

Rock with a Cause

Benefits raise awareness, money for worthwhile efforts

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Benjamin Franklin once said that a penny saved could be considered a penny earned. That's all well and good, but it's hard to take financial advice from someone who charged his friends when they wanted to borrow his books. The lesson learned from Mr. Franklin is that plenty of things are worth saving. Saving time can be beneficial to those under pressure, and saving pennies will allegedly add up to a small fortune one day. Even those who attempt to flirt with an attractive girl are often better off just saving their breath. There is one thing which, above all else, is worth saving, and that is Darfur.

For the past few years, the Darfur region — which borders Libya and Chad — has been a hotbed of a very nasty, political, genocide strife. The **Save Darfur Coalition** was created to draw public attention to the ongoing genocide in Darfur. Their goal is to generate awareness and form an international response to the atrocities, which affect over two million people in the

Darfur region of Africa. This weekend, several southern New Jersey activists will be doing their part to draw attention to this worthwhile cause.

The combined might of a musical military will attempt to draw attention to the region, with **Memories Lounge** in Richland as their vantage point. **The Incandescent Minds**, **Athem**, **Desieve**, **Oversight**, **Life is Here**, **Life is Here** and the **Paper Moons** will all perform sets of consciousness-expanding tracks. The event is all ages, so everyone can enjoy the show. The music kicks off 5 p.m. Friday

A donation of \$5 is required, but with all proceeds going to such a worthy cause, additional funds will gladly be accepted.

Another benefit will be taking place in Atlantic City this weekend, one which hits a little closer to home for some area families. **The Making Precious Strides** organization was founded three years ago by area residents **Chris and Cheryl Dearth** to raise awareness of **Hunter Syndrome**, a disorder that affects the body's ability to break down various substances. The effects can be



Photo provided by Making Precious Strides

The Pearl Jam cover band Ten will rock the Duck Town Tavern in Atlantic City on Friday, May, 11, to benefit the Making Precious Strides organization.

extremely serious, and this weekend a benefit concert is planned to help assuage the disease's deadly sting.

The **Duck Town Tavern**, located at the corner of Georgia and Atlantic Avenues, hosts the concert, which begins 8 p.m. Friday. Pearl Jam fans can experience an inti-

mate evening with their favorite band's music, as the Pittsburgh-based tribute act **Ten** will perform at 10 p.m. Admission is \$20, with the money entirely going toward the **Making Precious Strides** group.

Both of the aforementioned organizations are sponsoring

these events to raise awareness, but the end result is also a good time for everyone involved. Those who disdain rock 'n' roll can still contribute funds to the cause, even if they don't plan on attending. Check www.savedarfur.org and www.makingpreciousstrides.org to learn more ways to help.