

Legislator puts Unicameral ahead of guitar playing

By Mary Jane Winquest

Even Dave Landis can't explain how his musical and political interests mix, but they do. As the new 46th District state senator prepares for his first legislative session, he continues to sing locally and work as a Saturday morning disc jockey at KFMQ.

But Landis says that once the legislative session begins, some of his activities may be discontinued.

"They have to be put in a sense of priority. I have one priority, the Legislature," Landis explained.

But Landis isn't limited to musical and political interests. He and his wife Melodee are presidents-elect of the Havelock PTA and Landis has just completed 21 of 33 episodes in an educational TV program on literature for 6th graders.

Dr. Watson

In each of the 15-minute episodes Landis plays Dr.

Watson who naturally is joined by super sleuth Shirley Holmes and the infamous Moriarty in this educational TV detective triangle.

Landis gave an example of this method when in one episode Moriarty steals two books from the library and the detective duo must examine the books' content in detail in search of clues.

With all of his interests, Landis couldn't pinpoint anything that was particularly unusual about being a state senator with a strong background in the arts.

"The choices I make seem immiently rational," he said. "So I don't know what the world perceives as different."

A softball team for guys 5-foot-nine or less, in which Landis played second base and roving outfielder (last summer), might seem a bit unusual to some. Formed after Randy Newman's song "Short People", the players call their team, "No Reason to Live."

Short winners

"We wound up winning our last nine games," Landis said.

The UNL political science, history and law graduate has been singing, accompanied by his guitar, on local campuses and night spots for the past several years, but Landis said he would like to play more.

"The ideal kind of audience is a participatory listenership where the intensity of the listening alters and shapes the music," Landis said.

This intensity is something the performer can't shape, it is an attitude the audience brings with them.

"I make an effort to sing well, communicate with these people," Landis said.

Landis said he wasn't sure how many of the same people make an effort to faithfully come and hear him sing.

Music and politics

But right now Landis is preoccupied with his legislative goals. He noted three areas in which he wanted his office and staff to demonstrate accomplishment.

Accessibility, ability and inclination to work on local problems in the 46th District, and to be personally well-informed on issues were all outlined as goals by Landis.

"I want to be able after four years to say this is the kind of senator I have been," Landis explained.

Even though Landis placed his legislative duties as top priority, he declared that he would like to perform more. He just completed a weekend date at O.G. Kellys.

Landis said he performed sporadically because there were a limited number of places to perform in Lincoln. "I don't scout around for private parties or weddings," Landis said.

He added that he did not have an agent to locate work for him.

"This is still a place where a musician can line up some work," Landis commented.

Throughout his mixture of music and politics, Landis still proclaims, "I would like to be singing."

Nobels topic of telecast

Eleven 1978 Nobel Prize winners will be featured in a 90-minute program airing this evening at 6:30 on the Nebraska Educational Television Network.


"Nobel Prize Awards" which will be telecast three days after the Nobel Prize ceremonies in Sweden, will feature documentary portraits of Wener Arber, Daniel Nathans and Hamilton Smith (physiology); Peter Mitchell (chemistry); Arno Penzias, Robert Wilson, and Pyotr Leonidovich Kapitsa (physics); Herbert Simon (economics); Isaac Bashevis Singer (literature); and Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat (peace).

Segments from the awards ceremony will be included. Camera crews journeyed to Baltimore, Pittsburgh, New York City, Basel, Switzerland; Cornwall, England; Israel, Egypt and Moscow to film the Nobel laureates.

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