

Landis

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Retention of vitality and interest is one of Landis' long range goals.

"It is easy to have your energy level drop off. Disillusionment is a common malady of political figures," Landis said.

One of the most vital groups in the last legislative session were the freshman senators, Wesely said. The freshmen senators work closer together than most senators because they have common concerns. The freshman senators have been acclaimed as the best ever, Wesely said.

"DAVE, MYSELF, and Chris Beutler are close, having worked together a lot," Wesely said. Other freshman senators include Tom Vickers, Peter Hoagland and Vard Johnson and we are all close," he added.

The freshman senators have a great deal of camaraderie, Wesely said, and Landis is an integral part of this.

"Dave has the potential for being one of the most intelligent, articulate members of the Legislature. He understands complex problems quickly," Wesely said.

Aside from being an articulate speaker, Landis is known to be a considerate listener. Beutler said Landis is articulate in public speaking and doesn't abuse that ability.

"Dave listens. A lot of people talk about listening, but never really do it." He has strong opinions, Beutler said, but considers new arguments and adjusts if need be.

"Dave's election has been good for the state," Beutler said. His election shows that

a person in the arts, as Dave is, can be practical and intellectual.

"Dave is an entertainer as well as a lawyer," he said.

Wesely said he knew of Landis before the campaign through his music. Landis signs and plays the guitar regularly at Lincoln restaurants like Boar's Head and Reuben's.

WHEN LANDIS first came to the Legislature, Wesely said, he had a problem with his image.

"It was a problem of style, not substance," he said.

People knew Landis as a singer, but he compensated for that by being low-key and working hard, Wesely said.

Barker said music is one of the main concerns of Landis' life. He was entertaining and was able to incorporate these entertaining qualities into his way of relating to people during the campaign, Baker said. Landis' interest in music is apparent by his sizeable record collection in his home, ranging from jazz to Blue Grass and rock 'n' roll. The collection is stacked on shelves throughout the dining room and an adjoining porch.

Landis said he is in the process of categorizing his library-like assortment, which accounted for the long gray steel bookcase under construction on the living room floor.

"I never learn a song whose lyrics I like but whose melody I don't like," he said. "The essential aspect of a song is its music as opposed to its lyric value," Landis said

as he played a Billy Joel tune on the piano and tapped one bare foot to its rhythm.

"I CARE about melodies first, lyrics secondly and harmonics thirdly."

As a disc jockey at KFMQ, Landis said he also appreciates classical music for its visual quality. He said the movement and note variance make him see the music.

Landis puts the same enthusiasm into his musical life as he does with his political interests. KFMQ announcer Barker said, "He's always very up. When you go on the air after Dave's been on you don't want to sound draggy or drippy."

Landis' time at KFMQ is limited because he is busy, Barker said. Landis just finished the month of August entertaining

at Reuben's.

"David has a good following on radio and guitar. He's popular when he entertains."

A state senator who doubles as a family man is pretty hard to come by, according to Wesely. Many parties and receptions are held between legislative sessions, Wesely said, but Landis' priority is to spend time with his family.

Being a state senator is a career goal of his, Landis said.

"The state legislature has sweeping effects. It's the most attractive process." For that reason, Landis said, he doesn't have any desire to progress to Washington. As a state senator, Landis has achieved another goal.

State Sen. Dave Landis



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