

September 28, 2007

## Everything at a football game...

### SRU Marching Pride uses music to increase crowd enthusiasm



Members of the trumpet section of SRU's Marching Pride perform a song while sitting in the stands.

By Amber Wilhelm  
Rocket Contributor

With all sections of the band assembled for its 4 p.m. practice on Monday, a huge projection screen in the Swope Music Hall auditorium shows the SRU Marching Pride performing the halftime show at last Saturday's football game.

The video shows marching band members, the drum line, the Rocklette dancers and the color guard marching and dancing in unison in the middle of N. Kerr Thompson

Stadium.

The purpose of watching the video is to understand what they need to work on for the coming week's halftime show.

James Berry, an assistant professor in the music department and the director of SRU's Marching Pride, said that being a member of Marching Pride "takes a lot of dedication."

Berry, who has worked at SRU for 13 years, said being a part of the Marching Pride is a very time-consuming activity.

"You have to really want to do it," Berry said.

After the video, everyone moves outside to the Blase S. Scarnati Marching Band Field for the two-hour practice.

Though the Marching Pride practices Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., all of the sections have extra practice times as well.

Tina Miller, 20, is the captain of the Rocklettes, the Marching Pride's dancers.

"On average, we practice an extra one to two hours a week to touch everything

up," Miller said.

Even though they don't have that many members, the Rocklettes must be dedicated.

"There are 10 of us this year," Miller said, "and we (dance) at all the home games and any away games that are not overnight trips."

Kari Deichler, 20, is a junior and has been a Rocklette for two years.

"I look forward to every single Saturday," Deichler said.

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## Dining hall-managed food stands hotspots at games

By Elizabeth Rekowski  
Rocket Contributor

When going to a movie theater, many people will purchase a ticket and food from the concession stand.

When going to the SRU home football games, many do the same.

The concession stands at N. Kerr Thompson Stadium are managed by Boozel Dining Hall, which is run, along with the other dining areas on campus, by AVI Food Services.

To prepare for the crowds that attend each home football game, the workers for the two concession stands typically meet at Boozel an hour before the game starts.

There, they prepare the food to be transported to the stadium and drive over in one of the campus vans.

The foods served at the concession stands are mostly from Boozel, while the pizza sold is from Rocky's Grille.

The revenue from the food stands goes toward the purchase of the food and drinks needed to stock the stand while a percentage also goes to the university.

In charge of all the employees, food, and orders, among many other things, is Jane Ferguson, the AVI assistant manager.

"The real question is, 'What don't I do?'" Ferguson said.

While Ferguson has previously worked at Weisenfluh Dining Hall, she said this is her first year working at Boozel.

For a typical game, there are three student employees, two managers and five ROTC volunteers working the concessions for the game, Ferguson said.

For bigger games, such as the upcoming game against Indiana

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## ...but the PIGSKIN

## Play-by-play booth full of coordinated chaos

By Jessica Rupell  
Rocket Focus Editor

While most people come to home football games to relax and cheer on their team, five men see nearly as much action as the players on the field.

Thanks to Duncan Sargent, the retired dean of graduate studies and the announcer of home SRU football games, and his crew in the press box, fans know who tackled whom and other details of the game.

Though not as detailed or continuous as a radio broadcast, Sargent's job includes giving the details of a play and making university announcements during downtime.

"Students and parents and fans like to hear names called, and if I can get it in there, I do it," Sargent said.

Sargent, who has been doing the announcements over the loudspeaker

at the SRU football games for 13 years, said he started announcing at the games when he was asked by Paul Lueken, the athletic director, if he would take over after the former announcer's last season in 1994.

Though he isn't sure if Lueken was aware of this, Sargent said he agreed to take the job because he had always

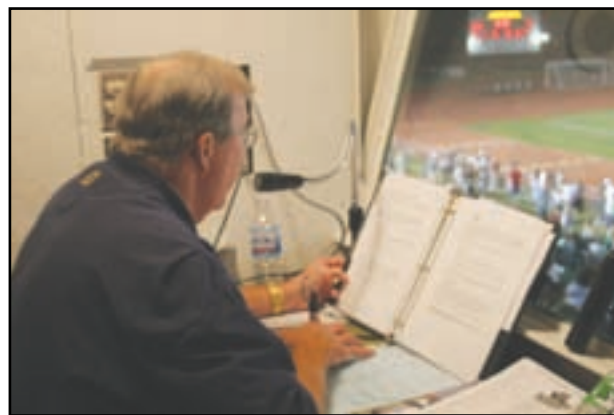
been around football and because he had previously done radio broadcasting in college and as a part-time job at a local radio station.

Sargent said he remembers doing his first game at SRU, and that he was a little nervous but also confident in his abilities from his previous experience.

"I had the advantage of having a lot of time (previously) spent in front of a microphone," Sargent said.

"A lot of people new to (announcing) have a fear of having other people hear their voice if they make a mistake, but that's the job."

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Duncan Sargent, the retired dean of graduate studies, has been the announcer at SRU home football games for 13 years.



STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

(Left to right) 1st Lt. Matt Hackett, Cadet 2nd Lt. Michael Botjer and Cadet 2nd Lt. Bradlee Spudic man the cannon at the football game.

## Boom! ROTC members provide unique celebration

By Liz Glazier  
Rocket Assistant Focus Editor

The Slippery Rock football team scores, cheerleaders cheer, the crowd goes wild and cannons are fired to celebrate the touchdown.

But who is behind firing the cannons? Instead of random students volunteering for the job, members of the ROTC have been setting off the cannons for at least the last 20 years.

"Can you think of any better group on campus for this task?" asked Captain Stefan Bandas, the ROTC's Scholarship and Incentives Officer.

Even though having to shoot off the cannon isn't a job that the ROTC members are

necessarily required to take part in Bandas said "it is a coveted position and it isn't too hard to find volunteers."

Along with shooting off the cannons after SRU touchdowns at football games, the ROTC members also participate in color guard, which is presenting the colors and help work in the concession stands.

They are also involved with the parade during Homecoming Week.

The number of ROTC members at each event varies from game to game, however, Bandas said the IUP game tomorrow and the Homecoming Game will be more crowded and will require more help.

## Cheerleaders provide spirit for football team

By Amanda Rossey  
Rocket Contributor

R-O-C-K,  
R-O-C-K  
R-O-C-K,  
ROCK, ROCK, ROCK,  
ROCK!

Situated between the football team and the fans in the stands, the SRU co-ed cheerleading squad screams, stunts and gets

the crowd pumped for the games.

Coached by Gemma Fotia, who is now in her 15th year of coaching at SRU, the cheerleading squad is made up of both male and female cheerleaders.

Fotia said she bases the number of females on how strong the males are.

This year, the cheerleading season started with the squad going to Scranton, Pa., where the cheerleaders voted to go to summer camp.

While at camp, the team spent four days and three nights learning new stunts and pyramid formations.

"Going to the camps is

the safest way of learning new stunts," Fotia said.

Now back at the Rock, the squad practices Monday through Friday for two hours a day, attending nearly all SRU football games.

Though their presence at the football games is always known, the team

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