



Assistant Professor of English David Hibler

UNL English professor running in 'un-campaign' for county post

By Scott Svoboda

If plans work out for David Hibler, assistant professor of English at UNL, students may be calling him "commissioner" instead of "professor" next fall.

Hibler, who filed for the Lancaster County Board as a Democratic candidate from the Third District, said his main reason for running is to promote city-county merger.

"I'm not a politician and I'm not a lawyer, and with due respect for both, I think that politicians and lawyers are generally wedded to the interpretations of law, that is, to examine the way things are," Hibler said.

"I'd like to talk about the way things might be, and I'd like to do it in a nononsense, common sense, horse sense fashion.

"I've been told that that kind of approach to politics is revolutionary. I can't believe it. At least, I hope it's not so," he said.

Citing examples of successful combined city-county governments around the country, Hibler said he envisions a total merger of city-county government in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Hibler said that, if elected, he would set up a joint board to control all city and county services. The board would be set up on a one man, one vote principle to assure equal representation of city and county residents in choosing district representatives.

"Merging city-county governments will both eliminate duplicated services, thereby conserving tax dollars and allowing the city and county to provide new services which may be lacking," he said.

Those new services might include the

elimination of the office of county commissioner and City Council positions. Hibler contended the major obstacle to consolidation efforts in the past "has been those who have a vested interest in the office (which might be abolished or consolidated)."

"If this (merger) means I eventually legislate myself out of a job, I think that's just fine," he said.

To add sincerity to his "un-campaign," Hibler said that, if elected, he would put an increasing percentage of the commissioner's \$10,000 annual salary into a fund to implement city-county consolidation. His present plans call for a salary cut of \$5,000 by the fourth and final year of his term.

Hibler said a second issue concerning him is the continued preservation of Wilderness Park west of Lincoln.

Present plans call for the West Lincoln Bypass (U.S. Highway 77) both to intersect the park and to run directly adjacent to it for a number of miles.

The Department of Roads plans to exchange lands with the city and county to build the proposed bypass.

"I feel the construction of this road will thoroughly destroy the nature of the park," he said. "I would do everything in office to keep the county from cooperating with the State Roads Dept. in this venture."

The highway, according to Hibler, could be built three miles west of the park.

He will face H. Bruce Hamilton, 31, of Lincoln and Henry Gerdes, 71, in the Democratic primary election May 14.

Summer reading courses offered

Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer tend to become boring, hot and monotonous by mid-July. For a weary vacationer, a summer reading course may be the necessary prescription to relieve summer doldrums.

Registration for 1974 summer reading courses will begin April 22 at Nebraska Hall E11.

The Extension Division will offer 29 reading courses in architecture, art, classics, economics, English, home economics, history, journalism, horticulture, physics, psychology, sociology and pharmacodynamics and toxicology.

Edor Ellingson, coordinator of evening classes for the Extension Division, advises students to attend April meetings to learn class requirements.

He said requirements are set by individual teachers. Each instructor decides when students will take exams or how many books they will read.

Attending those meetings is the only way a student can find out his obligations, he said. The dates for the meetings are listed in the summer reading course schedule.

Ellingson added that students must have written approval from their adviser or dean when registering. No more than two summer reading courses may be taken in one semester, he said.

Tuition for these courses are \$18 per credit hour for Nebraska residents and \$48.25 for nonresidents, Ellingson said. No additional fees are collected.

Ellingson said an English summer reading course was first offered in 1967 by Robert Hough, professor of English, through regular registration procedures.

The next year the Extension Division took responsibility for these classes, offering two courses.

He said 1971 was the most popular year for the summer courses. The Extension Division offered 49 courses and 866 students registered, Ellingson said. However, not all of these 866 finished their course, he said.

"Sometimes students go home and find their working hours are too long so they withdraw from the class," he explained.

Since 1971 the number of summer reading courses has decreased, both in student registration and course offerings.

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