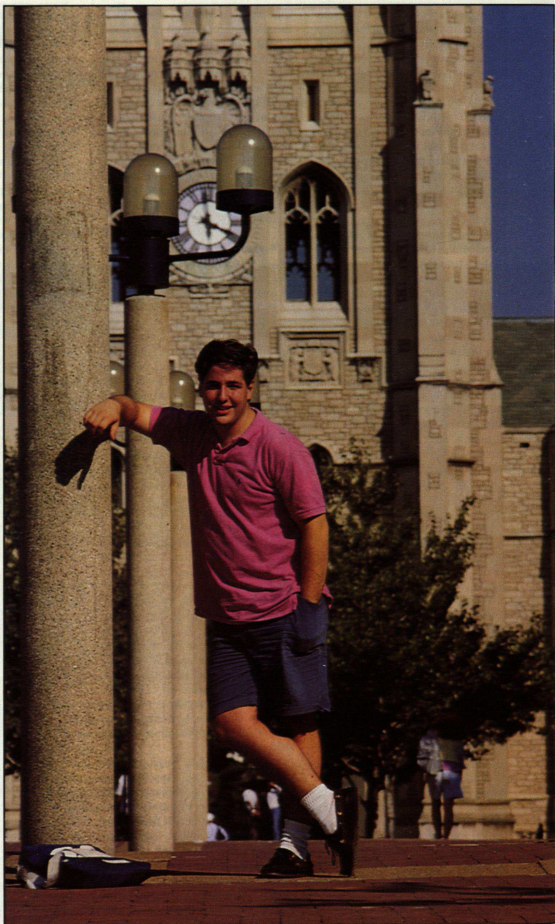


Time for MU

By KAREN WORLEY

**“This Campus
is the best
university
in the state
and it’s time
people started
saying it.”**

**— A.J. Schnack,
president
of the Missouri
Students
Association.**



Carrie Francke would be proud. Current Missouri Students Association President A.J. Schnack is carrying on the leadership tradition that the late Francke began as MSA president in 1975 and continued as a member of the Board of Curators before an automobile accident in May 1989 claimed her life.

Schnack credits much of students having a voice today to the groundwork she laid. In January 1990, Schnack will present the first MSA-sponsored Carrie Francke Award for Outstanding Student Leadership.

Schnack, a 21-year-old native of Edwardsville, Ill., came to Mizzou to

study broadcast journalism because of the school's national reputation.

He's maintained a 3.4 grade point average while working his way through college with financial help from his mother, Lorraine Schnack, a fourth-grade teacher. His father, the late Aldo Emil Schnack, was a principal of a Lutheran grade school for 40 years. He led the drive for the Illinois state accreditation of parochial schools and in the late '60s helped establish the Edwardsville campus, an urban commuter campus, as part of Southern Illinois University.

Living and breathing educational

issues come naturally to Schnack. "This Campus is the best university in the state and it's time people started saying it," he says. Any, including members of the Board of Curators, who would diminish MU's stature as Missouri's most complete university infuriates Schnack. "Students are upset that their diploma is being devalued," he says. "Alumni, faculty, staff and administrators should be mad as hell."

Schnack and Vice President Jody Clark support using the slogan, "There's only one MU" on MSA promotional material during the 1989-90 school year, including T-shirts



President A.J. Schnack confers with Mary Anne McCollum, AB '72, BS Ed '76, student services coordinator, during an MSA meeting. McCollum also is mayor of Columbia. At the September Board of Curators meeting, Schnack welcomes Andy Runge, JD '87, an attorney from Mexico, Mo., to the board. Runge represents the Ninth Congressional District, including Columbia.



President's views

Race relations

"Attention to minority issues has quadrupled over the past year and a half." Although Schnack's campaign emphasized integration of blacks in MSA programming, he doesn't take credit for increased minority coverage in the student newspaper, *The Maneater*, where he was a columnist for a year before taking office in January 1989. "Credit goes to the Legion of Black Collegians. LBC put the issue to the forefront. Because they did that, I and others have had to respond."

Early in his term, Schnack met with the local chapter of the NAACP and offered an open door to blacks who would get involved in MSA. Schnack and Vice President Jody Clark support MSA legislation that would increase funding for LBC by increasing every student's fees by \$1, netting \$50,000 a year. The action pends student approval on a November ballot and curator approval in January.

"We will never have done enough until a black student can come to this Campus and feel comfortable." He supports making Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday an official University holiday with plans to use the third Monday in January as a kick-off for Civil Rights Week.

Campus rape

"We haven't done enough to address issues of safety." After a college coed reported she was raped outside her residence hall on her way home from Bid Day Bash, a Greek celebration of the end of rush, Schnack called for more emergency phones on Campus. "But how many rapes happen near an emergency phone?" In a *Maneater* column a year ago on date rape, he wrote, "It's really great that girls have learned not to trust guys because of you [guys] who can't deal with the word 'no.' Our job is to go to the men on Campus and educate them about the atrocities of rape."

and buttons. T-shirts cost \$12 and buttons, \$3, with profits going to the MU Political Action Committee (MU-PAC). Schnack will sell you one by writing him at A022 Brady Commons, Columbia, Mo. 65211.

The action disregards the wishes of University of Missouri System administration who discouraged the Columbia Campus from using the slogan because of reaction from two curators in June. The lower right corner of a recruitment brochure for the Honors College carries the slogan, "There's only one MU."

"Columbia has the audacity to say there is only one MU," remarked curator Fred Kummer of St. Louis, adding he thought the slogan worked against the board's goal of promoting the university as one institution on four campuses. From MU's perspective, the slogan positions the University of Missouri-Columbia with institutions of similar size, history and stature, and in no way was meant to denigrate the other campuses.

In January 1989, the curators had approved MU as a second reference to the University of Missouri-Columbia. Kummer didn't have a problem with the phrase, "There's only one UMC," the moniker assigned to the Campus after the University of Missouri became a system, with campuses in Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla and St. Louis, in 1963.

"They don't want this Campus to be singled out as on par with KU or CU," Schnack says. "The System's not a member of the Big Eight, just this Campus." MU also is the only public university in the state to be awarded the highest designation, Research Universities I, by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Schnack contends in the past decade, the University of Missouri System has supported egalitarianism among the campuses. "Instead of being glad we have one excellent, first-rate, comprehensive research institution and three smaller, specialized still excellent universities, they want to create four equal, mediocre institutions.

"We believe any action that devalues MU is an affront to all alumni, students, administrators, faculty and staff. To say the other three campuses are the same as the campus that ev-

eryone thinks of as the premier Campus is just blatantly wrong. The other campuses are good in their own right, but they aren't MU."

As long as System administrators hold this philosophy, Schnack thinks funding problems will plague MU. To prove his point, he points to the distribution of Weldon Spring research funds. Even though MU educates half of the system's students, grants 48 percent of all degrees, employs 53 percent of ranked faculty and makes 65 percent of research expenditures, it received only 30 percent of the \$1.13 million in funds available for 1989-90.

Under Schnack's leadership, MSA is working with the MU Alumni Association Student Board to raise awareness of the need for better support of higher education.

"If students, alumni and parents all push to make higher education an issue this coming term and tell legislators, 'I'm going to vote for someone who's going to allow me to decide whether I want a tax increase,' then we've got a chance to go to the people and sell higher education to them."

What's frustrating to Schnack is that "Even if we get a tax increase, with this mentality, we've got a System that won't give us the amount we deserve."


Dr. Gordon Kimber, chairman of MU's Faculty Council, applauds Schnack's candor. Schnack doesn't avoid controversy, but rather "deals with it honestly and straightforwardly," Kimber says.

Schnack thinks that not just the legislature, but all Missourians, need to understand the great need for better funding of higher education. The state ranks in the bottom five in per capita funding. "As long as Missourians stand quiet on this issue,

they'll get exactly what they deserve.

"We pay more money for the roads that we drive on to get to our classes than the classes themselves. To quote an oft-used phrase, 'Read our lips.' We want higher taxes; we need higher education."

To improve MU's financial situation, Schnack also supports increased student fees. "We care enough about ourselves, the people who come after us, this Campus and the state.

"Our students deserve a good education, a voice and a diploma that means something." 



A.J. Schnack enjoys time with his girlfriend, Elizabeth Gasal, a broadcast journalism senior from Mission Hills, Kan., in the Shelter Gardens. At KOMU-TV, sports anchor Schnack joins news anchor Bonita Billingsley, a graduate student from Silver Spring, Md., to deliver the noon news.

