

MIZZOU'S STUDENT LEADERS

Photos and text by Larry Boehm

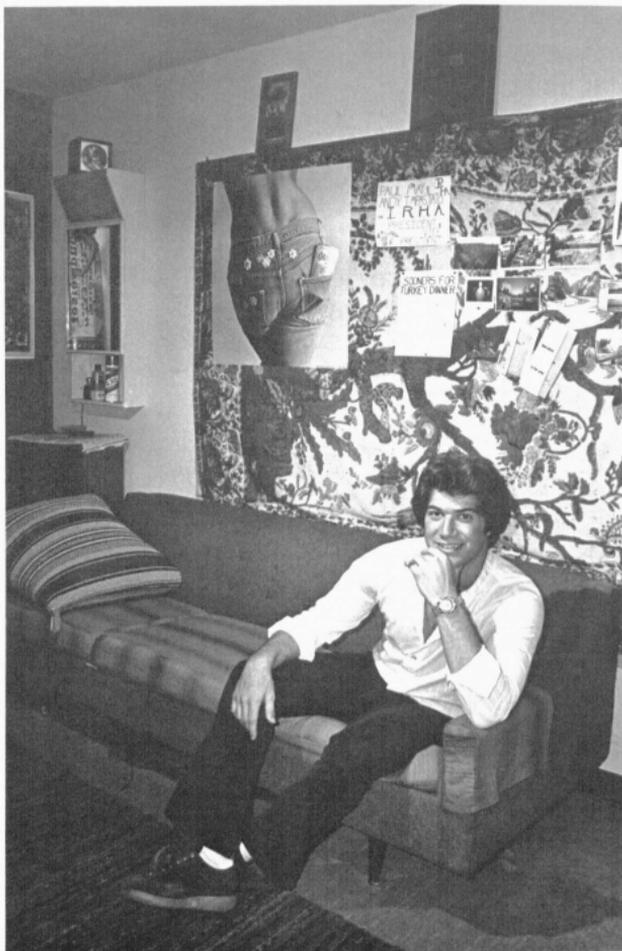
Just as six Columns symbolize Mizzou's past, its 23,000 students represent its present and future.

Enrolled in more than 100 departments of 17 academic divisions, the student body, ranging in age from 16 to 71 years, comes from every Missouri county, all 50 states and 88 other countries to get an education at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

And, of course, the learning doesn't stop when bells ring at half past the hour. With 221 recognized student organizations — from the Accounting Student Association to the Young Democrats — Mizzou has an extracurricular activity for everyone.

The leaders, those willing to invest time and energy in an organization, probably benefit the most.

"Involved students will get the most out of education," says John Wayne Anderson, assistant director of Student Life in charge of organizations. "They'll see how an institution works from the inside and learn how to make changes within the institution."



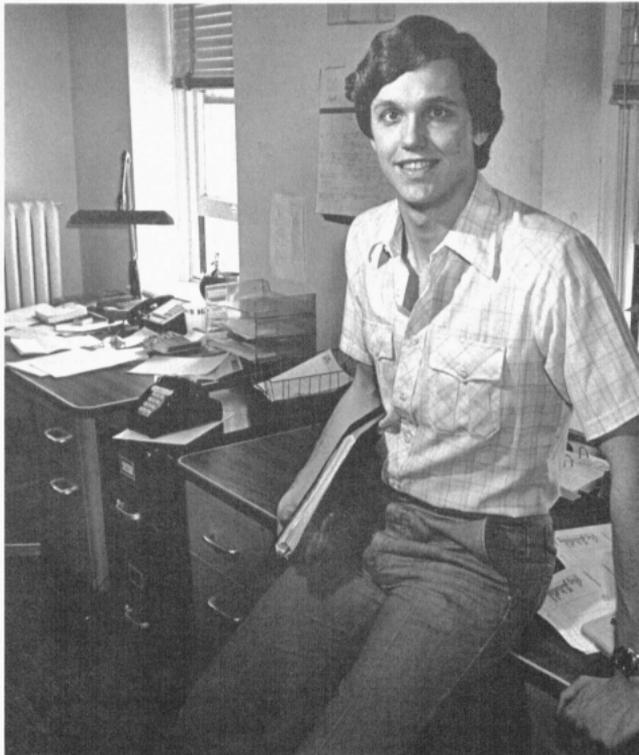
IRHA

"You can sit on your duff all day long and do nothing, or you can get something going," says Paul May, president of the Independent Residence Halls Association. "I hope with a little initiative, IRHA will really get moving." May, 19, a business major, plans to get more students off their duffs by publicizing activities in a newsletter and on the IRHA-owned radio station, KCOU. "Now the Greeks know more about IRHA than the Independents do."



NOW

As assistant coordinator for Missouri's National Organization for Women and coordinator for the Columbia chapter, graduate student Linda Locke, 26, knows the work won't be finished when the Equal Rights Amendment is passed. "We have to integrate women into the mainstream of society. Women aren't going to change their position in the world until they get involved."



MSA

"The Missouri Students Association protects students' rights and encourages a better educational environment," says President Stacy Kottman, "but I don't think enough students realize the impact of MSA." That's why the 20-year-old agricultural economics major meets with different Campus groups to explain what student government wants to accomplish with its \$500,000 gross income and 200 volunteers. High on his list are new indoor recreational facilities, more security phones, evening shuttle buses, a Lowry Street Mall, a new financial aids office and a scholarship information service.

LBC

When Jerome Ewing, 22, transferred to Mizzou three semesters ago, he was so impressed by the hard-working members of the Legion of Black Collegians he joined their ranks. Now the sociology and journalism major is the executive director of LBC, which sponsors seminars, speakers, theatre and study groups to increase the involvement of black students in Campus life. "Working with MSA committees is a high priority. We want to show our interest in the University and have black input into what's going on."



Ombudsman

Being Ombudsman is good training for a biochemistry major who plans to study medicine. "I have to deal with a lot of problems and situations which give me good experience in working with people," says Beth Zimmer, 20. The Ombudsman and a staff of 10 try to find efficient solutions to individual complaints related to Campus life. Knowing how the bureaucracy works is an asset. "We can give people the information needed to solve such problems as grade changes, TA conflicts, test scheduling, financial aid, registration, academic philosophies, on and off Campus housing and parking. We're not here to change policy, but to find ways to work through or around it."



A&S

The Arts and Science student government office, tucked away in a Kuhman Court basement, is hard to find. That same lack of visibility is a problem President Peggy Israel, 19, hopes to overcome. "A government that represents 7,000 students should be an active force." The economics and mathematics major plans to use the \$16,000 budget to sponsor programs to increase student awareness and pride in A&S. "We want to encourage the feeling that not just the individual departments, but the whole college is good."



M²

"One reason I came to the University was to join Marching Mizzou," says Scott Woelfel. Now, three years later, the sociology and journalism major is president of the 224 musicians, 25 Golden Girls and 24 Flag Corps members of the "Big M in the Midwest." Woelfel, who intends to be involved in music for the rest of his life, believes that someone doesn't have to be the best player to try out for the marching band. "With nine-hour-a-day practice sessions before the first football game, musicians just naturally improve." Plus there are a lot of social benefits. "Having 300 friends around makes it easy to adjust to a new environment," says the 21-year-old trombonist. The camaraderie developed by high-stepping formations across a football field lasts a long time, as evidenced by band alumni performing pregame shows for Homecoming fans.



AWS

The goal of Susan James, president of the Association of Women Students, is "to make everyone on Campus aware of life options and the inequalities in the home and on the job." To fulfill this ambition, AWS sponsors consciousness-raising programs to educate men and women about their changing roles in society. "Because of the heavy media coverage of 'Dump Dempster' demonstrations, people got the impression that we're a radical group out to crucify whoever doesn't toe the line, but I feel if we hadn't acted as we did a lot of people still wouldn't know their own attitudes," says James, 20, a journalism major.



AASB

According to its constitution, the purpose of the Alumni Association Student Board is to act as a liaison between alumni and students, promote the University and to assist the Alumni Association. "Our members are top students and the best spokespersons the Campus has to offer," says President Kelly Grant, 21, an agriculture journalism major. "They present a positive image of Mizzou. Of course, that's not a difficult thing to do."



IFC

Dave Borgelt, 20, believes education is the solution to alcohol abuse and poor Greek/Independent relations. As president of the Interfraternity Council, he supports its Alcohol Task Force, which "is bringing programs to all houses, pushing for alternative party beverages and sponsoring seminars for incoming freshmen." As for getting along with Independents, the electrical engineering major thinks most conflicts are based on misconceptions. "People don't realize we're all basically the same. Good and bad are everywhere."