## Caitlin McGuire's friends won't let her memory die

"Cait's Quest" benefits will help pay off murdered n's student loans.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

The "Cait's Quest" 5K Walk/Run will be held at 10 a.m. today at the Dallas High School track. Cost is \$25 per person and registration will begin at 8 a.m. Checks can be made payable to Cait's Quest. For more information about Cait's Quest, visit www.caitsquest.com.

ganization dedicated to raising awareness about domestic vio-

The organization honors the memory of Caitlin McGuire, 24, a Dallas High School graduate who was murdered in February by her boyfriend before he took his own

Four of McGuire's friends - Jodi Feldmann, Nikki Gelso, Holly Gumble and Cory Patton - are now working hard to preserve the memory of their friend's life and help other women in need.

The group will celebrate the end of a series of fundraising events with a 5K walk/run at 10 a.m. today at the Dallas High School track.

Gelso, a Dallas native now living in Philadelphia, said just a month after McGuire's passing the group decided to rally together in her honor.

"Initially, we wanted to donate all the money to the National on Against Domestic Vio-

"Cait's Quest," a nonprofit or- lence, but then we decided to also ganized three fundraisers this help out her family," Gelso said.

lence, arose through tragedy this help McGuire's family pay back 4-H horse show and a raffle at the student loans in addition to pro- Luzerne County Fair. moting awareness to the womgraduate degree in psychology nizing a nonprofit. from Marywood University.

the mail after something like raising money; it's more about that, that's like another slap in the face," said Gelso.

Once the amount of money needed to pay off the loans is met, the group will donate the excess to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

"We began to talk in February about it, but we didn't open an account until May 2," said Patton, of Dallas. "We were collecting money but we really didn't know what we were going to do at that Gelso. point. It's been a slow rolling

year for "Cait's Quest," including She said the group wanted to running a concession stand at a

The success of the organizaen's cause. McGuire had attend- tion came as a surprise to all the ed Bloomsburg University and women - it was the first experiwas in the process of attaining a ence any of them had with orga-

"It's been chaos," said Gumble, "When you keep getting bills in of Dallas. "...But it's not all about raising awareness and remembering her not for what happened, but for who she was. Anyone can tell you she was absolutely one-of-a-kind."

> Through all the work, the women said the organization has helped them with their personal grieving processes as well.

"It's great to see how many people are responding and how many people cared about Cait," said

Since June, the women have or- McGuire's family and has opened knew, like her friends at college with other women in similar sit- ing awareness to this issue."



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Cory Patton, Holly Gumble and Jodi Feldmann look at photos of their friend Cait McGuire, who was murdered by her boyfriend in February. The three women, as well as their friend, Nikki Gelso, will hold a 5K race in McGuire's memory today at Dallas High School as part of the organization Cait's Quest to raise awareness of domestic violence.

and family the women didn't about her," she said. even know McGuire had.

"Even through all of this, we've Gumble said the project has almet Cait's extended family and losing a best friend has been a difso made the women closer to people we didn't even know she ficult experience, the contact gave us special thanks for bring-

Patton also agreed that, while en came up to us and told us their

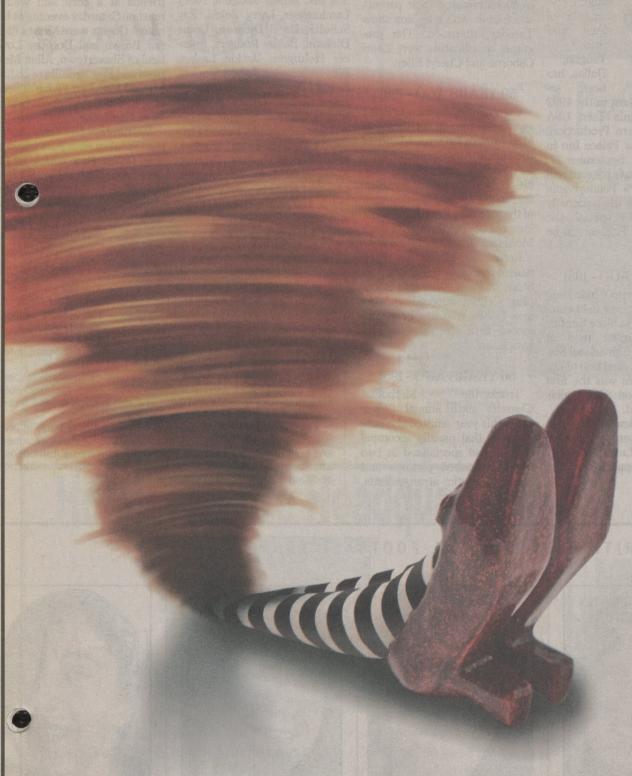
them up to a network of friends ... and they all cared so much uations has been a great reward.

"One thing I've noticed at the Feldmann, Gelso, Gumble and smaller fundraisers is that womstories," said Gumble. "They









## GRIPES

If Tropical Storm Irene reminded you of the Wicked Witch of the West, wait until your insurance company arrives at the scene.

They're going to try to tell you your claims are not valid, your damage is not costly and your policy doesn't cover whatever Irene tore up or tore down.

They're going to ask you to sign on their dotted line minutes after trying to convince you that your claim isn't worth diddly.

Don't do it.

Insurance companies bank on your innocence. After all, how many times do you need to file a storm damage claim?

We deal with unpaid, under-assessed, ignored insurance claims every day. And we don't give up until our clients are paid what they are due.

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