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HE SAID SHE SAID

What do the sexes really think about Valentine's Day?

By Elizabeth Rekowski
Rocket Focus Editor

Men and women usually disagree on many things: what channel to watch on the television, where to go to dinner or even whose turn it is to do the dishes.

Their thoughts on Valentine's Day seem to be no exception.

Men seem to believe that the holiday is just a gimmick and a reason to spend money.

"It's just another holiday to buy stuff. There's no significance," said Justin Lonchar, a 19-year-old freshman exercise science major.

But Lonchar said he doesn't mind the core concept of the holiday, enjoying time with a person you care about.

"It is a nice excuse to have a nice romantic night to strengthen your relationship," Lonchar said.

For the holiday, Lonchar plans on getting his girlfriend the traditional card, candy and a night out to dinner

at the Cheesecake Factory.

He said that girls tend to care more about Feb. 14 than their male counterparts.

"My girlfriend probably makes a bigger deal about it than I would," Lonchar said.

Nick Wargo, 18, a freshman sport management major, is also dreading the upcoming holiday.

"It's just a holiday created by the stores to make money," Wargo said.

Wargo said he believes the holiday revolves entirely around women.

"If it weren't for women, guys wouldn't care about (Valentine's Day) at all," Wargo said.

Wargo also has a girlfriend and said that she cares more about the holiday than he does, but doesn't expect too much from him.

"She likes (Valentine's Day), but she knows I don't have any money to get her much," he said.

But he did admit that she'd expect

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IMAGE COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Controversial "Vagina Monologues" address female-related topics, issues, concerns

By Bridget Yodens
Rocket Contributor

Eve Ensler's play, the "Vagina Monologues," began its sixth run at Slippery Rock University last night, and the campus' reception of this year's performance looks promising.

"It's a great combination of education and entertainment," said Jace Condrary, director of SRU's Women's Studies Program.

Condrary also added that the play is "a series of monologues that Eve Ensler put together based on interviews with women all over the world. The interviews focus on the experiences women have had related to their bodies. Some of those experiences are humorous and some are violent."

This year's performance is being co-directed by Alex McNeill and Marilen Ilagan.

McNeill, a 21-year-old political science major, was in the show last year. During the fall semester, she started talking with past cast mates about the possibility of doing the show again this year.

"There was an excellent turnout last year," McNeill, a junior, said. "With Eve Ensler coming and with the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance becoming more active, we thought it was a good idea to do it again this year."

The women's studies department and the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance are co-sponsoring the show. Performances will be held tonight and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in the Swope Music Hall auditorium.

The proceeds from all ticket sales will be donated to two local shelters, the Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County and the Butler County Victim Outreach Intervention Center.

"I think a lot of people find it empowering," theater professor David Skeeel said. "Anytime you can get something out there and talk about it when it's socially taboo is an important thing to do."

Condrary recommends it to male and female students alike.



Kira Starzynski, a senior professional writing and English major, and Bridget Kelly, a senior communication major, perform a scene during Wednesday night's dress rehearsal in Swope Music Hall.

"It covers some serious subjects," said second year doctor of physical therapy student Stephanie Boy. "But it's presented with humor so that people are more apt to listen about important issues like abuse."

History professor Alan Levy has been associated with criticizing the "Vagina Monologues" in the past. He said that he thinks the production has a valid place on campus.

"The most important thought, first and last: The First Amendment must be protected," Levy said. "Anybody who's curious, or particularly anybody who's hostile, should go to the play and see for themselves."

Levy mentioned that while good can come from having the production at SRU, he questions whether it breeds intolerance while claiming to be liberalizing.

One of his criticisms is that the monologues portray women as victims and males as aggressors.

Levy also feels that many of the monologues are about wealthy white women, which falls short of representing the problems faced by women the world over.

In 2001, he and two other professors wrote a brief letter to *The Rocket* about this specific criticism. Soon after the letter was published, the property of one of the professors was vandalized.

Levy said that this was a mark of hypocrisy when it comes to the free speech that supporters of the "Vagina Monologues" hope to spread.

He also said he witnessed some members of the "Vagina Monologues" cast removing

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Long-distance relationships a norm for students

By Liz Glazier
Rocket Assistant Focus Editor

For many SRU students, Valentine's Day is a day to spend time with a loved one.

But for some, spending time with a significant other isn't quite so easy.

Long distance relationships are fairly common for college students. Students date someone from home and go away to school, or people can even meet someone from a different school and decide to start dating, among many other situations.

For sophomore exercise science major Sheree Horvath and her boyfriend Jeff Pimm, 22, being away from each other is something they have both learned to accept.

"It's easy to fight, but we try not to get testy," Pimm said. "It's hard because I can't comfort her over the phone."

The two have known each other for eight years and have been dating for about eight months.

The relationship has always been of the long-distance variety because of Pimm's involvement with the Navy in Norfolk, Va. Pimm is currently stationed there and won't be done with his service until August 2009.

The distance between the two has been an issue from day one.

"It was harder on me because he was out to sea, and at first I would only get an e-mail about every day and a phone call now and then," said Horvath, 19. "Now we get to talk several times a day."

Horvath said one good thing about the relationship is the fact that theirs is one based mainly on communication.

"There is obviously a lot more talking involved, so we get to learn much more about each other on that level," Horvath said.

The two get to see each other for about one

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