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Greek houses to hold see-saw charity event

By **IEVA AUGSTUMS**
Staff writer

More than 175 students are recalling their playground days while at the same time remembering the loss of a loved one as they teeter-totter this weekend to promote alcohol education and awareness.

Gamma Phi Beta Sorority and Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity's first "See-Saw-A-Thon" starts at 7 a.m. today in the greenspace north of the Nebraska Union. The event will continue for 60 consecutive hours and conclude 7 p.m. Saturday.

Jason Hirschfeld, Alpha Gamma Sigma philanthropy chairman, said the idea and sight may seem crazy, but that it would shed light on a serious issue.

"There's an underlying message we are trying to get out here," Hirschfeld said. "We want people to think first before they decide to drink irresponsibly or drive drunk."

The two greek houses are hoping to raise \$10,000 for the Laura Cockson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Hirschfeld said.

Cockson, who was a junior pre-occupational therapy major and a Gamma Phi member, was killed in an April car crash when a drunken driver smashed into her car.

The memorial scholarship, established by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, would go to a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student who brings awareness to the adverse effects of alcohol.

"We want the community to know we care about students and we still want people to remember Laura," said Andrea Bell, Gamma Phi Beta philanthropy chairwoman.

Bell said the community has been responsive to the group's fund-raising efforts.

"Many businesses have already donated hundreds of dollars," Bell said. "We have almost reached our fund-raising goal."

"We want this event to impact everyone. We need to have extra support and knowledge of our cause."

JASON HIRSCHFELD
Alpha Gamma Sigma philanthropy chairman

She said businesses sponsoring the event include Old Chicago Restaurant, 826 P St., Pepsi Cola Co., and KKNB-FM (104.1) "The Point."

On Friday and Saturday, from noon to 1 p.m., Pepsi will pass out free drinks, Bell said. The Point will broadcast live Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Hirschfeld said students also will be passing out purple ribbons during the next three days to promote alcohol awareness.

"We want this event to impact everyone. We need to have extra support and knowledge of our cause," he said.

ASUN President Sara Russell said senate members will be on hand Saturday to help teeter-totter.

"The money raised goes to a good cause," Russell said. "We are happy to help out."

Russell said ASUN will support any organization's efforts to raise money for the scholarship fund.

Donations to the Cockson memorial are being accepted at the "See-Saw-A-Thon" site.

"We will see-saw through rain, sleet, snow and hail," Hirschfeld said. "Mother Nature won't keep us from doing this for Laura and other students."

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