A Capella Club proves they can hit high note

Word of mouth, creative publicity and high-profile gigs have helped fuel the growth of the A Capella Club.

By Jennifer Lee
Focus Editor

Upon entering Room 203 of the Couch building, where the A Capella Club is rehearsing, the first thing you notice is how unorganized everything seems. The club’s members are gathered in a ragged circle around the piano in the center of the room; in between songs they throw water bottles at each other, goats and gaggles. Even during songs, some members wander around the room as they sing the chorus.

“I’m enjoying a part of this group, because I like singing...[but] the community here is just so great,” said John Hendrix, an engineering freshman, said over the din around the room. Members wander around the piano in the center of the room, the furniture and bookshelves crammed with books and boxes that crowd the room, and the bowl of candy ready for the taking.

“I especially being at Tech and being a science major, I need some kind of musical outlet,” said Adiga. “For me, it’s an awesome creative outlet...like singing.”

The women’s a cappella ensemble, Nothin’ But Treble, rehearses Evanescence’s “Bring Me To Life,” which was composed. For example, one of the pieces in their current repertoire is Evanescence’s “Bring Me To Life,” which Adiga arranged. “It’s gradually grown until we’re doing all of our own stuff,” she said.

Pendleton-Parker meets President

It’s nearly impossible for a newcomer to walk into Billiee Pendleton-Parker’s office and not gaze at her wall papered in hundreds of colorful photographs, posters and magnets.

A visitor, after recovering from this initial shock, may notice her other decorations and trinkets that compound this effect, including the shelf of small games sitting in one corner, the furniture and bookshelves and boxes that crowd the room, and the bowl of candy ready for the taking. It is perhaps the oldest, friendliest, most colorful and vivid room on the Georgia Tech campus.

“I absolutely love to surround myself with things and people that I love,” Pendleton-Parker said, the Assistant Director for the Center for Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL).

If her office is a reflection of her personality, then it may come as no surprise that she was elected among several candidates by White House officials to greet President George W. Bush, who flew in to Atlanta to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. in memorium two weeks ago.

Organizational stipends only secondary consideration for most campus leaders

A few students approached the Student Government Association earlier this month concerned that some leaders of Tier 2 student organizations are paid whereas others are not. SGA (Student Government Association) is presently taking steps to address the issue, although Ben Lawder, a fourth-year senior and the president of the organizations on campus, is surprised of student governing bodies such as SGA, Student Center Programs Council, all five student publications and WREK radio, among others. The rest of the organizations on campus belong to Tier 3, though only a small percentage of Tier 2 organizations are actually funded by SGA.

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

Billiee Pendleton-Parker, Assistant Director of CETL, was nominated by Hands on Atlanta to greet President Bush at the airport when he visited Atlanta for MLK, Jr. Day. She also received an award for her volunteerism.
By Rebecca Oberholtzer
Daily Collegian

(U-WIRE) For the first time in about 30 years, college freshmen are becoming more interested in politics, according to a report by an educational institute released Monday.

About 34 percent of students surveyed in fall 2003 said following politics is important, compared to 28.1 percent in 2000, a record low, according to the 38th annual survey by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Jessica Hopkins, president of Pennsylvania State University College Democrats, said two factors come to mind in relation to the increase.

“"We are coming into a presidential election year, and we always see more interest in election years," Hopkins said.

She said the Iraqi conflict is not necessarily comparable to Vietnam, but it causes division in politics and causes people to look at the issues.

The survey’s data was based on responses of 276,449 students at 413 U.S. baccalaureate colleges and universities.

Students were surveyed upon entering school in the fall, and their responses were based on their behaviors and ideologies from the previous year, which in most cases was their senior year in high school.

“"I think the biggest factor in determining students’ involvement with politics is where they grow up and how they grow up," said Brian Battaglia, president of Pennsylvania State University’s College Republicans.

Joyce Olsen, graduate speech and language pathology, said she is in her second year of graduate school, and the time that has passed since her freshman year has been significant in shaping her thoughts.

“"Just over the years, you learn so much. You could not be interested in something as a freshman but then learn more about it and really care four years later," Smutz said.

Hopkins said it’s hard for her to say whether she thinks students’ ideas See Politics, page 15
FOCUS
Technique • Friday, January 30, 2004 • 13

Stipends from page 11

time and don’t get paid anything,” Lawder said. “I hear no standard-ization, and that being brought up before those groups in order to im-plement a more standardized style.”

Lawder explained that the leaders of many of these organiza-tions receive stipends for area-son. “I feel positions take up quite a bit of time,” he said. “You’re meet-ing all the time, or you’re redeling with students, or you’re working on the newspaper... and so you can’t really have... a part time job, so this is supposed to kind of take that role.”

The monitory compensations are equal compared to regular work-ing wages. Students in the highest-paid positions earn approximately $5000 a year, and stipends quickly drop from there.

However, several Tier 2 stu-dent leaders surveyed said that they agreed with this philosophy, citing their own positions as examples. Pelham Norville, the President of the Graduate SGA, provided an example of this philosophy, citing his own position as an example. He added that SGA has acknowl-edged the students’ concerns and is taking steps to address the issue. In order to de-tect the trends in student pay-ments, SGA has compiled a report on the department they work for. The report also contains finan-cial information of other important student institutions, such as the Residen-tial Housing Association, which is taking steps to address the issue. The Joint Finance Committee, which makes financial recommen-dations to the SGA, is also “work-ing on a plan to standardize stipends and make a formal policy on who will receive them and how they are allocated,” according to Lawder.

As Undergraduate SGA President, Nate Watson receives a stipend, as do students who hold various other positions within Tier 2 organizations such as the Technique, WREK and Student Center Programs Council.

2003-04 Student Organization Stipends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Organization</th>
<th>Stipend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate SGA President</td>
<td>$4,582.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate SGA Vice President</td>
<td>$2,291.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Center Programs Council President</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Center Programs Council Webmaster</td>
<td>$4,320.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technique Editor-in-Chief</td>
<td>$4,480.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blueprint Editor-in-Chief</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WREK General Manager</td>
<td>$1,890.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHA President</td>
<td>$1,890.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
in the real world you have to write

clearly
cleanly
concisely

we can teach you how

TECHNIQUE
change after four years in college. “You would probably see some people that are more involved, but you would also see some people who become cynical when they get more involved and drop out of politics,” Hopkins said.

Julie Jones, freshman elementary education major, said she doesn’t consider herself a political person, but she registered to vote this year. Jones said she agrees that the upcoming election and the Iraq war have been two events that called attention to the political spotlight. “I’m registered as a Democrat, but as far as being a liberal or conservative, I’m in the middle,” Jones said.

While there has been a shift in political interest, the survey also reported a shift to more students labeling themselves as conservatives than in the past.

In 2003, 22.7 percent of those surveyed identified themselves as conservatives, up from 21.3 percent in 2002. The percentage of liberal freshmen is still higher at 24.2 percent, but it decreased from 25.3 percent in 2002.

“I think students and people in general have tended to become more conservative because of recent events dealing with security and terrorist attacks,” Battaglia said.

One figure that has remained fairly consistent during the past couple of years is the percentage of freshmen who consider themselves in the middle, around 50 percent. Hopkins said more voters are less involved and drop out of politics.

“It’s nice because Dr. Ulrich has something to see...where we’re coming from,” said Adiga. However, those are not familiar with the dynamics of student-run groups and a lot of the issues that we face, he was able to see...where we’re coming from,” said Adiga.

A group often does gigs—as they call it—a capella groups, “You get involved with the music...you get involved with the university and the community,” Hopkins said.

A group often does gigs—as they call it—a capella groups, “You get involved with the music...you get involved with the university and the community,” Hopkins said.

Morris said. “Within the a capella community, you get involved with the college and the community, and we try to give back something to the community as well. And the number of people who come to our concerts as well. At their concert last semester, students packed Under the Couch for their performance. “We surprised the fire safety capacity of the Couch, and then people stood outside and listened to us, too,” Morris said.

The group is also trying to put out a live CD before their end-of-semester concert in April. “We’re really excited,” Morris said. “We’ve never cut a CD before and we really want to try and get it out by April. We hope to cut the live CD now, and then raise the funds to do a real CD in the fall.” They also aren’t below the occasional publicity stunt. In addition to pre-selling tickets for their Feb. 6th concert this week, the group, Symphonic Vibrations, is also doing a little something for Valentine’s Day.

“We’re selling ourselves...a guy can buy us to sing songs for their sweetheart,” Hubbard said, “as a small fundraiser for a way for word of mouth to spread yet again.”

Both Symphonic Vibrations and Nothin’ But R&B have had three two-hour rehearsals per week, but its members don’t seem to mind. “We’re small, small of a group that we’re fairly tight knit,” Morris said.

Jeff Bosworth, an Aerospace Engineering freshman, said, “It’s my favorite thing I do here on campus. I think if we can get more attention on the music. It wouldn’t matter...it’s something that makes it what it is.”

**Keep up with all the latest news on Georgia Tech’s campus with a subscription to:**

**TECHNIQUE**

“The South’s Liveliest College Newspaper”

30 issues/year for $35 (mailed bulk rate)

Perfect for:
- Parents
- Co-ops
- Friends
- Faculty
- Staff
- Alumni
- Gifts

Please make check payable to Technique and mail it with this form to:

Technique

ATTN: Subscriptions

Georgia Tech

353 Ferst Drive, Room 137

Atlanta, GA 30332-0290

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

HOPE we have made something happen.

David Hubbard
Second-year IE major

Hands on Atlanta Day, Women’s Awareness Month and President’s Scholar Weekend.

Being a performing group often has its perks, too. “We sang for the Georgia Tech Foundation’s huge Christmas dinner—and we got to sing Christmas cards for them,” Morris said. “And then they asked us to stay for dinner.”

All of these gigs have helped word of mouth spread. “While our numbers haven’t necessarily grown, the number of people auditioning has,” said Morris.

And the number of people who come to our concerts has, as well. At their concert last semester, students packed Under the Couch for their performance. “We surprised the fire safety capacity of the Couch, and then people stood outside and listened to us, too,” Morris said.

I was riding the adrenaline high from that all weekend,” Adiga recalled.

The group sprang concert is coming up as well, a joint ven-

...we’re taking ourselves...a guy can buy us to sing songs for their sweetheart,” Hubbard said, “as a small fundraiser for a way for word of mouth to spread yet again.”

Both Symphonic Vibrations and Nothin’ But R&B have had three two-hour rehearsals per week, but its members don’t seem to mind. “We’re small, small of a group that we’re fairly tight knit,” Morris said.

Jeff Bosworth, an Aerospace Engineering freshman, said, “It’s my favorite thing I do here on campus. I think if we can get more attention on the music. It wouldn’t matter...it’s something that makes it what it is.”

**FOCUS**

Technique • Friday, January 30, 2004 • 15
dent, so of course my answer was ‘yes.’”

Two phone interviews with White House officials and one Social Security number mishap later, she received the call confirming the opportunity. She took the offer, she said, not for political reasons, but to discuss and promote her voluntary causes.

“I was representing…Hands on Atlanta [and] Georgia Tech, my student volunteers here and volunteers in general,” she said, “so it was my chance to talk with him about volunteerism.”

Pendleton-Parker arrived at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport that Thursday and was taken to a private field where Air Force One would touch down.

After Bush landed and exchanged pleasantries with two Atlanta dignitaries, he walked over and introduced himself to Pendleton-Parker, giving her five minutes alone with him. “He experience,” she said, was surreal. “The impact of this didn’t hit me [until] the night before when one of the advance people… said, ‘I want you to know that, on any given day, the President is never alone with anyone… except up to five people, and tomorrow, you are one of those. And I thought, ‘Oh okay…’ because we were alone. No Secret Service. I mean, they were watching, but to have the President’s ear for five minutes!”

However, it was also fun, she said. She felt very comfortable in the President’s presence, a trait of his personality that she admired. “He was charming,” she recalled. “He said, ‘Well, so how are things going?’ and I’m thinking, that’s the President of the United States asking how things are going, so what do I say?”

She spent her five minutes discussing volunteerism, as planned, without any inhibition. “I said...I want to tell you something that perhaps you don’t know, some behind the scenes stories,” she said. “I had many good friends who work at Hands on Atlanta… so there were things that I shared with him that you know people just don’t know.”

“I’m thinking, that’s the President of the United States asking how things are going, so what do I say?”

Billiee Pendleton-Parker
Assistant Director, CETL

know.”

And as a naturally affectionate person, she found herself repeatedly laying a gentle hand on the President’s arm, an act that appalled the reporters who swarmed around her following her meeting. However, she lauded both the press’ and the Secret Service’s kindness throughout the process, dismissing the horror stories often associated with both entities. “This was a very low-key story,” she said, “and so it was just one at a time in turn.”

She had already had to contend with reporters beforehand, anyway. The evening before, a CBS-TV news crew had paid her a special visit as she worked at King’s Bridge, filming her activities for a short news documentary. ABC had its own encounter with her office when they conducted their interview the following morning.

Pendleton-Parker was given another fifteen minutes of fame two days later, when she was presented with the highly prestigious President’s Volunteer Service Award at a special church service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. The award is a presidential recognition for lifelong commitment to volunteer service abroad. As a recipient, Pendleton-Parker had a special seat in the second row, where she saw Coretta Scott King and her escort, U2’s Bono, in person.

“They young people just went waco,” she said about Bono’s unexpected appearance. “‘Bono! Aahhhh!”

Both experiences have had a remarkable impact on her life, she said. While the emotional implications are still processing, the effect her recognition has had on those who know her have been extremely heartening.

And those who know her can’t imagine a more appropriate recipient for the honors.

“It’s her completely genuine, selfless spirit,” Jackson said. “It’s the untainted purity she shows when she gives, and it’s her undying mission to infect everyone around her with the same philanthropic attitude.”

He added, “It was quite an honor for Bush to have the opportunity to meet BP-P.”