

CAMPUS LIFE

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TEAM Buzz back for more

TEAM Buzz will be back next week to make an impact on and off campus. Page 15

Sympathetic Vibrations felt throughout



New a cappella group enjoys friendship through music

By Nicole Campbell
Campus Life Staff

When third-year I.E. student James Clawson first came to Georgia Tech, something struck him as missing: an a cappella (literally, without music) singing group. Many other colleges, including several Ivy League schools, have one or many such groups on campus, so Clawson was shocked to find that Tech was without one. Two years, some heavy recruiting, and several members later, a very dedicated and talented twelve-man group called Sympathetic Vibrations was born.

Clawson, the father of the project, has always been a singer, so his first quarter here, he joined the Georgia Tech Chorale. However, his hunger for a cappella music led him to leave

the Chorale and attempt to form his own independent group. The second two quarters of his freshman year were spent agonizingly persuading people to join. Last year, finally, Sympathetic Vibrations began with eight members, only two of which still remain. Since last Christmas, the membership has hardly changed with the loss of two and addition of one; and with auditions at the beginning of this year, they have their largest crew ever at twelve.

Sympathetic Vibrations practices twice a week in the Couch Building on West Campus, and they have "gigs" usually once or twice per week.

"We've had more gigs so far this quarter than last Winter and Spring Quarters combined," said Clawson. As a result, the group has become increasingly recognized. They placed second at the

Homecoming talent show. "We'll sing for anyone," he adds, emphasizing that they're always looking to do shows for any individual, organization or department that requests them. They have already sang at various functions and locations such as the Campanile, Connect with Tech, President's Scholars Weekend, The Red Light Cafe, UGApalooza, and Under the Couch. They were even hired by the women of the Harrison Dorms, who, in turn, cooked dinner for the members. "We'll sing for food!" is a sentiment shared by each member of the group.

Sympathetic Vibrations is composed of a variety of young men, all Tech students, who are members of several other campus organizations including SGA,

See *Vibe*, page 15

By Dale Russell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
Sympathetic Vibrations performed at the Shaft early in October. The group, now 12 strong, has upcoming performances at Under the Couch, CyberCafe, and on WREK.

'Will that be paper or plastic?'

Georgia Tech students and the responsibility of credit cards

By Allison Roberts
Campus Life Editor

According to a recent government study, the average American carries nine to eleven credit cards. Georgia Tech students are no exception. College students are often targeted as potential clients for banks, and many students find themselves having financial problems before graduation.

The average household in the United States pays over \$1,000 a year in interest on credit cards, and the average college student, according to a U.S. Public Interest Research Group (USPIRG), takes six years to pay off a \$1,000 credit card debt. The USPIRG estimates that two-thirds of college students obtain credit cards from tables located in "hot spots" on campus, such as the Student Center and the Bookstore. These same students, on average, will graduate from college with debts over \$20,000, including student loans.

Rebecca Rieck, a Tech senior and self-confessed "shopaholic," admits, "I love using my credit cards, but I spend money and forget about it until I get the bill. It doesn't even seem like I'm

doing any damage."

One of the most well known (and widely used) credit cards, MasterCard, offers information for college students on its Web page, www.mastercard.com. MasterCard reminds students that "negative information can remain on your credit report for up to seven years."

MasterCard offers advice and information, along with an on-line credit card application (for students who do not already have credit cards) on the Web site.

Georgia Tech generally makes contracts with five or six marketing companies who target college students and offer credit cards. In the past, these companies have followed strict rules concerning advertising to Tech students, although there have been questions about continuing to allow these companies on campus.

Two companies with contracts at Georgia Tech, On-Campus Marketing, and College Credit Card, refused to answer specific questions about credit cards issued to Georgia Tech students. An On-Campus Marketing employee explains, "The

See *Credit*, page 12



By Josh Freeman / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Rumors, the play by Neil Simon, starts this weekend at DramaTech's James Dull Theatre.

See *Entertainment*, page 19 for details

Buzz Around the Campus



Question of the week:

"Do you feel that students follow the honor code?"

Feature and photos by Tim O'Brian.



Melissa Chastney
TE Freshman

"Yes, but it's very easy to get away with something... especially in lecture halls."



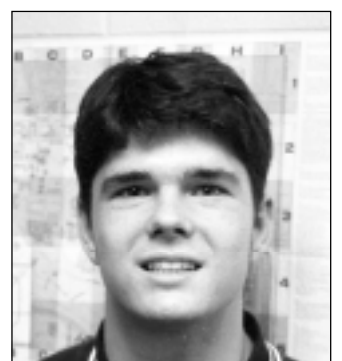
Chris Corrigan
CE Senior

"Yes, most people turn in their original work even though they might consult in groups."



Jamie Jinks
MGT Soph

"For test taking, yes; for homework, no."



John Rippel
ME Soph

"No, because too many scholarships are dependent on grades."

Credit

from page 11

[banks] only issue students \$500 or so. Most students complain about that amount—it's not enough."

Some Georgia Tech students do not see a problem with the amount of credit offered to college students. When asked about her credit cards, one ME senior answered, "I have good credit, but no [regular] income. One national bank even offered me a \$30,000 car loan, even though I didn't ask for it!"

Another student, who wished to remain anonymous, said that he has reached the maximum credit limit on three credit cards. He received two of these credit cards after applying at tables set outside Bookstore. "I only applied [for the cards] to get free T-shirts, and now I can barely afford the minimum payments on the cards."

For students with existing debts, there is hope—several credit companies offer advice to students (and non-students). For students with several credit cards, the best option is to eliminate unnecessary credit cards.

To eliminate a credit card (or two) the best option is to cut up (or

destroy) the credit card with the highest interest rate, the one which offers no grace period, or any card which adds late payment fees, inactivity fees, or fees for not carrying a balance. Destroying the card will not eliminate the existing balance, but, the card cannot be used to create a larger balance.

There is an incentive for those willing to part with one credit card and begin repairing a bad credit record. The Consumer Federation of America is offering anyone who sends a cut-up credit card with a self-addressed, stamped envelope a guide to managing debts, and a surprise gift (if received by November 10). Cut the card into two halves and mail it to CFA, P.O. Box 12099, Washington DC 20005-0999.

Students with financial problems can also call the National Foundation for Consumer Credit at 1-800-388-2227 for information about credit counseling services.

Community Service Spotlight

For more information, visit the MOVE Office on the second floor of the Student Center, or call 894-2002.

Tuesday, November 10—The American Red Cross will be in the Student Center Ballroom from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the Fall Quarter Blood Drive. The drive will continue through Thursday, November 12.

Wednesday, November 11—Project Open Hand needs volunteers to be ambassadors as they thank patrons for participating in Dining Out For Life. Volunteers are also needed on a continual basis to prepare, pack, and deliver meals to over 550 clients per day.

Wednesday, November 11—Volunteers are needed to assist with activities at the Atlanta Children's Shelter on an ongoing basis. Extra help is needed on Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. and the last Friday of the month from 1:30-3 p.m.

Thursday, November 12—Tutors are needed for an after-school program on Mondays and Thursdays at the Center for the Visually Impaired from 4-7 p.m.

Saturday, November 14—Sign up now to join TEAM Buzz, Georgia Tech's Community Service Day on the Web site www.gatech.edu/teambuzz.

Monday, November 16—Pick an angel from MOVE's Angel Tree to make a child's holiday season a happier one. The program will run until November 24.

If you know of a community service event which you would like to see in Community Service Spotlight, e-mail the information to campus.life@technique.gatech.edu.

Ramblins The History and Traditions of Ma Tech

There was a Georgia Tech without Buzz and the Yellow Jackets!?

By Pat Edwards
Ramblin' Reck Club

The Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech. The name stands as one of the beloved nicknames that loyal members of the Tech community have come to be known as. What is interesting is that its origins, which lie well into the last century, have less to do with the yellow jacket insect than with Auburn University!

It was Fall of 1891 and Tech, with no football team, was asked by the Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) to attend their football contest with the farmboys of Athens.

The match was played in Cowtown that year, and Alabama Polytech wanted to swell the stands on their side of the field with supporters,

fearing a low turnout for the game given the distance of Athens from the Plainsmen's hometown of Auburn.

The Tech student body met on the subject, and decided to accept the invitation to attend the event and cheer against Athens.

Their decision followed one of the two rules concerning Tech fan loyalty, which is that a Tech fan has two teams: Tech, and whoever is playing Georgia.

The Tech students, however, felt that they should still keep their own collegiate identity, so the decision was made to select colors that the Tech students would wear as well as a series of cheers for the game which would indicate their true loyalties.

So when the Tech students went to cheer the Alabama Polytechnic team to victory over 'UGAly,' they did so

wearing gold and white.

In the next year, 1892, Tech fielded her first football team. In that first year Tech, coached by the professor Earnest West, an alumnus of Annapolis, played Mercer, Vanderbilt, and Auburn, but scored only 10 points the whole season against the fifty-eight points scored against them. Tech didn't win a game until 1893 when she first played Georgia in Athens, winning 28-6.

During this first Tech-Georgia game the tradition of the Gold and White, or as it was quickly being specified as Old Gold and White, was entrenched by the ladies of the Lucy Cobb Institute for Girls. These ladies, who came from Atlanta to support the Tech team, were mentioned in an *Atlanta Constitution* article of November 5, 1893, as all

wearing white and gold. (In an aside, the train carrying them back to Atlanta was wrecked when it struck a freight train head on in Clarkston. The *Constitution* article described the Tech players as having been "rocked and threatened," but there were no casualties.)

It was later, after the turn of the century, that the Atlanta newspapers first began to associate the Tech students with their chosen school colors. Tech fans, who have always dressed well for their games, frequently wore gold or yellow jackets or sports coats to show their school spirit.

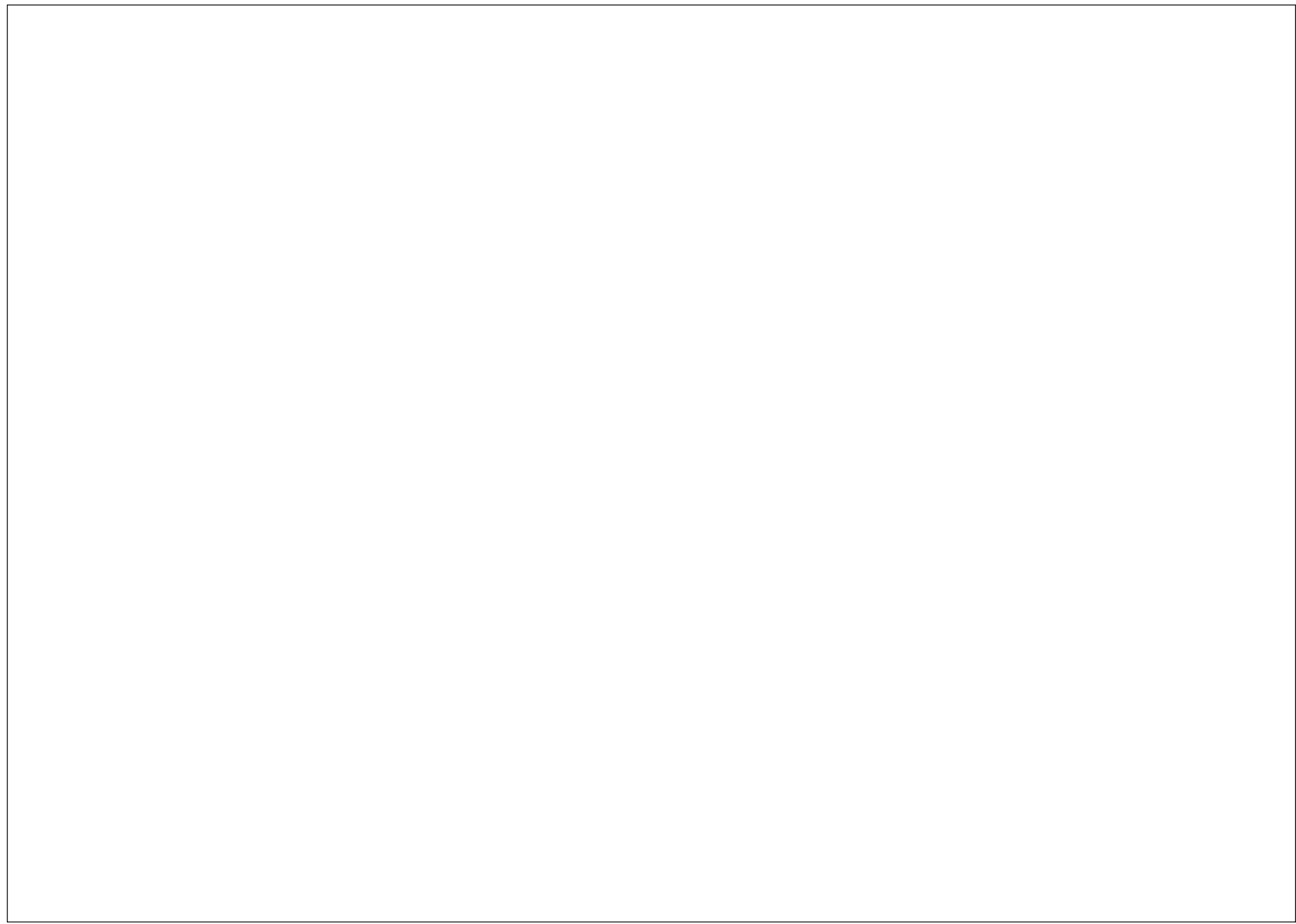
The newspapers, observing the popularity of the bright colored attire, invented our nickname by referring to the fans as "yellow jackets." The name stuck, despite changing fashion, and Tech students have kept

the name ever since.

Buzz, however, came some time later. The earlier manifestations of our mascot were very much insect, and not the least cute. The early yellow jacket art was either more bee-like, with a round body and a long stinger nose, or a more realistic yellow jacket, that was in flight with a thinner body and long, gangly legs.

The title of Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech has been a pseudonym that the Tech community has enjoyed for most of the Institute's existence.

The place of Buzz in that name is shared with Auburn U., a women's finishing school and the Atlanta rags, but still stands for one thing: the community that makes up Georgia Tech.



Pass it on: When John Glenn lands on Saturday, everyone should be wearing an ape suit. If you're from the New York City area, you've got one day to bury the Statue of Liberty up to the waist.

This is my first ever space filler. Here's your standard "Join the 'Nique" ad..

TEAM Buzz comes back for an encore

By *Fabd Patel*
Campus Life Staff

TEAM Buzz, Georgia Tech's annual campus-wide philanthropy event, will take place on November 14, with an estimated 2,000-plus participants.

Now in its second year, the community service program consists of 34 projects which students can sign up for through the Internet.

"We tried to make registration easier to understand this year," said Caroline Freeman, the student involvement chair of the TEAM Buzz steering committee.

The only other major change this year was the shift to having a larger groups with more participants per group rather than several smaller groups.

Each project is managed by up to three coordinators. Sophomore

Dacia Foster was a project coordinator last year and will be one this year. Last year her project she helped organize a gigantic thrift store.

"There were literally clothes stacked to the ceiling," she said.

In Reynolds Towers, the oldest African-American community in Atlanta, TEAM Buzz will be sending 300 volunteers to plant 750 trees and repaint three houses. Other activities include playing basketball with Down's Syndrome patients, participating in the Strong Legs run, and planting 10 enormous trees at 8th Street and Hemphill Avenue.

TEAM Buzz will start off at 8 a.m. with a kick-off rally, which will include an opening address by President G. Wayne Clough as well as bagels and coffee. The service projects start at 9 a.m. and will continue until 12:30 p.m.; there will be a party afterwards that will go on

2:30 p.m.

The creation of a campus-wide philanthropy event was the work of Tony Chan, who was instrumental in the organization of the first TEAM Buzz last year.

"The idea was to bring everyone together doing community service," Steering Committee chair Melissa Byrd explained. Last year, over 1,100 people participated in TEAM Buzz.

There may be some changes to TEAM Buzz next year with the conversion to semesters. In the future, the event may take place earlier in the year due to the less-than-pleasant November weather. Last year the weather was not conducive to outdoor activity because of rain and the cold temperatures.

There is a possibility that the program will take place every semester, but that has not been decided as of yet.



TEAM BUZZ

These are people enjoying Team Buzz. You, too, can participate in Team Buzz and get free food and cool shirts.

Science fiction-it's not just Star Trek!

By Kiran Rajasekhar
Campus Life Staff

A brief survey of twentieth century literature reveals many styles and contrasting themes. In a culture that nurtures uniqueness and engenders creativity, science fiction and fantasy have come to the forefront of the literary canvas.

While science fiction addresses the future of society and the role of technology in our lives, fantasy is a renaissance movement—a longing for a romanticized past that could never have been. The intellectual challenges the two genres pose invoke curiosity and generate interest in readers and writers alike.

Today, more individuals than ever before are attracted to the many intriguing world of science fiction. Among the Georgia Tech community, science fiction/fantasy has found a special place.

There is even an undergraduate class (which is one of the most sought after classes here) devoted purely to its analysis.

Professor Irving "Bud" Foote reminisces over his experience while attempting to start the class in 1971: "At first, the school of LCC didn't take it very seriously. With time, however, the course became rather popular. At one time, the entire genre was considered by many to be rather disreputable. Everything has changed. Today, there are three scholar groups concerned with science fiction."

"I can remember when science fiction was scorned as popular fiction. It was never accepted as literature, and newspapers used to devote

only a paragraph or two to describing major works.

Today, with increased contributions from women and minority groups, the entire literary canon has come into question. We understand now that literary activity is not the prerogative of any group."

Writers like Kim Stanley Robinson, with Ph.D. degrees in literature, are taking the genre to new levels. On bookshelves, one can find novels about subjects such as dystopias, astronomical science fiction, and futuristic internet thrillers.

Gigi Weinrich, a Georgia Tech bookstore employee, recognizes student interest in science fiction. Ever since she arrived at Tech three years ago, she discovered that Georgia Tech students have a special interest in science fiction. Students who

"Science fiction explores the consequences of technology...."

Dr. Irving "Bud" Foote
Department of Literature,
Culture, and Communications

enter the bookstore with the intention of buying a novel often notice how the fiction section is bisected into two equal, clearly defined parts. One contains literature, while the other is purely devoted to speculative fiction.

In addition to reviewing galleys

and making new additions to the bookstore, Weinrich also spends her time searching for reputed authors who are willing to come to Tech for lectures and book signing events. "Robert Jordan came here a while back," she says.

"We are trying to get [Jordan] to come again. Perhaps Terry Brooks and Terry Goodkind will also do a book signing here some time in the near future."

Among engineers and soon-to-be scientists, science fiction may have a deeper meaning. For some, it is the driving force that motivated them to pursue mathematics and the sciences.

Professor Foote observes: "Students see that technology does not exist independent of human values. Science fiction explores the consequences of technology and addresses what the future holds in store for us."

Murat Guler, a senior electrical engineering major, has spent a great deal of his personal time reading science fiction and fantasy. He admits that this furthered his interest in science and technology.

"Initially, my contact with science fiction started as escapism. We all want to experience something more than what everyday life has to offer. Later, however, my interest evolved into something more."

Guler makes one final comment about his choice in literature: "Science fiction is all about curiosity and intellectual discovery. To be honest, I would say that science fiction fans have courage and vision to perceive a future in which humanity's best hopes come true."

Vibe

from page 11

the Swarm, the Show Choir, fraternities, the T-Book, and Chorale. Besides Clawson (a baritone), the group includes tenors Andy Van Dyke, Scott Percy, Joel Whitley (who played Tommy in the DramaTech production), Amit Keswani, Curtis Brooks and Matt Warezak, baritones Biff Hollingsworth and Marshall Lesley, and the basses, Filip Schmole, Jared Kee, and Rob Simon.

Inspired by the success of Sym-

"I once thought I'd never find anything that I would enjoy at Tech. I was wrong."

Filip Schmole
Synthetic Vibrations member

pathetic Vibrations, Clawson was led to form an a cappella female group headed up by freshman Dipika Jain. Auditions were held recently, and by the time this is in print, the group should be officially established. Clawson hopes the groups will be able to perform together by December.

There is much more to singing a cappella than it seems. While Sympathetic Vibrations sings all cover songs, they do much of their own arranging (of songs to be sung without musical accompaniment). Their repertoire includes such songs as Billy Joel's "River of Dreams" and "Longest Time," the Beach Boys' "Barbara Ann," the Beatles' "Please

Please Me," and CCR's "Down on the Corner." They're recurrently working on new songs to add to their performances.

What is most important to the group, aside from singing, is the camaraderie that has developed and the pleasure members receive through performing.

"We have evolved from being a group of singers to being a group of friends. This is a tight-knit group of people which has been the triumph for me," said Clawson. When they are not practicing, they enjoy antics such as wrestling, locking each other in supply closets, and giving each other a hard time.

Simon, a freshman, said, "I came to Tech looking for a group like this to get into and I'm really happy with the results."

"I once thought I'd never find anything that I would enjoy doing at Tech. I was wrong," adds fifth year senior Schmole.

Some upcoming gigs for Sympathetic Vibrations are November 13 at Under The Couch and a tentatively scheduled December 4 show, also at UTC, though it may be changed due to a possible conflict.

Clawson sums it up best by saying, "I started this three years ago, and it's my baby, it's what I love, it's what I do. It's what makes me happy at Tech. I love my boys, I love our music—it's fun!"

If you are interested in having Sympathetic Vibrations perform at your function or are interested in the female group, you can contact James Clawson at 206-9798.

