



# The Rocket

Slippery Rock University Student Newspaper Est. 1934

www.theonlinerocket.com

February 29, 2008

Volume 90, Number 20

## University Union's future rests in students' hands

Vote to be held March 24 to determine union outcome

By Jasper Hawker  
Rocket Contributor

Slippery Rock University students will have the opportunity to vote for one of three plans to decide the fate of the University Union on March 24.

In 2005, students voted to build a new union, but because of a delay in securing funding, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governors wanted to make sure the students still

support the plan.

Option A is to build a new \$44.9 million union in the open area across the street from Boozel Dining Hall.

The new 118,000-square-foot union would include three times as much space as the current union for offices and meeting places for student organizations. It would also include a movie theater, expanded retail areas, name-brand dining services, a convenience store, a study area with wireless Internet access and a ballroom with a stage.

This option would also redesign the current union as a student-services center by relocating the registrar's office, the academic advisement office, the orientation and the first-year student programs, the university police, the health center, student counseling services and the student accounts office.

The Multi-Purpose Room would remain available for meetings and events.

A new union might also connect in the future to a performing arts center that will be located in the area that Bard and Harner

residence halls currently occupy.

An estimated 3,400 square feet of Bailey Library would also be freed up by the relocation of services.

Option B is a \$54.6 million plan to renovate the current union, increasing program space by 64,920 square feet by adding a wing to the south end of the union.

Option B would offer the same services as option A, but without freeing up space to

SEE THREE PAGE A-4



STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

Washington and Jefferson College freshman Katy Rowley (left) and her mother, Judy, a 1976 Slippery Rock University alumna, visited SRU on Tuesday to see Eve Ensler speak about "The Vagina Monologues" and violence against women. Katy produced the "Vagina Monologues" at Washington and Jefferson College this past year.

## Author of "Vagina Monologues" visits SRU to share experiences

By Alan Jaquith  
Rocket Contributor

Eve Ensler, author of the play "Vagina Monologues" and several books, spoke to students and faculty in the Advance Technology and Science Hall auditorium about women's rights and violence against women on Tuesday.

Ensler shared stories with those in attendance about people she has witnessed through personal involvement and through her movement, V-Day, which aims to stop violence against women.

Ensler said that although women have broken through many barriers, they still haven't penetrated the wall of violence.

"There is a global pattern undermining women," Ensler said. "If it is not identified and destroyed, it will destroy the human species."

Ensler said that this is not a "cultural thing," but rather, a human thing, and that people around the world are equally as ready to kill as they are to love.

"If we were dedicated to stopping violence, human creativity would flourish and find a solution," Ensler said.

Not one to sit back and let the world pass her by, Ensler formed V-Day 10 years ago. V-Day is the leading force in the fight against violence toward women, having

donated more than \$50 million since its conception.

According to Ensler, V-Day gives between \$4 million and \$6 million every year, which amounts to what's being spent every 10 minutes for the war in Iraq, Ensler estimated.

Students and faculty welcomed Ensler's message with several standing ovations and words of praise.

"I think it's amazing that she's giving words to something that is such a big thing," said Jason Braun, an associate professor, counselor and licensed psychologist at the SRU Student Counseling Center.

Students showed their support and appreciation during the book signing held outside the auditorium after the speech.

Alex McNeill, a 21-year-old junior political science major who co-produced SRU's staging of "The Vagina Monologues" earlier this month and recently received the Woman of Distinction Award from SRU, said she freaked out when given the opportunity to introduce Ensler. During the book signing, McNeil asked Ensler to sign her hip.

McNeil plans to visit a tattoo parlor to have the signature made permanent.

"She was amazingly warm," said McNeill, a sentiment that was heard repeatedly throughout the book-signing

SEE ENSLER, PAGE A-4

## \$25,000 grant to go toward program for disabled vets

By April Aven  
Rocket Assistant News Editor

Slippery Rock University received a \$25,000 grant earlier this month from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation to develop a fitness program for veterans with disabilities.

The grant will specifically be used to integrate sports activities into a fitness program for the new crop of young veterans with disabilities from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Robert Arnhold, a professor of exercise and rehabilitative sciences at SRU, said that a

program already exists at the university to help veterans from Vietnam and World War II.

"On Fridays at the (Aebersold Recreation Center), we hold programs for older veterans that stay at the Butler Memorial Hospital," Arnhold said. "We wanted to offer programs for the new crop of veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars."

According to its Web site, The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation was established to provide innovative research concerning spinal cord injuries

SEE SRU, PAGE A-2



SUBMITTED PIC

Veterans from the Butler VA Hospital come every Friday to the ARC at Slippery Rock University to participate in various activities. Around 12 veterans attend and six SRU students volunteer.

### WEATHER

Forecast from National Weather Service

Friday

Saturday

Sunday



High: 34; Low: 22

High: 34; Low: 18

High: 44; Low: 29

### INDEX

Opinion.....A-6 Police Blotter.....A-3  
Classifieds.....A-8 Rock Notes.....A-2  
Sports.....B-1 Sports.....C-1  
Comics.....A-9

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