

Student interns see political parties firsthand



Rik Hafer

By Mark Hoffman

Two UNL students are gaining work experience and a firsthand view of the day-to-day functioning of political parties through a UNL internship program.

Rik Hafer works with the Nebraska Republican Party and Keith Scarborough works with the Nebraska Democratic Party, according to Robert Sittig, associate professor of political science.

The aim of the program is to introduce students to the day-to-day work of political parties, Sittig said. Sittig is in charge of the program and is responsible for the selection of students for the internship.

He said he selects two students for the semester-long program on the basis of their interest in and previous experience with political parties, and background obtained through political science classes.

These students work about eight hours a week at party headquarters in Lincoln. They receive three hours credit and are paid a \$200 salary by the party for the semester, he said.

Work consists of several everyday jobs such as sending news releases, doing research,

working on projects and learning the routine functions of a political party, according to Scarborough and Hafer.

Scarborough said working within a party organization has given him more political insight.

According to Hafer, classes and books only give the "framework of a political arena."

Working within the party has allowed him to view the many preparations, duties and the vastness of a political organization, he said.

Besides the routine duties of the two, both are working on special projects.

Hafer said he was working on research for the State Commission on Aging and campaign finance projects.

Scarborough said he was doing an individual project on Democratic voter turnout in Nebraska at the last two general elections and primaries.

The two have done excellent work on the projects and with other duties, according to Nebraska Democratic Party Chairman Hess Dyas and Republican Party Executive Director Glen Wilson.



Keith Scarborough

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HERMAN: Sure, remember John and his flashy chiffon outfit?

ELOISE: Oh, Herman, you DIP — it wasn't chiffon, it was lavender. It wasn't crazy Richard's party, it was Mike Murphy's. Honestly, you're impossible. Besides, where would you get a costume any better than the one you're wearing?

HERMAN: That did it! Look, you're walkin' Feminine Funny Farm. You're always on my back. Just for that, you're not going! (watch it Herm, you're cruisin' for a bruise!)

ELOISE: We'll see Herman Aorwitz; I don't need you to tell me what I can and can't do! I! You heh "-----".

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