Nearly-nude volunteering

Campus run to benefit Convoy of Hope

April 8, 2011

By Josh Hall

Drury University's Volunteer Corp will host a nearly-naked fun run April 12 to raise money for Convoy of Hope.

The one-mile run takes place Saturday at 10 p.m. on Sunderland Field and is open to the public. The cost is $3 and all proceeds go to the Convey of Hope -- a faith-based organization whose goal is to feed communities around the world.

"We wanted to bring something new and fresh to the campus that hadn't been done before," said Drury junior Garret Shelenhamer, who helped organize the event. "We thought we would bring the idea to Drury and see what people thought of it."

Shelenhamer said that UCLA, Harvard, Stanford, and Berkeley, were just a few other universities across the country that have held similar fundraisers.

"So far, everybody is really excited about it," said Shelenhamer.

Andrew Weimer, Drury's director of leadership and volunteer development, approved the fundraiser.

"I said it was fine if they wanted to do it since other schools had done it and it is a student-run event," Weimer said.

The event allows participants to run in their underwear (although it is not mandatory), but runners may not wear thongs, jock straps, or see-through or indecently revealing clothing, said Shelenhamer.

"Our guidelines are actually much stricter than other universities," Shelenhamer said.

Alcohol will not be permitted on the campus during the run and runners must be 18 years or older to participate.

Even though the Convoy of Hope didn't chose to give an endorsement of the event, the organization was at least supportive.

"At the core, it's college students trying to do what they can to help somebody in need," said Jeff Nene, a senior director of public relations for Convoy of Hope. "We're glad that college students are thinking outside the box and are willing to do something that will help other people."

Drury senior Andy Chase – a member of the Panthers cross-country team – said he is running in his underwear on Saturday.

"I've been a longtime runner and this sounds like a fun running event," Chase said. "I think we are all old enough and mature enough to handle that (running in underwear) and I don't see a problem with it."

As of last Wednesday, 24 students had signed up to participate, according to Shelenhamer.

Students may register in the commons through April 12 or sign up on site.