

University of Michigan Circle K

Pirate Bulletin

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A Treasure-Filled Night

By Jenny "Peg-Leg Billy" Gertsen

If you happened to pass by Rackham Auditorium a few Fridays ago, you probably had the pleasure of overhearing the sounds of a cappella floating through the doors. Those sounds were more than just an a cappella concert—they were the sounds of "Friday Night Live: A Cappella Style"; they were the sounds of multitudes of people giving of their time and their talents to help raise funds for a great local center called Bait House.

Bait House is a part of SOS community services, an organization that works with homeless families and children. Bait House specifically offers 3 children's programs including after school tutoring for high school students, a program in which Circle K'ers participate in, along with after school programs for children and day care. Bait House had lost a large amount of funding earlier this year, and Circle K decided this year to donate all proceeds from the a cappella concert to Bait House to help them continue to offer their programs to those in need.

"Friday Night Live: A Cappella Style" was the latest in a string of a cappella concerts that Circle K has put on in order to raise money for various charities. The planning for the concert, headed by the campus relations committee, started months ago, and finally came to fruition on Friday, February 6th, 2004. The musical talents of Amazin' Blue, The Sopranos, 58 Greene, and G-men all provided the entertainment many have come to know, love, and anxiously wait for. The added treats for the night arrived in the packages of two guest a cappella groups – Pioneer High School's Harmony and Northwestern's Freshman Fifteen. Highlights of the evening included Freshman Fifteen's energetic rendition of the popular song "Stacey's Mom" by Fountains of Wayne and the incredible vocal talents of Harmony's Alexis Merte singing "I Can't Make You Love Me," originally performed by Bonnie Raitt.

The concert was an awesome way to begin a weekend – either to relax following a stressful week of exams or to forget about the exams that would be arriving shortly thereafter. Audience members had the chance to enjoy a wide range of a cappella groups and musical styles, and were also able to contribute to the \$3,100 that was raised to benefit Bait House. Overall, the night was a huge success, and all of the work that had been put into the concert definitely paid off in the end.



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A h o y , K i w a n i s !

By Lynne "The Cabin Boy" Strickler

Kiwanis. You have probably heard this word throughout your membership in Circle K. We often refer to guests from Kiwanis, Kiwanis meetings, and the Kiwanis family, but do you know what Kiwanis really is? Kiwanis is a group of professional adults, who have chosen to continue serving the community long after they have completed school. There are about 300,000 Kiwanians worldwide, and two Kiwanis clubs in particular have an important role in UM Circle K. Ann Arbor Downtown Kiwanis and Dexter Kiwanis are our two sponsoring clubs and they do a lot to help us serve the community, especially financially. But this relationship is not one sided. UM Circle K is involved in Kiwanis projects as well.

On Tuesday, February 10 we finished working with Downtown Kiwanis on a major project for the UM Health System: Valentine sorting. Together, our two clubs, along with some help from high school Key Clubs, sorted over 115,000 valentines, which were then packaged with crayons and coloring books, and distributed to all patients in UM's hospitals. I am sure we brightened many people's Valentine's Day.

Other projects that we do on a more consistent basis include the Kiwanis Rummage Sale and Books for Kids. Every Saturday we work alongside Downtown Kiwanis members reselling donated goods. Every week this sale earns about \$5,000, which goes to support the community and our club. Circle Kers have been found selling bikes, repairing donated computers, and unloading donations. The Detroit #1 Kiwanis club sponsors a Books for Kids workday every month. At a warehouse in Detroit, many Circle Kers spend the day sorting donated books, putting labels on them, and getting them ready to send out to Detroit Public Schools. This initiative has put thousands of books into the hands of young Detroit students.

There are still plenty of ways that you can help Kiwanis through Circle K. Upcoming events include the Manchester Kiwanis Raffle, which will raise \$18,000 for charity, another Books for Kids visit, the Rummage Sale, and much more. Check the calendar, and go help out the clubs that help us out so much throughout the year!

M y s t e r y M a t e y o f t h e M o n t h

Arrrrrrrr... I'll bet you a trunk of pirate's gold that you won't be able to guess who this month's mystery member is from their responses to the questions below! (Just a hint, matey: This person is a member of the e-board!)

Q: If you were stranded alone on a pirate ship, what is one thing that you would want with you?

A: "I would want a leprechaun with me for good luck. And I would want him in my pocket."

Q: If you had a personal theme song that played over speakers every time you entered a room, what would that song be?

A: "I'm too sexy..."

Q: Why do you love Circle K?

A: "It has great people and awesome bulletin editors."

Q: If you could see one board member walk the plank, who would it be?

A: "Definitely Lisa. And if she was being too slow, I would give her a little push myself."

Got it figured out? Because you all are so good at this every month, the name of the mystery member is not hidden in this bulletin. If you are really stumped, try harassing your favorite board member.

Walk the Plank, Dry Wall A House...

By Lisa "Captain Mangy Parrot" Slominski

While I have learned many important skills in my past three years with Circle K, I can honestly say that I never expected to add dry walling to that list. Yet a few weeks ago I did just that: I learned how to dry wall a house while at the same time helping out an incredible organization called Habitat for Humanity.

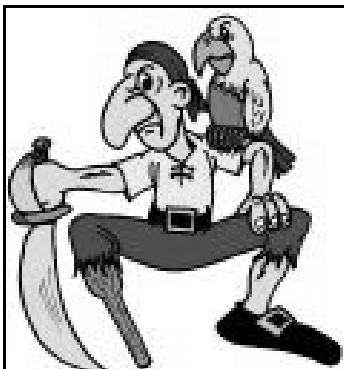
Habitat for Humanity is a nationwide organization that coordinates volunteers to help families in need build affordable homes that will be sold to the families without profit once the house is completed. Circle K has worked with Habitat for Humanity several times in the past, each time assisting trained volunteers with whatever aspect of the house needs to be worked on.

The project that I attended took place in Detroit, and was an experience that will stay with me for a long time.

When we first got to the work-site, the supervisors divided us up into two groups based on whether or not we had prior experience with dry walling. I, needless to say, was in the "no experience at all, not even exactly sure what dry wall is" group. After our group entered the house that we would be working on, we had an intensive training session on exactly how to put the dry wall up on the walls and ceilings of the house. Let me tell you, I never expected dry walling to be so complicated. You can't just take the dry wall and stick it up on the walls, after all. First you need to measure the wall and cut the dry wall to fit, then you use this strange glue dispenser to squeeze this incredibly thick and sticky glue onto the boards of the wall, then you pre-nail your dry wall board, and finally you nail and screw the dry wall up onto the wall. Plus, there are all sorts of rules involved, such as only using screws in the middle and nails on the edges, and making sure that everything looks nice so an elusive professional referred to only as "the mudder and taper" would have an easy time finishing everything up after we left. There were lots of things to remember, but I knew that we were definitely up to the challenge.

After the training was completed, Kabir Seth (a fellow Circle K member) and I were paired together and assigned an enormous wall (at least three feet across) to put some dry wall on. In the words of Kabir, "I have never seen anyone so naturally adept at dry walling as Lisa Slominski. It was like she was born to dry wall." (Well, maybe those weren't his exact words... And maybe he didn't really say anything like that at all... But still, the dry wall went up, and it definitely stayed up for at least the six hours that we were there for.) After this we continued to dry wall for a few hours, went to lunch at a Mexican buffet, then dry walled some more.

I can honestly say that this project was unexpectedly fun. I never anticipated having such a good time putting up dry wall, and it was great to know that we were helping out such a worthy cause. My favorite part of the project was when the family who will be living in the completed house came to visit, and their 4-year-old son ran around looking at the rooms shouting, "This one is my bedroom!". Knowing that I played a small part in making sure that a child has a nice house to live in is something that I won't soon forget.



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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."



The Sea Battle

Every month the committee chairs and e-board members get together for a social. This month, twelve chairs and e-board members showed up to duke it out in a vicious, duel-to-the-death game of laser tag. Payal, Kabir, Lisa, Eric, Jocelyn, and Suruchi were on the red team, and Kevin, Amy, Matt, Phillip, Lynne, and Elise were on the blue team. Here are what a few of them had to say in an exclusive swashbuckling interview:

1. What are the first three words that pop into your head when you think about the laser tag social?

Payal: "LisaSlominski, Points, Bases"

Kevin: "Payal, =, Domination"

Suruchi: "Black, Lights, Rule"

Phillip: "Payal's, Team, Cheats"

2. Did you have any specific laser tag strategies that you employed?

Payal: "I used the "shoot anyone you see, but try to avoid your own teammates" strategy. It seemed to work very effectively since I did end up with the most points. In addition, we tried to take over the top level and then just shoot down at people, because they never knew what was coming. Hmm. . . other than that I would say just staying low and out of sight."

Kevin: "Blue team was unorganized. We tried to take the high ground and snipe, but we never made it up there alive. I think I speak for the entire Blue team when I say that we felt cheated by the level of Laser Tag experience Red had going in. Once our morale hit rock bottom after a couple minutes, it was all over..."

Suruchi: "Following Kevin around unremittingly."

Phillip: "There was a lot of screaming and I know that a few of my team members were crying. I tried shooting people in the eye to blind them, but that didn't work. BUT there was a really cool moment when I activated my shield, and shot Payal and Lisa and they couldn't shoot me! It was so sweet, they were crying."

3. Were there any chair/e-board members that you were targeting most often? Why?

Payal: "Well Lisa, she really had never played before, and it was quite funny, so I think I would have to say her. But there was also Phillip who seemed to be everywhere I turned, which was unfortunately because I def. had more skill so . . ."

Kevin: "Kabir and Payal were a force to be reckoned with, so I just stayed away from them. Suruchi and I kept running into each other, so we spent a good couple minutes shooting each other from two feet away to boost our scores."

Suruchi: "I was always targeting Kevin Zhao because he is so nice and was very cooperative in allowing me to zap him again and again."

Phillip: "Kabir, because he's always angry. I found out quickly that he cheats too."

4. Who was the best at laser tag?

Phillip: "Lisa kicked a lot of butt. I think she's been training for a few months now secretly."

Suruchi: "Amy was the most hard-core. Payal was pretty intense, too."

Kevin: "Payal. At first you assume she can't be that great, but after a couple kills you're left wondering how you were so stupid to ever underestimate her in the first place..."

Payal: "ME!!!"

5. Please write down one interesting/ funny memory of the laser tag social.

Kevin: "Blue wants a rematch. We didn't have the experience of the Red team going in, but we put up a good fight and next time we're taking it all. Bring em' on!"

Suruchi: "Picking teams was interesting...we had to make sure that each team had the same number of experienced players and newbies."

Payal: "Well, when we started to play for some reason or the other I kept thinking Kabir was the enemy so every time I saw him I shot at him, kinda strange because he definitely was on my team."

Phillip: "One particularly disturbing memory was of all the cheating going on with Payal's team. The blue team wants a rematch."

END OF INTERVIEW

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