

**STAYING ALIVE**

Women face must-win games from here out as they enter MIAA Tournament play

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The University's student-produced newspaper



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**Greentop felon guilty of animal abuse, too**

BY DIANE POELKER  
Assistant News Editor

Lawrence "Bud" Wietholder is a twice-convicted felon.

Wietholder, a resident of Greentop, Mo., submitted Alford pleas to criminal charges of voluntary manslaughter Feb. 11 and animal abuse Feb. 15. Even though the Missouri legal system accepts Wietholder's pleas as admittance of guilt, Tim Reuschel, his defense attorney, said he believes his client is innocent.

"I'm still convinced that my client is not guilty," Reuschel said. "I think it's important to note that these were both Alford pleas. ... In an Alford plea, you are saying that I still do not believe that I am not guilty, but I agree that there is evidence against me, so I am accepting the lesser punishment."

Adair County prosecutor Mark Williams charged Wietholder and his wife JoAnn in June 2006 with eight counts of animal abuse, torture and mutilation of a live animal, class D felonies. In September, Schuyler County officials arrested Wietholder, charging him with the murder of his wife. The death certificate of Wietholder's wife read that she died of "homicide by drowning," according to the Oct. 5, 2006, issue of the Index.

The charge was amended to voluntary manslaughter, a class B felony, the same day, according to a court docket sheet.

Voluntary manslaughter, under Missouri Revised Statutes 565.023, occurs when a person "causes the death of another person under circumstances that would constitute murder in the second degree ... except that he caused the death under the influence of sudden passion arising from adequate cause; or (2) knowingly assists another in the commission of self-murder."

The first circumstance is what is mentioned in amended felony information about the charge from Schuyler County.

Reuschel said Wietholder made the right decision in pleading to voluntary manslaughter, a class B felony, even though he thinks Wietholder did not murder his wife.

"I think it's an unfortunate situation," Reuschel said. "... There was evidence against him, but I think what they would have found him guilty [in a trial situation] of is assisted suicide — which also falls under voluntary manslaughter in the state of Missouri."

Please see FELON, Page 7

With the Democratic presidential nomination coming down to the choices of the so-called superdelegates, voters are asking themselves,

**SUPER WHO?**

BY JESSIE GASCH  
Managing Editor

They've never mattered very much.

In fact, they didn't even exist before the 1970s, and in 2004, their votes were drowned out by a chorus of caucusers and primary-goers.

But in this election, the superdelegates of the Democratic Party have the potential to hand-pick the next U.S. president, said 2000 Truman graduate Danny Rotert, communications director for Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, Kansas City. Cleaver is one of Missouri's 16 superdelegates, and he pledged his vote last August for Sen. Hillary Clinton.

"The idea [is] that whoever wins the nomination will do it on the back of the superdelegates," Rotert said. "No one can get the nomination without the superdelegates at this point."

The term "superdelegates" is not officially in use by the Democratic Party, which prefers "unpledged party leaders and elected official delegates," according to 2006 documents from the Democratic National Committee. Although in some states, the Republican Party uses a similar process, it does not in Missouri — so "superdelegate" refers to Democrats only.

Here's how it works in Missouri: Democratic primary-goers elect delegates to carry their votes to the national convention in August. These pledged delegates must vote like the people from their districts. But in addition to the 72 pledged delegates, the state of Missouri contributes 16 PLEO delegates, or superdelegates, whose choices are not governed by the votes of Missouri primary-goers — they can support whoever they want.

**"Are they supposed to vote their consciences?"**

Rotert said the Democratic Party is in the midst of broad discussion on superdelegates, who comprise about one-fifth of all delegates and who have political experience and understand campaign momentum.

"There's a debate that's happening now party-wide on the Democratic side on what is the role of superdelegates?" he said. "Are they supposed to mirror their districts and their state? Or are they supposed to vote their consciences?"

Some, like Cleaver, already have announced their support for either Clinton or Sen. Barack Obama. Cleaver voted his conscience, so to speak. The majority in both his Congressional district and the state of Missouri cast their ballots for Obama.

Rotert said the fact that Cleaver, who is black, has been pressured to endorse Obama has led him to question race politics today.

"With the challenges both abroad and at home, whoever is president is going to inherit a mess," Rotert said. "[Cleaver believes Clinton] is best prepared to deal with what will be a daunting task. ... Are people actually saying that Congressman Cleaver, because he's black, should vote for Sen. Obama because he's black?"

He said Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri superdelegate who has pledged to support Obama, has similarly felt pressure to endorse Clinton.

"[Cleaver and McCaskill] actually sat down and did an hour-long debate," Rotert said. "It was a good conversation."

**"There will be many factors that play into his decision"**

Here's the twist: four of Missouri's superdelegates have pledged to vote for Clinton and four for Obama, with the rest yet to make a public choice. Please see DELEGATES, Page 7



A few superdelegates, clockwise from left: Robin Carnahan, Ike Skelton, Russ Carnahan, Claire McCaskill, Dick Gephardt, Emanuel Cleaver  
Left: Presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama

Design by Leah Bowring and Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

**Obama supporters**

Sen. Claire McCaskill  
Rep. Russ Carnahan  
DNC\* Mark Bryant  
Rep. Lacy Clay

**Clinton supporters**

Party leader Dick Gephardt  
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver  
DNC\* Doug Brooks  
DNC\* Sandy Query

**Uncommitted**

Rep. Ike Skelton  
Sec.\*\* Robin Carnahan  
DNC\* Maria Chappelle-Nadal  
DNC\* Leila Medley  
DNC\* John Temporiti  
DNC\* Yolanda Wheat

Missouri will seat 16 superdelegates at the Democratic National convention. Four are currently supporting Obama, four are for Clinton, six are uncommitted and two will be elected in April.

\* Democratic National Committee member, \*\* Secretary of State



John Moenster/Index

Sunset Village Trailer Court will be without residents in a few months now that landlord Ben Hickman has evicted them. All residents have been given 120 days to leave and are also required to take their trailers when they go.

**Landlord evicts residents**

BY JOHN MOENSTER  
Staff Reporter

The recent eviction of all tenants of Sunset Village Trailer Court, located just north of Wal-Mart, has residents scrambling to find living arrangements.

One resident of the court, who asked not to be identified, said tenants received eviction notices Feb. 27 that informed them that they had 60 days to move out of the court, including their trailers. After

being informed of a state statute, however, Ben Hickman, owner of the park, issued a new Feb. 29 letter stating that residents now have been given 120 days after their next rent installment is due to leave the trailer court.

However, residents still are left with the tasks of finding a new place to live and moving there in a very short time frame. The resident said Hickman deceived residents.

"In December 2007, I confronted [Hickman] about rumors circu-

lating around that the park was going to be sold, to which he replied, 'Hell, I haven't had a buyer for that park in 15 years. Would you want to buy it?'" the resident said.

The resident said 120 days is not enough time to raise the money needed to move.

"There are people living here who have trouble paying their \$100-a-month lot rent," the resident said. "How are they supposed to come up with the money?" Please see HOME, Page 7

**Larger schools realize liberal arts potential**

BY CAITLIN DEAN  
Staff Reporter

Liberal arts schools will need to package themselves differently if they want to sell.

In an article from Insidehighered.com, Victor E. Ferrall Jr. cited a 2004 University of California at Los Angeles survey in which students gave their primary reasons for attending college. Three-fourths of participants listed receiving specific career training, getting a better job or making more money as their top initiatives, according to the article. However, liberal arts schools expose students to a wide array of disciplines rather than narrow, career-specific paths.

"The belief now is that students will change jobs seven or eight times in a lifetime, so the idea of coming out with one job to do one thing isn't what we're about," University President Barbara Dixon said. "It will be a rare person in the future that will be able to do that."

Truman's liberal arts program will benefit students by preparing them for more than one specific job upon graduation, she said.

"The highest goals of a liberal arts education are to ignite the individual's curiosity about the

**Arguments for the liberal arts**

Victor E. Farrell Jr. presents these arguments for a liberal arts education in an article on insidehighered.com.

1. **Extraneous classes aren't useful, but that's why they're invaluable.** The liberal arts are for enriching a student's knowledge, not preparing him or her for a specific career.
2. **Liberal arts colleges offer superior teaching.** The mission of non-liberal arts colleges do not allow as many opportunities to interact with staff compared to liberal arts colleges because of larger class sizes.
3. **Liberal arts won't cater to students interested in only a college degree.** In-class practice for a career is a poor substitute for on-the-job training, while liberal education is fulfilling. In-class focus is always on personal enrichment.

Source: insidehighered.com Reporting by Will Young/Index

natural and social universe and then aid him or her in developing the skills and personal resources to channel knowledge into productive, satisfying activity," according to the University's mission statement.

Skills and experiences gained through Truman's liberal arts program will make individuals more flexible, Dixon said.

"We strive to fulfill our mission ... by offering ... small classes, individual attention and really striving very hard to move

to broad-based skills," Dixon said. "Not only content knowledge but critical thinking, the ability to make connections, the ability to take in lots of information, analyze it, and to use that ... in creating both a lifelong learner who is never satisfied if they're not learning something new, and to provide leaders for the world and an educated citizenry."

One issue Truman now faces in recruiting new students is the fact that larger universities real

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**INSIDE | this issue**

**Coach Skoch**

Head volleyball coach Jason Skoch authors open letter to administrators



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**Building Concerns**

Newman might not raise enough money, diocese lays out new plans



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**'Jeopardy!'**

Professor Sara Orel was a contestant on a popular game show



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**WEATHER**

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