Lindenwood's publications get a press

by JOAN ELLIOTT
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Every day people read books, newspapers and magazines, giving little or no thought to the process involved in getting the words printed on the page. Not so for Lindenwood's journalism students, who are having the opportunity this year to print their own student newspaper, thanks to the addition of a printing press in the publications department.

The A-B Dick offset printing press, the brainchild of Howard Barnett, chairman of the English department, is being used to print the weekly student newspaper, The Ibis, and the literary magazine, The Griffin. Invitations, art work, catalogs and promotional fliers are also printed on the press.

"We're still learning about all the things it can do," said student Paul Butts, who has spent many hours working the press. "I don't think students understand yet, that, because we can have a closed system on campus, they can have a great deal of input into what goes into all our publications. When they find out the possibilities, it should open up a raft of materials."

Butts suggested the possibility of printing photocopies of original art works, the writings and other materials of international students and "the idea of doing a color reproduction, considered for the Christmas Ibis, is phenomenal."

"There aren't many schools that allow students that opportunity and experience," Butts added.

While publications department personnel do most of the printing of college publications and promotional materials the journalism students handle the printing of student publications.

"The paper may not be as elaborate as last year's was," said journalism and broadcast major Nancy Siemer, "but we're getting more experience. Last year, the Ibis came out every two or three weeks," she said, adding proudly, "This year it comes out weekly."

Of no small significance is the money to be saved by having a printing press on campus. "Right now we have to build up our supplies," said Siemer, "but soon we'll start seeing the financial benefits."

In addition to Barnett's main considerations in purchasing the press, student experience and financial savings, Butts said there is a third consideration to examine. "It's here!" he said matter-of-factly. "We don't have to wait or take materials elsewhere to be printed."

HOT OFF THE PRESS is a reality at the Lindenwood Colleges this year with the addition of a printing press in the publications department. Liz Beck, top, prints college publications and promotional materials while the journalism students supervise the printing of the student newspaper. The Ibis.

The press is new and there is much to be learned about it. "Right now the quality isn't all I'd like," Butts said, "and we're limited in the size of papers we can print. I do think that the quality of reproduction will improve with time and practice."

Placing his priorities in perspective, Butts concluded, "We're working with it. And that, right now, is more important than what we're putting out."