

MizzouWeekly

A Good Match

A new book helps people select the best nursing homes. **Page 2**



Kicking the Tires

LeRoy Bealmear's automotive expertise pays off when he buys vehicles at auction. **Page 5**

Enhanced Service

Human Resources updated Web site takes the work out of job hunting. **Page 3**

Aug. 30, 2001

University of Missouri-Columbia

Don't forget the Tiger pep rally at 6:30 p.m. today at Columbia Mall.



Capping off the summer

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

The University faced some unexpected budget challenges from state withholdings, but also heard some welcome news on funding for capital projects

The show is back on the road here at Mizzou. As the fall semester began last week, campus sidewalks filled with students hurrying between classes, gathering spots like Brady Commons and Memorial Union buzzed with activity, and faculty and students settled into a semester's worth of course work.

Summer might seem like a laid-back time of the year at MU, but there was plenty of activity. Several major construction projects that will change the campus skyline – the Life Sciences Center and a new basketball arena – got the go-ahead. The University's careful financial planning in previous years meant that an unexpected additional withholding of 5 percent in state appropriations for the coming year didn't have the devastating impact that it might have had.

By making one-time budget deferrals in several areas, the University was able to hold to its plan of providing a 4 percent increase in the salary pool for merit raises this year for

employees and not raising student fees beyond the rate of inflation.

The goal was "to make choices that will not rob the University of the momentum that it has achieved in recent years," UM President Manuel Pacheco told the Board of Curators at its July meeting in outlining a budget plan to meet the financial challenge. "It is imperative that we not permit this withholding to take the wind out of our sails."

The 5 percent state withholding means that the four-campus UM System had to trim \$20.9 million from its budget; for the Mizzou campus the impact was \$9.5 million. MU's share will be met with \$6.5 million from delaying the fourth year of mission enhancement, \$2 million from deferring maintenance and repair of the physical plant, \$500,000 in funding from the UM Research Board, and \$500,000 in budgeting changes for the Faculty Shares Program.

However, Pacheco also cautioned that the University had gone as far as it could to make up for the shortfall caused by this year's additional withholdings. "The measures I have described represent short-term solutions to what is likely to be a long-term

problem," he told the curators.

And, although the University was presented some budget challenges this summer, there also was some welcome financial news from Jefferson City. In July, Gov. Bob Holden announced that he would release \$1 million in state money to get construction under way on the long-awaited Life Sciences Center.

The governor's action signaled Missouri's commitment to match \$30 million in federal funding already approved for the new center to be built in the heart of campus just south of the Physics Building.

The governor also announced in July that he would approve the sale of \$35 million in state bonds to help finance a new basketball arena at Mizzou. The \$75 million arena will be funded through the bonds, a \$25 million gift from an anonymous donor and \$15 million in other funds including additional donations and athletic department monies.

Gov. Holden also challenged the University to build on its relationships around the state with alumni, donors and Missouri businesses to raise \$1 billion in private donations for academic programs. "Academics must come first," the governor said.

TOP GUNS

Construction crews this summer lifted the top-most section of Cornell Hall's tower into place. Work on the new \$29 million home for the College of Business will begin winding down this fall on the South Quad, however new building projects around campus are just getting under way or are on the drawing board. They include a new parking garage, the Life Sciences Center and a new basketball arena.

Steve Morse photo

MU's College of Business is 'career-oriented'

CAREER SERVICES

The College of Business is a campus leader in helping students gain a competitive edge in the work force

What do recruiters look for when they come to campus to interview? Karen Shelton, director of the career services office in the College of Business, says that is the one question she answers most frequently.

"Companies want a combination of a strong academic background, leadership attributes and professional presence, as well as the communication and analytical skills it takes to succeed in the workplace," Shelton says. "They want to be certain a new hire will represent their company in a professional manner, whether dining with a client, or presenting a financial project to the CFO."

The Business Career Services office has a cluster of programs and workshops in place to help students gain a competitive edge in the business world. Most of these are open to other undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at MU.

Shelton cautions against calling her operation a placement service. The office does not guarantee permanent employment, she says. It does provide comprehensive career development programs on job search techniques, resume writing and interviewing, and it conducts a full-scale recruiting

program that annually brings more than 200 recruiters to campus.

Students are encouraged to register with the office as early as their sophomore year and to get their resume included in an online database, where it is available to the recruiters who interview through the college for internships and permanent employment opportunities.

"We also encourage them to get actively involved in organizations and to take advantage of the resources, professional programs and networking opportunities

available to them," Shelton says. "We want them to become self-directing in identifying career opportunities that best suit their needs, abilities and career focus."

Cathe Pence, a recent MBA graduate who landed a corporate position as a financial analyst, knows how the system works. "Business Career Services offers resources, workshops, career fairs and great networking opportunities while challenging students to determine which direction they want to go and

Bringing home the gold

Jennifer Popp, a 2001 accountancy graduate at MU beat 48,000 test-takers across the country to earn the top score in the United States and its territories on the May 2001 Uniform CPA Examination.

Popp, from Jefferson City, also was the first Missourian since 1948 to receive the Elijah Watt Sells Gold Medal, which is awarded to the three CPA candidates who attain the highest combined grades when taking all four sections of the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination at one

administration. Only two Missourians have received the gold medal since it was established. Popp joins a growing list of MU accounting graduates who recently have achieved high scores. MU graduates earned the top three spots in Missouri on the May 2001 examination and the top two spots on the November 2000 examination. Earl Wilson, director of the School of Accountancy, attributes much of this success to the University's new 150-hour program implemented over the course of the last five years.

Throughout her education at MU, Popp worked at Boone County National Bank in Columbia. In September, she will move to Dallas to work for KPMG, one of the big five international financial services firms.

Developing staff potential

Are you a staff member interested in pursuing a training opportunity, but your department's budget isn't able to cover the costs? That's exactly what MU's Staff Development Awards are for. Administered by the Staff

Advisory Council, the development awards provide funding for full-time staff members to take advantage of workshops, short courses and classes that will enhance their professional development.

Application forms were recently mailed to all eligible staff members and the deadline for submitting a proposal is noon Sept. 27. The proposals are screened by a committee of volunteer staff members, and the awards will be announced Nov. 1. Individual awards are limited to \$3,500 and group awards may

not exceed \$7,000.

The proposals are easy to fill out, but if that paperwork seems daunting, a number of former award winners have volunteered to help new applicants. For more information about the Staff Development Award program, contact the Staff Council office at 882-4269.

Off-off-off Broadway

We're talking about the famous thoroughfare in New York City's theater district, not the two-lane blacktop that bisects our own Collegetown, U.S.A. The

Providing a nursing home 'checklist'

FINDING THE BEST MATCH

MU researchers offers keys to quality long-term care

Aging can sometimes be seen as a paradox. On the one hand, it often brings personal mellowing, life satisfaction and wisdom. On the other, aging can lead to frailty and the inability to live independently.

Approximately 75 million Americans are facing care-giving issues and choices can be abundant and difficult.

As Marilyn Rantz, professor of nursing, states in her book, *The New Nursing Homes: A 20-Minute Way to Find Great Long-*

Term Care, the decision to move into a nursing home can be heart-wrenching. Many families are so worried that their loved one will not receive appropriate and compassionate nursing home care that they promise to never put them in such a place. As a result, there are many people left in disarray if a crisis occurs and a nursing home becomes the only option.

"Nursing homes are licensed to provide protective oversight of those adults who cannot live independently," Rantz said. "The trick is to find the ones that will do more than just an adequate job, but a quality job."

It's inevitable—everyone is

bound to be affected by long-term care sooner or later. This involves a number of health and personal care services. It can be provided in the elder's home, small board and care homes, assisted living facilities and nursing homes. So, where should a family take their loved ones?

In her book, Rantz outlines key points to remember when visiting a nursing home:

- Residents should be clean, groomed, dressed and involved in activities both indoors and outdoors.

- Staff members should be clean, groomed, friendly, active, helpful and caring. Interaction

between staff members and residents should be cordial and humane. They should both treat each other with respect and dignity.

- Facilities should be clean, uncluttered, well-maintained and well-lighted.

- The atmosphere should be calm, pleasant and homelike.

- Every person's situation is different. Questions should be asked of the facility's staff that are both general and specific in nature. Questions ranging from visitation hours to meal plans to payment methods should be addressed.

"Eldercare is not an easy situation. Every patient and their family should feel comfortable asking any question, and they

deserve an answer," Rantz said.

Nursing homes come in different sizes and different names. The number of beds in a particular nursing home can range from 25 to 500, with the average number per facility across America being 102. A family should find the one best suited for their loved one.

Once a high-quality nursing home has been found, the entire family will have a period of adjustment. Family members may feel guilt and remorse, thinking they should have somehow prevented the need for nursing home care. Rantz reiterates that these feelings are natural.

"As upsetting as this adjustment period may be, it's normal for both the resident and the family to feel any number of emotions," Rantz said.

Nursing homes have always gotten a bad rap. However, more and more, nursing homes are defying previous negative stereotypes. These 'new' nursing homes are moving away from the institutional, hospital-like settings of the past to offer more homelike, personalized care.

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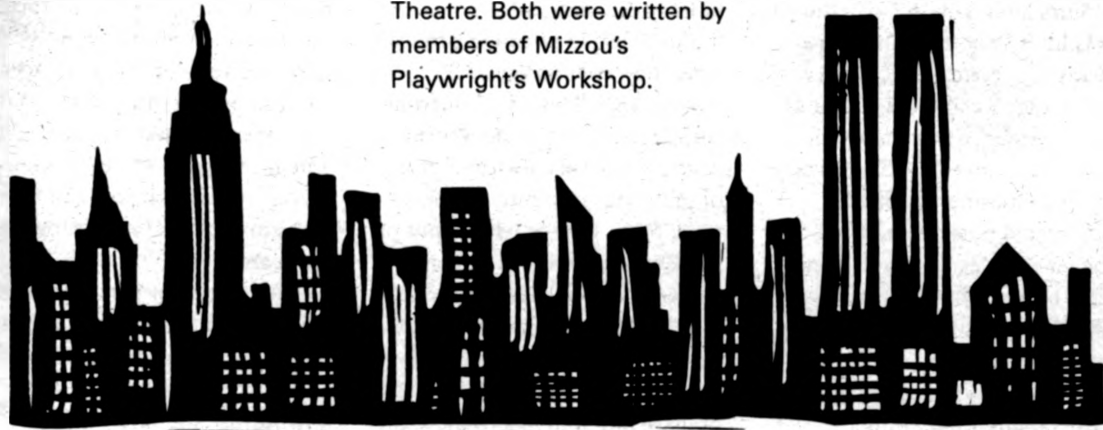
"Mizzou on Broadway" project is presenting local sneak previews of two original, student-written plays that are scheduled for performance at the York Theatre in New York City on Sept. 15.

But before MU's student troupe of actors and stage technicians travels to the Big Apple for their Gotham debut, area residents are invited to attend free sneak previews of the two plays in Rhynsburger Theatre. Both were written by members of Mizzou's Playwright's Workshop.

"Like It Is," written by former MU student Lindsey Alley, will be performed at 8 p.m. Aug. 30 and 31. "Ruby Nelle," written by Michael Kateman, executive director of advancement for the College of

Arts and Science, will be performed at 8 p.m. Sept. 11. "We're offering these sneak previews because we're taking these productions to off-Broadway in NYC," says Nancy Moen, director of communications for arts and science. "Since both shows in New York City are sold out, this gives the local community an opportunity to see the performances here in Columbia."

Martial Arts: Roaring Tiger, Squawking Jayhawk
It's that time of year for all true Tigers to roar. Mizzou kicks off the 2001 football season this Saturday at Faurot Field when the Tigers take on Bowling Green. Coach Gary Pinkel will make his MU game day debut beginning with 6:30 p.m. kickoff. You can cheer on the Tiger football team at a pep rally this evening in the Café Court of the Columbia Mall. There will be giveaways and prizes. Truman the Tiger will be there, along with the Golden Girls, Mini Mizzou and the Spirit Squad.



Enhancing customer service via the Web

ONLINE RESOURCE

Human Resource Services' Web site has new look and format, making it easier for users easily surf information

Human Resource Services took an intuitive approach to redesigning its Web site.

Manager Peggy Spiers says the department knew the old site left some users utterly frustrated. The old design was functional, and people familiar with terms and other areas in human resources could navigate about it quite easily, Spiers says. However it wasn't as friendly to job seekers, or new supervisors or employees.

"We didn't like what we had, but we didn't know how to fix it," Spiers says. So they turned to Web Communications for help, and the new design was revealed in April at <http://web.missouri.edu/~hrswww/index.html>.

"The site's look is not the traditional MU page," Spiers says. "It is high-tech, professional—a HR page and can fit with any large HR function."

Bordered by shades of blue, information is organized specifically for four key constituency groups: applicants, managers, employees and department human resource contacts. While the core content of the information did not change with the redesign, extra instructions and details that help explain the content have been added, Spiers says. In addition, job listings are now being updated daily instead of weekly.

The format was altered as well. Direct links to various sections of the site are listed on the left one-third of the page in each group. For example, applicants can link to such

information as temporary, full-time or part-time positions; wage and salary guidelines or benefits.

Since managers have different needs, their links feature guidelines on recruiting, motivating and coaching a productive staff or dealing with equity issues. Useful links for employees include the staff handbook, and information on training opportunities, benefits, and human resource policies. Department human resource contacts will find easy access to policies, wage and salary data, forms and other resources.

"We wanted to level the playing field, so that people who knew what they were doing could move around easily, but people unfamiliar with MU or Human Resource Services would be able to find things without becoming too frustrated," Spiers says.

Outstanding! Two of Campus Facilities Best



Raeann Akers
July's Employee of the Month

"Flexible, energetic, positive — a Godsend," is how supervisors and coworkers describe this "floater" custodian who miraculously can fill in on campus wherever she's needed.



Mike Cummins
August's Employee of the Month

This refrigeration mechanic's technical skills, commitment to excellence and pleasant attitude result in a job well done and leaves a positive impression on campus customers and coworkers.



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Career Services from Page 1

what they must do to get there," Pence says. "The crux to this process is for students to start early, get involved and work the system. Even though the office provides the tools, it is really up to the students to use them wisely."

Students are introduced to career services as early as Summer Welcome. More information is provided in Freshman Interest Groups and in the introductory business course, Management 101.

"Career exploration is an important first step to any job search process," Shelton says. "We want students to get the message that career preparation and academic preparation go hand in hand."

The college's faculty members understand the importance of providing students with professional development programs and they are willing to

work with career services, Shelton says. Many help either through student organizations or specialized workshops. One such program is the Leadership Conference. Organized by the Business Student Council and assisted by two faculty sponsors, this event features professionally led leadership and team-building programs, and is supported by corporate sponsors. The program recently was noted in CAREERJOURNAL, a publication of the *Wall Street Journal*.

There are many opportunities for the 900 students registered with the office to interact and network with professionals. For example, the college holds three career fairs annually. Shelton says that the main College of Business fair held each fall outgrew the facility a few years ago so they added a specialty fair for accountancy majors. This was done, she says, to accommodate

the more than 130 businesses wishing to participate in this event each year.

Career services was the first office on campus to offer an internship fair, and this year more than 1,000 sophomores and juniors attended on a day the city was hit by one of the winter's many ice storms. "We were very encouraged and pleased that so many attended in spite of the inclement weather," Shelton says.

Since business is often conducted outside an office, career services developed a new type of workshop several years ago to boost students' professional presence. Teaming up with the University Club, the office holds a full etiquette dinner, complete with everything from hors d'oeuvres to dessert. During E-DINNER, students go through the entire course of handling wait staff, maitre d's and wine stewards. The function is so popular that students have asked

Shelton to repeat it each semester. And they are eager to put what they have learned into practice, she says. "Students often come up to us afterward and tell us they plan to show off their new skills at the next family holiday dinner."

An example of career services extending collaborative partnerships beyond graduation is the formation of the Recent Alumni Advisory Board, a group of graduates currently in the work force who provide input on academic activities as well as school-to-work transitions.

"These alumni are in an excellent position to provide feedback on how we can better prepare our students to meet the expectations of the current workplace," she says. "The fact that they are willing to share their time, ideas and enthusiasm is a great testimony to our college."

Shelton says the group played

an instrumental part in the design of a new career transition prep course that is being developed for implementation into the curriculum this semester.

Has the current downturn in the job market affected the Business Career Services office? Shelton says the office saw a slight decrease in the number of companies and interview schedules this past semester. The message to students, she says, is to stay diligent and take a more proactive approach to the job search.

"For the most part, the strong alliances we have built with many of our core recruiters and alumni help sustain us through this downturn," she says. "Most companies take a long-term approach to sustaining a positive relationship with schools where they have had the most success in recruiting. That says quite a bit for the positive effects of building partnerships."

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10 8:30-11:30 SAS	11 8:30-12:00 HTML 3: Tables & META Tags 8:30-12:00 Access Fundamentals - Queries 1:00-4:30 Outlook Calendar	12 8:30-11:30 SAS 1:00-4:30 HTML 1: Basic Coding	13 8:30-12:00 Word Document Formatting 1:00-4:30 Excel Formatting	8 8:00-5:00 SPSS for Windows, Intermediate 14 8:30-11:30 SAS
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24 1:00-4:30 HTML 1: Basic Coding	25 8:30-12:00 Excel Charts	26 8:30-12:00 Web Authoring Fundamentals 1:00-4:30 HTML 3: Tables and META Tags	27 8:30-12:00 Access Advanced Forms, Reports & Queries 8:30-12:00 Excel Advanced Functions & Formulas 1:00-4:30 Photoshop 1 1:00-4:30 Networking at MU	22 8:00-5:00 SPSS for Windows, Basics 28
				29 8:00-5:00 SPSS, Intermediate

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Myou

Labor of love

UNDER THE HOOD

LeRoy Bealmear knows you have to move fast if you want to get good deals at government vehicle auctions

It would seem that taking a day off in the middle of the workweek to buy cars and trucks at auction would be enjoyable. It's really exhausting work, however, that begins before sunup and ends after sundown and involves a lot of before-and-after paperwork.

But, no matter. It's also a labor of love for LeRoy Bealmear, associate director of Campus Facilities. There aren't enough hours in the day to fully satisfy his pleasure with being around anything that can be driven that he buys at auction for Campus Facilities.

Bealmear also lends his discerning automotive expertise to help other MU departments buy reliable vehicles at auction through the University's Surplus Property unit.

He's been buying Campus Facilities' cars and trucks since 1984, when he bought seven pickups at Brookfield, Mo. In

short order, he began attending federal General Services Administration auctions where vehicles a mere three years old or with fewer than 60,000 miles are sold.

Bealmear attends about seven such auctions a year, alternating between Kansas City, Springfield and Granite City, Ill., where he expertly secures low-mileage vehicles in excellent condition at considerable savings to the University.

And if the prices aren't right, he might just return to campus empty-handed. The policy, he says, is to buy cars and trucks at wholesale or below. Bealmear estimates that MU saves an average of \$2,000 on each vehicle he buys at auction.

A day or so before each sale, Bealmear "books out" the value of the vehicles up for auction. On auction day, he meticulously inspects each and bids on the ones he wants. Depending on the number purchased, he sends drivers the next day to bring the vehicles to MU where they're inventoried, licensed and turned over to campus users.

It's downright hard work, but



Paul Jeffery photo

he's good at it. Nothing escapes his automotive expertise. He can tell that a camshaft is worn, that valves or rings are going, that bearings are bad, or that a vehicle has been in an accident merely by what his practiced eyes and ears see and hear.

"At auction you've got to know the vehicles you want and their condition. And, you've got to work fast," he says. "If you're hesitant about the shape a car or truck's in or in bidding on it, then it's too late."

Interestingly, it's better to bid against car dealers than individuals, Bealmear says.

KICKING THE TIRES

LeRoy Bealmear, MU's resident automotive expert and associate director of Campus Facilities, saves the campus truckloads of money by buying reliable used vehicles at government auctions like this recent sale in Kansas City.

"Dealers want to keep the price low so the vehicle can be marked up for a profit, while single buyers will bid up the price to low retail levels and still think they're getting a good buy."

"Large trucks are usually the best buy," Bealmear says. "People go to buy cars and pickups, so the larger trucks go cheap," he said.

A recent GSA auction in Granite City turned out to be a near record-tying event for Bealmear. In a quick, two-and-a-

half-hour period he purchased 17 vehicles for \$96,500. A similar auction some years back in Kansas City yielded 18 vehicles.

Since his first auction, Bealmear has bought more than 200 vehicles, replacing Campus Facilities' entire fleet. "I've never been stuck with a bad car," he says.

—Reprinted from *Campus Facilities Highlights*

classifieds

FOR RENT

Clean, roomy, cheerful furnished home in Fairview/Hulen Lake area to rent for 2001-2002 academic year. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, study, plus family room, 2-car garage. Much more. 442-3831.

3/4 bedroom condominium, 3.5 bath, 2-story, short walk to campus, living room with gas fireplace, main floor laundry with washer and dryer, \$925/month. 424-5142.

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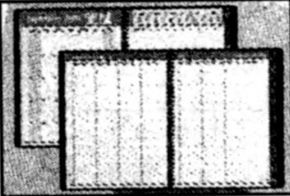
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4-7/8" x 8"
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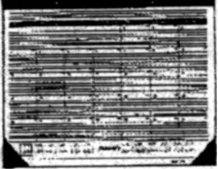
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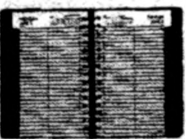
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Courses & Workshops

Wednesday, September 5

NEW EMPLOYEE

ORIENTATION: Open to all new benefit-eligible staff from 8:30 a.m.-noon today, Oct. 3, Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 in S203 Memorial Union and from 1:30-5 p.m. Sept. 19 and Oct. 17 in N214/215 Memorial Union and Nov. 21 and Dec. 19 in S203 Memorial Union.

Thursday, September 6

ACCOUNTING SERVICES

WORKSHOP: "MoCodes and PeopleSoft Chartfields" will be presented from 9 a.m.-noon today, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, and Dec. 6 in the computer lab on the second floor of the Turner Avenue parking garage. Registration is required; go to <http://www.missouri.edu/~muacct/training.htm>.

RADIATION SAFETY

WORKSHOP: "Radiation Safety at MU-New Radiation Workers" will be presented from 1-3:30 p.m. today, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6 in the Environmental Health & Safety classroom. Registration required, call 882-7018.

Exhibits

BINGHAM GALLERY: An exhibit of paintings and prints by artist James G. Davis, a former MU art faculty member, will open Sept. 4 and run through Sept. 28. A reception for the artist will be held in the gallery at 4 p.m. Sept. 9 following the opening lecture by Turner G. Davis, the artist's son, at 3 p.m. in 106 Pickard Hall. Bingham Gallery is located in the Fine Arts Building.

BRADY COMMONS GALLERY: The Fifth Annual Invitational Fiber Exhibition "Re: Interpretations 2001" will be on display through Sept. 14. Brady Commons Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, and 1-6 p.m. Sunday.

MUSEUM OF ART & ARCHAEOLOGY:

- "Newspaper Lithographs by Honoré Daumier: Social Satire in the Nineteenth Century Ancient History" will be on display through Oct. 21.
- "Breaking Barriers: Artists Reinvent the Museum" will be on display through Jan. 13, 2002.
- "Tradition and Change: Art from Oceania" will be on display through 2003.
- "Bohemians of Paris" will be on display Oct. 23 through Feb. 24, 2002.

The museum, located in Pickard Hall, is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 6-9 p.m. Thursday and noon-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

- "Idyllic America: The Woodcuts of Fred Geary" is on display in the gallery through Sept. 2001.

The gallery is open from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

- "The Spirit of America: Posters from the Great War" is on display in the north-south corridor.
 - "St. Louis Post-Dispatch Editorial Cartoon Collection: The 1940 Election Trial" is on display in the east-west corridor. The corridors are open from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday.
- UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES:** The University Archives offer a number of online exhibits that document the history of MU. Links to the archives' exhibits are located at www.system.missouri.edu/archives/exhibitlist.html

Lectures & Seminars

Wednesday, September 5

MIDDAY GALLERY EVENT:

Joan Stack, interim curator of European and American art, will present "New Paintings in the European and American Gallery" at 12:15 p.m. in the Museum of Art and Archaeology.

Special Events

Thursday, August 30

TIGER PEP RALLY: Cheer on the 2001 Tiger football team at a pep rally at 6:30 p.m. in the Café Court of the Columbia Mall. There will be giveaways and prizes along with the tiger helmet car, Truman the Tiger, the Golden Girls, Mini Mizzou and the Spirit Squad.

Tuesday, September 4

RIBBON CUTTING

CEREMONY: The Museum Shop in the Museum of Art and Archaeology in Pickard Hall will hold a ribbon cutting and reopening ceremony at 9 a.m.

Thursday, September 6

WOMEN'S CENTER OPEN

HOUSE: The Women's Center, located in 229 Brady Commons, will hold an open house from 4-6 p.m. All women-oriented student organizations are invited to come to the meeting at 4 p.m. to help build a coalition and their group's mission.

New software spots 'lazy eye'

EARLY DETECTION

Researchers develop new tool to diagnose childhood eye disease

As is true with many medical conditions, the successful treatment of amblyopia, or "lazy eye," in children depends on early detection. But how do you give babies eye examinations? Videotape them, say a pair of MU researchers, and let a new software program provide doctors with the information needed for a diagnosis.

Since January 2000, Jim Keller, professor of computer engineering and computer

science, and master's student Tsaipei Wang have been developing an automated software system to detect amblyopia in children as young as 6 months old. Their work is funded by a grant from the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation.

Amblyopia, which is diagnosed in 2 percent to 3 percent of children under age 5, occurs when one eye develops more slowly than the other. The strong eye slowly takes over as the weak eye grows weaker. Without treatment, sight can be lost in the weak eye.

"The condition can be treated

if caught in the early stages, but often it goes undetected until a child exhibits learning difficulties in school," Keller said. "By then, however, it may have advanced to the point where reversal is impossible."

Traditional amblyopia screening is done with a special instant camera. Since 1998, the Lions have offered free screenings to children in preschools and daycare centers across Missouri. From one photo, an optometric professional attempts to determine if any abnormalities are present in a student's eyes, and if so, advises further testing.

With the new software, that early detection could be faster, more effective and more cost efficient.

"The software uses image processing and feature extraction techniques to evaluate a sequence of digitized video that's running at four frames per second," Keller said. "The software locates a child's pupils, if present, then makes an initial assessment whether or not one or both eyes are focusing on the light source. Instead of one image, doctors will now have many images from which to make a diagnosis."

Gerhard Cibis, chief of ophthalmology at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, has helped Keller and Wang refine the software by manually

reviewing images the program selects to ensure it is providing the quality images.

"Diagnosing vision problems between the ages of 6 months and 3 years is difficult because the children can't read or look at eye charts," Cibis said. "The greatest advantage this software provides is that it allows for the testing of the very young. If they have vision problems, they can be treated."

Keller added the software also might provide enough information to detect other problems with the eye including nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism.

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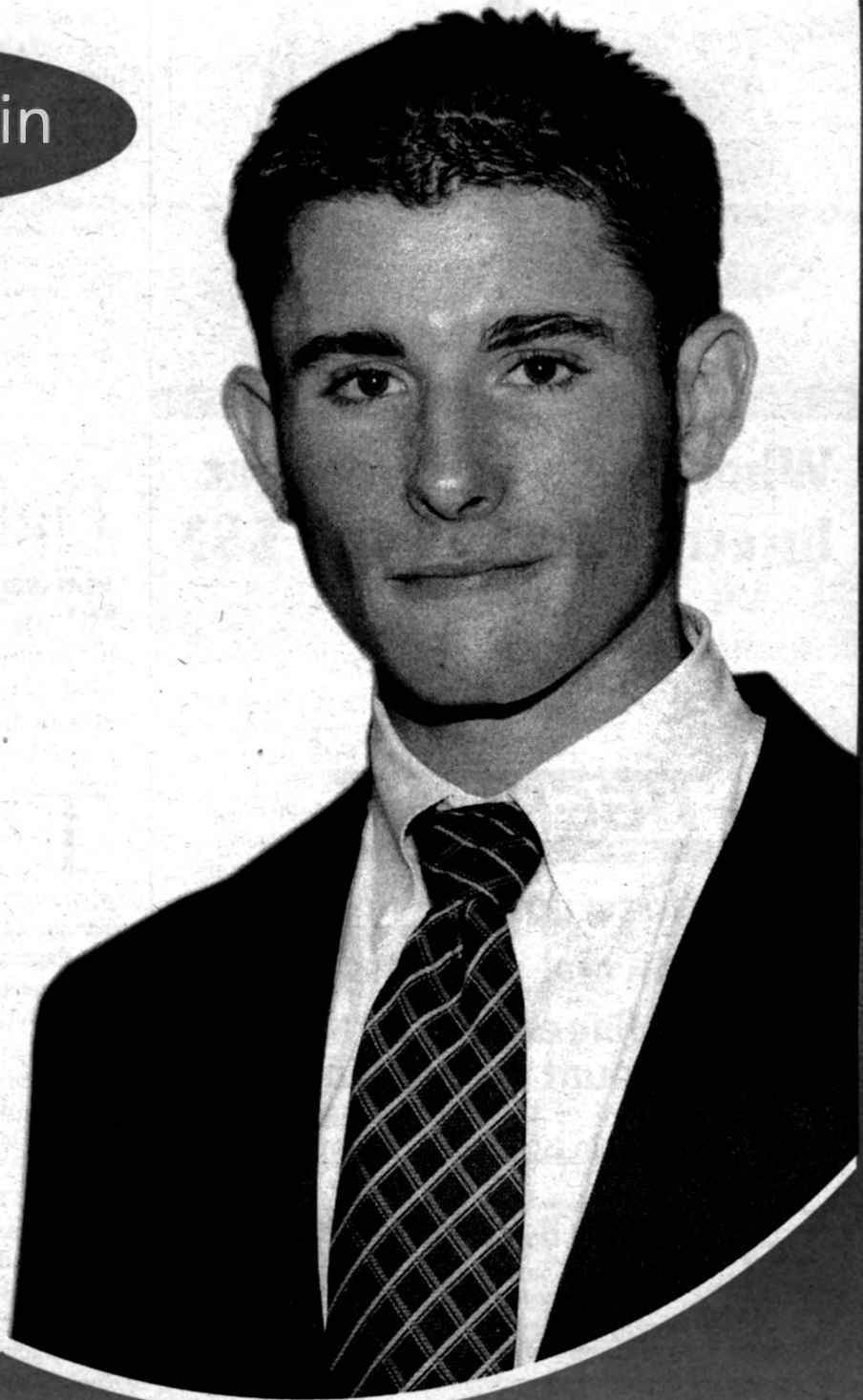
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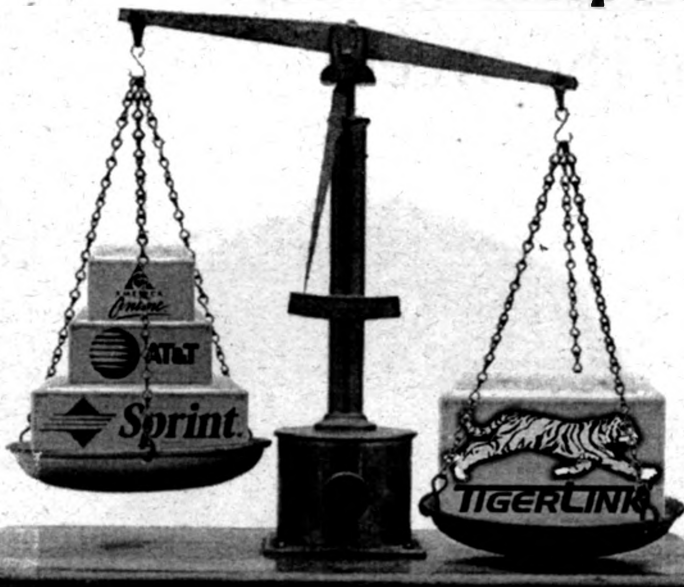
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Camp-R-Mizzou

LONGTERM PLANS

New MU program will start early to prepare middle-school students for college

Going away to college can be scary. How will you find your classes? Can you handle the homework? What kind of people will you meet? Now imagine how much easier this adventure would be if you had visited the campus throughout middle and high school.

MU hopes to ensure that Columbia doesn't seem quite so far away for one group of Kansas City students. Camp-R-U's, co-sponsored by the College of Education and Academic Retention Services, is working with a class that will enter the eighth grade at Central Middle

School in Kansas City this fall.

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), the U.S. Department of Education grant program that assists at-risk students pursue educational opportunities, made Camp-R-U's possible.

"The grant provides MU the opportunity to follow the same group of students throughout middle and high school, meeting with them throughout the year, visiting their classrooms and helping their parents with the admissions and financial aid processes," said Michael Mobley, Project Director of R.E.A.C.H. (Raising Every African-American Child Higher), the local GEAR UP program.

Each summer, the students will be invited to visit the MU

campus. Students made their first visit this summer and met Truman the Tiger. They also visited the Black Culture Center, the Museum of Archaeology and other sites of interest at MU. Organizers are planning a three-day camp for next summer. The University also has created the PEAK Center, an in-school computer lab, as well as MorningStar Scholars Academy, a community computer lab at MorningStar Church, to ensure the students and their parents have access to technology.

"We want to make sure that when these students show up for their first day of classes their freshman year at Mizzou, they feel they can handle anything," said Eric Wilson, Camp-R-U's coordinator. "We also want to make sure they walk away from this experience understanding the value of knowledge."

Fighting the dog days

HEAT INDEX

MU expert says well-maintained turf can moderate killing heat on athletic fields

The death of National Football League lineman Korey Stringer from heat stress earlier this summer has coaches at all levels of competition looking for ways to minimize their players' susceptibility to heat-related injury.

The most important factor is to supply the players with plenty of fluids, but another aspect to consider is the playing surface itself, said Brad Fresenburg, research associate in horticulture. "Maintaining the turf cover does make a tremendous difference. Usually if you have good cover, you're going to get a better cooling effect than if the field is

bare ground, or worn in the middle."

Almost any natural turf surface will be cooler than an artificial surface, Fresenburg said. "With grass, you have to have some kind of irrigation system. Just putting a light amount of water cools down the leaf tissue 5 or 10 degrees."

On an early August day, with the heat index in Columbia at 108 degrees, Fresenburg measured the natural grass canopy temperatures on MU Faurot Field and the MU soccer field at 93 to 95 degrees. "I just happened to lay the thermometer on the rubber track about 20 feet away from the soccer field, and the temperature there was 130 degrees," he said. "That simulates what you'd get on an artificial field."

Temperatures on artificial playing surfaces can approach or even exceed 150 degrees, he said.

"They're basically plastic. Petroleum-based fibers tend to absorb heat." He said the temperature of natural grass would average 20 to 25 degrees cooler than artificial surfaces.

Many of the new artificial turfs are topdressed with black crumb rubber—essentially ground up tires with the steel removed. Although it gives a springy playing surface similar to real grass, "it really absorbs a lot of heat," Fresenburg said. "It tells me you're going to have some severe heat on those fields."

A well-watered and maintained natural surface is not only cooler, but also improves traction and provides a cushion, he said. "If you have a surface that's the best it can be, the players can put forth their best effort without so much stress. Even on natural grass systems, you have to take precautions. It might be 95 degrees instead of 130, but that can still be harmful to the players."

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