

# third dimension

## Over forty and back in college - two versions

By Randy Blauvelt

Bob Overstreet and David Huffman are both UNL students. They might blend in with the thousands of other students; except they are both over 40 and have unique reasons for going to school.

Here are their stories:

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Bob Overstreet is 42. He already has a B.A. in foreign missions from the Kansas City Bible College in Kansas City, Mo. He has studied missionary medicine in Los Angeles, linguistics at the Wycliffe School of Linguistics in Norman, Okla. and French at The Commercial School in Nauchatel, Switzerland. He has been pastor of a Lincoln church and has been a missionary in Bamako, Mali for 12 of the last 16 years.

Now, he is working for a B.A. degree in journalism at UNL.

Overstreet is back in school because he wants to help the people of Mali develop their literature in their own Bambara language. He thinks journalism will help.

To work on newspaper

"When I go back to Mali, I'd like to work on some kind of a newspaper," he said. "A newspaper for the people who are learning to read the Bambara language."

Because motivation to learn isn't high in Bamako, Overstreet said a newspaper might act as incentive to create "African authors."

"To get them to read and write they need incentive. So we want to have a newspaper first and then get them to contribute articles," he said.

I want to know how to handle written matter and be able to tell others how to handle things they write," he added, admitting it would be "tough" doing it in their language.

Although he has a long history of education, Overstreet said he had a problem getting used to studying again.

"For almost 15 years I've used a foreign language," he said. "When you know a foreign language, you tend to think in that language. I've had to readjust to that."

He also mentioned that finding time to study was a problem, but he didn't have trouble relating with younger students or his professors.

Because he is on leave of absence from his sponsor group, the Gospel Missionary Union of Kansas City, Mo., Overstreet is paying for his own education. Like many



Photos by Randy Blauvelt

### Bob Overstreet and David Huffman explain their reasons for returning to UNL

students, he finds his financial situation tight.

"I have a part-time job at the Back to the Bible broadcast and my wife does some work," Overstreet said. "But we're still on a very low salary level."

"I'm not with my family much," he said. "I see them on Tuesdays and Thursdays for about 25 minutes. Over the weekend, I see them, but I still have to keep plugging with my studies."

Overstreet who carries 13 hours, entered UNL as a junior. He was allowed to transfer 80 credit hours from the Kansas City Bible College toward his B.A. in Journalism. He plans to graduate in May, 1977.

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At age 45, David Huffman says he is tired of bureaucracy, red-tape and governmental meddling. For that

reason, he plans on getting a college education and earning a law degree.

"In seven or eight years, you'll need a lawyer to scratch your ass, so I'd just as well be the one," he said. "Then, when I feel like scratching it, I can."

Huffman, who raises cattle on 1,300 acres of land around Denton, Neb., said he decided to go to school after an Otoe County Court found him guilty of not eradicating noxious weeds.

"The judge found me guilty of having noxious weeds on my land when the same weeds were growing under the courthouse window," he said. "Nobody is going to tell me what to do on my land."

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