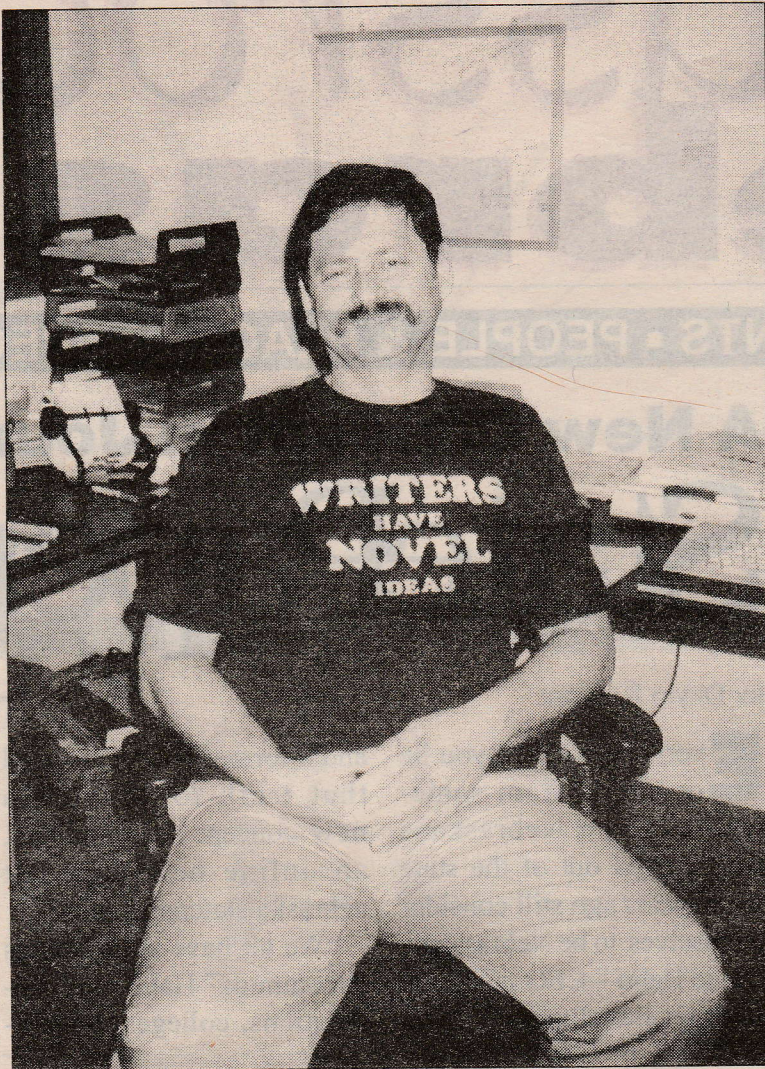


David Kubicek: A Novel Goal



David Kubicek in his study ■ Photo by Diane Walkowiak.

BY DIANE WALKOWIAK

Want to watch a novel in the making? Look for a dark-haired, middle-aged man with a drooping mustache, walking near Tanker Hill in northwest Lincoln before the sun has begun its daily trek across the sky. Oblivious to the air traffic overhead, seemingly unaware of his wakening neighborhood, he'll be deep in thought. He may appear to be walking alone, but the characters in his developing novel accompany him, perhaps pursue him, as he wrestles with a

story segment. This is how writer David Kubicek gets past writer's block, warms up to his story, decides his next move: walking in the freshness of a new day.

"I believe in scheduled writing; the trouble is, it doesn't happen all that often," Kubicek confessed. "I write whenever I can find blocks of time. If I don't write for a week, then I've got to warm up. If I'm having a problem, I'll take a long walk and think things out, particularly in the early morning."

With one novel half completed, another just started, and a couple collecting dust in the closet, Kubicek would have plenty to occupy his thoughts. But that's not all he's working on these days. He writes full time for a living, providing material for *Grassroots Nebraska* and twenty or more articles a month for the *Midlands Business Journal* and *Lincoln Business Journal*. There's also a screenplay in progress.

His wife Cheryl is attending school, making him the sole financial provider for their family, which includes four-year-old son Sean. "That has kept me on my toes," said Kubicek. "If we had two paychecks coming in, I probably wouldn't be as concerned about letting a couple of articles go. I've taught myself to write quickly and to warm up quickly. I try to stay focused, but sometimes I jump from one thing to another because the thing I'm working on needs a little bit more thinking about." That's when those morning walks come in handy.

Although he started writing at an early age, Kubicek didn't take it seriously until his senior year at Lincoln's Northeast High School. He graduated from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln with a bachelor's in English and sold his first article in 1977. His first piece of fiction, a story he penned in 1976, was finally published in 1983. He also had articles published in