



A cappella concert raises over \$5000 for charity; Payal, Courtney, finally sleep

By Kabir Seth

I was physically moved. That's how I described the "American Idol: A cappella-style" concert last Friday night. After 3 months of phone calls, flyers, and late nights, Circle K members Courtney Istre and Payal Patel saw their dream become a reality. It was absolutely fantastic. From the Madhatters opening act to the GMen closing the show, the concert was an absolute treat. And best of all, the concert raised over \$5200 for the Washtenaw Camp Placement Association, an organization that sends low-income children and teens to summer camp.



Amazin' Blue keeps the crowd rockin

Though Courtney and Payal did most of the work for the concert, many Circle Kers helped out throughout the planning and the day of the concert. Rackham was a busy place from 9AM that Friday night, as we folded programs, traced stars, and set up the place "American Idol-style."

and

The

MadHatters from Madison, Wisconsin led off the show did an excellent job. Actually, the cheering might have been for the tall guy in the group. What was his name again Emily? ; (and Kristen and Amy) After that the Dicks and Janes were on followed by the Sopranos divas. Our very own Courtney Istre was in this group and they did an superb rendition of "Iris" (a personal favorite).



Kristen's crush, I mean, the Madhatters kick off the show

Before the intermission, Jeanette Oakley explained to the audience how important their contributions were to the organization and the kids. Rather than the usual intermission, the audience was treated to a performance in the lobby by Element 1, a break-dancing group. They provided a nice contrast to the singing, while still keeping the energy high for...

AMAZIN' BLUE! Without question, this A cappella group was the fan favorite, as they absolutely set the stage on fire with their three pieces. Any group having to follow such a great performance would have been a little intimidated, but Pioneer High School's Harmony were unshaken, performing at a level far beyond their years. The GMen were the last group, and they didn't disappoint. Their usual antics kept the crowd involved to the very last note.

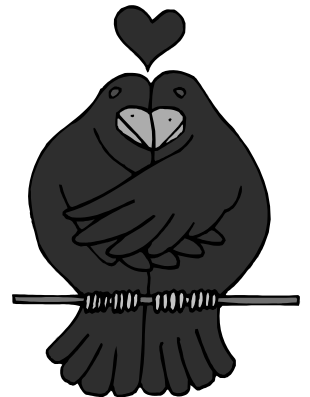


Courtney thanks the crowd for their donation to a great cause

As we finished cleaning up, I thought about how much work had gone into a 3-hour show. Only those closest to Payal and Courtney would ever know how many obstacles they had overcome to pull the concert off. At the same time, none of us would probably cherish it as much as they did. The destination is so much sweeter when the journey is a difficult one. Congratulations Courtney and Payal on a fantastic job.

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Sweet as chocolate mentoring at Holmes

By Karla Schaeffer

I was asked to write an article about the Ann Arbor News writing an article about Mentorship (whoa) and report that we will be in the news soon, so everyone should keep their eyes peeled! More importantly though, I was asked to talk about what we do and why it is important. Mmm, where to start? Approximately 25 Circle K members travel to Holmes Elementary School in the Willow Run school district every Friday afternoon for a couple of hours to spend some quality time with their mentees. Each mentor is assigned to a different mentee and the two meet with one another every week.

What do we all do? Well, that varies with each pair, or in my case, trio. Some of us spend time reading, working on math, or playing games like Hangman, Guess Who and Pictionary. Sometimes my mentees and I just spend time talking about what went on in school that week and what is bothering them, or who is now going out with who (always hard to keep track of). When the weather is nice, we shoot some hoops or play on the swings. Bottom line, though our activities vary, the purpose of the mentorship program is to spend time with someone every week in a form that benefits both the mentors and mentees.

In talking with the mentors, I find that most of them get just as much out of the project as the kids. I even know people who have scheduled around it! While the program provides a study break for the mentors, the mentees are provided with some positive role models, as most of the kids don't have many in their lives. Many of our kids come from low-income families with single parents and it is not rare for them to have parents who are currently or who have been incarcerated. I feel that it is important for them to be in contact with people earning college degrees, as they don't often encounter those who have received higher educations.

As much as I love to joke frequently about hyping up and advertising the program, it is difficult to describe exactly what people, both big and small, get out of it, because it is different for each group. However, I have witnessed small achievements in some of the kids over the past couple of years behaviorally, academically and socially. All else aside, I can honestly say that I've made two new friends this year who continue to add excitement to my final weeks here at the U of M. Also, you should all join (1:15-3:45 every Friday)!

BE "CHARIT-A-BOWL" and Bowl for Charity!

By Emily Kort

Yes, folks, it's that time of year once again. Coming up soon is the Charit-A-Bowl! Some of you may remember last year's Bowl-A-Thon, which raised over \$600 for the Humane Society. Well, it's back in full force this spring, with a newly revised title

ing exactly what being involved in the "Charit-A-Bowl" means. Let me explain. You will round up five members

2003 Charit-A-Bowl. The tentative date of the Charit-A-Bowl is Sunday March 9. All of the proceeds of the event will go to the charity chosen by the winning team.

I know what you are all thinking right now: "Why would anyone NOT want to be a part of the Charit-A-Bowl?" Well, the truth is, anyone who doesn't want to participate in the Charit-A-Bowl is just not a cool person. It will be a wonderful chance for you to take part in a little friendly competition, all the while meeting new people, having fun bowling, and raising money for a very worthy cause. So put on your bowling shoes and get ready for a day filled with strikes, spares, and gutter balls, because the Charit-A-Bowl will be the bowling extravaganza of the year!

If you have any questions or want to be involved in the planning of

"Why would anyone NOT want to be a part of the Charit-A-Bowl?"

of your posse to form a team of six people. Your team will fill out the registration form, complete with a unique team name, and turn that sucker in to the Circle K office along with a registration fee. Then, you and your team members will compete against other student teams in the quest of becoming the ultimate bowling champions of the

and a chance for all of you to be a part of an awesome event!

Some of you may be wonder-

Cupid's Computer help at Sequoia Place

By Suruchi Lall

Every Monday evening from six o'clock to eight o'clock, a small group of Circle K-ers goes to Sequoia Place, a local apartment complex for the elderly. The center's Volunteer Coordinator, Margaret Fox, arranges a wide range of programming for the residents' enjoyment. One of the favorite programs of both the residents of Sequoia Place and of University of Michigan Circle K members is the weekly Computer Lab Help-out, which pairs seniors who are eager to learn about or utilize one of the center's four computers with an equally enthusiastic university student able to answer questions and offer general computing help. The ongoing project allows the residents to keep in touch with their relatives and friends via e-mail. They also enjoy surfing the Internet to access the day's news or other information available online.

Of course, one of the most attractive features of the project for the volunteers is the chance to interact with the residents, to engage in a friendly debate about current events, and to learn a thing or two about life. After all, many of the residents' families do not live in the Ann Arbor area and some only get to see their loved ones during the holidays. Consequently, they look forward to our visits and sincerely appreciate whatever time we can offer them, even if it is just two hours a week.

So if you're ever bored on a Monday evening,

or if you wish to incorporate this fun project into your regular Monday-evening routine, sign up today for the Sequoia Place Computer Lab Help-out!

If you are not available on Monday evenings but would still like to volunteer at Sequoia Place, consider participating in one of the other projects Circle K does with the center, such as the Mock Grocery Store.

The first Saturday morning of every month, Circle K-ers go to Sequoia Place to help with the setup and facilitation of a mini grocery store where the residents can collect needed food items, provided by Food Gatherers. This project is also a great opportunity to mingle with the "shoppers" and to show them that they are cared about and that their company is valuable.

Talk to anyone who's been to Sequoia Place before, and they'll start listing the reasons why the time they spent with the residents of Sequoia Place was so rewarding: it's two hours filled with meaningful conversation, fun, and constructive activity—and yes, sometimes they even have pie!



Head over heels at DCON

By Amy Grude

You know how you always think about how fun it would be to hang out with Circle Kers for a weekend filled with service, socials, and leadership training? Well, this is your chance! This year's Michigan District Convention (known to us as DCON) is coming up fast. It will be held March 28th-30th in Mt. Pleasant, MI. The convention has a jungle theme, and is being hosted by Central Michigan University.

Overall, DCON is a great time to hang out with friends, meet new people from our club, and meet other Circle Kers from all over Michigan. On Friday night there is an opening session, which is a welcome to DCON, and then a talent show, which we always win! (Ok, so there isn't any scoring...but we know deep down in our hearts that we win.) On Saturday, there will be workshops, the election of the new district

officers, a banquet and awards ceremony, and a dance. The banquet is semi-formal to formal, so feel free to pull out your prom dresses! Sunday there is a closing brunch. In between all the activities, there is a log of hanging out in hotel rooms and general goofing around.

One of my favorite parts of last year was the talent show. We did a dance to Thriller, in full zombie costume. Afterwards, everyone decided to go bowling. Several of us thought it would be fun to go to the bowling alley (and Meijer afterwards) still dressed in our zombie costumes! We definitely got some strange looks. If you are new to the club, and are looking to get to know people, this is the perfect opportunity! If you aren't new... well you obviously love the club already and I'm sure you're already signed up. :)

Circle K

4213 Michigan Union
(4th Floor)
Come visit us!
M-Th 2-5 PM

Phone: 734 615 0523
Email: circlek@umich.edu



“The greatest service to yourself is service to others.”

The mission of the University of Michigan Circle K is to:

“Inspire and empower college students to develop a lifetime commitment to serving the community through a variety of projects, a plethora of leadership opportunities, and a dynamic social atmosphere while allowing members to be engaged in what is important to them.”

A Rosy VIP Dance

By Nicole Matti

It's Valentine's Day weekend. You're worth your very special person, walking through a conservatory full of tropical plants, exotic flowers, and beautiful trees and taking in all the sites and sounds of art, dancing, and **A MULTITUDE OF WILD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS!!!!**

You must be at the Very Important Person Valentine's Party—Sunday, February 16—co-sponsored by Circle K and SAVE. This is the second year this event has taken place and it will be held again this year at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor. Who's gonna be there, you might wonder? Our mentorship committee is inviting all the kids from the Holmes classroom that we mentor and SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) is inviting chil-

dren from Holmes, Cheney and Ford Elementary schools. The mentorship program in Circle K is a project that happens every Friday, where members of Circle K are each matched up with a mentee at Holmes. SAVE is a program that goes into Willow Run's (that's the district where all these schools are) after-school programs and mentors kids on nonviolence, doing activities that focus on trust, understanding emotions, building self-esteem, anger management and conflict prevention and resolution. All these kids have been asked to come with their Very Important People (a parent, grandparent or guardian) and join us for this awesome party!

Who else is gonna be there? WE ARE!! We need as many volunteers as possible from SAVE and Circle K to come help run all the activities that will happen there and

just to hang out with all the kids. Last year, we had activities such as cupcake decorating, valentine card making, dance contests and much, much more!



Once again, the event will be Sunday, February 16 from 1:30-4 for the kids and families. We'll be getting there at noon to start setting up and staying until about 4:30 to clean up. This party was a blast last year and we're hoping it'll be even bigger and better this year. So come, and, if you want, bring along a Very Important Person of your own ;-)

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