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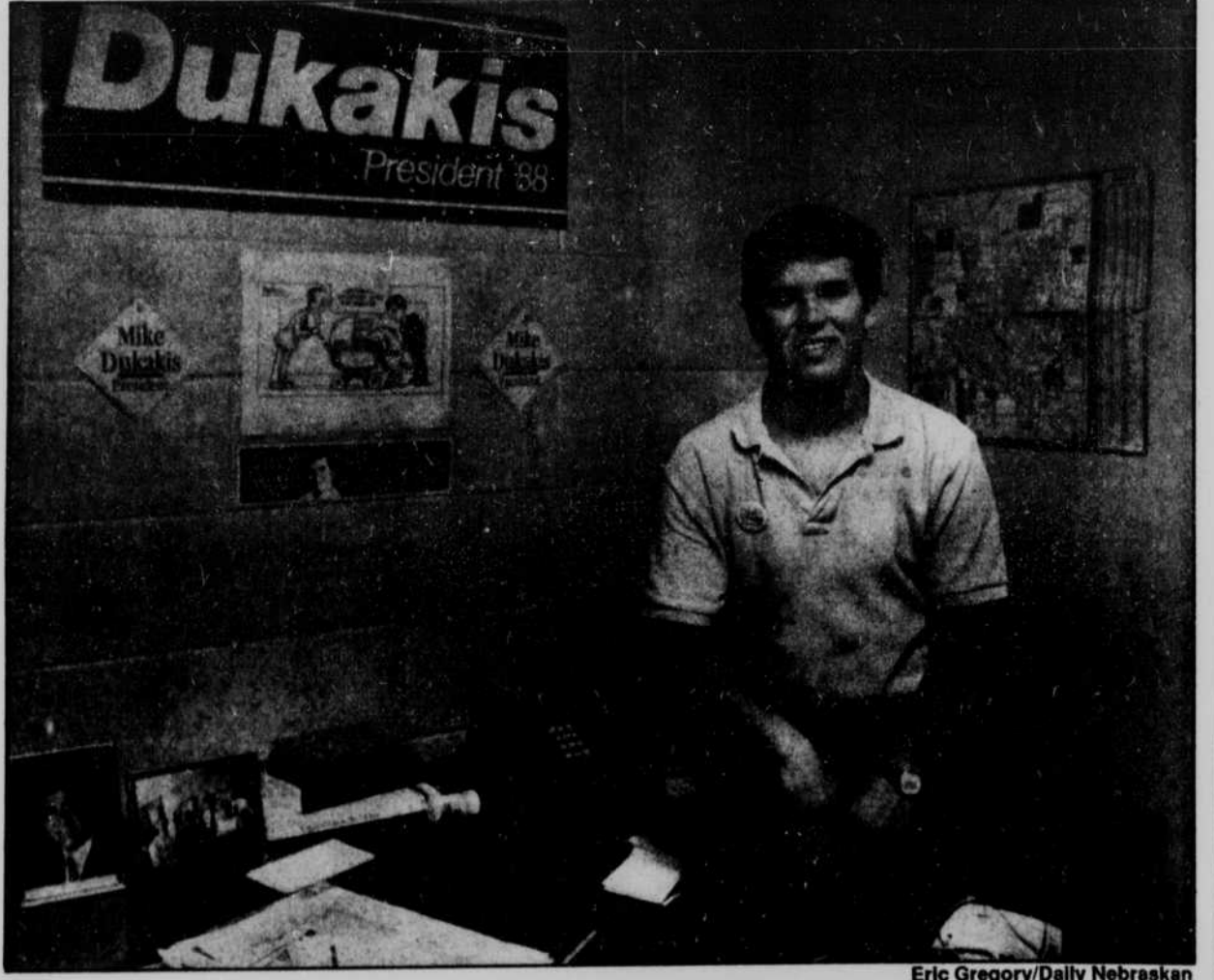
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Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Brian Svoboda sits in his office at the Labor Temple, 4625 Y St.

Politics is learning values
Svoboda joins Democratic effort

By David Holloway
 Staff Reporter

For Brian Svoboda, the political system is like a hot dog. "You have to understand the system through experience to see how it works," Svoboda said. "It reminds me of the saying, 'everybody likes hot dogs until they see how they are made.'"

Svoboda, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln senior, is taking a semester off from school to run the 1st Congressional District for the democratic party in Nebraska. Svoboda is a political science and Russian major.

The National Democratic and the Michael Dukakis campaigns appointed Svoboda to run the district, which includes eastern Nebraska.

As the head of the district, Svoboda organizes events to attract people to the Dukakis campaign. He arranges events for the Nebraska State Fair. He also directs volunteers in giving away "Dukakis for President" stickers at Memorial Stadium during football season.

Svoboda said he tries to make his candidate as visible as possible. Because he's in charge of the entire district, he promotes the democratic ticket as a whole, not just Dukakis.

The first time Svoboda became involved in campaign work was when he volunteered for the democratic campaign in Iowa from May 1987 to February 1988.

While working in Iowa as a volunteer he helped the field coordinator set up meetings for Dukakis and run some campaign events.

"A political science professor asked me what I was planning on doing for the summer and suggested that I get involved with the Iowa campaign," Svoboda said.

Svoboda said he has met Dukakis and his family on several occasions.

He describes Dukakis as a "very personable guy who is concerned with his family and the people who work for him." Svoboda said he supports Dukakis because he can relate to his values, not just because he is a Democrat.

One meeting Svoboda won't forget was with Kitty Dukakis, the candidate's wife. She lectured Svoboda for skipping classes while he was working on the campaign in Iowa.

The highlight of Svoboda's work with the campaign was at the Democratic National Convention last July in Atlanta, where Dukakis was nominated for president.

Svoboda attended as a delegate

page. He was appointed by the state democratic chairman to be one of two pages from Nebraska. Svoboda said two pages from each state and more from larger states attended the convention. Most of the pages were college students, he said.

'It's the idea of public service. While I was growing up, my parents exposed me to people like Robert Kennedy, who stressed that individuals can make a difference.'

—Svoboda

"It was an interesting experience," he said. "I got to see the system function on an entirely different level."

It's experiences like the convention that keep Svoboda interested in politics. In the future, he hopes to go into some kind of public service. Politics is an outgrowth of that idea. "It's really hard to say when I got interested in politics," Svoboda said. "I can remember when I was little helping my mom pass out 'Boosalis for Mayor' fliers — it's something I have always been interested in."

Svoboda said when he was in junior high and high school, he was always trying to get involved with student government and other organizations. Although he was not politically involved during his days at Lincoln Northeast High School, Svoboda said he kept up on the issues and was always prepared for a good argument.

While in college, he has worked with the Helen Boosalis for governor campaign, served as a senator in the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and has been a member of UNL's Young Democrats.

"It's the idea of public service," Svoboda said. "While I was growing up, my parents exposed me to people like Robert Kennedy who stressed that individuals can make a difference."

Svoboda said he is involved in the

world of politics because of the direct benefit it has on people's lives.

"I believe very strongly that people should stand up for what they believe in for their rights and their government," he said.

Working on different campaigns has taught Svoboda how to deal with people.

"The most important thing I have learned is to treat people how I would want to be treated," he said. "Especially in politics where the game is based on trying to advance yourself."

Svoboda said if he were to run for some public office later on in life, he would "talk straight to people."

"The one common-sense lesson I have learned through working with campaigns is to do what you say you're going to do," Svoboda said. "This is the one value I would try to emulate most importantly if I were to run for office."

Svoboda said a good politician has to set values to succeed in politics.

"I think this is kind of rare in politics on all levels," he said. "Politicians must maintain their values while dealing with the system."

Svoboda said he does not enjoy working with people who do not share the values he feels are necessary to have as a politician.

"I have had a number of experiences throughout all different levels of politics," he said. "It happens in all levels of politics, but you don't see it unless you are very involved."

Being a good politician is not so much the understanding of the system, but it is the learning of values, he said.

Svoboda said that if he could change politics today, he would want to direct it less toward the media and more toward the grass-roots level.

"I like it when a presidential candidate has to campaign with the same intensity as a county commissioner would," he said. "It makes it less dependent on slogans like 'George was there' and more of the character of the individual."

Working on campaigns has made Svoboda more determined to stand up for what he believes in.

Svoboda said he has a lot to do for the campaign, but still has a lot to learn. He said that after the November elections, he plans to go back to school, get his degree and go to graduate school.

"Win or lose, I still believe people should stand up for what they believe in," he said. "There will be more campaigns in 1990 and 1992, and I will probably be there, but for now I just want my degree."