



The Rocket

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Students: Wage increase a step in the right direction

By **Lexie Shiring**
Rocket Assistant News Editor

Students share mixed feelings about the minimum wage change that took place on July 24.

Minimum wage has increased by two dollars in Pennsylvania for the first time since 1997. It was first raised in January from \$5.15 to \$6.25, and then again on July 24 to \$7.15. The federal minimum wage currently sits at \$5.85.

According to the Merged Outgoing Rotation Groups of the 2004 Current Population Survey, minimum wage has affected the lives of 510,000 Pennsylvania workers and 71.1 percent of those workers are adults who are 20 years or older.

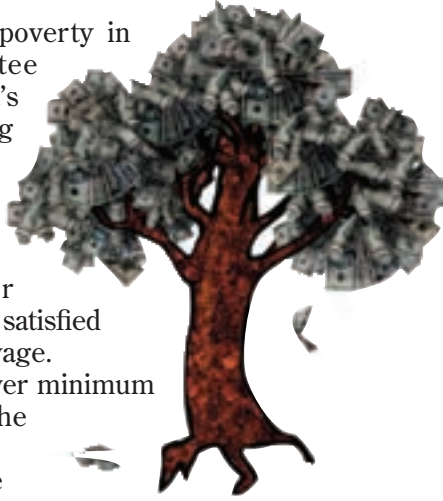
Pennsylvania's poverty rate has increased to over 15 million – meaning that one in every eight people are poverty-stricken.

Changing minimum wage to \$7.15 an hour could be

a strategy to help end poverty in the state and guarantee benefits to Pennsylvania's working poor, according to Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry.

AVI Dining Associate Amy Retucci, a senior history education major, is satisfied with the new minimum wage.

"I have worked for fewer minimum wages, so working for the new minimum wage makes me happy," she said.



According to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, it takes an individual earning minimum wage almost a whole day's work to fill up his or her tank of gas.

SRU Volleyball Graduate Assistant Erin Street agrees.

"I think raising minimum wage is positive thing but also due to the fact that prices are going up. They go hand in hand," she said. "Economy prices are rising, so that means that minimum wage had to be increased."

Jami Golab, a junior elementary education major, had a different outlook on the situation.

"I am glad that it has increased, but I feel that it needs to be increased again," she said. "I think that depending on the job, because some workers do not get paid as much as they deserve for the jobs they perform."

SEE MONEY, PAGE A-3

SRU ranks with top schools in Princeton Review

By **Liz Glazier**
Rocket Staff

Slippery Rock University was recently ranked as one of the best northeastern colleges in the United States by the 2008 edition of the Princeton Review.

Having one of the biggest campuses in western Pennsylvania, SRU was placed among 222 other schools as being one of the elite colleges in the northeast.

They were one of the 654 institutions in the "Best College Region by Region" edition.

Aaron Foutz, a 20-year-old junior bio-chemistry major, wasn't aware of the fact that the school was placed on this list, however he did agree with the recognition that Slippery Rock received from it.

"I'm not surprised," Foutz said. "Slippery Rock University does a lot for the students."

They take the initiative to help their students in four years to have the best possible experience on both an academic and personal level."

Some members of the faculty had heard of the school being included on the list.

"I think it is very good that the university now has this rating," said Bailey Library Director Philip Tramdack.

"It is a legitimate way to compare our services with another school."

One reason that the Princeton Review is taken into consideration by some students is because this list evaluates the feedback received from questionnaires that were filled out by students.

"This survey is one of the few that use student evaluation in the form of an online survey," explained Slippery Rock University President Robert Smith. "This is a very big deal."

Bethany Van Sickle, a 19-year-old sophomore exercise science

major, thought it was great that the school was recognized.

But she thought there was one controversy.

"If a student didn't like the campus, they wouldn't take the time to fill out the survey, so it is almost a biased survey," Van Sickle said.

Students who completed the survey were asked 80 questions dealing with academics, quality of life, extracurriculars, parties, social aspects and demographics.

Smith explained that the review was not only judged on the student evaluations, but also the threshold of "academic standards" of the university.

A 21-year-old senior mathematics and psychology major, Lucky Wijayakoon, is a student from Sri Lanka and explained how the Princeton Review helps students like her choose which school to attend.

"As an international student, we rely on this review to find schools, and we feel that the Princeton Review and other similar lists are very credible sources," Wijayakoon said.

Some of the characteristics of Slippery Rock University that put the school on the list were the small classes, athletic facilities, library and the reputation of having a friendly campus.

Each school put on this list gets a profile page on the Princeton Review Web site, where people can go to read about the school.

In the SRU profile, it recognizes the university's ability to provide a good education at an affordable cost.

The profile also mentions new additions to the campus, such as the multi-million dollar renovations to the recreation facility, the new residence buildings and an Alumni House.

SRU's one-wheeled wonder



Physical education major Brian McCandless, 20, shows off his unicycle techniques by taking the one-wheeled contraption to classes and around the SRU campus. He has been riding bikes for three years and picked up his new talent after a trip to the bike shop. He is also the mastermind behind Brian's Ride, in which he collects donations for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

President's speech highlights academic goals for new year

Safety an important issue for staff, faculty, students

By **Amy Kelly**
Rocket News Editor

The Slippery Rock University faculty joined President Robert Smith in Swope Music Hall on Thursday for the first faculty meeting where the focus was on campus safety for the new school year.

Precautions such as the emergency notification text-messaging system and the hiring of Eric Holmes, the new director of campus safety, are just a few ways to help provide

students and staff more security.

"This is the world we live in and the world we are preparing our students for," Smith said.

The new emergency notification system only costs the university when it is used.

"We are hoping we never have to use it, but it's there if we need it," he said.

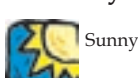
Along with safety goals, Smith also addressed a few other issues, including:

- Raise the value of the SRU degree
- Provide premiere university residential housing
- Control faculty and staff financial destiny
- Institute a faculty grant program to diversify campus
- Introduce a new leadership development program, to be named "Compass"

WEATHER

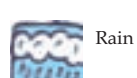
Forecast from National Weather Service

Friday



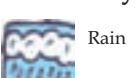
Sunny

Saturday



Rain

Sunday



Rain

High: 90; Low: 65

High: 82; Low: 62

High: 78; Low: 61

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