

# Comedian makes light of issues

By Madeline Fitzgerald  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

KT Tatara said he's allowed to make racist jokes.

A self-proclaimed "half-Asian," stand-up comedian Tatara broke the ice in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center's Heritage Hall Saturday night by poking fun at his biracial status.

Student comedians from Penn State's Second Floor Standup opened the show — including Greg Tarbell (junior-mechanical engineering), who said he applauded Tatara's use of race-related material.

"It wasn't just normal racial stuff," he said. "He was racist about himself. It was equal-opportunity racism."

The 30-year-old comedian covered a variety of topics in his show, from racial and gender insensitivity to his own college experience as a band geek.

He went on to discuss the music industry, imitating the rap style of Lil Wayne and complimenting "Justine Bieber."

"She has such a lovely, feminine voice," Tatara said. "I wonder if she and Ludacris have a thing going."

Tatara departed with a memorable performance: serenading two eager audience members with an original song entitled "Buttsex."

The song, an R&B ballad about Tatara's sexual preferences, changed the pace of the show to the delight of audience members.

Tatara said he threw the song in for fun, as an extra bonus for the crowd.

"I thought it was good just to throw something entirely different out there," he said.

Tatara first appealed to the State College crowd by insulting Ohio State's football team.

He then went on to complain about his friend's roommate, who never refills the Brita filter.

Audience members said Tatara succeeded in relating to the college lifestyle.

"He sounds like a college stu-

dent. He could be one of us," Nneka Okoye (freshman-biobehavioral health) said. "I hope he'll come back. I would definitely go and see him again."

Tatara said he had a great time with the crowd of Penn State students.

"It was definitely one of the better crowds I've performed for," he said.

"They got into everything. I would absolutely come back."

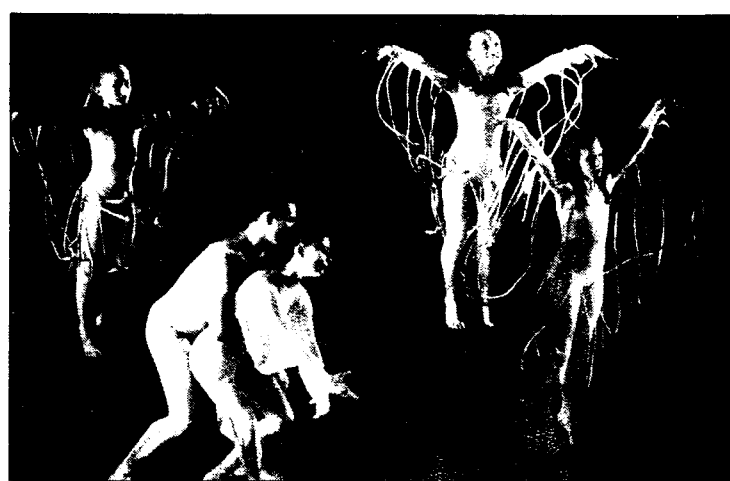
Many students were unfamiliar with Tatara's stand-up, but about 200 still took advantage of the opportunity to see a comedy show for free.

The Student Programming Association chose Tatara from a variety of other comedians.

Audience member Jason Ho, a member of Second Floor Standup, said Tatara was a great choice.

"It's awesome that SPA brought him," Ho (senior-hotel, restaurant, and institutional management) said.

"I've seen his stuff on YouTube. He's hilarious."



RIOULT, a New York City dance company, performs with local children at Eisenhower Auditorium on Sunday. The show included three programs.

# Kids, professionals dance in family-oriented show

By Heather Panetta  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It was a family affair at Eisenhower Auditorium Sunday afternoon, as students and families watched RIOULT — a New York City dance company — in a family-oriented program.

The show included three programs: "Fables," which featured local child Justin Shouder, 11, and Penn State theatre professor Charles Dumas as narrators; "Small Steps, Tiny Revolutions," which incorporated 13 local Pennsylvania children; and "Bolero," a show of performers' flexibility.

The show was presented by the Center for the Performing Arts.

The second performance, "Small Steps, Tiny Revolutions," followed a young boy who loves dance and his robot father. The father found his son dancing and ordered him to stay in his room when the father left. The child fell asleep and was transported to a dream-like world, where groups of creatures, almost like people in their movements, danced with the boy. Local children were included in this group.

Back in the real world, the boy's father returned home to find his son missing. The next day, he is taken into the dream world. The father tries to move stiffly, but he can't anymore and discov-

ers what dance is. His movements become less robotic until they flow together and he reunites with his son.

Some audience members said this was their favorite portion of the show.

Kelly Ashmead (sophomore-distribution, of undergraduate studies) came to the show to fulfill a requirement for her art class and said the show was better than she expected.

"I definitely thought it was cool to give the kids an opportunity to perform in a big venue," she said.

Laura Rainey, from Hillsdale, Pa., came to see her granddaughter who was one of the children in the show.

Rainey said it was a wonderful performance and that a lot of work went into it. The opportunity for local children was tremendous, she said.

"It's a very good opportunity for children who are interested in dance, like my granddaughter who has been interested since she was three years old," she said.

Lafasha Clinton, 11, of Bellefonte, came with Marybeth Weidman, her big sister from Big Bend, Pa. Big Sisters.

Clinton said the show was "awesome" and her favorite program was the father-and-son piece.

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# Canning kicks off on high note

By Meghan Micciolo  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Saturday's second annual canning kickoff concert raised more than \$800 — double last year's amount. Vole THON Chairwoman Katie Hatfield (sophomore-nutrition) said.

Two local bands — Table Ten and Fender Bender — as well as a DJ, performed in front of about 75 people at the event, held by the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity and Vole.

"Come to State College and feel all right," sang Table Ten lead singer Josh Corcoran in a rendition of Bob Marley's "One Love."

The money raised through an admission fee went to the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon.

Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity member James Smith (senior-kinesiology) said.

Other organizers said the event was successful.

"I think the most exciting thing

about today is that everyone here came to support the kids, especially since it's so early in THON season," Vole President Melanie Angle (senior-psychology) said.

While waiting for the headlining band Saturday, students listened to the DJ and chatted with friends.

"I'm expecting some sick beats. I've never heard of Table Ten before, so it's a blank slate," Ali Pump (sophomore-history) said.

During its performance, band liner Table Ten covered popular songs like "Little Lion Man" by Mumford and Sons.

"Overall I think it was a success, because 75 percent of the songs they played are on our road trip playlist," Pump said.

Fender Bender, the first band to perform, covered songs like O.A.R.'s "Hey Girl" and Bryan Adams' "Summer of '68."

Band members said they were excited to perform for THON.

"We'd love to do more THON events," Fender Bender bassist

Daniel Hamilton said. "We're just waiting for people to call us."

The band met in high school and has played together for four years, breaking up about 30 times over the years, Hamilton (junior-telecommunication) said.

"We're just like Brett Favre, quitting then not quitting," he said.

The band's performance at Sigma Tau Gamma was the first time it played before an all-student crowd, Hamilton said, adding that his band members said they enjoyed it.

"I always have this itch, so to play in front of people, especially people our age is great," Fender Bender guitarist Chris Iorio (junior-business management) said.

Michelle Anthony said she liked that Fender Bender played songs that everyone knew but weren't too popular.

"I didn't know what to expect so it turned out to be a nice surprise," Anthony (sophomore-political science) said.

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