



The Rocket

Slippery Rock University Student Newspaper Est. 1934

www.theonlinerocket.com

January 18, 2008

Volume 90, Number 14

Judge rules against re-opening Title IX case

By April Aven
Rocket Assistant News Editor

A U.S. District Court judge denied a motion to re-open the Title IX lawsuit against Slippery Rock University on Jan. 7.

U.S. District Court Judge of the Western District of Pennsylvania Donetta W. Ambrose stated that the plaintiffs failed

to sustain their burden in demonstrating that SRU did not comply with Title IX's requirements during the 2006-07 academic year.

The students filed the original lawsuit after eight women's and men's sports teams were cut for budgetary reasons in 2006.

The 1972 Title IX law requires that both men and women be given equal

opportunities for participation in athletics and other activities at universities that receive federal funding.

According to the judge's ruling, "The plaintiffs are not entitled to an additional sum of money and I cannot prevent SRU from taking steps to dismantle the women's swimming and water polo teams."

SRU had to be in compliance with the participation requirement of Title IX by

June 30 of the 2006-07 academic year, Ambrose said in the ruling.

"Female student athletes accounted for 293 of the 547 athletic opportunities provided by SRU during the 2006-07 academic year," Ambrose stated. "In other words, 53.6 percent of all athletic opportunities were provided to female

SEE SRU, PAGE A-3

Welcome back!



Jay Hirst, owner of Spintacular Entertainment, helps 23-year-old education major Meredith Schmidt and 22-year-old education major Alyssa Lansberry make lip balm during the SRU Welcome Back Days on Thursday in the University Union. Also during this event, Spintacular Entertainment showed students how to make photo calendars.

STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

Slippery Rock water troubles short lived

Bridget Yodens
Rocket Contributor

On Dec. 20, each Slippery Rock University student received an e-mail advisory from the university, originally issued by the Slippery Rock Municipal Authority, stating that all water needed to be boiled before using.

Most SRU students were at home for winter break, so they were not directly affected.

"When someone told me about it, I didn't believe them at first because I hadn't checked my e-mail," said Kira Starzynski, a senior English writing major. "Then I saw the notice for myself, and I remember thinking that it would be a mess if the problem didn't get sorted out before

everyone got back to school." Slippery Rock's drinking water is now safe to consume, said Paul Dickey, manager of the Slippery Rock Municipal Authority.

Dickey doesn't believe that any harmful bacterium was actually in the water.

Total coliform, the substance identified in the notice as being present in the water supply, is not a contaminant but an indicator.

"Coliform in and of itself isn't harmful," Dickey said. "It's a common substance you probably ingest every day."

The presence of coliform, however, indicates there might be a problem with the water as a result of bad handling, but

SEE LOCAL, PAGE A-3

New development to be finished in fall 2008

University Park brings motel, restaurants, shops to town

By Kyleen McGee
Rocket Contributor

University Park, the Slippery Rock area development that is to include a 75-room hotel and four restaurants, is currently under construction and is expected to be open before the start of the 2008-2009 academic year.

The development, which will also include an enclosed set of shops, will be located between Franklin Street and Grove City Road across from Giant Eagle and Rite Aid, said Royce Lorentz of the Slippery Rock Borough Council.

"It sounded like it should be done before school starts in the fall," said Slippery Rock Development Office Manager Tom McPherson.

Talks of a development originally began seven or eight years ago, Slippery Rock Mayor Ken Harris said.

Though the name of the hotel has been released, the names of the four restaurants and shops have yet to be announced.

"The developer has not signed the leases, so not until the agreement has been signed will the names be released," McPherson said.

McPherson said that everyone seems very excited at the idea of such a large development.

"Adding these businesses would give students great job opportunities and something to do in town on the weekends and evenings," said Erin Kelley, freshman political science and mathematics major.

Harris said that the hotel was going to include 75 rooms, a room for meetings and other amenities.

"The goal was to bring in a nationally known hotel that would offer services and conveniences," Harris said.

Harris also said he was unsure of the total cost of the development, but estimated that construction would cost between \$13 million and \$15 million.

Drivers who frequently go through Slippery Rock may also be seeing some changes with the completion of University Park.

"One of the things going to benefit the park is that there will be a traffic light where the blinking light is at Grove City Road and Franklin Street, so traffic should move smoother," McPherson said.

George Santel, a freshman exercise science major, was enthusiastic about the prospect of having new shops, restaurants and a hotel.



University Park at Slippery Rock will be providing a 75-room Marriott Hotel along with restaurants and shops. The development is set to be complete during the fall of 2008.

CHAD LEADER/THE ROCKET

"I'm really glad there will be more things to do in the town of Slippery Rock other than visiting Giant Eagle and Sheetz," he said. "The restaurants would be nice just for some variety for parents and people who come to visit, and of course, hot dates."

For families of future students and

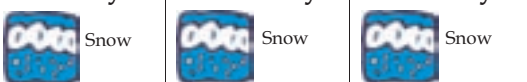
graduates, the addition of a hotel may make traveling to Slippery Rock easier.

"The hotel would be really useful during graduations and orientations for parents instead of having to drive 10 to 15 minutes out of the way," Santel said.

WEATHER

Forecast from National Weather Service

Friday **Saturday** **Sunday**



High: 35; Low: 18 High: 25; Low: 6 High: 14; Low: 4

INDEX

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

CONTACT US

Newsroom:
(724) 738-4438
Advertising:
(724) 738-2643
Fax: (724) 738-4896

220 Eisenberg Building
Slippery Rock University
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
Email: rocket.letters@sru.edu

Awarded First Place for
Overall Excellence by the
Society for Collegiate
Journalists, 2007.

