CRY presents benefit play

The much-beloved character of Tevye the milkman and his fiddling on the roof antics delighted audiences in a charity performance that was held at the North Atlanta High School last weekend.

The play Fiddler on the Roof was put on by Saakar, a nonprofit Indian organization, and co-sponsored by the Tech chapter of Children's Rights and You (CRY) in a historic partnership—this year marked the first time in Saakar’s four-year history that it teamed up with CRY for the production.

Set in a small Jewish shtetl (town) in turn-of-the-century tsarist Russia, the play tells the story of Tevye's attempts to maintain his family and religious traditions in the face of rapid change in the world around the shtetl.

The theatre was almost completely full. The audience laughed and cheered to show their enjoyment of the performance. The actors performed excellently and without noticeable imperfections, surprising some audience members with their ability to slip into a Yiddish accent and carry out Jewish humor. The actor who played the role of Tevye especially showed great enthusiasm during his performance of the iconic "If I Were a Rich Man" song. The performers, all in all, were exceptional and not shy to show their talent.

However, the play was not simply just an exercise in acting and entertainment.

"What made this play unique was the fact that it was set up by a nonprofit Indian group, Saakar. Money raised went towards production costs and the rest went to charity," said Jelle van de Vall, director of operations of CRY Tech.

Natasha Lutnick, a second-year Aerospace Engineering major, enjoys the Center's fitness activities available to students at the CRC include aerobics, rock climbing (pictured), swimming, weight lifting and more.

While most students had positive views of the facilities and operation standards of the CRC, some also spoke of the hassles they had in maintaining a regular workout schedule there.

"I've been working out regularly since my first year and this place has always been packed," Naples said. "Working out promotes a healthier lifestyle." Similarly, Sara Scruggs, a second-year Management major, finds the CRC much to her liking, while Anna Bancroft, a second-year Aerospace Engineering major, enjoys the Center's convenience.

The play was sponsored by CRY in order to promote awareness and raise money for the organization.

CRY was started in India 27 years ago and benefits impoverished children in India and America by providing them with shelter, education, disaster relief and healthcare.

"In almost three decades, CRY has enabled more than 2,500 communities across 18 states in India to work towards addressing the root causes of issues like deprivation, adult unemployment, exploitation and abuse—issues that constrain the rights of children," said Namit Bhatia, co-leader of CRY Atlanta.

"By mobilizing these communities, CRY, along with its more than 500 NGO [nongovernmental organization] partners, have ensured over 1,500,000 children across India with opportunities they could not dream of. None of these micro,
Workout from page 11

Finding time to exercise when classes and work got rougher later in the semester, the long wait for a swim lane or treadmill at night, and—a favorite among a significant majority—the lack of free or available parking around the CRC.

Zaheer Ahmed, a recent Electrical Engineering graduate and occasional frequenter of the CRC, cited the lack of easily available parking for campus commuters as a reason for why working out can become a bother.

"It's a big headache, trying to walk in the cold because I can't park there. Not having free parking for patrons makes it more difficult for students to come on cold days," Ahmed said.

Despite their professed problems, students generally believe that maintaining a healthy lifestyle by working out regularly solves more problems than it creates.

Fernie Goh, a Chemical Engineering graduate student, works out at the CRC regularly and has plenty to show for it. Goh believes the power of exercise extends beyond the obvious benefits of looking better and feeling more confident.

Working out on the treadmill and elliptical trainers at the CRC four or five times a week, Goh said that exercise is useful in that it offers her something to do besides studying and yet improves her academic performance.

"As an undergraduate, I used to feel sleepy in class often. I'm trying to work out often to see if there's an improvement (in my attention in class)," Goh said.

Matt Rothenberg, a second-year Civil Engineering major, also believes that the positive benefits of working out regularly at the CRC outweigh the potential pitfalls that accompany regular exercise. Swimming with the club team three times a week, Rothenberg is almost dismissive about the injury risks associated with excessive physical exertion and agreed with Goh's comments.

"The average person doesn't need to be worried about excessive workout, but when someone does it in tandem with eating poorly and sleeping too little, that's when injuries happen," Rothenberg said.

Rothenberg echoed a common sentiment among students. "If you stop working out, the more stressful life becomes. There's always the chance to become injured, but I think people who work out regularly tend to do better (in classes and elsewhere)," he said.

"It's me time. It's when I blow off steam (from classes and work)," Naples said, describing the value of the time she spent at the CRC.

"I don't like you either. Sarthang rocks my socks," UGA attempted to deny the pep band to the GT vs UGA hockey...too bad we won 7-4 eat UGA!

It is sunny out today nice spare u got the stuff bong me please

face got some girls gone wild!

writing 3 page paper sucks some

JUST SUPPORT THE FEE INCREASE - IT'S CHEAPER IN THE LONG RUN!

BAHRAIN!! BAHRAIN!!

"you're the opposite of puritan." ~ethan to james

Hey, I don't know you anymore. I guess you don't mind. I guess I don't mind either.

Thanks for the envelope, Pres(z)!

As soon as I got there I knew it was going to be a problem. TJ (Thomas Jefferson) is a douchebag.

Moving Tip #72: It's ok to curse at heavy furniture.

How many lesbians are there in the world?

What, you had a big nut?

Poop on his head!!

Let's get 'er loose and put her into the wall.

Interesting! That's all.

I can smell the bull wafting from the alumni house every Thursday night

Why did Ambassadors take so many fat people this year?

luvluvluvluvluv test!

Ambassadors, such an awe

some organization wasted on such tools brittany is mean

I don't even remember the last time a girl hugged me...

who doen't look at porn seri

ously

I <3 Einstein Bagels. loyalty points should be used for all sports tickets

I HATE PLAYING GARBAGE SAMFORD!!!

West Side Market had no sour gummies. I feel like a seal that's been denied its fish.

I so need a date to the Women in Engineering banquet. Anybody interested?

"the light's red... but you can run it if you want to!" -kristin to matthew

what would we do without aim? how would we talk about people behind their backs in front of their faces?!


Have you studied abroad?! Join GTGA!

See page 14 for more Slivers!
miracles would have been possible without the active involvement and support CRY experienced from the more than 150,000 volunteers and organizations in India and overseas,” Bhatia said.

Currently, there are 26 CRY chapters in America. CRY Atlanta and CRY Tech, which was founded last year with three permanent board members, are new chapters that have dedicated themselves to the mission of the international organization.

“We try to spread awareness and raise money for the underprivileged. Ten percent goes to the U.S., the rest goes to India. We spread awareness about abuse, the exploitation of poor children and women victims. Some of the money raised by CRY America also goes to American underprivileged children,” de Vall said.

“We harness the support, money, time and skills for millions of Indians worldwide who could provide resources and thousands of dedicated field-workers across India struggling to function for lack of them. As such, we are an enabling organization as opposed to an implementing one,” Bhatia said.

The leaders of CRY Tech and CRY Atlanta hope to increase support and awareness for their organizations.

Furthermore, they hope to increase membership in local chapters as well as to create more chapters in Atlanta.

“This is the first time in history that CRY Atlanta and CRY Tech have collaborated together with Saakar on such a grand scale. We hope to further increase membership and open new chapters at Emory and Georgia State University,” said Aditi Misra, co-leader of CRY Atlanta.

CRY Tech sponsors several events throughout the year to encourage students to pledge money for CRY as well as to support the cause, such as a volleyball and basketball tournament held last semester in conjunction with CRY Atlanta.

Organizers have high hopes in terms of the impact of the play.

“At least 1000 dollars is expected to be raised from ticket sales and donations [from last weekend]. In fact, it takes just 25 dollars to fund a one-year education for an Indian child,” said Prerna Bang, president of CRY Tech.

“Another couple of events to spread awareness [that will] occur later this semester include a mini-carnival along Skiles walkway and a huge wall display with pictures about how CRY has helped poor people progress through society and have potential,” de Vall said.

The Official Georgia Tech Ring is available exclusively to alumni and students who have earned 70 credit hours and are in good standing.

Visit with the ring representative
Tuesday – Friday, February 13–16
from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Student Center

This is the only time this semester that the Official Ring will be offered.

For more information, please visit www.balfourcollege.com or call 1-888-BALFOUR (888-225-3687).
Tech offers pre-med options

By Abhinav Bhatnagar
Contributing Writer

Although Tech is primarily known for its engineering students, there is another breed of caffeine-guzzling, sleep-deprived and late-night-studying academic market — the pre-med or pre-health student.

Despite the fact that Tech has no medical school or a formal pre-med major, the school still provides many resources for its significant pre-health student population. The trick is to know where to look and being smart about customizing the regular Tech experience to a pre-health focus.

For instance, the institute’s strong background in science and engineering includes rigorous pre-health classes like anatomy and organic chemistry that students can take to build into their major.

“The pre-med classes here are very challenging. They prepare us well for the difficult coursework we’ll see in med school,” said Shruti Kumar, a second-year Psychology major.

Tech also offers students a plethora of summer programs which serve as gateways for acquiring knowledge and experience.

Students can spend their summers gaining clinical exposure through volunteering, shadowing, intern and specialized medical courses. Many pre-med can even choose to spend their summers working in research labs or working abroad.

These programs provide students with experience in the pre-health area, which, as all competitive medical or dental applicants understand, may be the determining factor in their landing an acceptance letter to their chosen school by the time they graduate.

Tech organizations give students numerous opportunities to gain more experience of this kind. Every student who understands the future of medicine should take advantage of them.

Ed Rieker
Speaker, Exec Forum

“Tell them it’s like a trip to Vegas. The chances of all the money disappearing is very likely.”

Over 25 men and women filled the Wardlaw building for the forum, which featured three very successful and powerful entrepreneurs.

The first, Tony Antoniadis, is the General Manager for the Advanced Technology Development Center, a company that helps Georgia entrepreneurs launch and build successful science and technology companies. Ed Rieker, another speaker present at the forum, has founded four companies, most of which are in the medical industry. The third and final speaker, Alan Urech is a senior executive with over 30 years of management experience.

As the panelists discussed what they thought investors looked for, common themes of leadership, experience and management emerged.

“Investors are betting on the jockey, not the horse,” Antoniadis said, using an illustrative analogy to make his point.

Urech, who actively invests in entrepreneurs, listed the five things he looks for in a business plan: leadership, market opportunity, business strategy, panel members spoke extensively about angel investors and how to approach them.

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“Tell them it’s like a trip to Vegas. The chances of all the money disappearing is very likely.”

See Forum, page 15

Sliver

Dr. Liu says “is that right?” or “is that alright” (we can’t tell which one is) 69 times in 50 minutes timespan.

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customers and revenues or predicted revenues. "The product is not nearly as important as a good management team," Urech said. Antoniades gave further advice on how to successfully present a business plan to an investor. "Understand the business and the market. Show real passion. Most importantly, tell a story," Antoniades said. All of the panels also stressed the importance of a short business plan, since investors usually have hundreds of business plans to review and don't have time to sift through a million pages. Not only should a business plan be short, it should also be somewhat easy to comprehend. The panel suggested that an eighth grader could not understand the business plan, it is too technical and complex. Finally, the panel gave their "absolute no's" in regard to talking to Deans and Directors. "Don't ask them to sign non-disclosure agreements," Antoniades said. "Never say there's no competition." Pre-med from page 14 year, the Tech chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and the GT Pre-Dental Society invite representatives from local schools like Emory and Medical College of Georgia to teach students how to build a strong application. In the spring semester, AMSA and the GT Pre-Dental Society also host the Pre-Professional Medical College Admission Tests and Dental Admission Tests as well as mock interviews. Additionally, the organizations will offer workshops through which students may improve their application essays. There are also many ways to volunteer in a pre-health capacity with organizations on campus. The Medical Assitance Committee of the Mobilizing Opportunity for Volunteer Experience (MOVE) organization, HERO and the Tech chapters of Unite for Sight, Engineering World Health and the Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children offer many service projects to interested students. These projects are available throughout the year and may take place both locally and abroad. Students who are seeking more advice and support in their pre-health careers can contact Jennifer Kimble, Tech's first ever pre-health advisor. Kimble provides students with a number of health-related resources. Through her online mailing list, Kimble periodically notifies students of important news, information and links to more pre-health resources or programs. Several students have found excellent pre-health opportunities throughout Tech. "I took a biomedical engineering clinical research practicum course taught by Dr. David Wright, and that involved actually working in the ER [emergency room] at Grady Memorial Hospital. We conducted real ongoing medical research in the ER, had good interaction with the residents and hospital personnel and even watched actual procedures being done in the ER, such as a spinal tap. [ Wesaw] patients come in from car accidents and various surgeries being performed on patients," said Dale Han, a fifth-year Electrical and Computer Engineering major. In addition, many Tech graduates that have become doctors live in the Atlanta area and may allow current students to shadow them. Nikhil Kadle, a first-year Biomedical Engineering student, spoke of the need to seek out shadowing opportunities. "Get out there and get your hands dirty. Ask doctors if they will let you observe them for a day or even a week. I shadowed three doctors last summer and found out a lot of things about the career that I wouldn't have known otherwise. All I had to do was ask," Kadle said. "Tech students can even find clinical exposure abroad. "I plan on studying abroad in a medical mission trip this summer, most likely in Cuba," said Matthew Vangala, a first-year Industrial Engineering major. Kimble stressed the importance of these types of experiences. "As pre-health advisor, I find that students with extracurricular activities help students create another realm to their application. Do you think a medical school would rather consider the student who participated in a medical mission abroad and volunteered at Grady, or the student that simply studied 24/7 and did not have time to volunteer anywhere?" Kimble said. With coordinated forethought and planning, pre-health students at Tech should be able to have many such rewarding and enriching experiences that will prepare them for their futures.

Focus from page 11

"The product is not nearly as important as a good management team," Urech said. Last but not least, Ruker dispensed some commonsense wisdom, saying that presenting entrepreneurs should never drop the F-bomb. The GES has two additional programs for members: the Executive Training Program and the Strategic Business Incubation. The Executive Training Program is designed to assist budding entrepreneurs by holding additional presentations on topics important to starting a business. For example, the program holds sessions on business planning, developing business plan, designing organizational structure, funding, consumer service, marketing, etc. The Strategic Business Incubation is an additional 45 dollar, one-time fee that will give students lifetime admittance to the courses.
Shoaib discusses Afghan women post-Taliban

By Shikha Choudhury
Contributing Writer

There has been much speculation on the situation of women in Afghanistan, an issue that has been fervently discussed in newspapers, journals, news channels and even at Tech.

Summar Shoaib, a fourth-year International Affairs major, recently conducted a research study on the condition of women in Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban regime.

Her study involved four major subjects in regard to the situation of Afghan women in the war-torn country: education, employment, health and the representation of women in government positions.

Shoaib discovered many interesting things in the course of her research, including a number of underground activities to educate women that were conducted during the oppressive rule of the Taliban.

At the time, women were restricted from seeking either education or employment. Shoaib spoke of the plight of widowed women and the helplessness of their situation if they did not have a male to support them. According to her, healthcare also suffered in the time of the Taliban.

“Women doctors were no longer allowed to pursue their profession, which resulted in a sharp decline in the number of doctors in the country, thus proving to be a disadvantage to the nation. Female patients were at a disadvantage too and felt uncomfortable discussing certain health issues with male doctors,” she said.

Shoaib also discussed one of the other effects of the Taliban’s reign: the negative impression that many non-Islamic people came to have of Islamic principles and teachings.

Shoaib clarified the misconception of Muslim women being forced to wear burqahs, describing how the all-enveloping outer garment was something that Muslim women were actually proud of because it helped them gain an identity in society.

Shoaib explained how her sister had adopted the traditional Muslim wear, as it helped her feel more modest and secure from being accused by men. It also helped her gain a more distinctive identity in an increasingly multicultural American society. Shoaib’s sister believes that by expressing her Muslim identity she not only gains respect for her culture but also succeeds in representing her community’s ideals.

Shoaib first became involved in research under the tutelage of Sylvia Maier, an assistant professor in the school of International Affairs. She had taken classes with Maier that deeply influenced her.

“She was my mentor. In spite of being such a busy woman, she took out a lot of time for this project, encouraged me and inspired me to work on it,” Shoaib said.

Shoaib felt that her interest in issues pertaining to women in the Middle East dates back to the days when she participated in high school debates which dealt with women’s rights and the situation of Middle Eastern women.

Born into a Muslim family in Georgia, Shoaib has grown up in close proximity to the ideals of the Islamic faith, visiting mosques like the one she constructed at the corner of 14th and Snyder Streets (pictured below).

Shoaib feels that, like any religion, Islam has different interpretations in different nations—be it Saudi Arabia, Tunisia or Pakistan, each country has a unique interpretation of the Quran.

Shoaib said that the Taliban’s interpretation was unfair to women, as they inappropriate placed higher priorities on certain restrictions, especially those relating to women and their rights.

One of the most difficult challenges that Shoaib faced while conducting her research was finding enough information, statistical data and specific details about Afghan women after the Taliban’s demise.

“Finding enough information about their condition during the Taliban’s regime was not as hard, but finding information on their condition after the Taliban’s regime ended was really hard. One could hardly find any valid data or details on it. Most of it was usually exaggerated by the media,” Shoaib said.

In an effort to obtain accounts of firsthand experiences, Shoaib contacted a few people in Pakistan with the help of her parents and friends.

She spoke with one of her friends, who is a Pathan, or Afghan native, and said, “Her friend had interacted with many Afghan refugees and talked to Shoaib about what she learned about them.

Shoaib also spoke to a professor in Georgia who teaches Pashto, a language spoken in southeastern Afghanistan, about what he knew of the plight of women in that country. She attributes a lot of the information that she found to these sources.

According to her findings, the statistics reflecting education, employment, healthcare and the representation of women in the national government has improved since the fall of the Taliban regime.

However, Shoaib admitted that the figures were not as high as they were before the Taliban took control of Afghanistan.

Shoaib advised every student who dreams of pursuing a research study to take the opportunity to develop their study in an area that evokes a continued interest and passion.

“Communicate your interest in research to professors who you can connect with [and] understand who deal with studies that interest you,” Shoaib said.

By Ben Kaysering