

UNL's Angel Flight teaches history, helps community

By Kris Hansen

The words "Angel Flight" bring to mind visions of the way station in *Heaven Can Wait* where the newly-arrived dead are whisked to heaven in a Concorde.

However, UNL's Angel Flight is not quite that. Flight Commander Teri Barowsky said Angel Flight is a campus and social service organization which each year helps children, the elderly, and the handicapped.

Barowsky, a junior teaching major from Omaha, said this year's projects include a Halloween play for children in the hospital pediatrics center, a "Safety Awareness" campaign, and a yet-unplanned project on "historical awareness."

"Our primary goal is to promote aerospace education, but we do a little of everything," Barowsky said.

Angel Flight works closely with the Arnold Air Society, a group of distinguished Air Force cadets. The groups work on some projects together, have joint meetings, and support each other during other ventures.

Not military

However, Barowsky said she stresses that Angel Flight is not a military organization, even though it is sponsored by the Air Force.

"Some girls join who are interested in fulfilling projects, some are interested in the Air Force, some want to learn more about national security and the armed forces and some just think it's a neat organization," Barowsky

commented.

The organization also participates in several on-campus projects.

"For the last 16 years we've hosted in the press box at football games," said Barowsky. "We also work in the basketball concession stands. These are our money makers." Angel Flight is non-profit and self-supporting, she added.

The chapter is one of over 100 Angel Flight organizations in the country. The chapters are divided into areas which work together on projects. Nine schools in Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado make up the H-1 district, to which UNL belongs.

Rotating headquarters

"The area headquarters rotates every year, and this year it's here. We not only have the local but the area headquarters, too," Barowsky said.

Although Angel Flight is open to males, most of the members are females. To join, a person must have a GPA of 2.0, have Tuesday night free for meetings and pass the pledge test, according to Suzanne Maul, pledge director.

"Pledges take part in all that we do. They come to meetings, work on projects, and do several projects of their own, as a class," explained Maul, a senior teaching major from Omaha.

"The pledge test isn't hard, either. It's just to help you learn the history and things like that," Maul added.

Barowsky said Angel Flight was founded in 1952 at Omaha University. "At the time, there was more of a military trend and a need for students to learn about the military but not make a military commitment," she said.

The program had a slump five years ago due to the non-military movement, Barowsky said, but the group has made a comeback since then.


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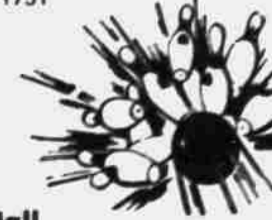
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