

Rec center sets sights on student awareness

BY ANN MARY LANDIS
Staff Reporter

involvement

Before she become an aerobics instructor last year at the Lee and Helene Sapp Campus Recreation Center, Amy Lucht didn't know just how much the center had to offer.

Now as president of the Campus Recreation Advisory Council, Lucht plans to make sure other students don't miss out on the rec center's services.

The council's main goal for this year is to make students more aware of everything the rec center offers. Lucht said she hoped the students visiting the rec center will take better advantage of opportunities there.

She said she especially wants to promote its newest additions: the climbing wall and power pacing, an aerobics class that uses stationary bikes.

Michael Kring, secretary of the council, also wants to promote the rec center, particularly its strongest programs.

"I would like to see more publicity. Students really need to

know what's available," Kring said.

The Office of Campus Recreation has one of the biggest intramural programs in the country, he said. It also offers aerobic classes, club sports and activities.

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln survey taken in the spring of 1996 hinted at the popularity of the rec center. Almost 80 percent of students polled said they had used the rec center in the past year. The Omnibus Survey was conducted by the UNL Bureau of Sociological Research.

Although the rec center attracts many students, Kring said he wanted students to use a greater variety of its services. Even people who use it don't realize everything the center offers, he said.

Although Lucht is the only returning member of the advisory council, she said she was opti-

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MICHAEL KRING
rec center council secretary

mistic about the group.

"I'm really excited about this year," she said. "We can have a very positive impact on the rec center."

Stan Campbell, campus recreation director, said the council members could make substantial changes, particularly because they have clout with him. Last year, they were influential in getting the center to install a climbing wall and offer power pacing.

"I can't think of a time when we've gone against a recommendation from the council," Campbell said.

UNO may construct engineering program

UNO from page 1

ment department at UNL, said Max Kirk, associate professor of construction management.

The Engineering News Record, an engineering magazine, named the department one of the top five construction management programs in the nation five years ago, Kirk said, and the department has grown since that announcement.

Seaburg said Omaha's construction engineering technology department, with 162 students enrolled this fall, is the largest in Omaha's engineering college.

Both construction programs require students to complete fewer math and engineering courses than they would take through the new construction engineering program, he said. Many construction companies have expressed a need for students with better engineering skills, Seaburg said.

But Kirk said part of the construction management program's popularity at UNL is its emphasis on management instead of engineering.

Construction management students take architecture, engineering, business and construction courses in order to effectively communicate with all entities involved in construction projects, he said.

Well-rounded construction managers can "bring it all together," he said, and engineers cannot fill that role.

As a result, Nebraska graduates in construction management are in high demand, Kirk said.

Kirk said he couldn't comment on the new proposal for a construction engineering department because he is a member on the UNL Curriculum Committee, which reviews all proposed changes in university curriculum. But he said the committee voted down one proposal for construction engineering last year and asked its proponents to review the idea before resubmitting a proposal.

Seaburg said administrators now studying the proposal for construction engineering continue to examine the strengths and weaknesses of both existing construction programs and will tailor the new engineering program to fill any education gaps.

The UNL civil engineering department, which offers civil engineering degrees through Lincoln and Omaha campuses, will also contribute to the new program.

Ray Moore, civil engineering department head, said the new construction engineering proposal fits into a "major theme that seems to be emerging" in Omaha - the theme of focusing on construction and infrastructure - for both construction and civil engineering academic programs.

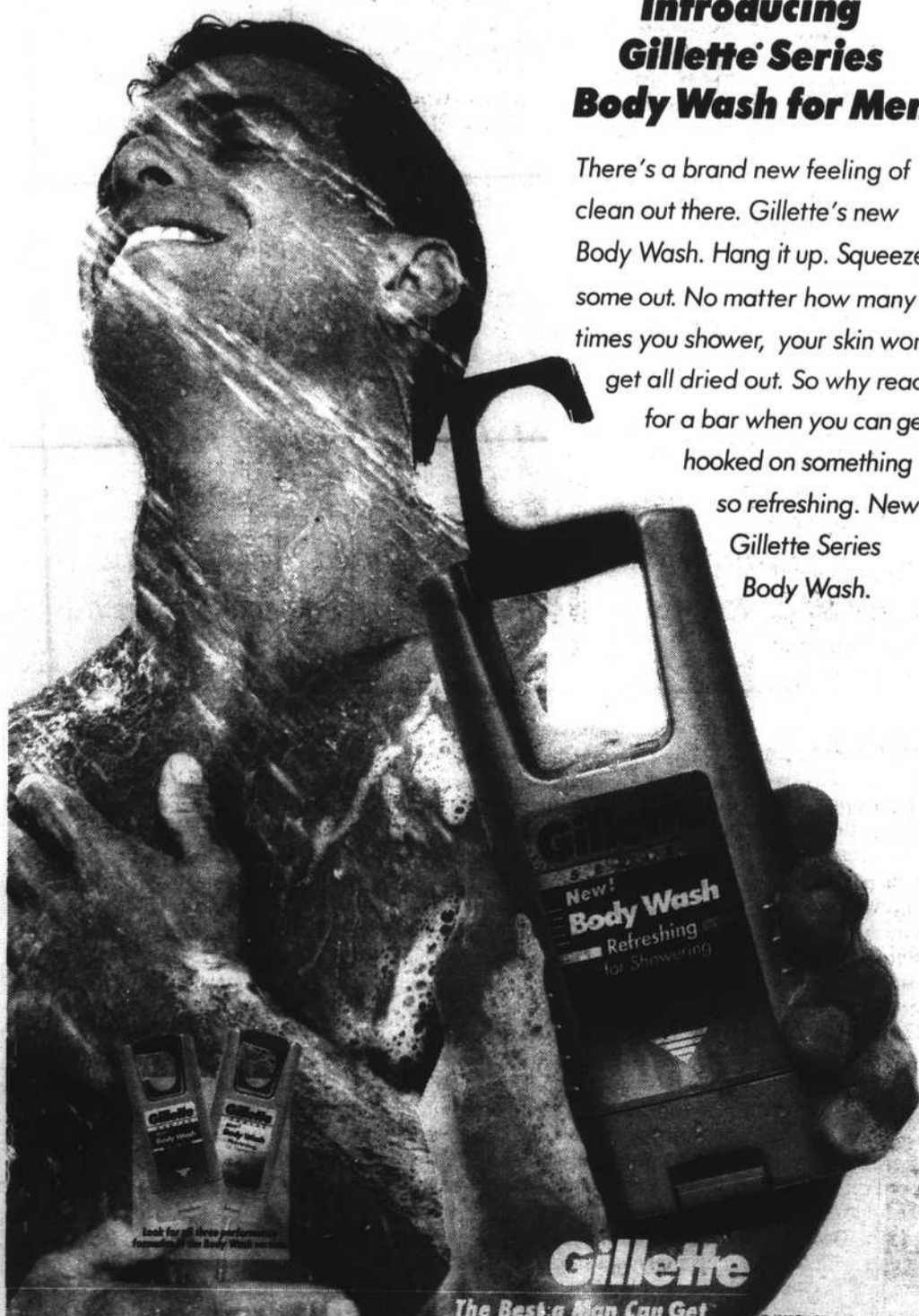
Seaburg said the Omaha location allows the disciplines a wealth of opportunities to collaborate with businesses.

"Omaha is really the home of major construction companies and design firms," he said. "It's the environment in which an extremely strong construction program can be developed."

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