



The Rocket

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Leave It Green pushing for fund

By **Sierra Vaughn**
Rocket Contributor

Leave It Green, Slippery Rock University's student-run environmental group, is attempting to implement a \$10-per-year student fee that would help raise funds for programs that promote a more environmentally friendly campus.

"The Green Fund," as it's called, would require all students to pay a \$5 fee per semester, which would result in more than \$80,000 for campus and Slippery Rock community greening programs.

Currently, Leave It Green is working to set up an account with the SRU Foundation, which handles the university's fundraising.

Once the account is established, Leave It Green will begin to solicit donations from students and university employees as well as area residents.

"The Green Fund is intended to be a monetary contribution given from Slippery Rock students, faculty, alumni and the community to help to continue to put the green movement into action on campus," said Dan Cannon, officer of Leave It Green.

The Green Fund was discussed at a campus meeting last Wednesday in the Advanced Technology and Science Hall auditorium, where the student body was informed about the green movement on campus and Leave It Green.

SEE CAMPUS, PAGE A-3

Student dies after car crash in Mercer

By **April Aven**

Rocket Assistant News Editor

A service will be held at 11 a.m. at the Cunningham Funeral Home in Mercer today for a Slippery Rock University student who died Sunday morning at Allegheny General Hospital.

Alison Jean Como, a 20-year-old health service and community health major from Coolspring Township, died at 12:17 a.m. Sunday morning at Allegheny General Hospital of injuries sustained in a traffic accident.

Como, a 2006 graduate of Mercer High School, was the daughter of SRU art department chair and associate professor Thomas Como.

Ms. Como was driving east on state Route 208 in Pine Township when her car left the road. The

right side of her car then hit the front porch of a home at 734 Barkeyville Road, according to a previously published news report.

She was taken to Grove City Medical Center after the crash.

According to the report, a passenger in the car was not hurt.

Como's academic adviser, Wendy Stuhldreher, said that Como enjoyed going to SRU.

"A lot of students would not like to attend a college where a parent was teaching," Stuhldreher said. "She really connected with her family in a positive way."

In addition to her father, Como also leaves behind mother Robin Como and brother Dylan, who attends SRU as a parks and recreation major.

Iraq combat photographer



STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

Capt.- Stefan Bandas, right, talks to Russell Lee Klika after Klika's presentation Thursday in the Advanced Technology and Science Hall. Klika discussed his experiences in Iraq and talked about his pictures of soldiers and locals.

War pictures captured by visual artist

By **Jessica Moore**

Rocket Contributor

A combat photographer showed students and faculty of Slippery Rock University a different perspective of the war and life in Iraq on Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the Advanced Technology and Science Hall.

Russell Lee Klika, a Marine Corps and National Guard combat photographer, gave a lecture about life in Iraq and his photography career.

Klika's photographs portray the war and life in Iraq in a way not typically seen in the media, he said.

"As far as I know, these are the only images that portray Iraq as

it really is," Klika said. "No other photographer is doing it, and for the life of me, I can't understand why."

Klika, 47, portrays war by capturing Iraqi citizens and families in their everyday settings. Many of his photographs show fathers and their children.

"There is a huge bond between them," he said. "This is how I chose to project war. This is who we're fighting for."

Klika said that he captures the images as they happen and that none of his photographs are staged.

"Those are the images I live for—human nature images," he said.

Klika said that he developed an interest in photography when he

joined the Marine Corps in 1977. He was stationed in Hawaii, and while on a cruise, he picked up a camera and began documenting the missions, Klika said.

"I am a soldier first," Klika said, "and a photographer second."

Richard Wukich, the SRU art professor who arranged Klika's campus visit and lecture, said they met in Iraq in 2005 while he was working on a charitable project and Klika

was a combat photographer. Wukich said it took several years to track Klika down and bring him to SRU.

"I wouldn't have tried if I didn't

SEE LOCAL, PAGE A-2

State representative shares political experiences



DAN KLEIN/THE ROCKET

Freshman finance major, Melissa Lemieux, 40, talks to Pennsylvania State Representative Jaret Gibbons, 27, about getting involved in politics. Gibbons visited Slippery Rock University Thursday to talk about his achievements as a young political figure.

By **Alan Jaquith**

Rocket Contributor

When college students think of a state representative, they might imagine a stuffy older man who is out of touch with what life is like for the rest of us.

Most students probably wouldn't think of Jaret Gibbons, the 27-year-old Pennsylvanian State Representative.

Gibbons, an Ellwood City native, first became interested in the world of politics during the 1992 presidential election. While at Duquesne University he worked as a clerk for three separate law firms and at the Harrisburg Department of State.

"I've always had a lot of interest in government and politics, and these positions certainly helped prepare me," Gibbons said.

After completing his education, he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

"I'm proud of my accomplishments, but they are a result of a lot of hard work," Gibbons said.

Gibbons also said that, in his mind, his age is an asset.

"There have been skeptics, but I've been able to adapt and understand the important information quicker than others," he said. "Once people sit down with me, they realize that I know the issues."

SRU students have been able to draw some inspiration and hope from the young state representative.

"It takes a lot of guts," said Jessica Cosme, a 20-year-old sophomore political science major. "With most of our state politicians being old, rich white men, we need some younger insight."

This opinion is not limited to students alone. Sharon Sykora, associate professor of political science, said that many people find it refreshing to see someone as young as Gibbons in office.

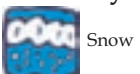
"The younger you are, the more time you have to reform your

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WEATHER

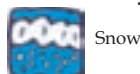
Forecast from National Weather Service

Friday



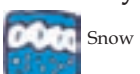
High: 37; Low: 26

Saturday



High: 35; Low: 12

Sunday



High: 18; Low: 12

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