

Unmarried faculty members join club, find companionship

By Leslie Boellstorff

Since January, a new club has allowed unmarried UNL faculty members to find companionship and guidance in a "bedroom community" — a campus dominated by married faculty members.

The Single Faculty Club was organized for single faculty members to meet people with similar interests, said the group's organizers, Tom Morgan, associate professor of physics; William Carter, professor of electrical engineering; and Lou Ebrite, assistant professor in the division of health occupations and teacher education.

"There is very little socializing among the faculty," Carter said. Most of the faculty activities are designed for couples, he said.

Students have an easier time meeting people because there are hundreds of student organizations available to them, he said.

Ebrite said native Nebraskans as well as those new to Lincoln have difficulty meeting people with similar interests.

Nebraska is a great place for raising a family, but it is difficult for people who aren't currently raising a family to find others similarly situated, Ebrite said.

Because faculty members often have different interests than Lincoln's general public, they may have trouble finding like-minded companionship, the club's organizers said.

"There is no support system for the faculty member without a family, no organization to help the individual to identify activities and meet people," Ebrite said. The Single Faculty Club is intended to help alleviate this problem.

A faculty member rarely meets more than 20 people in his department, she said. Most of those people are married, and go home to their families every night. The club would help the single faculty members on both City and East campus meet each other.

The club is especially intended to let single faculty members share cultural experiences, Morgan said.

"The club is for integration and sharing of experiences. After all, that's what education is all about," he said.

"My reason for going is not to find a mate," Connie Ley, assistant professor of education and family resources, said. It's important to establish faculty camaraderie, and interesting to meet other faculty members, she said.

Alma Homze, associate professor of curriculum and instruction in the teachers college, said her entire social life changed when she divorced recently. Before the divorce, she had no idea it was so difficult for single faculty members to meet people in Lincoln, she said.

The club provides a chance for her to make contact with people other than the couples she had associated with while married.

At the last club meeting, 21 people attended a wine education program, where they saw a slide presentation on German wines and sampled the wines discussed, she said.

Twelve single faculty members carpoled to a Bagels and Bach concert at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha in February.

About 30 people attended the first three meetings of the Single Faculty Club, Ebrite said. About 42 have expressed interest in the club, she said.

Ebrite said the club will elect officers in the fall. After the club is formally organized, it will probably have meetings once a month and break apart for two or three small-group, special-interest meetings or activities each month.

Objection to bishop's edict continues

By Lorna Nissen

In opposition to Bishop Glennon Flavin's edict declaring that only men may be lecturers in the Lincoln diocese, the Catholics for Active Liturgical Life was formed in July 1981, said the chairwoman of the organization's steering committee. Carol McShane said the group opposes the bishop's edict that lecturers must be male, be at least 21 years old and have children enrolled in a Catholic school.

McShane said no one knew about the edict until an article appeared in the *Catholic National Reporter*, a Catholic newspaper.

Catholic documents in Rome show that both women and men may read in the churches. McShane said many women were allowed to read at masses celebrated by Pope John Paul II during his 1980 tour in the United States.

McShane called Flavin's edict repulsive, but said it is his right to make such judgments. She said she didn't know how he could find it in his mind and heart to practice such an exclusionist policy.

CALL consists of 300 people, most of whom are laymen and laywomen, McShane said. Some of the members are university professors and graduate students. A few Catholic sisters are also members, she said.

Most of its members live in Lincoln, and eight to 10 members live in towns outside Lincoln. CALL is not reserved just for Catholics, but only Catholic members may vote, McShane said.

McShane said the bishop has not contacted CALL concerning the edict and has ignored all of CALL's attempts to contact him. Flavin's only response was in an article in a Catholic newspaper and even then it was not signed, McShane said.

CALL meets about once a month in the Lincoln Foundation Building at 15th and N streets, McShane said, and members recently passed its bylaws.

At CALL's last meeting, a resolution calling for a boycott of the bishop's Diocese Development Program fundraising program was defeated, McShane said.

A resolution passed that calls for those people who

have decided not to contribute to the DDP fund to continue to support their parish and other Catholic charities, McShane said.

McShane said CALL is not urging people to participate in a boycott but to rechannel contributions to churches instead of giving money to the DDP fund.

Deciding not to give money to Flavin's fund should not be an excuse to give no money at all, McShane said.

CALL receives no special funding to operate but is supported directly by its members, McShane said. The organization is applying for tax-exempt status.

The next meeting of CALL will be April 1, McShane said.

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