

Towne Club gives sorority experience outside Greeks

■ UNL student group carries on traditions of Greek life outside the traditional system.

BY JOHN GASKINS
Staff writer

Call it the non-Greek sorority, the anti-sorority sorority, or the "alternative" sorority.

Whatever you call it, UNL's Towne Club, said President Sarah Anderson, is a sorority, a group of women, that gives its members the experiences Greek sororities provide without being an official Greek organization.

"We do all the things the Greek sororities do - philanthropies, social events, rush, all that fun stuff," Anderson said. "But we're here for girls who don't want to become involved in Greek sororities based on the negative things they might hear or know about them. Yes, it's an alternative to sororities."

The Towne Club does not have a chapter house, but does hold regular meetings at the Nebraska Union, Anderson said. It is not part of a national organization, but has been a

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SARAH ANDERSON
Towne Club president

club at the University of Nebraska since its establishment in 1938 by two women who wanted to give female college students more to do.

"Back then there wasn't a whole lot for women to do in college," Anderson said. "Our founding sisters just wanted to start something new for girls who were looking for more friends and activities, and we still do that today."

Anderson said Towne Club's contingency currently consists of 20 members.

"And we think that's a good size because in a group of 20, you have plenty of friends, but you also get to know them a lot faster and a lot better. It gets you excited about doing things."

Some of the things that Towne Club does includes social events with other fraternities, sororities, and campus groups, such as date dances and other group get-togethers. She said they usually do an official event two to three times a month.

They also, like many Greek organizations, give back to the community through charitable events and philanthropies that raise money for the Arthritis Foundation and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program. In fact, Anderson said that the members are heavily involved in being mentors for the boys and girls in that program.

Anderson said that the expense of being a member of Towne Club and

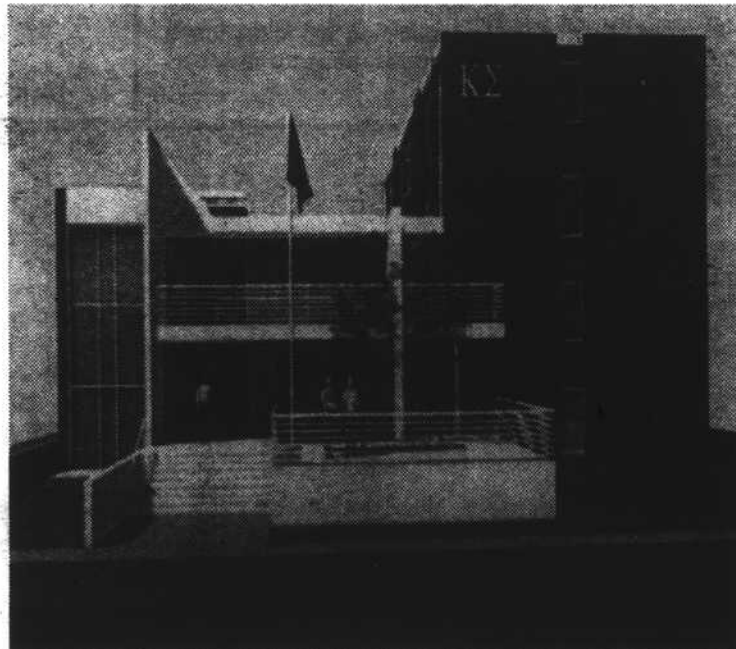
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