

Know your rights

STUDENTS and staff at UCSI University made their stand on human rights during the University's recent Human Rights Week.

The entire week saw a host of activities such as debates and workshops, aimed at bringing awareness of basic human rights to the UCSI community.

This was done through collaborations with the Malaysian Bar Council, Suaram, Amnesty International, AWAM (All Women's Action Society Malaysia) and Empower (Janadaya).

At the launching of the event, vice-chancellor and president Peter Ng said: "UCSI University is an ideal place to create a greater awareness of basic human rights as the university is like a mini United Nations itself, with more than 70 countries represented here within the student community."

He added that although each country has its own laws and definitions, basic human rights have a universal voice of its own.

One of the highlights of the week was a debate competition between the team of UCSI Mass Communications and English Language and Communications students and the Malaysian Bar Council.

The debate touched on several important issues, such as basic rights for education and equal opportunities to conduct businesses, with both teams winning one round each.

Most importantly, students became more aware of issues regarding equality and basic

human rights through the arguments posed in the debates.

There were also workshops by AWAM and Empower. Both these non-government organisations (NGOs) touched on issues such as women and youths' participation in democratic and good governance, and the elimination of discrimination against women.

The week ended with a bang with the STOMP!: Make a Difference Concert in aid of the Women's Aid Organisation.

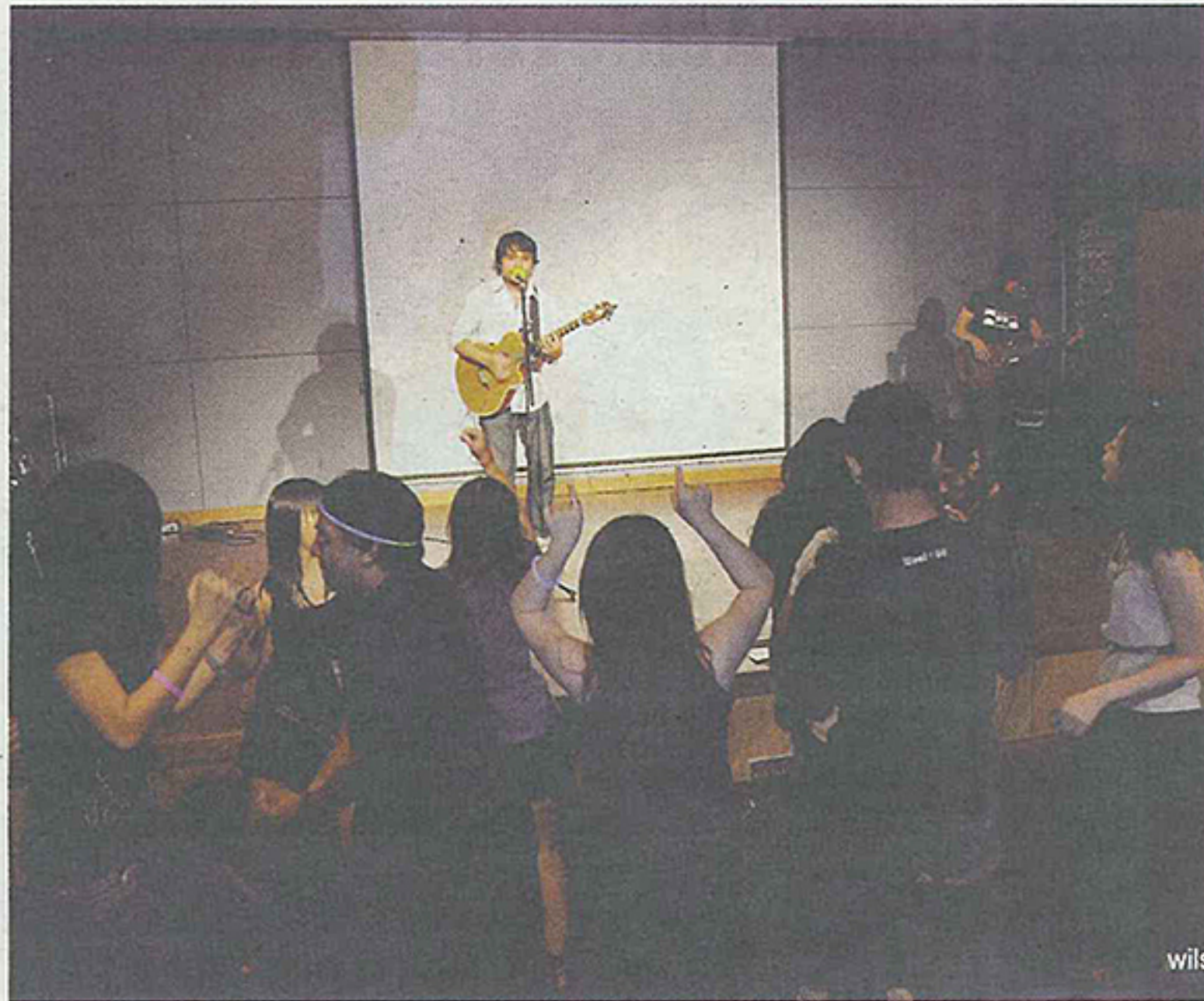
The concert organised by the Social Sciences and Liberal Arts Association (SSLAA) students was held at the university's auditorium.

Featured performances included local independent singers, such as Reza Salleh, Rashdan Harith, Ronnie Tan, Lenny Lysandra, the Halfway Kings, Vertical Universal and Ahmad Nahri, as well as energetic dance numbers by the Urban Groove Dance Network and Rhythm Music Dance Studio.

Matthew Marian, lead singer of the Vertical Universal band, and first year UCSI Mass Communications student, believes that music is the one language that cuts across all barrier.

"Music has the power to bring awareness to the masses as everyone understands it. I think music should always convey an important message," he said.

Final year Mass Communications student and co-organiser of the Human Rights week Nick Lim Kah Ken said that one should know his or her own rights as a human being.



Singer Reza was one of the many local artistes who performed at the concert.