

= Ramblin ' Wreck from Georgia Tech =

" (I 'm a) Ramblin ' Wreck from Georgia Tech " is the fight song of the Georgia Institute of Technology , better known as Georgia Tech . The composition is based on " Son of a Gambolier " , composed by Charles Ives in 1895 , the lyrics of which are based on an old English and Scottish drinking song of the same name . It first appeared in print in the 1908 Blueprint , Georgia Tech 's yearbook . The song was later sung by the Georgia Tech Glee Club on The Ed Sullivan Show in 1953 , and by Richard Nixon and Nikita Khrushchev during the 1959 Kitchen Debate .

" Ramblin ' Wreck " is played after every Georgia Tech score in a football game , directly after a field goal or safety , and preceded by " Up With the White and Gold " after a touchdown . It is also frequently played during timeouts at the team 's basketball games .

The term " Ramblin ' Wreck " has been used to refer to students and alumni of Georgia Tech much longer than the Model A now known as the Ramblin ' Wreck has been in existence . The expression has its origins in the late 19th century and was used originally to refer to the makeshift motorized vehicles constructed by Georgia Tech engineers employed in projects in the jungles of South America . Other workers in the area began to refer to these vehicles and the men who drove them as " Rambling Wrecks from Georgia Tech . "

= = Lyrics = =

= = Previous adaptations = =

The earliest rendition of the song is " Son of a Gambolier " (also known as " A Son of a Gambolier " and " The Son of a Gambolier ") , which is a lament to one 's own poverty ; a gambolier is " a worthless individual given to carousing , gambling , and general moral depravity . " The chorus goes :

The tune was first adapted as a school song by Dickinson College in southern Pennsylvania in the 1850s . Students at the college modified it to include a reference to their college bell by adding the following lyrics :

In 1857 , the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity published a songbook that contained a heavily modified version of the song . The adapted chorus used the following lyrics :

The song was subsequently adapted by the Colorado School of Mines in the late 1870s and entitled " The Mining Engineer . " This version is the closest adaptation to " Ramblin ' Wreck from Georgia Tech . "

The Mines version also includes :

The song is also used by the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology , entitled " Ramblin ' Wreck " although on campus it is referred to simply as the " School Song . " This version is almost identical to the first four lines of " Ramblin ' Wreck from Georgia Tech . "

In the early 1890s , Ohio State University adapted it and called it " If I had a Daughter " . At the time Ohio Wesleyan University was their arch rival , hence the references to Delaware , Ohio and Methodists . One verse follows :

In 1895 , Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute adapted it and called it " A Son of Old R.P.I. " This version includes the lyrics :

Two different sources are claimed to have been the origin for the song 's music . The first is the marching tune " The Bonnie Blue Flag " , published in 1861 by Harry McCarthy . The second , and more widely cited , is Charles Ives ' composition of " Son of a Gambolier " in 1895 .

= = Creation at Georgia Tech = =

Georgia Tech 's use of the song is said to have come from an early baseball game against rival Georgia . Some sources credit Billy Walthall , a member of the school 's first four @-@ year graduating class , with the lyrics . According to a 1954 article in Sports Illustrated , " Ramblin ' Wreck

" was written around 1893 by a Tech football player on his way to an Auburn game .

The " Rambling Wreck " had its beginning during the first year or two after Tech opened . Some of the frills were afterward added . We had no football team during the early days , but football was played on the campus . A round rubber ball was used and it was strictly football @-@ no holding the ball and running with it . We had a good baseball team and I remember on one occasion almost the whole school went over to Athens to play Georgia . Duke Black of Rome pitched and we brought home the bacon . This was the beginning of the Rambling Wreck .

In 1905 , Georgia Tech adopted the tune as its official fight song , though it had already been the unofficial fight song for several years . It was published for the first time in the school 's first yearbook , the 1908 Blueprint . Entitled " What causes Whitlock to Blush " , words such as " hell " and " helluva " were censored as " certain words [are] too hot to print " .

After Michael A. Greenblatt , Tech 's first bandmaster , heard the Georgia Tech band playing the song to the tune of Charles Ives 's " A Son of a Gambolier " , he wrote a modern musical version . In 1911 , Frank Roman succeeded Greenblatt as bandmaster ; Roman embellished the song with trumpet flourishes and publicized it . Roman copyrighted the song in 1919 .

= = Rise to fame = =

In 1920 , dance instructor Arthur Murray organized the world 's first " radio dance " while he attended Tech . A band on campus played " Ramblin ' Wreck " and other songs , which were broadcast to a group of about 150 dancers (mostly Tech students) on the roof of the Capital City Club in downtown Atlanta . Murray also opened the first Arthur Murray Dance Studio while in Atlanta . It was located at the Georgian Terrace Hotel . In 1925 , the Columbia Gramophone Company began selling a recording of Tech songs (including " Ramblin ' Wreck ") ; Tech was one of the first colleges in the Southern United States to have its songs recorded . The song became immensely popular and was known nationally because of its extensive radio play . In 1947 , the song was performed by The Gordonaires in a Soundie entitled " Let 's Sing A College Song " .

On October 11 , 1953 , the Georgia Tech Glee Club sang " Ramblin ' Wreck " on Ed Sullivan 's " Toast of the Town " program (later known as The Ed Sullivan Show) on CBS . The performance reached a television audience of approximately 30 million viewers . Because only 28 seats were available on the train to the show , Glee Club members auditioned for the available spots . The group prepared three songs ? " Ramblin ' Wreck , " There 's Nothin ' Like a Dame , and the alma mater . Sullivan made them sing " heck " and " heckuva " instead of " hell " and " helluva , " and would not let them sing " dames . " According to The Technique , " The club sang ' Dames ' at rehearsal and brought down the house , only to have Sullivan give it the axe . "

Then @-@ Vice President Richard Nixon and Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev sang the song together when they met in Moscow in 1959 to reduce the tension between them during the Kitchen Debate . As the story goes , Nixon did not know any Russian songs , but Khrushchev knew that one American song as it had been sung on the Ed Sullivan show .

" Ramblin ' Wreck " has had many other notable moments in history , including being the first school song played in space . Gregory Peck sang the song while strumming a mandolin in the movie The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit . John Wayne whistled it in The High and the Mighty . Tim Holt 's character sings a few bars of it in the movie His Kind of Woman . Gordon Jones sings a few stanzas several times in the movie My Sister Eileen . There are numerous stories of commanding officers in Higgins boats crossing the English Channel on the morning of D @-@ Day leading their men in the song to calm their nerves .

= = Modern history = =

The Edwin H. Morris & Company obtained a copyright to Roman 's version in 1931 ; that company was later acquired by Paul McCartney 's holding company , MPL Communications in 1976 . The copyright to that version expired in 1952 , so Greenblatt wrote a new arrangement and applied for a new copyright . In 1953 , Greenblatt sold the copyright for the new version to Georgia Tech for one

dollar . There was some controversy when MPL Communications acquired the old copyright ; a law firm commissioned by Georgia Tech in 1984 , Newton , Hopkins & Ormsby , concluded that while there were copyrighted versions of the song , the version used by the school was not copyrighted and falls in the public domain .

Over the years , a few variations of the song have been created at Georgia Tech . In 1998 , a 19 @-@ member " Diversity Task Force " proposed that changes be made to the fight song because it discriminated against women . The proposal was widely and strongly opposed by students and alumni , and it was dropped . A different request to change the word cheer to join with respect to alumni daughters surfaced in 2015 . At the conclusion of the song there is a call of " Go Jackets ! " responded to with " Bust their ass ! " Following three of these calls and responses , the song was ended with a call of " Go Jackets ! Fight ! Win ! " Recently , however , the student body has yelled " Fight ! Win ! Drink ! Get Naked ! "