1st Quarter 2002
KOMU-TV Columbia, Missouri

There follows a listing of some of the significant issues responded to by station KOMU-TV through its news programming for the period January 1, 2002 to March 31, 2002. The listing is by no means exhaustive, but instead shows the depth and breadth of coverage. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

1st Quarter Issues: Consumer Issues, Crime, Drug/Alcohol Abuse, Government, Health, Education, Jobs/Economy

Description of Issue	Program/ Segment	Date	Time	Duration	Narration of Type and Description of Program/Segment
Jobs/Economy	KOMU News at 10	1/1	10 pm	2:00	The bellringers have gone home, although their kettles weren't quite full. A Columbia charity is still trying to reach its goal, so it won't have to turn anyone out into the cold. If the Salvation Army doesn't raise enough money, services may be cut, like counseling and rent assistance that help Marsha and Robert.
Jobs/Economy	KOMU News at 6	1/2	6pm	2:00	The Howard County public library in Fayette is starting the new year without the support of the Daniel Boone Regional System of libraries. The budget works out to about 70- thousand dollars a year, which pays for utilities and keeps salaries at their current level. Library workers say their building needs repairs too, but it'll just have to wait.
Crime	KOMU News at 10	1/3	10 pm	4:00	A Hermann man is in jail, accused killing his fiance's baby. He kidnapped the baby, and she ended up in the hospital. The doctor believed her injuries were the result of child abuse. Police arrested the mother's fiancé. A medical examiner pronounced Bryanna dead at 2:11 p.m. Police charged Jacoby Mason with child abuse resulting in death. An autopsy is scheduled tomorrow.
CONSUMER ISSUES	KOMU News at 6	1/4	6pm	3:00	Clipping coupons can save you hundreds of dollars. Bottom line: clip the coupons, shop on the days you can make the most of them, like double coupon days and just try spending 15 minutes a week filling in rebate or refund offers.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News	1/5	10	1:00	Missouri State Auditor Claire McCaskill conducted the audit of Moniteau

	at 10		pm		County this year. McCaskill found problems with the county's General Revenue Fund. The fund went down over 100-thousand dollars in four years. Also, the Missouri State Auditor found the county needs to improve matters related to the emergency dispatch board.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 10	1/6	10 pm	1:00	Missouri voters limited the number of terms for lawmakers in 19-92. So as many as 74 House members and a dozen senators will be looking for work after elections in November. This could change the partisanship in each chamber. Some lawmakers say this could lead to an ugly and unproductive session, which starts Wednesday.
HEALTH	KOMU News at 6	1/7	6pm	2:00	A Missouri infant today gets the state's first dose of the new Rotavirus vaccine. Two years ago, another vaccine, Rotashield, was pulled from the market after children suffered intestinal blockage. Dr. Stanley Horner is leading the Rotavirus study at Jefferson City Medical Group. The purpose is to find a vaccine that prevents rotavirus in young children, like Abigale Karr. Access to the study is limited.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 10	1/8	10 pm	2:00	Missouri lawmakers start their annual session at noon tomorrow. Senators will tackle bills in a brand new setting. Along with a new year and session also come new lights, new seats and a brand new chamber for the Missouri Senate. The chamber renovation came in under cost. Term limits take effect this year. And, because of them, a dozen senators can't run again next November. Missouri voters approved legislative term limits in 1996. Those limits are eight years for the House and Senate. And, no lawmaker can serve more than 16 years total in both chambers. Term limits also affect at least 60 representatives this year.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 6	1/9	6pm	1:00	State auditor Claire McCaskill announced today that Missouri's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund will be bankrupt by 2003. If the problem isn't fixed, the state will have to go to employers and the federal government for help. McCaskill says a law that limiting the fund to 500-thousand dollars is one reason for the bankruptcy. She also sites bad economic times and a lack of employers who pay unemployment benefits. Missouri's low taxable wage base, she says is also a problem. Today McCaskill gave legislators her ideas on how to keep the fund from going broke.
CRIME	KOMU News at 10	1/10	10 pm	2:00	Columbia police arrested Shannon Gregory and charged him with 2nd-degree murder in the death of Dexter Bradford. Bradford's body was found

					last Thursday night near Crestvale Trailer Park. People in the neighborhood said management is making changes to make things safer. Some residents say they feel safer than Dayton because the problem people are confined to the front of the park. The manager of the park said the problems come from areas surrounding the park.
HEALTH	KOMU News at 6	1/11	6pm	2:00	The way insurance pays for patient care in Mid-Missouri could change. Mental health patients in Mid-Missouri have not been receiving the same insurance coverage as patients with physical disabilities. Forty percent of the patients who come to the Mid-Missouri Mental Health Care Center reportedly depend on insurance payments. Vicky Riback-Wilson introduced a new bill this legislative session to get them equal help. Representative Wilson hopes to make insurance companies view the disabilities as equal. Now, its up to the Critical Issues Committee for approval before the House takes on the issue.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 10	1/12	10 pm	1:00	The Department of Education wants to help kids get off of the streets. They gave the College of Engineering and local organizations a 200-Thousand dollar grant for computer proficency. Program organizers also hope adults will learn how to use the computers.
HEALTH	KOMU News at 6	1/13	6pm	2:00	A new vaccine could stop the spread of a deadly disease. A deadly disease may be the cause of a cough. But whooping cough is spreading. In fact, Missouri's neighbor Arkansas had 700 cases of whooping cough just last year. That's 15 times the number from 2000. And that has Missouri Health Officials concerned. But a new vaccine will help stop the spread and concern.
CRIME	KOMU News at 10	1/14	10 pm	1:00	A man who walked away from the Moniteau County jail this morning is back behind bars. Michael Jackson was arrested near the county line between Cole and Moniteau counties. Authorities say he was waiting for his girlfriend to pick him up. When she arrived, she was arrested too.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 6	1/15	6pm	2:00	Governor Holden wants to know where the under performing schools in Missouri are and how to fix them. The governor wants to make Missouri one of the elite states in education. Governor Holden wants adminstrators, teachers, and parents to take an active role in getting Missouri schools up to par. If they do not, the school risks losing state funding.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 10	1/16	10 pm	:30	A Jefferson City group wants to raise teacher pay. The Civic Progress Committee wants the school board to put a tax increase question on the

					April ballot. The district has trouble getting and keeping qualified teachers, because of low pay.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 6	1/17	6pm	1:00	Lawmakers are considering a bill giving the state greater authority to discipline teachers. It would also help local school districts pursue action against teachers. The House bill makes several changes to the way teacher licenses may be denied, or disciplinary action. These agreements also would be subject to judicial review. The House Education Committee could vote on the bill as early as next week.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 10	1/18	10 pm	1:00	Some Columbia residents say the school district's tax rate is too high. So, they're suing the Boone County collector to get back about a million dollars. Even though the suit is against the county, school district officials say they'll probably be involved. No word yet when the suit will go to trial.
CONSUMER ISSUES	KOMU News at 6	1/19	6pm	1:00	Wal-Mart stores nationwide *refuse* to fill prescriptions for the morning-after pill. And local members of a reproductive freedom foundation say that's not fair. Local Pro-Choice activists fought the morning winds to fight for the morning after pill.
HEALTH	KOMU News at 10	1/20	10 pm	2:00	Health experts challenge people to look at their bodies from other angles besides fat percentages and diet. Health experts say that the thinnest people aren't necessarily the most physically fit. Health professionals try to encourage people to accept their bodies they way they are. Something everyone can accomplish...with a little help from exercise. Health professionals also suggest small changes...not big diets...to improve health and fitness.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 6	1/21	6pm	2:00	In a press conference, House minority leader Catherine Hanaway introduced the panel of private business people who put the recommendations together. The panel says the biggest problem is overestimating the amount of money in the budget.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 10	1/22	10 pm	3:00	Lawmakers need 220-million dollars in new revenue this year to consider public schools fully funded. That's a 13-percent increase from last year's education budget. The formula to calculate the needed increase is complicated, and the numbers can change dramatically. A House committee discussed how the formula works, to figure out how to make up that difference. Governor Holden has made education funding a priority. And lawmakers expect him to reveal plans tomorrow to free up money for education in his State of the State speech. A House budget official says, no

					matter what, schools won't lose money from last year.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 6	1/23	6pm	2:00	Voters have said "no" to a tax increase for a new jail three times already. But on the last ballot... the question asked for approval to buy a downtown Moberly building to convert into a courthouse. So voters will decide on a one-half percent sales tax increase over the next 18 years to build the jail with courtrooms. Sheriff's deputies say it cuts down on transportation costs and increases security. If voters pass the tax... groundwork for the new jail will start this fall.
CONSUMER ISSUES	KOMU News at 10	1/24	10 pm	1:00	K-Marts in Columbia and Jefferson City will stay open, despite the company's bankruptcy. Analysts say those financial troubles may be due to higher prices and poorer service than other discount chains. Some customers say they shop at Walmart for the friendly faces.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 6	1/25	6pm	1:00	MU's deputy chancellor says cutting employees and scholarships is the last resort when it comes to slashing next year's budget. Missouri officials say applications and tuition deposits for incoming African-American freshman look promising. The school says it received 61 percent more deposits this year than last year at this time. Officials say getting qualified minority applicants is always a priority even though money will be tight next year.
CRIME	KOMU News at 10	1/26	10 pm	2:00	One brother is dead and another in fair condition after a shoot-out in Freeburg last night. Mike and Rex Bland began a small construction company. Sources say Rex cleared the business bank account and took the tools about a year ago. And they think that led up to last night's shooting. A witness said the shooting occurred in the main part of town, outside Johnny B's restaurant. Brothers Mike, Luke and Rex Bland...and family friend Steven Siebert confronted each other. And by the time emergency services arrived, Hilke found Mike dead...and Luke wounded. Rex Bland and Steven Siebert left the scene. They were arrested a short time later.
HEALTH	KOMU News at 10	1/27	10 pm	2:00	Governor Holden wants to cut dental and optical services for adults in the Medicaid system to save 16 million dollars. But some residents say those services are crucial. Some even think it could cost the state more in the long run. Dental and optometry programs will not be the only things cut under Holden's proposal. Community health centers will also see a lack of funding. Hussmann's group R-O-T, Rescue Our Teeth, will travel to the capital on Tuesday to petition the governor. Many health care plans...not just

					medicaid...consider dental and optical coverage an optional service.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 6	1/28	6pm	2:00	The Missouri Senate and House agree on establishing early voting, allowing computerized voting and letting the secretary of state investigate election violations. They disagree, however, on two issues... requiring photo i.d. and allowing provisional balloting... which means poll workers don't have to have your records. They would be allowed to vote and then it would be validated and counted if it were valid and then thrown away if it wasn't.
HEALTH	KOMU News at 10	1/29	10 pm	2:00	The streets of Herculaneum, Missouri are loaded with lead from the nearby Doe Run Company. Now the EPA's looking into whether it's causing health problems for neighbors. And some environmentalists worry about a slew of bills they say could help companies like Doe Run get away with similar spills. But activists say the state's laws are tougher. Many of these bills have faced the legislature before and failed. But, this year might be different. And right now the Sierra Club is without a Mid-Missouri leader. But, activists won't give up.And they hope lawmakers carry the group's objectives through the political process.
DRUG/ ALCOHOL ABUSE	KOMU News at 6	1/30	6pm	1:00	An amendment passed by Missouri Senate says that you can have an open beer in your car, but you can't be drunk. But the bills' sponsor doesn't think the bill will make it through the senate because of that amendment. Republican Senator Morris Westfall says the bill is probably finished, now that the amendment's adopted. He also says the bill doesn't meet federal requirements for highway funding related to open container legislation.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 10	1/31	10 pm	2:00	The sun has set on good economic times in Missouri, so Governor Holden wants to tap into the state's rainy day fund to pump life back into the budget. To clear things up...the governor wants to use 135-million dollars from the state's Rainy Day Fund, a fund that's been around for 17 years. Seven and a half percent of general revenue goes into the fund. It has more than 450-million dollars. Some lawmakers say using the reserves now is unconstitutional. But, others say, there IS an emergency...a financial one. Using the Rainy Day Fund takes a two-thirds vote in the Missouri House and Senate.
HEALTH	KOMU News at 6	2/1	6pm	2:00	The Bush administration wants extra healthcare to be given to an unborn child, not the mother. Right now a child is only counted if it's born. And you can qualify for Medicaid at a higher income based on the number of people in your household. The new plan counts the unborn child. Which means...

					you can qualify at the higher income of 34, 830 dollars. Planned Parenthood says the change to count unborn children as household members is political.
DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE	KOMU News at 10	2/2	10 pm	1:00	Things are heating up when it comes to open container laws. Anheuser-Busch geared up for a fight *against* a bill that would have made it *illegal* for passengers to have open liquor containers in cars. But, senators approved a watered-down version of the bill first. Now the penalty only applies if the person holding the container is *legally drunk*.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 10	2/3	10 pm	2:00	A local Jefferson City union is one step closer to a strike today. They unanimously rejected their company's new contract offer... and that opens the door for a strike. In the new contract, workers will recieve a 732-dollar wage increase, but they'll pay about 1-thousand dollars more for insurance. U-A-W also filed labor charges against A-B-B. As for what's next, U-A-W's bargaining committee will bring the rejection to A-B-B on Monday. They will either negotiate... or prepare for a strike.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 6	2/3	6pm	2:00	The contract between UAW 2379 and ABB ended January 31st. The two sides have been negotiating since early Jaunary, but there's no agreement yet. Though UAW members say they want to avoid a strike, they also say ABB is not fairly addressing their needs. If it comes to a strike here at ABB, 875 jobs will be impacted. But, it could potentially affect all of Mid-Missouri. A-B-B presented its best and final offer to UAW workers Friday morning. No new talks are scheduled.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 10	2/4	10 pm	2:00	A-P Green announced today that the plant will close forever on March 31st. U-S steel plants have been closing because of hard economic times. And, A-P Green's demand has dropped, too. A-P Green employees do have *some* options. As the demand dropped for firebricks, other factories in Mexico have expanded their workforce. And, Mexico's economic development director tells us there are other manufacturers in the area that have similar jobs.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 6	2/5	6pm	2:00	A Missouri Senate committee says no to a mid-Missourian headed for the state labor board. Republicans rejected Slusher because of her affiliation with the Missouri Association of Trial Attorney's or MATA. They also say this affiliation could affect her decisions on a commission that reviews worker's and unemployment compensation cases.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News	2/6	10	2:00	This week's layoffs and plant closings cost nearly 200 Mid-Missourians their

	at 10		pm		jobs. Early next week Missouri's Department of Economic Development will meet with management and union workers at AP Green to plan, what's called a rapid response session. Missouri's Department of Economic Development offers job placement assistance based on personal interests.
DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE	KOMU News at 6	2/7	6pm	1:00	A Florida man showed up in Boone County court today. He's accused of taking morphine out of his wife's I.V. at University Hospital. Peter Bouzianis is charged with first degree tampering. Police say he bought hypodermic needles from a Columbia store, and then injected himself with morphine from his wife's I.V. line. The court set his bond at 10-thousand dollars. If Bouzianis posts bail he can't have contact with his wife or visit hospital grounds.
JOBS.ECONOMY	KOMU News at 10	2/8	10 pm	2:00	This week seems like one long string of layoffs at several Mid-Missouri companies. But, hundreds of new jobs may start soon in one Randolph County community. The jobs are for a new Wal-Mart distribution center that will soon open behind Moberly's Super Wal-Mart. Laid-off workers will have a good chance of getting some of those 400 jobs, because the company's not requiring warehouse experience.
CRIME	KOMU News at 6	2/9	6pm	1:00	Officials arraigned a Boonville man for taking a hostage. Christopher Roper has been charged with assault and kidnapping. Police arrested Roper Thursday after an eight-hour standoff. Police say the woman recently obtained a court order barring Roper from contact with her. Roper has two additional lawsuits pending, both involving assault.
CRIME	KOMU News at 10	2/10	10 pm	1:00	Road safety may be a top concern during cold weather, but, crime statistics are heating up across the county. And, that's an alarming trend for local officials. The number of D-W-I, Robbery, and domestic violence reports was higher in 20-01 than *any* previous year. D-W-I's have more than quadrupled since 19-99. After a series of local *robberies, that amount has more than doubled. And, the total number of *reported* domestic violence cases increased last year from 740 to 795.
DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE	KOMU News at 6	2/11	6pm	2:00	A tough job for cops - keeping up with drugs in demand like ecstasy. Commonly known as a RAVE or party drug...part hallucinogen, part amphetamine. Ecstasy is growing in populatity nationwide. The same trend holds true for M-U. In last year's anonymous survey, more students admitted to trying ecstasy. Starting today you'll see more anti-ecstasy ads thanks to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America.

GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 10	2/12	10 pm	1:00	Missouri lawmakers gave first approval to another bill today. But, it still needs a final Senate vote before going to the House. The bill would strengthen the state's response to a biological attack. Sponsors say the legislation tries to balance personal rights with public health needs. The measure would close information to the public about security in government buildings. But, the public would know how much security measures would cost.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 6	2/13	6pm	3:00	Missouri Lawmakers are talking about changing the 3- year statute of limitation for rape and sodomy. The bill, which has already passed the House, removes the 3 year statute of limitations, but a Senate committee added an amendment one Representative doesn't like. It still places a three-year statute on rape...if there's no police report, accident report, or medical evidence. Lawmakers are trying to work this out.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 10	2/14	10 pm	1:00	Spring Break starts *and* ends one day early for Jefferson City students this year. Just like today, they will be in class April 2nd. That's the day voters decide on a property tax levy for the district. School leaders feared voters would not return in time to go to the polls. If voters say yes to the tax levy, starting teacher salaries will go up $7,000 and experienced teachers will get a $5,000 raise over a two-year period.
DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE	KOMU News at 6	2/15	6pm	:30	Three years of undercover investigations lead to the arrest of 13 people this morning. Charges include possession, sales and manufacturing of methanphetamine and marijuana. Some arrests were within 2000 feet of school property. Brookfield Police served arrest warrants in Linn, Macon and Sullivan counties.
DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE	KOMU News at 10	2/16	10 pm	2:00	Drug prevention is a major concern...But now the concern could be the disappearance of drug prevention programs. If the rainy day fund fails to pass in the next several months... funding for drug prevention programs could evaporate. If the governor's proposed budget does pass about 16-million dollars will be cut from The Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 10	2/17	10 pm	2:00	A proposal by the Columbia City Council would annex land surrounding the city. If approved, the town would grow to over one and a half times its current size. The end result...fire protection overlap between the city and the county. A 19-94 agreement allows Boone County firefighters to respond to fires that would be in the new city limits. And Columbia pays Boone County a flat fee for their service. The agreement also says the county must

					provide equal or better service than Columbia. The Columbia City Council will meet tomorrow evening. They'll talk about the costs of annexation and fire coverage.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 6	2/18	6pm	2:00	Teachers are always looking for new approaches to learning. Students in the Columbia Aeronautic and Space Association, or CASA, are going out of this world to learn real-world skills. Students work in teams, after all... it takes the team to watch the shuttle's systems and get everyone prepared for emergencies. The students even have to look after each other... monitoring blood pressures and heart rates. And the reward for that dedication comes when the students put another successful mission behind them.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 10	2/19	10 pm	2:00	Columbia school board candidates talked issues again tonight. Four candidates are running for three seats on the Columbia School Board. The four discussed their ideas for the district at a forum in Second Baptist Church. Candidates also discussed building maintenance and the April bond issue. But, the candidates aren't the only ones with ideas for the district. These Rock Bridge High students are thinking about more than just the bell finally ringing. Students also focus on tutoring, mentoring, and after-school programs. Tonight's candidate forum marks the second in a series.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 6	2/20	6pm	2:00	Lawmakers are at the center of another debate... over the invasion of privacy. The Associated Press would like to know what internet sites legislatures visit most. The AP has requested copies of cookie files, as well as cache and history files on lawmakers' computers. The House has agreed to comply if the AP pays about 7-thousand dollars for labor. Senators say the request is too broad and includes information outside the public record.
CONSUMER ISSUES	KOMU News at 10	2/21	10 pm	2:00	One satellite dish company, Dish Network, wants to buy the other one, Direct T-V. Not everybody is as comfortable about the merger as Charles Holt. In fact, the Missouri Attorney General's Office says that they'll bring legal action, if necessary, to prevent a monopoly. Boone Electrical Cooperative, a Direct T-V distributor, would probably make a lot of money if the merger goes through. But, the co-op does *not* support the proposal. It says competition always helps satellite dish customers. The merger has to first pass a federal anti-trust screening, which could take months.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 6	2/22	6pm	2:00	More hospital workers out of a job tonight... after another round of cuts at University Hospital. University Hospital's eliminating 102 jobs... some

					positions were already vacant leaving 69 current employees out of a job now. In additon to the layoffs, administrators say the hospital will cut executives and managers salaries and will not fill open positions. They expect the move to save three point one million dollars between now and the end of June. It does have an effect on hospital employees, though.
DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE	KOMU News at 10	2/23	10 pm	:30	Lawsuits continue to pile up against a Kansas City doctor accused of diluting drugs. Robert Courtney faces 250 lawsuits for wrongful death or fraud. Plaintiffs say the drug *makers should have done more to stop Courtney. But, the companies say *they* uncovered the diluted drugs. Courtney's criminal trial begins March eleventh.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 10	2/24	10 pm	1:00	Some Missouri lawmakers predicted the state would remove the statute of limitations on rape prosecution by this month. The original House bill made clear there was *no* statute of limitations on prosecuting rape, sodomy or *attempted* rape or sodomy. But the Senate version contains a condition... To be prosecuted more than three years after it happened, the crime must have been documented...by legal complaint, police report or medical evidence... within three years. The debate first started when a Missouri Court of Appeals ruled to give prosecutors three years to bring charges.
CRIME	KOMU News at 6	2/25	6pm	1:00	Law officers say crimes against children are increasing in Morgan County. But, the sheriff's department hopes two Senate bills help solve the problem. Missouri law says it's *not* a crime to lure away a child for sexual purposes. But, both bills would make it a felony to entice a minor.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 10	2/26	10 pm	2:00	Not only does the state have priorities...but businesses are taking a close look at *their* bottom line. Tight budgets have led to a number of layoffs in companies such as Orvis-Gokey Manufacturing Company. Another company will start making the luggage. Orvis will focus on footwear, resulting in numerous layoffs. Company executives declined to comment, but sent out a press release last month saying "Orvis anticipates 44 positions will be terminated as a result of the decision.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 6	2/27	6pm	2:00	There's a nursing shortage around the country and two Mid-Missouri colleges are working on a solution. The MU Sinclair School of Nursing and Moberly area Community College have teamed up to bring two types of nurses in training together. Students at MU earn a bachelor's degree. Students at Moberly will earn an associate's. The nurse shortage has swept the country including Mid-Missouri. Boone Hospital Center has 25 open nursing

					positions. The MU Health Care system has 81 full-time openings to fill. To keep current staff, MU Health care is offering a ten thousand dollar retention incentive. The MU/Moberly partnership hopes to better prepare students to work in all types of health care environments. While it may not cure the nursing shortage, it's making their work environment more comfortable.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 10	2/28	10 pm	1:00	A computer site's working again, to help Missouri students file federal applications for financial aid. The deadline's tomorrow night. But, until just a few hours ago, students could *not* get online to file their renewal forms. Calls for help poured into the M-U Student Financial Aid Office. But, problems were *not* limited to those waiting until the last minute. Technical problems with the computer server made some pages inaccessible since the start of this year.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 6	3/1	6pm	2:00	The local NAACP wants action to close the achievement gap between black and white students. Recent data shows black students in Columbia Public Schools score much lower than whites on Missouri Assessment Program, or MAP, exams. School officials don't have an answer for this, but the NAACP says the tests are racially biased and are calling for a moratorium.
CRIME	KOMU News at 10	3/2	10 pm	:30	The F-B-I is now using it's web site to help find a missing Boonville woman. A picture of 43-year-old Janice Owen is near the top of the agency's site. Owen has been missing since February eleventh. Her daughter, Alyssa, was found dead the next day. F-B-I officials say they're trying to increase awareness of the case.
CRIME	KOMU News at 10	3/3	10 pm	:30	Two Missouri death row inmates are also awaiting a controversial decision tonight. They're part of at least 82 death row inmates challenging their sentences after some states recently banned executing the mentally retarded. Since last year, roughly one in ten inmates across the nation have sought to get off death row using the same defense. Nearly half the claims came in North Carolina, the only state that made the ban retroactive.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 6	3/4	6pm	2:00	The Governor signed an emergency declaration today. It opens the door for the legislature to use the rainy day fund to balance Missouri's budget. If the rainy day fund doesn't pass, several social service programs will be cut. Governor Holden says programs like senior services and mental health are in that category. Because they are such high priorities, he didn't want to cut them right off the bat. But, some lawmakers say, it's a trick to make them vote for using the Rainy Day Fund. The governor's main priority is giving

					220 million dollars more to education. Holden says he's done what's necessary to protect Missouri citizens. The governor also left himself open to calling another special session this year, if lawmakers turn down his rainy day fund plan.
CRIME	KOMU News at 10	3/5	10 pm	2:00	A Columbia man convicted of murder is scheduled to die in less than two hours. The U-S Supreme Court today rejected Jeffrey Tokar's appeal for the fourth time. Tokar was convicted of killing a Centralia man during a burglary at the man's home in 1992. Although Centralia residents say Jeffrey Tokar's execution should have happened years ago, other Missouri residents say the death penalty is never the right answer. Tokar asked Governor Holden for clemency. But the governor denied his request. Tokar will be the third person executed in Missouri this year.
HEALTH	KOMU News at 6	3/6	6pm	2:00	Govenor Holden says if the state doesn't borrow from from its emergency fund - vital programs will be cut. A state funded program called the Autism Project helps autistic children and their families deal with their emotional issues. But the program might vanish, because of serious budget cutbacks. Employees say rural families will be hurt the most. Many can't afford to travel to major cities for help. And employees warn without it autistic children could end up in state care... costing Missouri more in the long run.
HEALTH	KOMU News at 10	3/7	10 pm	:30	Your insurance company might not cover it, but it's toxic to your health. *It* is black mold. And the state says about 40 Mid-Missouri insurance companies are trying to avoid paying for mold damage to your home...and your health. State Farm and Shelter Insurance companies have filed for mold exclusions this year.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 6	3/8	6pm	1:00	Teva Pharmaceuticals announced it is cutting 40 people. Teva makes an antibiotic prescribed mostly during the cold and flu season. The plant manager says falling sales and an oversupply of the drug on the world market are to blame for the layoffs. Mexico plans to call in the state's rapid response employment team to help laid off workers. Teva managers say at some point they plan to hire some of the workers back.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 10	3/9	10 pm	2:00	In mid-Missouri, there's an overwhelming feeling that school's are indeed safe. But one year ago today that wasn't the case at all. Five students were taken into custody. One for bringing a knife to school, which he claimed was in self-defense because he feared being shot. Down the street the same day, Oakland Middle School. An offhand remark by an upset child was turned

					into a rumor by another... implying the kid would come to school and quote shoot people. But student and teacher agree, today more than ever they feel safe at school. Security features...such as cameras in the hallways and an on-site police officer help put students and teachers at ease.
DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE	KOMU News at 10	3/10	10 pm	3:00	Richard Heiss lost his son to something called huffing. It's a type of chemical inhalant abuse...a growing problem among young people. According to the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition 2.1 million kids between the ages of 12 and 17 used inhalants in 2000. That's up from previous years.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 6	3/11	6pm	4:00	Union workers at A-B-B in North Jefferson City say, among other demands, they're not properly protected on the job. The union says it wants better safety procedures at the electrical transformer maker. In 1999, for 100 full time workers, the national average was 4.8 injuries and illnesses. ABB had 10.4 - more than twice as many. In 2000, the national average was 4.7 and ABB 7.00 - still above average. Last years national average isn't available yet but ABB's rate is 6.82. A drop of about 30 percent from two years earlier. The union says ABB's working out a better safety plan for the future. A strike is not out of the question.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 10	3/12	10 pm	2:00	Senator Mary Bland and several witnesses offered statistics they say prove capitol punishment is unfair. First they say minorities are sentenced to death more often than whites. Also the state's overturned 30 percent of death sentences because of new evidence. And they say execution costs Missouri nearly one million dollars a year. So they're proposing a bill to stop them temporarily and study the system. Today, committee members did not show support for stopping executions completely. And they said the bill would die without some amendments.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 6	3/13	6pm	1:30	Last June, Governor Holden issued an executive order allowing some state employees to unionize. There is another bill on the record now, in the Missouri Senate. The bill being debated makes sure there's no "fair share". That means state workers who didn't vote to unionize won't have any money deducted from their paychecks...The governor's office says there's nothing in his executive order saying pay has to be deducted from union workers.
CRIME	KOMU News at 10	3/14	10 pm	2:00	A jury convicted Deandre Buchanan on three counts of first-degree murder. The defense's argument of mental instability just did not work. The jury of seven women and five men didn't buy that argument, and about four- fourty

					today the verdict came in. The jury then went onto convict Bucanan on two more counts of murder in the first degree, and one count of assault in the first degree. The sentencing begins tomorrow at 8:30AM.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 6	3/15	6pm	:30	Federal money comes to Missouri to pay extended unemployment benefits. The 161 million dollars won't bail Missouri's unemployment fund out of debt. That fund will be in the hole by the end of this year. The federal money must be spent as soon as it comes in. The money is only for people who have already used up state unemployment and need more time.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 10	3/16	10pm	:30	At most schools, the three R's mean Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. Now some students could add *Religion to that list. The Good Shepherd Lutheran School will open this August. Principal Greg Hasseldahl says there's a large demand for a Lutheran school in Columbia. He says the school will emphasize Christian values...Making it different from public schools. Officials expect about 15 students to start at the Lutheran school in the fall. They hope to expand the school to include kindergarten through eighth grade.
HEALTH	KOMU News at 10	3/17	10 pm	2:00	Hospitals officials say a state budget cut could affect the quality of your emergency care. Since the mental health facility Charter Hospital closed in 19-99, Dr. Mueller's seen an increase of psychiatric patients in the E-R... and he says it's not a coincidence. One nurse says the increase in psychiatric patients is inevitable. Dr. Mueller says that mental health services should be in the core budget of the state. He also says it's an *essential service.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 6	3/18	6pm	2:00	Missouri's Commision for the Deaf expected to feel the cash crunch last week. The commission advocates for deaf residents, lobbies the state for deaf rights and certifies interpreters. Last week, the budget committee cut the commission's staff from seven to one and limited its funding for travel. So these changes could have affected Missouri School for the Deaf students. Before the end of the session, lawmakers will still review the budget committee's proposal for the Missouri Commission for the Deaf.
DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE	KOMU News at 10	3/19	10 pm	2:00	You're drinking, you're driving... if you get hurt the bartender could foot the bill... but lawmakers want to change that. New legislation preventing a drunk customer from suing a bartender or server gets first round approval. A bartender here isn't only responsible for customers when they're sitting at the bar. If someone picks up their car keys and gets in a drunk driving accident with .08 or higher blood alcohol level, either the customer or the

					victim's family has the right sue the server. It's called dram shop liability...But the Missouri Senate has said yes to weakening that law. The new proposal would make it illegal for an injured drinker's family to collect damages from the person pouring. It would also make the server liable only if the patron was visibly intoxicated or clearly underage. The bill's sponsor says his plan will bring those down. The proposal still needs final approval in the House and Senate.
CRIME	KOMU News at 6	3/20	6pm	:30	Macon County Sheriff's Deputies arrest two people for murder and are looking for two others for the same crime. The body of 74-year-old Frank Shame was discovered in his burned home January 30th. An outside tip on Monday led to those arrests. Gary Campbell and Jessica Groza are being held on 250-thousand dollars bond.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 10	3/21	10 pm	1:00	The Jefferson City Fire Department takes what it can get after asking the city for more manpower. Eight months ago the department asked for more staff.... and that might happen. The agreement will add nine more members to the department, which is what firefighters wanted. But... the department won't see the new hires unless the city annexes more land on the southcentral side of Jefferson City That's the plan firefighters have agreed to this week. The contract is signed... If Jefferson City voters agree to an annexation in 20-03 the city will hire nine more firefighters. Annexation will help pay their salaries. The Firefighters Union President says the department agreed to this basically because it's the only chance the department has to add staff.
CRIME	KOMU News at 6	3/22	6pm	:30	A Monroe County father pleads guilty to shaking his son to death. The charges against Joseph Perry include second degree murder and felony abuse of a child. Perry called 9-1-1 shortly after the child stopped breathing last November. His plea also includes a written confession of shaking his son.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 10	3/23	10 pm	:30	Missouri's unemployment rate is on the decline. The rate fell to 5 point 2 percent last month. That's a drop of one tenth of a percentage point. In February 20-01, the rate was at 5 percent. The unemployment rate for Boone and Cole Counties is at 2 point 5 percent. That's the lowest rate in the state.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 10	3/24	10 pm	2:00	Voting stations haven't been packed in the last few years... But elected officials want that to change. You've probably seen signs along

					the side of the road....encouraging you to vote. But not everyone takes that advice. U-S census statistics show that in the year 2000, the population of Boone County was just over 135 thousand. Of this number, approximately 102 thousand were elegible to vote. That's over 75 percent of the population. But only 17 thousand people turned out at the polls. That's only 16 point 85 percent of elegible voters in Boone County. Mayor Hindman says he'd like to see the numbers climb higher.
CRIME	KOMU News at 6	3/25	6pm	2:00	Randolph County opened *locked* doors today. It's an effort to show voters the county's need for a new jail. Sheriff Mark Nichels, the sheriff and the circuit judge decided to unlock the jail doors and offer tours to the public this week. April 2 will be the fourth time a new jail bond issue has been up, and the Randolph County Sheriff's Department says this is an attempt to pull voters their way. The new proposal includes a one-half cent sales tax increase over the next 18 years. It will support a new 76-bed jail, with two court rooms attached.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 10	3/26	10 pm	1:00	There will be a political race later this year for Boone County's highest office. Two Republicans filed their papers before today's five o'clock deadline. Jerry Carrington and Marvin Boyce are running for Boone County presiding-commissioner in the August primary. The winner faces incumbent Democrat Don Stamper in the November election. Carrington says plans to develop the Boone County Fairgrounds is an issue in the upcoming campaign. He also thinks Stamper set his own salary too high.
EDUCATION	KOMU News at 6	3/27	6pm	4:00	Turning plastic into cash, that's what credit-card companies promise. And college students are listening to the call. A 1999 Consumer Federation of America report shows 70-percent of undergraduates at four-year colleges have at least one credit card. And one-fifth of those students carry credit card debts of more than ten-thousand-dollars. MU students reflect this trend. A 1998 study explains MU Freshmen have 1 credit card, sophomores 2, juniors 3 and seniors 4. Also, female students tend to have more credit cards than males. MU implemented a policy two years ago that is trying to prevent that. All credit card vendors on campus must distribute an educational handout to each student along with the credit card application. Congress is considering a bill that would require companies to offer students starter cards with lower credit limits and to provide more information about fees and penalties. MU thinks its policy is the best way to prevent students

					from walking into financial trouble.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 10	3/28	10 pm	2:00	Mid-Missouri is having trouble finding people who want to save your life. A nationwide shortage of E-M-Ts and paramedics hits our area. The main problem seems to be low pay. Workers worry the staff shortage could hurt the people they serve. But, they'll keep working the long hours with low pay because it's what they do. Low pay isn't the only problem. Too much required training's also an issue. With just a little more training, a paramedic can become a registered nurse, and have the chance to make up to three times more. This option is starting to seem worth it to some people.
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU News at 6	3/29	6pm	2:00	Much of Mid-Missouri's struggling with the economy. Mexico just took a few hard hits. The town lost the 67 year old Hagan Clothing Company. Two city traditions...gone. But behind that old landmark facad -- where the imprint from 'HAGAN' is still visable...sounds of new life. Mary Thomas is rebuilding...starting a new tradition with a new store. It's 1 of 5 new businesses to move to the square this past year despite the economy. Thomas has been in business for a year and will celebrate by moving into the square by early May.
CRIME	KOMU News at 10	3/30	10 pm	1:30	Officials have evidence that shows a third party could be involved in the murder of Janice Owen, and her daughter Alyssa. The major case squad says there's physical evidence where both bodies were found. But they won't release details at this time. Right now...they're waiting for autopsy results. Officials say they're looking for the following people. They say they're considered witnesses, *not* suspects. The first man was seen in a green truck. He's described as white, wearing a red baseball cap, with shoulder-length brown or blonde hair. And, two men were seen in a white car outside the Owen home. The first man's described as white, 5 foot 8 inches tall, with a stocky build, in his early 20s. He was last seen wearing a red baseball cap, a black and red vinyl or leather jacket, a white t-shirt and blue jeans. The second man is white, about 6 feet tall, with a medium build, and thin, light brown hair. He was last seen wearing large frame, tinted glasses, and a button-down shirt.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU News at 10	3/31	10 pm	:30	Mid-Missouri officials greeted some out-of-town guests today at a special dinner. A delegation of nine international government officials arrived in Columbia for a State Department-sponsored visit. The officials hail from

					Armenia, Azerbaijan [azur-BIEjan] and the Republic of Georgia. They're visiting Columbia to learn more about local government and civil society in the U-S. Tomorrow, the delegates will meet with Columbia mayor Darwin Hindman.