

A Side of Cider

Cider Celebration Showcases Student Talent

by **Michelle Johnson**

staff writer

Choir members transformed Crill Performance Hall into a winter wonderland for the second annual Cider Celebration Thursday and Friday nights.

Red and white poinsettias lined the stage, next to decorated Christmas trees, and white snowflakes adorned the wall. A bubble machine kept "snow" falling as the Extrol choir sang "A Holly Jolly Christmas Medley," and choir members danced down the aisles in warm winter clothing.

"They look like they're out of a Gap commercial," said Laura Jandebeur, junior.

Before the performance, the

audience gathered outside Crill, drinking hot cider and listened to a male quartet clad in Santa hats.

Approximately 300 people attended the event. By 7:30 p.m., it appeared as though most seats in the performance hall were occupied.

Band director Dan Nelson welcomed the audience to the performance and opened the evening of celebration with prayer.

Four student emcees, Ethan Williams, junior, Emilee Stone, senior, Josh Fitzpatrick, sophomore and Lindsay Windoffer, jun-

ior, introduced the Extrol choir. Daniel Jackson directed the choir.

During the Extrol choir's lively rendition of "A Holly Jolly Christmas Medley," choir members sang and danced alongside four student-sized snowmen.

For "Big Band Santa" they dressed in elf costumes and a fully-attired Santa Claus, Chris Tweedy, scattered.

"Everything that we have done and everything we've put together has all come together and the auditorium looks great," said Tweedy. Tweedy believes the Cider Cel-

ebration will become an annual event and get better every year.

Next, a group of male singers in vintage suits got plenty of laughs from an unusual rendition of "The 12 Days of Christmas," titled the "12.5 Days of Christmas." The group began the song with what sounded like the THX sound chip before movies.

Then the audience learned about the 12.5 days of Christmas in which some poor child ended up with a shoe rather than a skate. The concert choir found a not-so-subtle way to remind family members to support its annual spring break tour to Hawaii. In a skit involving a choir member writing a letter to his grandpar-

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CHRIS TWEEDY, junior