They scare because they care

Gamma Theta Gamma in Alfred opens haunted house to raise funds for cancer research

By JUSTIN HEAD
STAFF WRITER

ALFRED — An Alfred State College fraternity is committed to using the Halloween season to raise money for a good cause this year — cancer research.

The Gamma Theta Gamma fraternity at 52 North Main Street has turned its house into a mansion of gloom and doom in the past few days, hoping to draw a healthy crowd for the next few nights as members put on a haunted house for the public. All of the proceeds raised will be donated to the the American Cancer Society through the fraternity’s participation in the Alfred University Relay for Life event.

“We just want to raise enough money to have a sizeable donation for the walk,” said senior Robert Roth, Gamma Theta Gamma president.

Roth said the fraternity house was going to be a mess for a few weeks, but that the fraternity had fun preparing for the event.

The 21 fraternity brothers and two pledges scattered leaves all over the first floor of the house, draped cotton to look like cobwebs on the ceiling and walls, set up a strobe light, changed regular lights over to black lights and played “Friday the 13th” music along with a video of people in masks scaring people at the haunted house.

Holly Silverthorn of Scio applies green face paint as a part of her witch costume at the Gamma Theta Gamma fraternity haunted house on Main Street in Alfred Tuesday afternoon.
Continued from 1A

with other eerie tunes at the house. They also dressed in gory Halloween costumes and other outfits and constructed murder displays and other surprises all throughout the house.

"Every active member will be playing an active roll in the haunted house. There will be surprises around every corner," said fraternity member Corey Kane, a senior from Jamestown. Kane is taking the form of a character he calls Chainsaw Charlie.

The fraternity was in the middle of repairing its ceiling at the house, so a stripped ceiling adds to the scare factor. The house is well over 100 years old and is a good setting for a fright fest with its nostalgic charm. The first and second floor halls are lined with many side-by-side rooms, so participants never know where the next scare is coming from. A smoke machine in the basement emits a thick white smoke that drifts to different parts of the house and enhances the haunting theme.

A house tour last about 15 minutes and takes one group at a time throughout the house with stops along the three floors. Special emphasis was put on a formal dance gone wrong in the basement of the house.

A first floor "operation room" is not for the squeamish to view, but fraternity members note they have two separate versions of tours they are giving. From 7-8:30 p.m. they are having a softer version aimed at younger children and families and from 9-10 p.m. they will have a version with more blood and thrill that is geared to an adult audience.

Tuesday night was the start of the event. Fraternity members scrambled to get their costumes in order and took direction from their faculty advisor Mike Murray, who is the assistant director of dining services at ASC's ACES.

"Over the last six years this is the most community oriented group of kids I've dealt with," said Murray.

Murray helped get the fraternity some of the supplies they needed and worked with ASC officials to get approval for the event. The fraternity has done a haunted house a few times in the past and has a lot of supplies left over from their previous events.

"We hope people will come because it's for a really good cause," said Holly Silverthorn, a fourth year ASC student from Scio. Silverthorn is a member of Gamma Theta Gamma's sister sorority Pi Nu Epsilon. Epsilon members are helping out with the event.

The haunted house will be showcased from now until Friday. Children under 5 are free, children from ages 6-16 are $2, adults are $4 and an entire family is $10.

Cider and candy will be available and children can get their face painted if they ask. Tim Burton's movie "The Night Before Christmas" will be showing in a waiting room as for people as they wait for their tour.

"HORNEll IDOl"
Qualify Nov. 7th & 14th 9pm-11pm
Finals Nov. 21st 8pm
Register and pick up rules at
Hornell Golf Club
473 Seneca Rd., Hornell (607) 324-1735