

U N I V E R S I T Y N E W S

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Troy Nash is new student curator

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A whirlwind blew into the 51st Street Coffeehouse recently. His name is Troy Nash and he is the new Student Curator for the University of Missouri System. But this whirlwind is more than air.

A product of the economically disadvantaged part of Kansas City, raised with his five other siblings by his mother, Nash has been consumed by politics since he was old enough to turn on CNN.

"I have an insatiable appetite for political history. I eat it up. It's my caffeine," he said as he pointed to my cup of java.

He began reading at an early age and has never stopped. He watches A&E Biography with a zeal that borders on the spiritual.

"'Madman' week is this week," he said with a gleam in his eye and a glance at his watch.

His enthusiasm for the political is playing out in the real world. He's worked on campaigns with Alan Wheat, Mayor Emmanuel Cleaver,

and Paul Patton, governor of Kentucky, to name just a few.

This is a man with unbridled enthusiasm for life. As he sits with you, you begin to feel that you are, not only the only person in the room, but that your thoughts and ideas are the most important and interesting in the world.

With a B.A. in Economics, Nash is now tackling his Ph.D in Economics, and is also second year law student. He will graduate in 1997.

Nash believes education is the key to just about everything, and he, in no uncertain terms, will get that point across to anyone who will listen. Like the waitress he spoke to, who took notice of the papers he was working on. She mentioned she was going to Penn Valley, and had only a science class left. Nash convinced her to transfer to UMKC and finish her degree here.

In fact, his family is practically supporting UMKC, he said. His wife is in economics, two brothers and a sister are also on campus. His mother received her GED at age 55. Nash

embraces education like a man who has been through the desert and has seen the oasis. He takes his 'gospel' to the streets.

"I'll speak to anybody. I'll stop on the street in my suit and talk to homeless people. I've just got to get inside their heads. I love knowing about people," Nash said.

At age 26, Nash is no innocent to the world. He is a decorated Air Force veteran of Desert Storm. He received so many awards in the Air force, including the National Defense Ribbon, that they ran out of medals to give him.

He firmly believes that education is the only mechanism for the underprivileged to make it in the mainstream. This point he drives home by talking to everyone he meets.

He was sworn in as Student Curator at the last Board meeting in St. Louis. It is a two year appointment, which rotates among all four campuses. He is representing 53,000 students. A huge job, but Nash sees it as just an extension of what he does now — stopping and talking to people about their concerns and trying to get them to understand the importance of an education.

Nash didn't decide to run; his peers decided for him.

"I have no idea why they did,

Please see "Nash" on page 3



Student Curator Troy Nash shares his views.

Photo by Mike Buckley

Nash gives all to job

Continued from page 2

either," he said.

The curator position is a non-voting one and he is not allowed into the closed sessions. His job entails bringing the concerns and needs of the student population to the Board's attention. By law, he is required to attend all bi-monthly meetings, which start again in April.

To date, his office is not set up yet. He hopes to have things organized and off the floor within the next couple of weeks. He encourages people to write, e-mail or even call him at home. His e-mail address is TNASH@cctr.umkc.edu.

Elected office is not out of the question once Nash finishes law school, but he is not limiting himself to that.

"I want my life to be of the high-

est and best use it can be," Nash said. That, to him, may mean elected office, fundraising for candidates or becoming a teacher. The most important thing, though, is people.

He was a clerk last summer for the Lathrop and Gage law firm in Kansas City, and will work with them again this year.

"But they know that I may not want to do this when I graduate," he said. "I like the people aspect of it, but I'm not a money person."

While sitting and talking to this man, one is taken in by his energy, his honesty and his sense of destiny. He pulled a quote from somewhere. "Always strive to be on top, because the bottom is overcrowded."

Watch for Troy Nash to be on top someday.