

Dana College didn't even have any political scientists, he said. But Hibbing continued with his education there and began student teaching.

After student teaching, Hibbing said he decided he didn't want to be a high school teacher. Although he admires high school teachers, especially since his wife is one, he said he couldn't handle that job.

Being a high school teacher is tough, Hibbing said, because they get students when they are still so impressionable, and the teacher must spend a lot of time on discipline.

Hibbing said he wanted to concentrate more on substance, so he went to graduate school at the University of Iowa.

He said his classmates in Iowa were good examples to him.

"We got each other excited about different aspects of political science," he said.

Having good colleagues is essential in research, Hibbing said, and that is one reason why he loves his job at UNL.

Working with people who are interested in political science helps stimulate ideas,

Hibbing said.

Political science professor Brian Humes is one of those colleagues.

Humes had nothing but praise for Hibbing's dedicated research.

Hibbing was successful at his research, Humes said, because Hibbing was careful and he "saw to the heart of the situation."

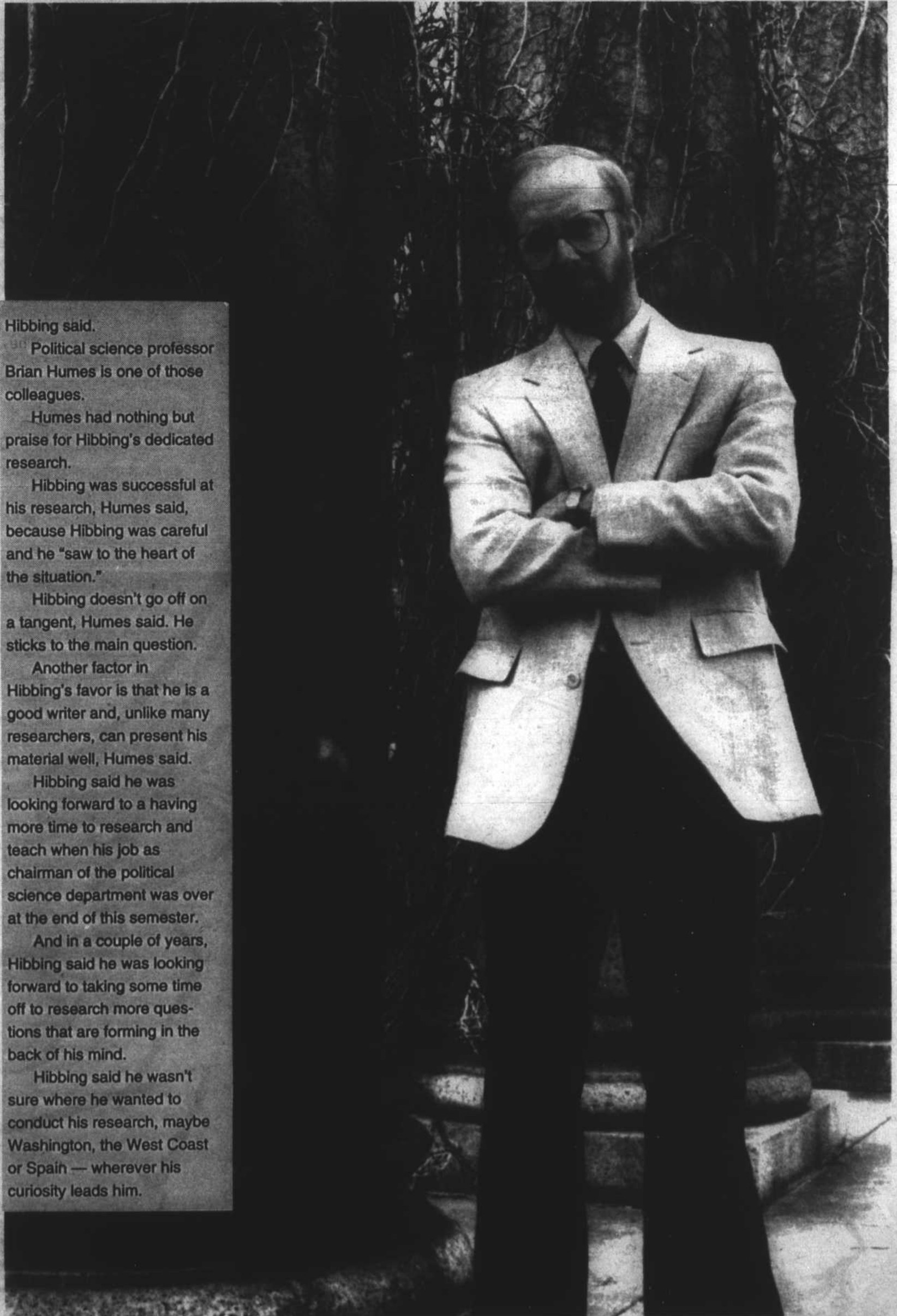
Hibbing doesn't go off on a tangent, Humes said. He sticks to the main question.

Another factor in Hibbing's favor is that he is a good writer and, unlike many researchers, can present his material well, Humes said.

Hibbing said he was looking forward to a having more time to research and teach when his job as chairman of the political science department was over at the end of this semester.

And in a couple of years, Hibbing said he was looking forward to taking some time off to research more questions that are forming in the back of his mind.

Hibbing said he wasn't sure where he wanted to conduct his research, maybe Washington, the West Coast or Spain — wherever his curiosity leads him.



Political science professor John Hibbing won the 1993 Outstanding Research and Creativity Award.

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