

Paul Christman . . .

would have graduated from Missouri this spring, and that never-before published story can tell you a lot about the character of Missouri's premier all-American and the affection he felt for his University.

You see, what with the War and marriage and a job, Paul got away from Columbia five hours short of a degree. It obviously didn't keep him from becoming highly successful, but he was never happy about it. So on one of his trips to the campus a year or so ago, he asked whether there was some way he could earn those final five hours. There was, and an independent study program was arranged. Paul was working on the last 2½-hour course this semester.

Paul Christman, of course, was a Missouri legend long before he died on March 2. To thousands of Tiger fans who never saw him play, he symbolized football greatness at Missouri, and there hadn't been much of that before he arrived. To those hundreds of alumni around the country and friends around the campus who knew him well — who knew how freely he had given of his time and energies over the years for Ol' Mizzou — he simply symbolized greatness. —S.S.

MISSOURI ALUMNUS

VOLUME 59 NUMBER 6
MARCH-APRIL 1970

The *Missouri Alumnus* is published eight times a year: September, October, November, December, January, February, March-April, May, and June — by the Alumni Association of the University of Missouri-Columbia, 312 Jesse Hall, Columbia, Missouri 65201. Steve Shinn, editor; Ginny Glass and Betty Brophy, assistant editors; Paul Bower, staff photographer; Design consultant, Paul Fisher, professor of journalism. Second class postage paid at Columbia, Missouri, and at additional mailing offices. Annual membership is \$5.

Copyright © 1970 by the Alumni Association of the University of Missouri-Columbia



Mohammed at the Mountain

By Edmund B. Lambeth

Missouri's Washington reporting program is a case of Mohammed going to the mountain.

In short, the nation's largest school of journalism decided to establish an educational outpost in the nation's largest center of news.

The "mini-school" is Room 1165 of the National Press Building. The method, an old Missouri tradition, is learning by doing. The objective, through a variety of reporting assignments, is a master's degree graduate with a rich perspective on public affairs and an ability to write intelligent stories on important and complicated issues.

Alumni of the program are now at work on publications as varied as *Congressional Quarterly*, the *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*, *The Washington (D.C.) Post*, the *Scranton (Pa.) Tribune*, *McGraw-Hill World News* and Newspaper Enterprise Association in New York City. Next fall, the first contingent of radio-TV students will participate, filing public affairs interviews and news stories with Missouri stations in Columbia, Kansas City, Warrensburg and Buffalo.

Print reporters contribute their stories to *The Missourian* at Columbia and other daily and Sunday papers such as the *Anniston (Ala.) Star*, the *Yakima (Wash.) Herald-Republic* and the *Cumberland (Md.) Times* — that would otherwise be without special coverage.

Each graduate is expected to publish at least 20 articles; write



A veteran newspaperman and former Washington correspondent, Program director Edmund B. Lambeth, top right, advises graduate student Frank Kauffman about his assignment with Missouri's junior senator, Thomas F. Eagleton, right. Above, Charlotte Astor, left, and Phyllis Clancy work in the Senate press room.



a comprehensive paper on an aspect of the Washington news scene; compile a "beat" report for subsequent students in the program and write a special series of articles on a timely topic in the news.

It is this body of work that the graduate student pursuing a professional degree submits to a faculty committee as evidence that he has mastered enough skills to begin his career as a journalist.

Work equals a thesis.

It is the equivalent of the traditional thesis that young researchers and historians have offered for their degrees. Like the researcher and the historian, the student seeking a professional degree must defend his work before a faculty committee.

Teaching techniques in Washington include detailed individual discussions with the director; weekly group sessions critiquing stories filed during the week; seminars led by the director with contributions by the students and guest visits from Washington newsmen, such as Pulitzer Prize winner Nick Kotz of the Cowles Publications and veteran *Chicago Sun-Times* newsman Tom Littlewood.

The aim of the Washington program is *not* to turn out finished Washington correspondents. Rather, the goal is to use Washington's unique and varied resources to test and develop the student's imagination, resourcefulness and writing ability.

Washington reporting differs.

For most students, the work in Washington is different from other reporting assignments they have confronted.

First, the number of sources that must be contacted per story is greater. Second, finding the right sources can be more complicated and therefore more challenging. Third, the greater variety of stories tests the breadth of a student's background and knowledge of politics, legislative procedures, economics and contemporary history. Fourth, the comparative smallness of the class (usually eight to ten) allows the student to work more intensively on his strengths and weaknesses as a reporter.

The students who perform well in Washington are those with a thorough grounding in the basics of the written word and in the liberal arts, particularly political science. Knowing this, the director works closely with the faculty at Missouri to identify and select those students best prepared and most likely to benefit from the Washington experience.

The typical story from Missouri's Washington "bureau" is the enterprise article tied closely to an important issue in the news. David Hendin, of St. Louis, a science writer, developed a story detailing how and why physicians might be misled by the advertisement of a drug, related chemically to the amphetamines. Publication of the story, based on interviews with top pharmacologists, was followed by the manufacturer's decision to advertise more prominently a description of the drug's possible harmful side effects.

Student breaks a story.

Linda Lawson of Jefferson City wrote the first story from Washington on the fight that has developed between conservationists and the lumber industry over the timber supply bill.

Leonard Shapiro of Long Island, N.Y. wrote one of the most comprehensive newspaper series to date, published first in the *Columbia Missourian*, on the problems and prospects of industrialized housing.

In educational terms, experience with Missouri's Washington curriculum tends to confirm the view of Dr. Paul L. Dressel, who conducted a comprehensive study of journalism education in 1960. He wrote:

"There is some point to the view that an individual really does not know his field well until he can begin to write and talk about it in such a way as to be understood by others.

"Following this line of thought, we come to the possibility that well planned professional journalism courses provide the student with a kind of experience which, in many ways, is more nearly consonant with the aims of liberal education than what we, in fact, find in most liberal arts colleges . . .

"The unrealized challenge of journalism is that of using the professional courses in journalism as a means of reintroducing into the educational experience a sequence of courses which will bind together the liberal arts in such a manner as to justify the label of liberal education.

"Journalism education, both in the nature of the task and in the limited number of professional courses required, offers an unmatched opportunity to develop a new vision of professional education." □

Edmund B. Lambeth, associate professor of journalism, directs the Washington program. Six of his 15 years of newspapering have been in the Capital.