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## POETRY SLAM

Art form to be expressed in interesting, innovative ways



By Elizabeth Rekowski  
Rocket Focus Editor

Although many may believe poetry is a dying art form, modern poets have discovered new ways to reinvent the art.

SRU students will have the opportunity to experience these new innovations firsthand on Feb. 8, when the University Program Board's Weekend Events Committee hosts a Poetry Slam in which students can hear the creative works of three unique acts.

The acts featured will be The 5th L, E-Baby and DJ Tao. The performances will start at 6 p.m. at Rocky's Grille in the University Union.

Uju Anyaogu, the vice president of the weekend events committee, discovered and booked the acts at the most recent National Association for Campus Activities Conference.

"NACA is a conference where we go and network and meet a lot of people," said Anyaogu, a 19-year-old sophomore biology major.

Additionally, Anyaogu said that not only does she get event ideas and connections through NACA conferences, but also through magazines and advertisements that are sent to UPB.

The point of the weekend events committee is to give students

something to do while they have free time during the weekends, and to keep students on campus.

"(The committee) is to promote retention because a lot of students go home," Anyaogu said, "and also to give students something fun and positive to do."

One act, The 5th L, is a group act consisting of two poets, David Ross and Femi Lawal, who prefer to go by "Native Son" and "The Dri Fish," respectively. They are both from Baltimore.

Lawal said the group started in 2003 and originally had five members.

"By 2004, two guys were left to keep the torch burning: Native Son and myself," Lawal said.

Lawal also said the duo is influenced by a variety of things.

"The both of us are heavily influenced by musical lyrics and artistic expression in just about any form," Lawal said. "We combine writing poetry and high-animated hip-hop-fueled energy as our vehicle to express ourselves."

As for the material they intend to use for the show, Lawal said it's still up in the air.

"We'll just go through our library," he said. "Anything can stumble out."

Lawal said that their material is typically about issues and concerns they have and feel very strongly about.



The poetry duo, The 5th L, perform at Club Sonar in Baltimore. They will be performing at SRU on Feb. 8, with solo acts E-Baby and DJ Tao.

"We're usually socially charged, and we come from a city where you can't help but notice that more needs to be done and we need to speak up about the injustices, neglect and crime."

Eric Smith, who goes by the stage name of E-Baby, will be the

second act at the Poetry Slam.

E-Baby, also from Maryland, said his interest in poetry sprang from his interest in rhythm.

"As a kid, I loved to hear poetry because of the rhymes," E-Baby said. "I loved paying attention to the story within the poem. That's

what kept my attention."

Additionally, Smith said he likes to use his poetry as an avenue of expression.

"I like poetry because of my ability to tell a story, make a point and express my personal

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STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

Miller Auditorium was named in honor of Emma Guffey Miller, president of the Board of Trustees for Slippery Rock State College during the 1950s.

## Bard Hall, Maltby Center among campus buildings named after SRU contributors

By Liz Glazier  
Rocket Assistant Focus Editor

Faculty, students and visitors walk around campus every day to get to classes, go to the Aebersold Recreation Center or to meet a friend for dinner at Boozel.

But it's not very likely that many students know where the names of the buildings on campus come from.

Robert J. Watson, a 1970 alumnus, wanted to discover the history of the campus and educate people about the significance of each building. In 1982, he published the book "Slippery Rock State College: The Legend Behind the Name." This is an up-close look at the history of the school, its founders and every bump and bruise they encountered

on the way to making the foundation for the school, which started out as Slippery Rock State Normal School and became Slippery Rock University in 1983.

"A 'normal school' means that the school was recognized by the federal government as a place that prepared teachers," Watson said. "There was a shortage of teachers in the nation, and this was a school that helped that."

Slippery Rock State Normal School, which opened in 1889, admitted 168 students for its first year. The school offered a two-year program that would result in the student receiving a teaching certificate from the state.

The original school consisted of three buildings. One served as a chapel, classroom and an office

and the other two buildings, North and South Halls, served as the dormitories, for women and men, respectively, Watson said.

More than 60 buildings have been added to the Slippery Rock campus since then, and many people who have aided the university have been recognized by receiving the honor of having a building named after them.

"In the 1970s, many buildings were unnamed and they wanted to change that," Watson said. "A committee would find families or individual people that have made major contributions to the advancement of the university and use their name to name the building."

For example, Bard Hall was named

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## Annual Skee Week targets variety of student-related issues

By Amber Werner  
Rocket Contributor

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will hold its annual Skee Week from Feb. 10 through Feb. 16 with hopes to educate as well as entertain a diverse crowd.

"Slippery Rock Students don't get involved as much as they should," said Kendra Green, a 22-year-old senior political science major and president of Alpha Kappa Alpha. "These events are a way for students to better themselves."

Skee Week is an annual event that has been held every spring for the past four years.

"Alpha Kappa Alpha is known for its historical (phrase) 'skee wee,'" Marie

Pierre, vice president of Alpha Kappa Alpha, said. "Usually we are associated with this phrase and it is used for our week of events every year."

Many sororities have their own calls or chants that they use to associate with each other individually, but "skee wee" just happens to be Alpha Kappa Alpha's phrase.

The events of Skee Week change yearly as the sorority tries to target different issues each year.

"We usually think of programs that would be beneficial to our peers, as well as focus on our national platforms," Pierre, a 25-year-old marketing major, said.

During the week of Feb. 10 to 16, the sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha can be joined

for activities such as a free movie night, a technology forum and an end-of-the-week party titled "You Show Me Grown & I'll Show You Sexy."

"We hope to assist students in areas outside of topics such as books and school by focusing on things like STIs, FAFSA applications, technology, issues with the male figure and credit card debt," Pierre said.

Usually the sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha plan all the week's events, but sometimes they find assistance from other organizations such as the Late Night Task Force and Sister to Sister, both of which are co-sponsoring the Neo Soul Lounge.

The Neo Soul Lounge will take place on Feb. 15 in the University Union's Multi-

Purpose Room and provide an opportunity for students to hear poetry from Def Poetry Jam's "Flowzmentalz." There will also be an open mic session for those looking to showcase their talent.

Pierre also said that professors from the business and computer science departments will be sitting in on a panel discussion on technology.

These events help Alpha Kappa Alpha express to the Slippery Rock community the values they represent.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is the oldest Greek-letter service organization established by African-American women in 1908. Its influence has extended internationally. This

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