

February 15, 2008

Check out that *arsenal!*



STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

The University Program Board hosted the "Make a Heart, Save a Heart" event on Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the University Union lobby.

Kendra Potsubay, a sophomore health and safety major, gets her backside sketched by a butt-sketch artist at the event. In addition to the artist, AVI Food Systems donated cookies and decorations such as icing, sprinkles and candy hearts to the event for students to decorate cookies. The cookies were sold for \$1 apiece. All the money will be donated to the American Heart Association.

World Languages Competition brings 2,000 high school students to campus

By Samantha Shaner
Rocket Contributor

Worlds will collide this Tuesday when the SRU department of modern languages and cultures hosts the 23rd annual World Languages Competition.

The World Languages Competition will give approximately 2,000 high school students from Western Pennsylvania a chance to compete against other students interested in foreign languages.

Competitions will be held for students who speak French, German, Latin and Spanish. Testing will take place mainly in the Spotts World Culture Building as well as a few other buildings on campus.

In addition to testing, SRU's foreign language professors will be giving introductory classes to students interested in learning about a language they aren't studying.

Also, foreign exchange students will be speaking with the high-schoolers about their cultures and lives as teenagers in other countries.

Awards for the testing will be given to three different categories: best score overall, best score in each language and best score in each level.

Students will be competing in four different proficiency levels that correspond to their previous experience with the language or languages. There will also be a T-shirt design contest.

The T-shirts will be given as awards along with trophies, certificates and dictionaries.

Deb Cohen, a professor from the department of modern languages and cultures, is serving as the event's coordinator.

"Our goal for this event is to reward excellence in language," Cohen said. "We also have many teachers come to this event that tested in the event themselves many years ago and have



ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

brought their students back here."

Cohen, who's been working at SRU for 15 years, says she believes that this competition gives students an accurate assessment of how they're faring in their language studies.

"Students get graded in high school, but sometimes the grades that they get are not extremely quantitative," Cohen said. "This gives them a concrete way to measure what they know against other people in their area."

Eva Tsuquiashi is the chair of the World Language Competition. She has been working as a Spanish professor since 1988.

"As chair, I support this event because it is very important for high school students to have a way of seeing what their level is in relation to others in the area," Tsuquiashi said.

"It is also a wonderful way to showcase the university by allowing students to tour campus."

She explained that the competition began in 1975 as International Culture Day. The events became known as the World Language Competition in 1985.

It was founded by Kathleen Boykin and Charles Tichy, who were both professors in the department of modern languages and cultures. Tichy was the department chair.

"In general, the students learn about cultures from the world," Tsuquiashi said. "We have international students to talk about their countries. Students have the opportunity to learn about their lives as teenagers in their own cultures."

Jessica Scharfenberg, 20, a Spanish

Black History events helping educate campus

By Kacie Peterson
Rocket Contributor

All this month, events have been and will be taking place on the SRU campus to commemorate Black History Month.

And for the members of the Black Action Society, it's time for their hard work to shine.

Planning for the events began about nine months ago, back in April 2007. The newly elected BAS board members met to discuss and finalize the calendar of events during the fall semester, said Rashad Brown, president of BAS.

Brown was heavily involved in the planning of the Black History Month activities.

"As president of the organization, I help in developing the calendar and coordinating all the events sponsored by the Black Action Society, so all of the Slippery Rock community can be aware of Black History Month," said Brown, a 20-year-old junior community health major.

"We try to bring things that will interest the campus community—not just the African-American community, but the entire SRU campus. We bring in people that will talk about things that will spark interest in everybody."

Many on-campus organizations are also involved with the planning, Brown said. Participating organizations include the Foundation of Faith Ministries, Phi Beta Sigma, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc., the SRU Chosen Generation, the President's Commission for LGBT Issues, Rock Out, the Student Government Association and the Late Night Task Force.

The SGA was asked to present two movies featuring blacks during the month as part of the organization's biweekly movie series. Those movies are "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married," which was shown on Feb. 6, and "American Gangster," which will be shown tonight in the McKay Education Building auditorium at 7 p.m.

Brown said the celebration of Black History Month on campus has been going on for about 20 or 30 years and that the BAS is one of the oldest and the largest organizations on campus, with around 50 members.

Brown believes all of the events taking place this month are important for the Slippery Rock community and the university's students. But he said he's especially looking forward to two events: the Ebony Ball and the coming of Queen Quet, chieftess from the Gullah Geechee culture.

The Ebony Ball is a free semiformal event that will be held on Feb. 29 at Boozel Dining Hall at 7 p.m. Stephanie Brown, the national youth and college director for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be giving a speech at the ball. A buffet of soul food will be served for dinner.

Planning the Ebony Ball was the most difficult of all this month's activities, Brown said. In order to prepare for the ball, the BAS had to find a room, a catering service, a speaker and an artist, and determine how to decorate Boozel.

"We had to make sure that all the publicity and everything was done in order so that we could have a successful event," Brown said. "There are so many components going into one big program that we had to make sure everything was planned out."

Queen Quet is a royal chieftess with her own culture, found among the islands off the coast of Georgia and South Carolina. Queen Quet has two doctorate degrees and her culture contains its own currency, Brown said.

"I think she's an inspiration because she has two Ph.D.s and she (introduces) a different style of leadership to the campus," Brown said. "Her leadership abilities are phenomenal."

In planning the events, Brown made sure they were done on a large scale. By preparing for a large crowd, the coordinators can invite not just black students, but the entire campus.

Musician and poet Shanelle Gabriel is also part of the lineup of events, as she will take the stage calendar on Feb. 26 in the University Union at 7 p.m. Her appearance is sponsored by the University Program Board. Shawnta Reed of UPB came up with the idea of bringing Gabriel to SRU.