

daily nebraskan

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The Daily Nebraskan is written, edited and managed by students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It is editorially independent of the University faculty, administration and student body.

The Daily Nebraskan is published by the Publications Committee on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday throughout the fall and spring semesters except holidays and vacations.

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Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.
Address: The Daily Nebraskan/34 Nebraska Union/14th & R Streets/Lincoln, Nebr. 68508 Telephone: 402/472/2588.

Black group offers women identity, friends

By Nancy Stohs

Last year UNL Greeks revived Greek Week. This year total pledges in sororities and fraternities increased. Next week competition for homecoming displays will make a comeback.

In the midst of this, a new group called Black United Sisters (BUS) has formed at UNL.

It offers its 50 members friendship, social life, functions with UNL's black fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi, stresses academics and has an initiation ceremony.

However, according to BUS President Faye Zollicoffer, a graduate psychology student, "We don't want to give the impression this is a sorority, because it's not. It's a social club."

BUS was organized last spring in conjunction with a UNL-sponsored program where upperclass black women were "big sisters" to freshmen.

Zollicoffer said it gives identity to black women on campus through a "feeling of oneness and blackness."

Because it kept the big sister program, part of the group's purpose is to show the ropes to freshman black women, Zollicoffer said.

Besides the usual freshman adjustment problems, many black students come from Omaha and must adjust to a city with a higher white population, she said.

"Sometimes you just need a friend," she said, and BUS tries to provide that.

Zollicoffer said the club, which meets



Photo by Gail Folda

Faye Zollicoffer, Black United Sisters president

twice monthly at the UNL Cultural Center, hasn't made many plans for the coming year.

She said she doubted BUS would ever evolve into a sorority like others, unless members would start a local chapter of the national black sorority.

"We don't want it to turn into something you have to go through a big hassle to get into," she said.

The only membership requirement now is to show interest in black womanhood and unity, she said.

But this is preferable to members spreading out and joining white sororities, she said.

"I think we should definitely stick to our own," she said, "because we have different values and lifestyles, even different ways of dancing and dressing."

"At this time there would be a lot of confusion if black women did just like total integration. You couldn't relate to yourself as a black person."

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