

Fund-raiser supports college scholarships

BY JOHN HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

Bill and Sharon Bollin are halfway toward the goal of raising \$100,000 to establish a college scholarship in their daughter's name.

On May 17, you'll have a chance to help them reach that goal.

"We're hoping after this we only have to do one more," Sharon said of the bowling fund-raiser, to be held at Drake's Lanes. "It's hard when you're doing it for your own child."

Their aim is to help kids like their daughter, Leah, who died two years ago, at age 23. A Lake Superior State University student, she had trouble in school because of learning disabilities related to a diagnosis of epilepsy.

The Harrison High graduate had tried attending LSSU when she was 17, but came back home because of difficulties with her studies. She took classes at Oakland Community College and worked part time.

After seeing her brother, Rob, graduate from LSSU in 1999, she decided to give it



Leah Bollin's brother, Rob, got his head shaved at last year's event by barber Chuck Budésky, who has cut three generations of Bollin hair. Last year's haircutting event raised more than \$2,000.

one more shot and was almost through her schooling when the accident occurred. The university awarded her a posthumous degree last year, which Rob accepted.

Leah was killed in a car accident on Aug. 16, 2001, while on her way to work. She had controlled her condition with medication, but on the day she died, authorities believe a seizure caused her to lose control of the car.

More than 600 people attended Leah's memorial service, where almost \$10,000 was donated. Bill and Sharon, who own Bollin Electric in Plymouth, hit on the idea of establishing a scholarship fund that would both keep their daughter's memory alive and help students with epilepsy and related disorders.

This year, the family hopes to award at least two scholarships, the applications for which are reviewed by a committee. Scholarships are renewable each year, as long as students remain academically eligible at Lake

Superior State.

In part because her daughter also suffered from misperceptions about epilepsy, Sharon Bollin now speaks to school children about being "different." She brings along a miniature pincher the family adopted after Leah's death; the dog had been brought to the Humane Society after suffering horrible abuse. The scholarship effort has been boosted this year with the donation of food from Ginopolis restaurant in Farmington Hills. Bowlers can participate in two sessions, at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., with a silent auction in between.

"Everything we make goes toward the scholarship," Sharon said. "We don't take out any expenses. That's what our contribution is."

She said Drake's is a perfect venue for this type of event, held for the first time last year. The family raised almost \$25,000, which put total scholarship contributions at \$62,000.

A minimum \$50 donation

includes food, pop and beer; the silent auction is \$25 per ticket and raffle tickets cost \$1 each or \$5 for six. For entry forms or more information, call (734) 459-0070 or (248) 553-4776.

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Boys of Botsford will honor service people

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

The Boys of Botsford are looking to honor the men and women involved in the Iraqi conflict as the theme for the group's 2004 calendar.

But they need your help. The men, who are residents of the Botsford Commons senior living complex, have published previous calendars with tongue-in-cheek themes. Their 2001 effort, for instance, showed the men half-dressed; their photos were matched with witty biographies and suggested recipes.

This year's calendar had the men's faces superimposed on the bodies of buff male models.

But with the war in Iraq, Bill Waddell, a member of the group, said the men decided to honor those serving in the war for this year's theme.

All proceeds from the calendar sales will benefit a local charitable group.

Waddell is asking families who have sons, daughters or loved ones involved in the conflict to send him pictures

and short biographies to put in the 2004 calendar. Local and statewide residents are fine, he said.

Waddell said the biographies should be short with name, rank, outfit or branch of service, school attended and special activities, if any, listed.

Also include a picture of the person that is clear - color portraits or closeups of just the person.

Waddell said the Boys plan to put four-six bios per month on the upcoming calendar and submissions will be arranged on a first come, first served basis.

He is suggesting submissions be mailed to him by June 1.

Submissions should be sent to: The Boys of Botsford, 21268 Sycamore Ct., Farmington Hills 48336.

For more information, Waddell can be reached at (248) 476-9415.

People wishing to have their photos returned should include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Bill and Sharon Bollin want to start a scholarship in memory of their daughter, Leah, above, who died in 2001.

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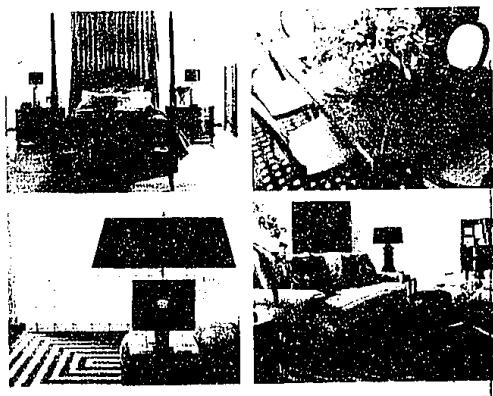
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