled "Stepping Off the Scales," Kandel discussed warning signs, how to get treatment and how to support those with eating disorders. The presentation was held in the Spotts World Culture Building auditorium at 12:30 p.m. and given again at 5 p.m.

Anorexia, bulimia and binge eating were topics of discussion with the audience.

"I think that students just get overwhelmed by the amount of stress placed on them with schoolwork, extra activities and jobs," freshman exercise science major Crystal Burnick said. "It also makes a difference for some students that after moving out on

their own they make their own eating habits.

"They probably feel like they can get away with eating poorly because their parents are not around to make them eat properly."

SEE GUEST PAGE A-2



IMAGE COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

WEATHER

Forecast from National Weather Service

Friday

Saturday

Sunday



Rain



Partly Sunny



Sunny

High: 58; Low: 36

High: 55; Low: 35

High: 59; Low: 36

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