

'Palace' is searching for cooperative dwellers

By Patti Gallagher

Brown Palace is not well-known around campus, and that's exactly what Doug Hienman would like to change.

Brown Palace, 1900 B St., is an all-male cooperative with 13 bedrooms and only nine residents. Hienman, house vice president, is drumming up membership and describes many assets of Brown Palace.

The massive structure, in the middle of an older residential area, was quiet and homey when visited Monday, demonstrating Hienman's claims that Brown Palace is "academically oriented."

Hienman, a sophomore horticulture major, stressed the individuality of house members, but also the "sense of community" that the nine share.

Hienman compared the palace to other living alternatives saying "the corporate life of a dorm" is too restrictive in setting regulations on meals, hours and activities, and that the amount of space for the dollar is more than for fraternity housing.

Current members include both ex-dorm and ex-fraternity dwellers, he said.

Individuality important

Because "individuality is very important," house duties take only one or two hours per member each week, Hienman said, allowing "more time to live the way you want; to enjoy the things you want."

Hienman said another asset of Brown Palace is its two-fold community.

Inside the house, members create a community in working together to make decisions beneficial to the majority of residents; the external community—the B St. neighborhood—offers friendly neighbors, a drugstore, hardware store and food co-op.

Although house operations run fairly smoothly, according to Hienman they are not without problems. But "everything is pretty much up front," he said. With the small number of residents, if someone doesn't carry out his responsibility everyone else know it.

Problems cyclic

The problems are "cyclic," Hienman said, fluctuating in intensity around mid-terms and finals.

The formula for solving problems on a one-to-one basis is to "let it slide," he added.

The monthly board and room at Brown Palace is \$140, making it the lowest university approved housing available, Hienman said. With a shortage of house residents, each person currently has their own room.

Brown Palace Co-op was organized in 1942, donated by its former resident, Mrs. Emma Jacobs. The Jacobs family was fond of windows, Hienman said. The house has a sun porch—now used as a weight room—several by windows and stained glass insets in one stairwell.

The co-op hires no outside help. Cooking, cleaning and finances are all handled by house members and officers. Currently meals are being prepared on a volunteer basis and Hienman said "people get creative sometimes." The result is an occasional inedible meal.

House members are issued a "semester detail," Hienman said. "Trying to preserve a gift given to us in 1942," chores such as painting and installing storm windows are issued bi-yearly, he said.

Hienman said Brown Palace will have a "Prospective Member Disorientation" to recruit more house members. Dates will be announced.



Four of the members of the Brown Palace, an all-male cooperative, are president Robert Green (below center) and; from left to right, Marty Stuczynski, Jim Campbell and Doug Hindman. Photo by Mark Billingsley

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