

Whelan bike caravan emphasizes energy conservation

By L. Kent Wolgamott

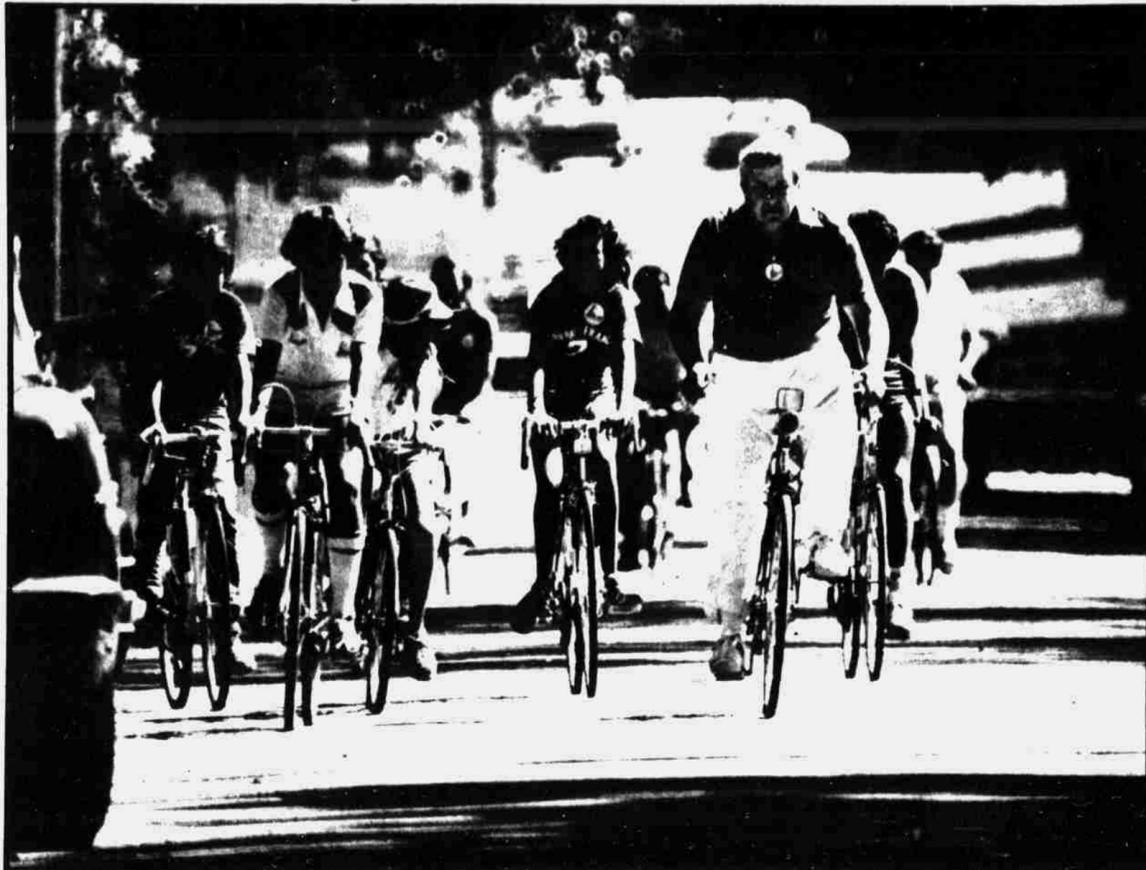


Photo by Bob Pearson

Lt. Gov. Gerald Whelan leads bicyclists around Lincoln to promote energy-free transportation.

Having fun as well as making a point about energy conservation was the intent last Saturday when gubernatorial candidate Lt. Gov. Gerald Whelan led a caravan of bikers around Lincoln.

Whelan said the ride did not have the same purpose as the long distance travels of two other Nebraska candidates.

"This isn't like Don Shasteen or Hess Dyas' walk, its a little Lincoln promotion," he said.

"We had a lot of fun and we had a lot of visitors, it was really a social event."

Whelan said he also made the ride to emphasize the need to conserve gasoline and other petroleum products.

"We have to reduce consumption of petroleum products. We talk a lot about changing lifestyles but one has."

Whelan said he would provide incentives for bicyclists by providing free locker service for them at the State Office Building while charging other locker users who do not bicycle to work.

"Lincoln is a relatively level city and there is no reason we can't have a good percentage of state and university staff and students riding bicycles," he said.

He said this concept could be expanded and used by private industry and could help ease the parking problem in downtown Lincoln and at UNL.

"You never have enough parking and the more you build the more you need, its like a drug addiction. What you have to do is stop expanding parking."

French in minutes

The UNL Department of Modern Languages has been selected for funding by the Exxon Foundation of a special program for teaching French using the Dartmouth Intensive Language Model.

The program will be under the direction of Nicole Smith, professor of modern languages, who last spring participated in a workshop at Dartmouth University under a fellowship awarded by the Exxon Foundation.

The Dartmouth Model for teaching languages is a combination of "total immersion" techniques used in language schools such as Berlitz together with solid training in the structural underpinnings of the language taught. Generally, students start talking in the language within minutes after the first class beings.

She said the program will be limited to 30 students willing to participate in what will actually cover two semesters of French in one semester. The program will include a daily master class taught by Smith, followed by one hour of small group training under the direction of undergraduate students proficient in the French language. The undergraduates will be chosen this fall and will receive special training in the Dartmouth Model. The program will be offered second semester.

Smith said that the Dartmouth Model will be adapted to other languages taught at UNL, and it is hoped that similar programs in German and Spanish will be offered to at least one section of beginning students in each language starting in the fall of 1979-80.

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