



John Nero | FOR THE POST

Don Macrae, a freshman studying sport management, adds cream to his cup of Donkey coffee during yesterday's Cup of Court event on the second floor of Baker University Center.

Free coffee, cookies draw hundreds

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Staff Writer

Just the words 'free coffee' attract droves of college students. Throw in free cookies and live entertainment, and they will appear in the hundreds.

"What better way to warm up than with a nice, warm cup of coffee?" said organizer Ty-lah Deal, vice president of the Black Student Cultural Programming Board.

The second annual Cup of Court, organized by the University Planning Council and the BSCPB, offered free hot drinks from Brenen's Coffee Café, Donkey Coffee and Espresso and Dunkin' Donuts. More than 500 students turned out for the event, which was held between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. yesterday in Baker Center Theatre Lounge.

"I feel like it's a really good opportunity for kids who don't often go to the local businesses to see what they have to offer," said

Camille Scott, a freshman studying anthropology.

As a result of the snow-covered streets, both Perks Coffee House and Roastery and Court Street Coffee, present at last year's event, were unable to attend, said organizer Sam Fink, UPC's Film and Cultural Arts co-chair.

Donkey Coffee and Espresso brought vanilla chai, as well as a fair trade and organic dark roast Marrakesh Express coffee. Brenen's Coffee Café served vanilla chai and an organic fair trade Costa Rican blend. Dunkin' Donuts offered both decaffeinated and caffeinated coffees.

Each vendor handed out more than 250 cups of hot drinks, and by 2:30, all that remained was Brenen's dark roast. The 304 cookies were consumed by 2:15 p.m.

"We really like to help out the student groups whenever we can," said Josh Thomas, Brenen's co-owner. "We want students to know there is a lot to Athens other than campus and chain food."

Angie Pyle, co-owner of Donkey, agreed, adding, "We want students to know that we are a home away from home."

Along with the free food and beverages, the event provided entertainment. Brendan Lieske, a senior studying civil engineering, sang original songs and covers while playing the acoustic guitar from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"I love to play music, and whenever I get the opportunity, I jump on it," said Lieske, who performed at the event last year.

Cup of Court is the second in a series of events based on connecting the campus with the community through free food, which is a win for both businesses and students, Fink said.

"We want students to know we believe in serving people," said Pyle. "That includes our customers, our employees and our farmers. It all comes down to our love for people."

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