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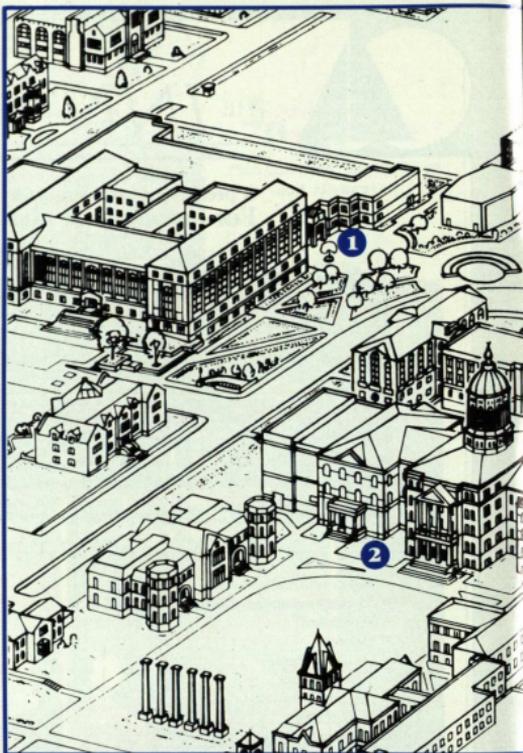
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THE COVER: "I can't imagine myself not being around children," says Laura Crain, 19, who reads to preschooler Sawyer Boehm. A junior, Crain is an early childhood and elementary education major and the daughter of Bob and Mary Crain of Holliday, Mo. "Maybe you can make a difference in a little person's life. The teacher's always going to remember that." The story begins on Page 8.

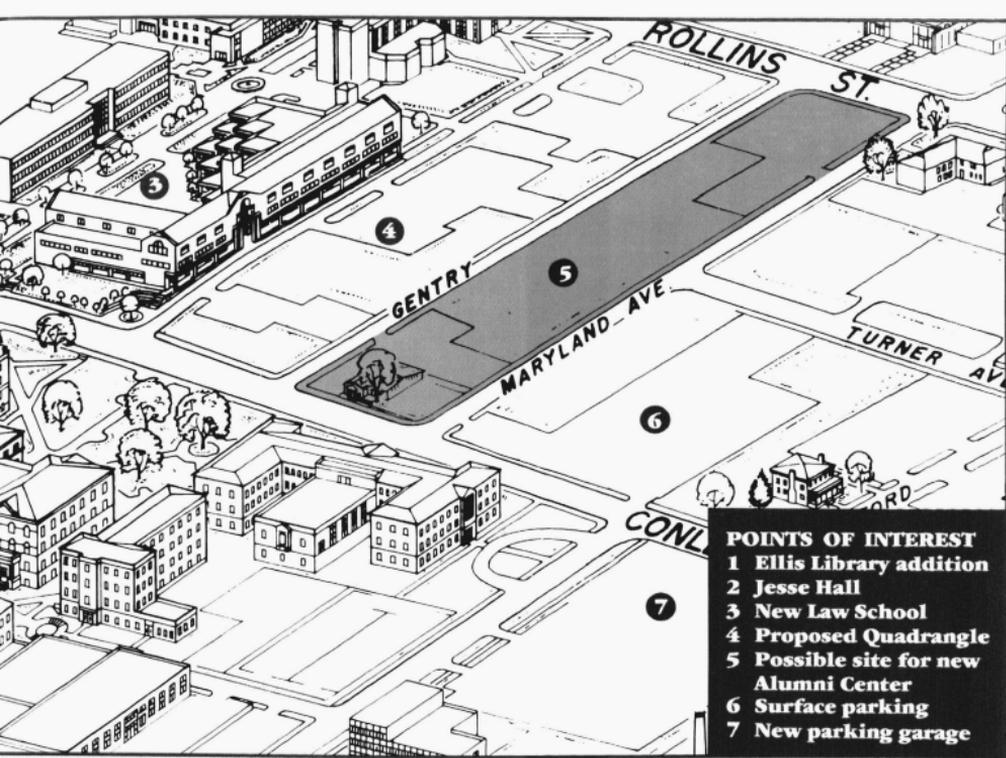
MARCH-APRIL 1987 VOLUME 75 NO. 4



The Missouri Alumnus is published five times a year - September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April and May-June - by the Alumni Association of the University of Missouri-Columbia, editorial offices, 1100 University Place, 1205 University Ave., Columbia, Mo. 65211. Steve Shinn, editor; Karen Worley, associate editor; Larry Boehm, photo editor; Sue Richardson, class notes editor. Designer, Paul Fisher, professor of journalism. Annual membership is \$20. Single copy price, \$3.00. Copyright©1987 by the Alumni Association of the University of Missouri-Columbia.



BACK TO CAMPUS



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Ellis Library addition
- 2 Jesse Hall
- 3 New Law School
- 4 Proposed Quadrangle
- 5 Possible site for new Alumni Center
- 6 Surface parking
- 7 New parking garage

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION—the three most important considerations in real estate.

Little wonder, then, that the Alumni Association's board of directors voted unanimously to work with Mizzou's administration toward building a new alumni center in the heart of the Campus. The action came at a special meeting Feb. 28 in Columbia's Ramada Inn. All the meeting space of the present Alumni Center already had been booked, graphically illustrating the point that the Association is outgrowing its Stadium Boulevard facility.

One of the first of its kind in the country, the existing center was built 10 years ago on land designated by the University next to the A.L. Gustin Jr. Golf Course, about a mile from the Campus core. More than 1,600 people contributed more than \$1 million, making the center Mizzou's only building constructed entirely with gift money.

The setting was beautiful, and the facility prospered. In the 1985-86 year, the center hosted 460 events involving 24,400 people. In the first six months of fiscal '87, events already had totaled 354. The Alumni Association also prospered. Early this year,

its membership climbed to an all-time high of 25,500 members. The Alumni Center management committee saw the need to expand the center.

The St. Louis architectural firm of Gilmore, Malcic & Cannon Inc. estimated the 20,000-square-foot building should be expanded to about 34,000 square feet. But the feasibility study also pointed up some problems with the present site: the distance from the central Campus and the limited role of the center in Campus life. There is no walk-in or walk-by traffic by students or faculty. In fact, many students have only a sketchy notion that an Alumni Association and Alumni Center even exist.

But a funny thing happened as the architect's report was being discussed by the Association's executive committee. One member expressed the wish that the center could be moved closer to Jesse Hall. Attending that meeting was interim Chancellor Duane Stucky, who kept coming back to that idea and later called Association President Joe Moseley with an offer too good to refuse.

The University would provide land south of Jesse Hall for a new Alumni Center, possibly in the block bounded by Rollins Street

and Conley, Maryland and Gentry avenues. That's the block that also contains the Shack, the venerable student hangout now closed. The University does not now own all the land in the block, but Stucky says enough land in the area is available to accommodate a new center with adequate parking.

In addition, the University would buy back the present Alumni Center for about \$1.5 million, loan the Association an additional \$1 million and pay \$250,000 to make a faculty club a part of the new structure.

A major fund-raising drive still would be needed, just as would have been required for an expansion of the present facility. Mitch Murch, the chairman of the Alumni Center management committee, assured the Association board that the Development Fund "wholeheartedly supported the new project."

The donors to the original Alumni Center would be properly recognized in any new facility. The original center would be put to another University use.

A new feasibility study is under way. By mid-summer site and tentative building recommendations should be ready. And who knows? Maybe the study will include some way to preserve the Shack. —Steve Shinn