

Gregory Freeman's St. Louis Post-Dispatch columns, 2002-1989

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2002:	123 columns	16 in book		
Our Holiday Food Fight Always Ends Sweetly, With Something For Everyone, Greg Freeman, 727 words, book: family	Sun., 12/22/2002	It's getting to be Christmastime around the Freeman household, and that can mean only one thing: food fight. Not food fight in the John Belushi, "Animal House" kind of way. No, I'm talking about what we're eating. It's a very big deal for us. I imagine there are many folks who decide a week or so before Christmas what the meal will be. You've got to make plans so you can be sure to have all the ingredients you need to make the meal. Not so in our		
Kidney Recipient Seeks To Thank Family Of Donor; A Meeting Is Possible, But Transplant Agencies Often Discourage It, Greg Freeman, 1306 words, :	Thu., 12/19/2002	A year and three months ago, Paula Hedger was a kidney recipient. Today, she'd do anything to find out who the donor was. Almost four years ago, Hedger started getting tired. She would go to her job in retail sales each day, but when she came home she was wiped out. Because she had no health insurance, she visited a health clinic. There she was told that she was low on iron. "They gave me iron pills, and I started taking them," she said. Hedger took the pills faithfully for		
I Say Keep Sen. Lott On -- As A Constant Reminder To Us All, Greg Freeman, 631 words, book: harmony	Tue., 12/17/2002	Don't count me among those calling for Sen. Trent Lott to step down. To the contrary, I'm one who thinks Lott should retain both his Senate seat and his leadership position in Congress. Lott has taken a lot of heat recently because of his remarks at Sen. Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday party this month. At that party, Lott said that the nation would have been better off had Thurmond, who ran for president on a segregationist platform in 1948, been elected. In Lott's		
Gephardt, Don't Repeat Democrats' Mistakes, Greg Freeman, 677 words, :	Sun., 12/15/2002	Memo to U.S. Rep. Richard Gephardt: Now that you've stepped down as House minority leader and are said to be considering whether to make a run for the presidency in 2004, you might want to talk to Professor Robert Salisbury about some political science basics. I took Salisbury's course at Washington University nearly 30 years ago. And while Democrats are wringing their hands, considering everything from shifting the party further to the right to tilting to the left,		
Downtown Residents Are Bringing Back Christmas Magic, Greg Freeman, 601 words, :	Tue., 12/10/2002	One of Jan Atkinson's favorite memories growing up in St. Louis in the 1960s was visiting downtown at Christmastime. Atkinson grew up in St. Louis County, but downtown was the place to be during the holidays. "I remember the animated windows at Famous-Barr, Boyds, Stix, Baer & Fuller, and visiting Santa on the ninth floor of Famous," she said. Indeed, for years, the words "downtown" and "Christmas" were almost synonymous to many St. Louisans. It was		
Affirmative Action Helped Start My Career - And That Puts Me In Good Company, Greg Freeman, 744 words, :	Sun., 12/8/2002	Let me say it upfront. I am a proud affirmative action baby. My very first job at a daily newspaper was the result of affirmative action. These days, some think that women, blacks and others who have benefited from this approach should somehow be embarrassed. Hardly. I've got nothing to be ashamed about. I was hired at a newspaper that had never had any black reporters. Suddenly, it hired seven new reporters and, not coincidentally, all of us were black. Being black helped me		
Advocate For Peace Has A Persuasive Way About Him, Greg Freeman, 624 words, :	Thu., 12/5/2002	A number of years back, I wrote a column about a dispute that my son and I were having about the death penalty. My son argued that the death penalty should be made illegal; I argued that I thought there were some crimes so heinous that they required the death penalty. After I wrote that column, I received a letter from Jim McGinnis. He and his wife, Kathy, operate the Institute for Peace and Justice. He encouraged me to give more thought to my opinion. Lives are precious, he argued. Are		
Blacks Still Face Barriers To Building Businesses In City, Greg Freeman, 639 words, :	Tue., 12/3/2002	When businessmen Michael and Steven Roberts were routinely reviewing titles and histories on properties they own, they came across a surprise on some of the land where they're building new retail stores in north St. Louis. "It was a restrictive covenant," said Michael Roberts. "It expired in the early '60s, and was signed by all residents in the area." The covenant barred homeowners from selling or renting to blacks. The covenant "was a surprise to		
St. Louis Is Among Most-Segregated Cities - And Most Of Us Are Comfortable With That, Greg Freeman, 743 words, :	Sun., 12/1/2002	So St. Louis is one of the nation's most-segregated metropolitan areas? The U.S. Census Bureau didn't have to tell us that. The bureau has released a new study showing that St. Louis ranks fourth among the nation's cities as most segregated. Only Milwaukee, Detroit and Cleveland are ahead of us. We're even ahead of Cincinnati, which endured three days of race riots last year. In the St. Louis area, all you have to do is look around. Look at schools that never were		
Thankful For Life -- One Year After My Sister Saved Mine, Greg Freeman, 626 words, :	Thu., 11/28/2002	I'm alive today, and I have my sister to thank for it. One year ago Friday, I received a lifesaving gift from my sister: a kidney. It's the sort of gift for which I can never be thankful enough. And because of that gift, I'm happy to report that one year later, I'm feeling fine. But my life has changed. Every morning and every night, I take nearly a dozen pills, which I'll have to take for the rest of my life. And I have to go once a month to have my blood		
Latest Bond Film Has Shown Up At Just The Right Time, Greg Freeman, 632 words, :	Tue., 11/26/2002	It doesn't really surprise me that the latest James Bond flick took in \$47 million over the weekend. The movie not only knocked "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" out of the No. 1 spot but is also making more money than any other Bond film in the franchise. After all, in a world as uncertain as ours, who better to turn to than the man who prefers his martinis shaken, not stirred? In the latest film, "Die Another Day," Pierce Brosnan as Bond is fighting an		
Retiree Took Up A Hobby - Looking For Treasure In Other People's Trash, Greg Freeman, 684 words, :	Sun., 11/24/2002	Kurt Cantfield spends hours each day going through other people's trash. And it's not because he's homeless. It's his hobby. "I retired four years ago," Cantfield says. "I just do this because I like it." I found Cantfield as he was driving from trash can to trash can in Forest Park. As he approached each can, he'd stop his car, get out, look and either take something out or leave. What was he looking for? "I know it when I see		
Iraq Is No Super Rival To U.S. Like Russia Was In The Cold War, Greg Freeman, 1183 words, :	Thu., 11/21/2002	America needs another Soviet Union. You read that right. More than a dozen years after the Cold War thawed, I can't help but wonder if we might be better off if we still faced the Soviet threat. The Soviet Union was unlike the enemies the United States has today. Sure, there's Saddam Hussein. But Iraq is no real rival. Though officials believe he may be stockpiling weapons of mass destruction, no one questions whether our forces can defeat his. We did it 11 years ago and we		
Investing In Youths Could Save Us All A Lot Of Trouble, Greg Freeman, 664 words, :	Tue., 11/19/2002	Jean Neal believes in the old adage that it takes a village to raise a child. But she's worried that the village isn't paying enough attention. Neal is chief executive officer of the Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center. She's worked with young people for years and is concerned about the youths who are committing crimes and the scarcity of resources to treat them. She was struck by a column that I wrote last month that referred to "Cortez," a		
Gulf War Vet Fights VA Over Whether Pill Caused His Disease, Greg Freeman, 583 words, :	Sun., 11/17/2002	Dave Haner says he's gotten over the bitterness. But he can't forget what's happened to him since he served in the Gulf War. In 1991, Haner was a Navy corpsman, a medic with the Marines. When the Gulf War began, he started in Saudi Arabia, went to Kuwait and finished up in Kuwait City. During that time Haner, like so many other Americans sent there at that time, was given an experimental chemical - pyridostigmine bromide. The chemical, given in pill form, was administered to		

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Readers Comment On GOP's Big Victory, Racial Profiling, More, Greg Freeman, 611 words, :	Thu., 11/14/2002	I'm turning today's column over to the readers. Dear Greg, I read your column about how Jim Talent and others in Washington should try to work together and stop fighting. How come when the Republicans are in office, you liberals start crying about compromise? I didn't see Democrats compromise when Clinton was president. I hope the Republicans get in there and make not a single compromise. When you've got the majority, you don't have to work with the minority.		
Stereo Technology Has Raced Ahead Of This Once Cutting-Edge Guy, Greg Freeman, 703 words, :	Tue., 11/12/2002	There was a time when I was a whiz when it came to stereo equipment and cutting-edge technology. I was one of the first among my friends to have a personal computer, an "IBM compatible," as we called them in those days. While others asked me why I wanted such a thing, I knew it was the wave of the future. The same was the case 17 years ago, when I was the first person I knew who had a CD player. It was part of a brand-new stereo system that I purchased. It had everything: a		
Maybe Talent Can Teach His New Colleagues To Stop Bickering, Do Some Work, Greg Freeman, 645 words, :	Sun., 11/10/2002	I've got a request for Jim Talent as he prepares to take his new Senate seat: Please keep it civil. It's probably a request that's unnecessary for Talent. He's not known for meanness or for politics that goes for the jugular. Unfortunately, Washington politics is known especially for that. Most people have a perception of the Democrats and Republicans as folks who largely snap at one another, grandstanding all the way, while nothing gets done. All sorts of promises are		
Aids Agency's Former Chief Admits Errors, Wants His Job Back, Greg Freeman, 653 words, :	Thu., 11/7/2002	Erise Williams Jr. wishes he hadn't hired a former porn star to talk about the issue of safe sex. That was a mistake, he acknowledges. But Williams said that his intentions were honorable and that he'd like his job back. Williams, executive director of Blacks Assisting Blacks Against AIDS, was fired by that organization's board of directors last week after stories circulated about a "safer-sex party" that Williams held in July. The featured guest was a former		
Hollywood May Retell A Love Story That's Less Unusual Today, Greg Freeman, 655 words, :	Tue., 11/5/2002	Hollywood is considering a remake of the film "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." The original starred Spencer Tracy as the father who is upset that his daughter has chosen to marry a black man, played by Sidney Poitier. Katharine Hepburn stars as Tracy's wife. According to news reports, the remake would put a black family at the center of the drama, perhaps with sitcom star Bernie Mac in the Spencer Tracy role. The original version caused quite a stir when it first hit		
Clergy Coalition Steps Forward With Creative Solutions To Crime, Greg Freeman, 750 words, :	Sun., 11/3/2002	St. Louis, not unlike other cities across the country, is dealing with problems of crime - crime, it seems, that is especially pronounced in some African-American neighborhoods. Lots of people are suffering as a result of these crimes. A column that I wrote a couple of weeks ago, encouraging leaders to step forward to help solve much of the black-on-black crime, generated a ton of "Amen" letters and phone calls from many people affected by the problem. I heard from one man who		
8-Year-Old Boy And His Family Celebrate His Second Chance, Greg Freeman, 1239 words, book: love, hope, & survival	Tue., 10/29/2002	* Two years ago, Russell Witek received a transplant of cord blood from St. Louis that knocked out his leukemia. For his mother, getting women to donate has become a quest. Russell Witek is your average, curious, 8-year-old boy -- and not incidentally a miracle of modern medicine. Without a transplant using donated umbilical cord blood from the St. Louis Cord Blood Bank, Russell likely would not be with us today. His story began four years ago, when Russell and his mother, Karen Witek,		
Arrests In Washington Sniper Case Point Out Futility Of Racial Profiling, Greg Freeman, 740 words, :	Sun., 10/27/2002	Surely there's much we can learn now that two suspects have been arrested in the Washington-area sniper attacks. But one lesson already stands out: the futility of racial profiling. It doesn't really matter whether the person or people being profiled are white, black or any other color. Profiling can hamper efforts to find real suspects. In the sniper attacks, police weren't looking for two black men. Some profiles indicated to police that the perpetrators were white men in		
Woman Took Advice To Heart And Turned Her Life Around, Greg Freeman, 664 words, :	Thu., 10/24/2002	Don't tell Darcella Craven that she needs to learn what it's like to be down and out. Craven today is executive director of Friedens Haus, a community-based program in the city's Hyde Park neighborhood. Craven runs an education program that she hopes to turn into a multiservice community center. The program is the result of a coalition between the neighborhood and Friedens United Church of Christ. Craven works with youngsters, trying to show them that there's a whole		
Reader Asks Where Is The Outrage Over Black-On-Black Crime, Greg Freeman, 661 words, :	Tue., 10/22/2002	When it comes to crime in St. Louis, Eric wants someone to step up to bat. Eric is a black man in his 40s who served in the armed forces and returned to his hometown 15 years ago. Sometimes he wonders whether he made the right choice. He's skeptical of the African-Americans here who call themselves leaders. "When I scan your paper every morning before heading to work, I see incident after incident of black people being killed, maimed, robbed and other forms of victimization at		
Voters See Plenty Of Ads, But None That Tell Them Much, Greg Freeman, 674 words, :	Sun., 10/20/2002	I wish we knew more about the Senate candidates. Sen. Jean Carnahan and challenger Jim Talent are campaigning around the state. But that's not how most Missourians know them. We learn about them through their campaign ads. We learn from Carnahan's ads that she works with Democrats and Republicans to get things done. We learn Talent's ads that he works with Democrats and Republicans to get things done. We're told by the ads that Carnahan has voted no on many of the		
Reader Goes To Bat For Idea Of Erecting Crispus Attucks Statue, Greg Freeman, 626 words, :	Thu., 10/17/2002	Don Smith is a man on a mission. He wants to see a statue of Crispus Attucks in Forest Park. Don't know who Crispus Attucks was? He was the first American to die in the Revolutionary War, in what came to be known as the Boston Massacre. And he was black. What some might consider unusual and others might consider admirable is that Don Smith is white. He thinks it's a shame that there is no statue for Attucks. And he's trying to do something about it. Smith began his		
Book Provides History Of St. Louis As We've Never Read It Before, Greg Freeman, 655 words, :	Tue., 10/15/2002	Think you know about St. Louis? Take this quick quiz (answers at the bottom of the column): 1. What was the Castle Club? 2. How did St. Louisans respond on Jan. 11, 1865, the day that Missouri passed a law abolishing slavery? 3. Did Clayton ever have a significant black population? 4. Where was Finley Park? Chances are, you don't know the answers to most of those questions. I didn't either, until I read John A. Wright's book: "Discovering African American		
He's Not Buying This Hard-Sell Approach, Greg Freeman, 594 words, :	Sun., 10/13/2002	I'm extremely bothered by the use of one word: Extreme. Its extreme use is getting way out of hand. If you're even a casual observer, you can't help but notice all of the many extreme products these days. Like the Extreme Quesadilla from Taco Bell. What makes it extreme? Four kinds of cheeses, the company says. Though that probably draws raves from the National Dairy Council, I wouldn't call that extreme. Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary describes the		

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It Does Take A Village: Troubled City Youths Should Trouble Us All, Greg Freeman, 666 words, :	Thu., 10/10/2002	Cortez, 13, has been arrested for the sale of crack cocaine. It's not his first offense. In fact, since March of last year Cortez has had an arrest for another crack sale, two arrests for car theft, another arrest for possession of a controlled substance, four arrests for tampering with a motor vehicle, two arrests for violating probation. Cortez isn't his real name. But his record is real. And his story is like those of so many other young people who often get in trouble in		
Readers Comment On Pot Admission, Gay Ad, Loose Pants, Greg Freeman, 560 words, :	Tue., 10/8/2002	I'm turning today's column over to the readers. Dear Greg: So you tried pot but don't know if you inhaled, huh? Yeah, right. You're just like all those other pot smokers from the '60s and '70s who did something stupid and now are afraid that the rest of us will know how stupid you were. Didn't know if you smoked pot right? Give me a break! -- A reader Dear Reader: Actually, I'm not so embarrassed that I tried smoking marijuana back when I		
Activist Pursued Fairness And Justice, Greg Freeman, 731 words, :	Sun., 10/6/2002	Back in the 1940s, public, private and parochial schools here participated in something called Brotherhood Week. All of the schools, black and white, gathered once a year at Soldan High School, the nearby Pilgrim Congregational Church and the Young Men's Hebrew Association for auditorium sessions and small group discussions. It was during one of those discussion sessions in 1947 that Vashon High School student Norman Seay met Margaret W. Dagen. Dagen, a young woman in her 20s, was a		
Loss Of Parking Spots In Clayton Handicaps Man On Crutches, Greg Freeman, 655 words, :	Thu., 10/3/2002	Few things in the world are ever black and white. Take the case of Fred Miller and the city of Clayton. Miller thought he knew what it was like to have a disability. After all, his father has muscular dystrophy and uses a wheelchair, and Miller often helps him get around town. But when Miller started using crutches for a knee problem, he discovered the world was a lot harder than he thought. And when he went to a meeting in Clayton, he discovered that parking on the street in Clayton was		
St. Louis Fares Well As Site For Screening Classic Documentaries, Greg Freeman, 636 words, :	Tue., 10/1/2002	A California-based arts organization that screens classic documentaries and academic films has chosen St. Louis as its first sister city. And it's all because of a man who worked at a radio station here one summer 31 years ago. Geoff Alexander is director and chief executive of the Academic Film Archive of North America in San Jose, Calif. Formed in 1996, the organization preserves academic and documentary films and promotes film literacy. The nonprofit organization archives and		
Black Leaders Critical Of "Barbershop" Need A Little Off The Top, Greg Freeman, 723 words, :	Sun., 9/29/2002	Two weeks ago, my wife and I went to see the film "Barbershop," starring St. Louisan Cedric the Entertainer, along with Ice Cube, rapper Eve, and others. We howled at the film. Hilarious, entertaining, definitely worth our money. Other Americans clearly have agreed. To date, the film has made at least \$40 million, and it was No. 1 at the box office for two weeks in a row. The film is a big success for those pushing for more African-Americans in films. It's written, produced		
Gateway Classic's New Center Is Just Latest Achievement, Greg Freeman, 607 words, :	Thu., 9/26/2002	When Earl Wilson was growing up in the downtown neighborhood then known as "Ghost Town," he was a regular at the city-sponsored recreation center in his area. The center, always a home for sports and other recreation, kept him off the streets and out of trouble, Wilson said. It gave him something constructive to do. But over the years, many of those recreation centers have disappeared, often the victims of budget cuts and other problems. The result, Wilson believes, has been		
Broadcaster Loses His "Voice" But Pushes Charities' Message, Greg Freeman, 671 words, :	Sun., 9/22/2002	Anyone who's ever paid attention to broadcast media knows that a television anchorperson or radio personality can be hot today and gone tomorrow. Many of them move around from city to city. Others find that their contracts haven't been renewed. Think about many of the faces and voices around St. Louis that aren't seen or heard on the air anymore: Rick Edlund, Debbie Warshawski, Marian Wright, Katherine Kiefer, Jonathan Clarke, even the Post-Dispatch's own Kevin		
Blagojevich's Pot Use Is Raising Eyebrows, But It Isn't Big News, Greg Freeman, 603 words, :	Thu., 9/19/2002	Rod Blagojevich, the Democratic nominee for governor, has many people abuzz this week with his admission that he tried marijuana when he was young. Blagojevich said that he had tried smoking pot twice when he was in college, but that he wasn't sure whether he had inhaled. The question of whether a politician ever smoked marijuana has become almost a standard one these days for reporters who are testing a candidate's honesty. And reporters are chuckling at Blagojevich's		
Couple Celebrate Steady Relationship In Changing Times, Greg Freeman, 651 words, :	Tue., 9/17/2002	A reader who regularly calls me left a furious message over the weekend. In it, he castigated folks at the newspaper as "a bunch of non-Christian idiots" who are "helping to take this country down the dark path to ruin." What so angered him? On Saturday, the Post-Dispatch ran an ad from John Todd and Mike Jones, a gay couple, announcing the anniversary of their commitment ceremony. A story by Post-Dispatch staff member Greg Jonsson reported that the newspaper joined		
A Cherished Symbol Is Gone, But Couple's Love Endures, Greg Freeman, 577 words, :	Sun., 9/15/2002	A wedding ring is a symbol of love between a married couple. But Joyce Metzger has lost that symbol and is desperately hoping to find it again. The love affair between Jim and Joyce Metzger began at a St. Charles skating rink in the 1960s. Joyce wasn't looking for a boyfriend. She spent much of her time that evening skating and having fun. When the announcer called out that the skaters would now skate backward, Joyce was going to call it quits. "I didn't think I could do		
Fashion Statements By Teenagers Can Leave You Muttering, Greg Freeman, 626 words, :	Thu., 9/12/2002	I saw another one this week. Another young guy wearing his pants practically to his knees. I know, this is a trend these days among the younger set: show as much of your underwear as you can at the top of your pants -- even if you're wearing a belt. But it still doesn't make me feel any better about it. It doesn't help, either, that so many of today's music stars, the rappers and hip-hop artists, seem to have misplaced their shirts. It seems that every time I turn		
Vibrant Principal Is At The Heart Of School, Neighborhood Rebirth, Greg Freeman, 625 words, :	Tue., 9/10/2002	The school hallway is peaceful when a visitor arrives in the middle of the day. Two young students walk by, talking quietly, wearing uniforms of white tops and tan bottoms. Things here seem very orderly. This is a St. Louis public school. And, no, it's not a magnet school. It's Adams School, a school in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood. The school, which reopened last year after being rehabbed, has been renovated in more ways than one. Like this neighborhood, it has a		
Readers Say Fair Needs Cheaper Food And Kinder, Gentler Veiled Prophet, Greg Freeman, 1094 words, :	Sun., 9/8/2002	A couple of weeks ago, I issued readers a challenge: After this year's Fair St. Louis - which was not well attended, compared with previous fairs - what would it take to get you to go to the fair in the future? Many of you responded with lots of ideas - ideas ranging from bringing in acts that appealed more to younger people, to selling sushi at the fair. (OK, that was my idea, one that was quickly shot down by an alert reader who rightly pointed out to me that hot weather and raw		
Gaslight Square Fans Recall Forgotten Stars Of The Bygone Hot Spot, Greg Freeman, 637 words, :	Thu., 9/5/2002	Patrick Schneider is sort of the unofficial guardian of Gaslight Square. As president of the Gaslight Square Historical Preservation Society, he's made the area his pet project over the years. At one time he had hoped to see it revived as an entertainment district. Now his interests lie in seeing that the area is renovated, and in preserving its history. As such, he's thrilled to see the old entertainment district get some new attention. A new documentary has been produced about		

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After Mac Hit Shot Of His Life, Man Got Call That Saved His, Greg Freeman, 1182 words, :	Tue., 9/3/2002	On Sept. 8, 1998, St. Louisans rejoiced as Mark McGwire broke Roger Maris' long-standing record with home run No. 62. And in West Chester, Pa., baseball enthusiasts Joe Mackey and his wife, Marion, were just as excited as they watched the game. But not nearly as excited as they would be hours later, when Mackey got the call that a liver had been located and he could get a much-needed transplant. Today, the Mackeys feel a special affinity to St. Louis, and they plan to celebrate		
The Nest Will No Longer Be Quite So Empty, Greg Freeman, 718 words, :	Sun., 9/1/2002	Well, it's official: The cat stays. Those of you who have been following this saga know what I'm talking about. But if you haven't, let me bring you up to speed. I was brought up as a dog person. My sister and I had two dogs as we were growing up, Scrappy, a black-and-white cocker spaniel, and Rex, who was part boxer, part German shepherd. Scrappy was my favorite. I taught him tricks. He loved to play. When I'd call his name, he'd come running, tail wagging.		
Transmission Woes Break Down Ties With Service Shop, Greg Freeman, 663 words, :	Thu., 8/29/2002	Joe Weaver got into one of those disputes that many of us have had at one time or another with people who service cars. The repair was botched, and Weaver wanted a refund. Weaver was fortunate in that he had little trouble convincing the manager of the shop -- a Car-X on South Kingshighway -- that he was owed a refund. But it's the size of the refund that's in dispute. And that's where it's hard to decide who's right and who's wrong. In any case, it brings to an		
Pigeon Drop Scam Goes High-Tech With E-Mail From Nigeria, Greg Freeman, 682 words, :	Tue., 8/27/2002	Do you know Tim Obaseki, who says he's the bills and exchange manager of the Eco Bank in Nigeria? How about Dr. Joshua Nmadi, who says he's the chief accounting officer of the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources in Nigeria? Or Mike Abass, who says he's a branch manager at Zenith International Bank in Nigeria? I don't know any of them, either, but that hasn't stopped them from e-mailing me, and asking if they can put money into my bank account. Their stories are		
Readers Can Lend An Idea Or Two To Help Improve Fair St. Louis, Greg Freeman, 708 words, :	Sun., 8/25/2002	Last month, I had an idea. With the year 2004 coming up - the celebration of the centennial of the 1904 World's Fair - why not mark it in a special way, by highlighting local talent? Everyone knows that 2004 will be a special year for St. Louis. Purists note that the fair itself was the one-year-late centennial celebration of another event - the Louisiana Purchase. Anyway, my idea was to use the year to showcase some of the talent from St. Louis that has been heard around the		
Spanish Speakers Here Gain Ways To Stay Informed, Greg Freeman, 662 words, :	Thu., 8/22/2002	The media in St. Louis are speaking with more of a Spanish accent these days. As an increasing number of Hispanics move to this area and raise families, they are finding more content on television and radio and in newspapers aimed at them. For example, KPLR (Channel 11) will begin a new, weekly Spanish-speaking television show in September, which not-so-coincidentally is Hispanic Heritage Month. Gilbert Pinela, head of the Hispanic Media Group here, will host the show, called		
The Time Is Right To Back Oversight Panel For Police, Greg Freeman, 606 words, :	Tue., 8/20/2002	As summers go, this one has been fairly peaceful when it comes to disputes between police and citizens. Some summers seem to breed flaring tempers between the police and some members of the St. Louis community. Perhaps it's the heat, combined with youngsters being out of school that generates friction. With tension not that high right now, perhaps this would be the time for St. Louis to consider strongly an idea that has been around for several years: establishing a citizen oversight		
Man Turns Around Life Then Dies Waiting For Liver Transplant, Greg Freeman, 980 words, :	Thu., 8/1/2002	By all accounts, Jerome West was a special guy. Women loved him. Men loved him. His personality attracted people to him. And he used his personality -- and his experience -- to help get people off drugs and alcohol. That is, until last week. Jerome West died at the age of 52, waiting for a liver transplant that never came. West knew something about addiction. He had abused drugs while a college student and afterward. But with the help of Narcotics Anonymous, he managed to get straight. So		
To Doubters Down On Downtown: Things Sure Are Looking Up, Greg Freeman, 657 words, :	Tue., 7/30/2002	I still have the letter. "Dear Greg Freeman," it begins. "Why don't you give it up? You're always talking about how downtown is going to come back. Face it, the reality is that most people gave up on downtown and the city a long time ago and nothing's going to bring it back. Why don't you let a dying horse die?" The letter, from a reader, was dated Aug. 16, 1997. There's no question that things looked bleak for downtown five years ago.		
World Is A Better Place Today For People Using Wheelchairs, Greg Freeman, 683 words, :	Sun., 7/28/2002	"Get around" is probably the wrong phrase. Perhaps the phrase "confined to a wheelchair" would have been more appropriate in her case. She really couldn't get around. My grandparents lived in an apartment building, and she never left the apartment. My grandparents had no car, so she stayed in the apartment all day and all night. I'm glad I live in the 21st century. For those who are unaware, I use a wheelchair these days to get around. Regular readers may		
Bullet Wipes Out Man's Attempts To Rebuild His Life, Greg Freeman, 593 words, :	Thu., 7/25/2002	After serving time in jail for dealing drugs, Cook had learned some important lessons and was hoping for a second chance. But that opportunity was dashed earlier this month when Cook, 29, was fatally shot from behind as he sat on a bench in the 900 block of North Compton Avenue. For Cook, it was the end of a journey that had taken him from good places to bad and then good again. He had been a fun-loving youngster, growing up in the Blumeyer public housing complex in the Jeff-Vander-Lou		
It Was So Hot Here That We May As Well Joke About It, Greg Freeman, 581 words, book: wit & wisdom	Tue., 7/23/2002	St. Louis is not the place to be at this time of year. Hades would be a comforting relief. Don't get me wrong. I love this place. In many ways, St. Louis for me is the perfect place to live. Except in summer. This is one hot place. St. Louis summers can be unbearable without air conditioning. Our parents never worried about air conditioning. When I was growing up, my folks never complained about the heat. They'd get out an old, heavy, black electric fan and enjoy the		
Their Experience As Crime Victims Had Profound Effect On Krewson, Shrewsbury, Greg Freeman, 663 words, :	Sun., 7/21/2002	No matter whom St. Louis voters choose to be president of the Board of Aldermen when they go to the polls next month, they will elect a crime victim. In an unusual election, both candidates, Lyda Krewson and Jim Shrewsbury, have been victims of crime. And both aldermen say that their experiences have had an effect on what they've done as elected officials. Krewson's case is perhaps better known. It drew a great deal of media attention in 1995. On a Thursday night in March of		
Some Of Us Need To Get Out Of Kitchen Regardless Of Heat, Greg Freeman, 664 words, :	Thu., 7/18/2002	I have real admiration for people who can whip up a fancy dinner, complete with the right wine for each course. My admiration stems from the fact that I can't cook. Never have. It's not that I've never tried. It's just that I don't seem to have the ability for it. I have a friend who once had us over for an eight-course meal. He put it together all by himself, from salad to dessert, and everything in between. Not me. If you come to dinner at my house and		
Man, His Family Struggle With Rare Bone Marrow Disease, Greg Freeman, 690 words, :	Tue., 7/16/2002	Jim Gustafson knew in January that something was wrong. He'd always had a healthy appetite but suddenly found himself losing weight. His waist size went from a 34 to 32, and then down to 28. He experienced tingling sensations in his fingers and toes. He began feeling tired. His wife, Joyce, urged him to visit a doctor. He visited one. And another. And another. Doctors initially found that Jim's kidneys were spilling protein into his bloodstream, affecting other		

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Readers, Others Have Bunch Of Bright Ideas; Town Now Needs To Find Some Funding, Greg Freeman, 690 words, :	Sun., 7/14/2002	Regular readers will tell you that I have my share of bad ideas. I, for instance, was one of the few St. Louisans who thought that a new baseball stadium and the proposed Ballpark Village were good ideas. My column saying that was followed by a resounding "boo" by just about everyone. I think only my mother stuck by my side on that one. But a column I wrote last week was met with a roar of approval from readers. That one suggested that St. Louis use the year 2004 to showcase		
Take Author's Advice: Get Sweet Revenge On A Telemarketer, Greg Freeman, 619 words, :	Thu., 7/11/2002	Robert Harris is an author who works from home. Over the years, he's written a variety of books, business documents and professional publications. For years, he enjoyed working from home. It was peaceful, he said, and he was able to get much more accomplished. But a few years ago, Harris found his peace being interrupted regularly by telemarketers. "I kept getting more and more calls from them during the day," he said. For a while, he tried to resolve the problem by		
How About A Fair In 2004 Spotlighting St. Louis Talents?, Greg Freeman, 606 words, :	Tue., 7/9/2002	I'm far from Mickey Rooney and a lot farther from Judy Garland, but I've got an idea: Let's put on a show. Seriously. As I thought about Fair St. Louis last week and the many people who head downtown each year to it, an idea struck me. Everyone knows that 2004 is to be a special year in St. Louis. A major celebration is set to recognize the centennial of the 1904 World's Fair, which changed St. Louis's future forever. St. Louis 2004 has set that year as the		
After Past Mistakes, City Would Do Well To Choose Wisely, Greg Freeman, 818 words, :	Sun., 7/7/2002	It wasn't that long ago that the city had no one interested in renovating the long-vacant Kiel Opera House downtown. Now, two proposals are in the works. City officials should take great care to make the right decision. That's because Kiel holds a special place in the hearts of many St. Louisans. And some are still angry over how it was closed in the first place. For those who don't remember that history, let's take a look back. The Kiel Opera House, the		
On This 4th Of July, Celebrate, Protect Our Nation's Freedoms, Greg Freeman, 640 words, book: our life & times	Thu., 7/4/2002	Independence Day 2002. While we barbecue today, enjoy fireworks, or spend time with friends and loved ones, it's probably also a good time to think about what we've got. We live in a nation that offers us freedoms that we would not have if we lived most anywhere else. And though those freedoms have been harder to come by for some than for others, they are an ideal for which we collectively strive. We argue forcefully in this country. We protest. We carry signs and debate with		
Teen, Father Team Up To Boost Bill, Greg Freeman, 1176 words, :	Tue., 7/2/2002	One day last November, then-17-year-old Elizabeth Dougherty of St. Louis was reading a copy of Reader's Digest when she came across a story that caught her eye. The story detailed how Washington had recently become the only state in the nation to allow youngsters 16 or older to donate bone marrow or organs. Most states, including Missouri, required donors to be adults, the story noted. The law had changed because of the efforts of a student who wanted to donate. The story intrigued		
Residents Fight City Plan To Raze Homes, Make Way For Wal-Mart, Greg Freeman, 697 words, :	Sun., 6/30/2002	MOVING OUT OF MAPLEWOOD? When Cleo H. Martin moved into her apartment in Maplewood 32 years ago, she figured it would be the last place she would live. "It's a nice area, the neighbors are friendly, it's quiet," she said. "For me, it's the perfect place to live." But it's not so perfect these days. That's because Martin lives in an area that the Maplewood City Council declared blighted earlier this month so that a shopping center can be		
Readers Write Of Life In Illinois, Teen Dress And Great Fathers, Greg Freeman, words, :	Thu., 6/27/2002	Let's turn today's column over to the readers: Dear Mr. Freeman, I'm furious with you about your column about Missourians' fear of coming to Illinois. Please tell your readers that those of us in Illinois are hicks. We live in towns that are filled with crime, that have horses and cows running through the streets, and who spend all our time robbing one another. The last thing we need is for Missourians to come over here and do the kind of devastation they've done		
I Gave At The Office" Rings True For One Kidney Donor Here, Greg Freeman, 1335 words, :	Tue., 6/25/2002	* When a co-worker down the hall needed a transplant, Rick Palank answered the call. The two weren't best buddies. But Denny Coleman says, "It's a gift I will never forget." Denny Coleman knew his kidneys were failing, but he had no idea that his co-workers had begun to notice the effects. Nor did he expect that one of them would one day help to save his life. Coleman is the president and chief executive officer of the St. Louis County Economic Council. He'd been		
When A Parent Dies, The Grief May Linger, But So Does The Everlasting Memory Of Love, Greg Freeman, 635 words, :	Sun., 6/23/2002	Not long ago, a friend called me with bad news. "My father died last night," he said in an anguished voice. "When does the pain end?" A good question. When does the pain end? Or does it ever? I thought back to many years ago - 1971, to be exact. It was a Sunday, and my father had gone to work. It was Memorial Day weekend and he normally would have been off, but he decided to work for the overtime. My mother, sister and I were at home when a couple of somber-faced		
Parents' Lax Attitudes On Sex Contribute To Cases Like R. Kelly's, Greg Freeman, 650 words, :	Tue., 6/18/2002	Several years ago, when R. Kelly's hit song "I Believe I Can Fly" was at the top of the charts, he could do no wrong. That year, I was the speaker at several graduations, both grade school and high school. At least four of them featured youngsters singing the inspirational song. But now that Kelly has been indicted in a child pornography case involving a 14-year-old girl, he probably wishes he could fly -- away. Kelly, 35, a married father of three, is facing 21 counts		
There's Nothing For Missourians To Fear When They Venture Across The River, Greg Freeman, 704 words, book: our life & times	Sun., 6/16/2002	Some Missourians have never been there in their lives. Others caution their friends to beware if they go. Still others give it names like "over there." Beware, Missourians warn one another. This scary place, this frightening destination, is Illinois. No, we don't mean Chicago. True, it's in Illinois, but to us Missourians, that's "different." No, we're talking about the Metro East area, across the Mississippi River. For whatever reason,		
Listening Is The Key For Blacks, Whites To Build Bridges, Greg Freeman, 668 words, :	Thu., 6/13/2002	"If St. Louis really wants to do something about its race problem, black people have got to learn to stop using race every time something doesn't go their way." "White people are responsible for the race problems that St. Louis has. They're the only ones who can do anything about it." These are two letters that I got last week from readers, one white, the other black. Their letters, as much as anything, point out the racial division that we face in the St.		
Woman Refuses To Let Adversity Wreck Her Life's Ambitions, Greg Freeman, 644 words, :	Tue., 6/11/2002	By almost any measure, Yolanda Young had a difficult upbringing. Born and raised in a poor area of Shreveport, La., she found tragedy early in her life. When she was 4, her abusive father shot her mother six times. Her family felt shame after her uncle was sent to jail for sexually abusing a boy. Another uncle was killed by a philandering wife. Her mother later married a second man who spent most of his time on alcohol and other women. Despite this background, Young grew up to graduate		
St. Louis Needs To Attract, Retain "Creative Class", Greg Freeman, 768 words, :	Sun., 6/9/2002	BRAIN DRAIN Over the years, I've written about a "brain drain" that I believe hurts the St. Louis area. By brain drain, I mean that young people tend to grow up here and move away to other cities that they find more exciting or creative. It's not always the largest city that they move to, but cities where they can feel comfortable and believe they can make a contribution. I thought about that recently while reading an article in Washington Monthly magazine. The		

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Awards Salute People Under 21 Making A Difference Locally, Greg Freeman, 636 words, :	Thu., 6/6/2002	Are you one of those adults who says teen-agers aren't any good these days? Perhaps you haven't met Iris Jacob. Iris has done a lot in her 18 years. At Crossroads School in the city, where she just graduated, she set up several diversity programs, including affinity groups for young women, Jews and gay, lesbian and bisexual students. There, students had the chance to have conversations with students from different backgrounds. She attended the Anytown Youth Leadership Institute,		
Variety Of Foods Here Reflects Area's Cultural Growth, Greg Freeman, 621 words, :	Tue., 6/4/2002	Most of us give little thought to America's diversity. Certainly we live in a nation that is diverse in its races, cultures and religions. But food is an excellent way of looking at our culture and how diverse it has become. In the 1940s, for instance, when soldiers returned home from Italy, they brought with them a taste for pizza pie. Though pizza was virtually unknown in some parts of the United States before World War II, it took off, eventually becoming a food that is as		
Missouri's Law On Racial Profiling Holds Hope For Some; Others Wait For Real Change, Greg Freeman, 780 words, :	Sun., 6/2/2002	For Kenneth Stevenson, a report released last week by Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon probably comes as no surprise. Nixon's report said that blacks were pulled over, searched and arrested at a higher rate than whites in 2001. Stevenson, who is black, says he has been pulled over eight times in the past year by police and he thinks it's racial profiling. "This wasn't in the city," he said. "In fact, based on what I've seen, the city is much better		
A Moving Experience: The Boxes Are Here, Now What's In Them, Greg Freeman, 625 words, :	Thu., 5/30/2002	If I look a little more disheveled lately than usual, let me explain why. My wife and I can't find the iron. Or the ironing board. Or my cologne. Or our combs. Or countless other things that used to be available at our fingertips. We moved into our new place last week. And for now, we're living out of boxes. Although the furniture's all been delivered, we've got boxes everywhere. Big boxes, small boxes, medium-sized boxes. Right now, every room in our home, save the		
Fighting For Do Rags Is Fine -- But Where Is The Outcry Over Drugs?, Greg Freeman, 660 words, :	Tue., 5/28/2002	About a year or so ago, I wrote a column about Dusty the dog. You remember Dusty. He's the dog who was beaten to death last year by a man with a sledgehammer and baseball bat. The incident resulted in several days of loud protests from animal rights activists, who delivered a petition to the court, seeking the maximum punishment. I remarked that I was sorry that the death of a dog drew so many protesters while the deaths of children rarely, if ever, drew any. My column drew		
It's Tough To Say Goodbye To A Home That So Reflects Us, Greg Freeman, 699 words, book: family	Sun., 5/19/2002	This is it. The boxes are mostly packed, the moving company's been notified, and the new place is ready for us to move in. Moving day comes this week. We're leaving our St. Louis home of 17 years. The muscular dystrophy that I've developed in recent years makes it too difficult for me to go up and down the steps. So we're moving to a one-story condo, also in the city. It's not easy leaving this old house. So many memories were made here. Will's first bike.		
Let's Hope Unity Shown By Firefighters Can Be Sustained, Greg Freeman, 643 words, :	Thu., 5/16/2002	They stood together, side by side last week, honoring their brothers who had lost their lives doing their jobs. St. Louis firefighters, black and white, pulled together to honor Derek Martin and Robert Morrison, two firefighters who died trying to rescue a colleague. The men led parallel lives. One was black; the other white. Both were 38. Both were 11-year veterans with the St. Louis Fire Department. Both were family men. Their deaths brought the department together in a way that perhaps		
Blacks Who Get Organs Quickly Are The Lucky Ones, Greg Freeman, 1554 words, :	Tue., 5/14/2002	Larry Bastain knew in 1990 that something was wrong. Normally a robust man, Bastain began tiring easily. His blood pressure jumped. He would often find himself exhausted. Doctors told Bastain that his kidneys were failing and put him on dialysis. It meant being connected to a machine for hours each week as a machine filtered the toxins from his blood. Bastain went on the waiting list for a donated kidney. As an African-American, he knew that his chances of receiving one were not as great		
Questions Still Swirl Around Killings Of 2 At Jack In The Box, Greg Freeman, 639 words, :	Tue., 5/7/2002	Nearly two years after two men were killed by undercover detectives on the parking lot of a Jack in the Box in Berkeley, enough questions remain that the case should be reopened. In a story Sunday, reporter Michael Sorkin provided an account of 40 hours of testimony on the case before a St. Louis County grand jury and follow-up interviews with officials involved. The findings suggest that the fatal shootings may not have been justified. Here's some background: On June 12, 2000,		
Keep Your Ear To The Ground, But Don't Expect To Hear These Pearls Of Wisdom, Greg Freeman, 533 words, :	Sun., 5/5/2002	Readers Respond Last week, I wrote a column about conversations never heard in the Gateway City. After running several of mine, I invited readers to pitch in with their own. Ah, the readers never fail me. I was flooded with suggested "conversations," some of which I am gladly running in today's column. "I love Highway 40, especially the section around Hanley Road and 170." "Every single person I saw today in a car had their seat belt		
Quiet Housing Boom Takes Root In Area North Of Delmar, Greg Freeman, 640 words, :	Thu., 5/2/2002	"If you build it, they will come." -- from "Field of Dreams," by W.P. Kinsella Perhaps one of the city's biggest secrets is the housing boom going on in northwest St. Louis, in the area just north of Delmar Boulevard. Since 1993, builders, with the help of civic leaders, have brought hundreds of single-family homes to that area. Those efforts are paying off. Many might consider it an "overnight" success. But Alderman Irving Clay, D-26th Ward, knows		
"Come On, Who Would Ever Toast Ravioli?". . . And Other Lines We're Not Likely To Hear In St. Louis, Greg Freeman, 370 words, :	Tue., 4/30/2002	Here are bits and pieces of conversations, I've never heard on the streets of the Gateway City. If your mind wanders along these paths as well, send in your suggested one-liners to the e-mail address at the top of this column (in memo field): * "Excuse me, can you tell me how to catch the MetroLink to south St. Louis?" * "I'd recommend not coming into town through MidAmerica Airport. That place is always jam packed." * "I've never heard of a		
Poor Men Maintain Emotional Ties To Their Kids, Author Says, Greg Freeman, 708 words, :	Sun., 4/28/2002	Low-income black fathers are little more than baby machines. They have children with first one woman, then the next, without ever caring anything about the children they conceive. Right? Wrong, says Jennifer Hamer, a professor at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and author of the book "What it Means to be Daddy: Fatherhood for Black Men Living Away from Their Children." Hamer wrote the book when she found that other researchers tackling the topic had neglected to		
Wrestler's Quest To Live His Dream Inspires Ardent Fan, Greg Freeman, 659 words, :	Thu., 4/25/2002	As a youngster, New Yorker Al Ticineto became obsessed with professional wrestling. He couldn't get enough of it. He read every wrestling magazine he could find. One day, in 1976, a friend gave Ticineto a stack of magazines that included stories about wrestler Bobby Shane. "There was something about him that moved me," Ticineto said. Perhaps it was Shane's life story. Bobby Shane grew up in St. Louis as Bobby Schoenberger. He was born here on Aug. 25, 1945. At the age		
Time Takes Its Toll On Howard Johnson's, But Not On Memories, Greg Freeman, 639 words, book: our life & times	Tue., 4/23/2002	Been to a Howard Johnson's restaurant lately? Better hurry. They're going the way of the drive-in theater. Howard Johnson's restaurants used to dot America's landscape, like A&P grocery stores. They were in cities and along America's highways. Now they're slowly fading away. When I was a kid, my dad rarely took us out to dinner, but when he did, the family would pack into his old Chrysler and go to Howard Johnson's on North Kingshighway, near		

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A Sister's Gift Of Love, Hope & Survival, Greg Freeman, 1370 words, book: love, hope, & survival	Sun., 4/21/2002	* Post-Dispatch columnist Greg Freeman was lucky. When he needed a kidney, his sister answered the call. It's been two years now since I got the devastating news: My kidneys were failing and I should prepare for dialysis. Dialysis meant I would have to spend four hours a day, three times a week, at a center where a machine would do the work my kidneys were increasingly incapable of performing -- filter the toxins from my blood. Without dialysis, my doctor told me, I would die. With		
CASA Program Provides Advocates For Children, Greg Freeman, 767 words, :	Sun., 4/7/2002	Lee Redel wasn't sure what to do when he retired as a restaurateur several years ago. He knew he wanted to be a volunteer and do something meaningful. Then he read a piece about St. Louis City CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates. "I thought working with this organization might give me a chance to make a difference in young people's lives." Redel is now one of the trained volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children who have been removed from their		
Preparing For Move Is A Sorted Affair: What To Keep, Toss?, Greg Freeman, 617 words, :	Thu., 4/4/2002	A little piece of advice for those of you who are thinking about moving: Don't do it. After living in our house for 17 years, my wife and I are planning to move. We love our house, so it wasn't an easy decision, but once we made it, we were faced with a major challenge. We had to clean house. That sounds simple. A little sweeping here, a little mopping there, a little dusting all around. Ah, but if it were that easy. Getting ready for a move requires more than the usual		
How School District Handled Beine Raises Eyebrows, Questions, Greg Freeman, 652 words, :	Tue., 4/2/2002	At a time when the St. Louis School Board should be rebuilding its trust with the public, it is raising eyebrows with its handling of a case of a former priest-turned-school-counselor who is accused of sexual abuse. James A. Beine, 60, faces felony charges of exposing himself to two boys last year at Patrick Henry Elementary School, where he worked until last month. Beine, also known as Mar James, was booted from the Catholic priesthood 25 years ago over accusations of sexual abuse. He		
Crime Is Scary And Frustrating, But It Knows No Boundaries, Greg Freeman, 887 words, :	Sun., 3/31/2002	Car smarts Not too long ago, I received several letters from people who had attended an event at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in the Central West End. I don't know what the event was, but it apparently was something that drew a lot of people, many of whom chose to park on the street near the Chase. While people were inside attending the function, thieves were outside, breaking car windows and stealing various items. "Maybe you can help me understand this," one woman		
Historic Oscar Night Gives Blacks Reason To Smile -- And Hope, Greg Freeman, 638 words, :	Thu., 3/28/2002	As I watched Halle Berry express amazement and shock as she was named best actress during Sunday night's Oscar ceremonies, I found myself in amazement and shock at home. And then, when Denzel Washington was named best actor, I was shocked again. It was a truly incredible night, one that has had black people around the nation buzzing since Sunday. Why all the excitement? Sure, Berry and Washington won this year, but is it special just because they happen to be black? You bet it		
Student Doggedly Pursues Word Duel Over Concealed Guns, Greg Freeman, 815 words, :	Tue., 3/26/2002	At 18, most high school seniors are busy dating, preparing for the prom and planning for college. Not Jonathan Burns, a senior at Christian Brothers College. He's busy trying to organize an areawide debate on concealed-carry gun laws. Burns' plans are to bring two nationally known speakers to St. Louis to debate the concealed-carry issue. Burns' desire to put together a conference on the topic started a couple of months ago when he was debating the idea with several friends.		
Who Will Step Up And Connect Teens With Summer Jobs?, Greg Freeman, 708 words, :	Sun., 3/24/2002	Last week, St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay met with a group of business people and issued a challenge: Help the city by hiring at least 800 young people this summer. Slay, who is concerned about finding summer work for young people, is stepping up his campaign to get as many of them hired as possible. He's hoping to get businesses enthused about the idea and is offering some carrots to those who agree to help. Slay, along with Tom Jones, director of the St. Louis Agency for Training and		
Readers Comment On License Stickers, Voter IDs And More, Greg Freeman, 597 words, :	Thu., 3/14/2002	Let's turn today's column over to the readers: Dear Mr. Freeman, How dare you write a column critical of Pat Robertson. He is only telling the truth when he says that Islam is a religion of violence. The Quran has lots of stories about violence. You should pick it up sometime. Barbara H. Dear Barbara, I admit that I'm not a regular reader of the Quran, but I've read the Bible all my life, and there are quite a few stories about violence there as well. Would		
Pair Invites Public To Plan Centennial Of The World's Fair,, Greg Freeman, 633 words, :	Tue., 3/12/2002	I once wrote that St. Louisans were sucking on the dry, brittle bones of the 1904 World's Fair. When others asked us what was so great about our city, we'd reply, "Well, we hosted the 1904 World's Fair." It was as if our greatest moments weren't ahead of us but were in our past. And yet, St. Louisans love nothing more than a party. And that's what's being planned for the centennial of the World's Fair -- a huge celebration. Two St. Louisans,		
Metropolis Ads Sing St. Louis' Praises Without Beating Other Cities Down, Greg Freeman, 711 words, book: city life	Sun., 3/10/2002	A year ago, when the Regional Chamber and Growth Association released a series of spots around the theme, "St. Louis - We got it good," the offbeat television commercials got lots of good reviews. The chamber's ads - designed to air both in St. Louis and out of town - produced chuckles from viewers. The ads pointed out what St. Louis has over other cities. One that sticks with me most is the one that features a couple of apparent die-hard Boston fans who are complaining about		
Slain Teen Was Funny And Helpful, Say Friends, Family, Greg Freeman, 608 words, :	Thu., 3/7/2002	Friends and family of Lawrence Brady II are still in shock. They still can't imagine what led to the fatal shooting of the 19-year-old Sunday night on a service station lot. People who knew Brady described him with phrases like "a nice young man," "a good person" and "someone who never got into any trouble." The shooting happened in the 5700 block of Natural Bridge Avenue, near Goodfellow Boulevard. Brady was shot in the head Sunday and died Monday		
Congress Must Pick The Right Method Of Voter Identification, Greg Freeman, 633 words, :	Tue., 3/5/2002	Election reform -- an issue now being debated in the Senate -- has taken on some unusual twists. No one can argue that election reform isn't needed. After the confusion in Florida's election in November of 2000, not to mention the flap at St. Louis' own Election Board the same day, it's clear that the American election process needs an adjustment. Missouri Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond has been among the leaders in the Senate pushing reform legislation. So when		
I Miss The Carefree Days When We Would Head To Chicago On A Whim - And \$20, Greg Freeman, 671 words, :	Sun., 3/3/2002	Youth and spontaneity When my wife and I were students at Washington University, we loved to spend our spare time at the movies. One Friday night, we went to a movie that finished around 10:30 p.m. "What do you want to do now?" I asked. "I don't know," she said. "What do you want to do?" After giving it very little thought, we decided to do what any college student would do in a similar situation: We decided to go to Chicago. We knew very		
Lawmaker Has Ideas For Ways To Combat License Sticker Theft, Greg Freeman, 640 words, :	Thu., 2/28/2002	Mary Biggers stepped out of her apartment building in Crestwood on Monday morning to find the stickers on her license plates clipped off. "It looks like they used scissors or something and just cut them off," she said. "I couldn't believe it. I had just gotten the stickers a couple of months ago." Biggers is hardly alone as a victim of sticker theft. In the past few years, tens of thousands of stickers have been stolen from license plates in St. Louis and Kansas		

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Pat Robertson's Broad Brush Could Do Serious Damage, Greg Freeman, 648 words, :	Tue., 2/26/2002	What was Pat Robertson thinking? How can we explain his hate-filled and bigoted remarks, first after the Sept. 11 tragedy and then again last week? After Sept. 11, Robertson appeared on the "700 Club" program on his Christian Broadcasting Network, and he had with him fellow televangelist Jerry Falwell. The two were trying to explain why a group of terrorists would want to slam airplanes into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. Falwell started off blaming the		
Column About African-American Men Elicits A Chorus Of Amens, Greg Freeman, 776 words, :	Sun., 2/24/2002	A column that I wrote last week about African-American men resulted in a blizzard of letters. The point of the column was that it was time for us, African-American men, to step to the plate to improve our image - one of a violent people who regularly engage in irresponsible sex. The folks who deal with conflict by blowing other people away, just like the folks who cavalierly engage in unprotected sex and then leave women alone to raise the children they've fathered, are a minority of		
Daughters Cherish Memories Of Their Parents' Love Story, Greg Freeman, 647 words, book: our life & times	Thu., 2/21/2002	Henry Bennett didn't want to go to the party. It had been set up by a friend of his, John Underwood. Bennett and Underwood had been childhood friends, growing up in the St. Louis area. But Bennett never felt comfortable at parties. He didn't consider himself to be much of a social person, and he felt he always had to be "on" at such gatherings. After considerable urging from Underwood, though, Bennett went to the party. That decision -- in 1946 -- was one he would		
Brothas, Let's Unite -- Against Violence, Irresponsible Sex, Greg Freeman, 647 words, book: harmony	Tue., 2/19/2002	Today's column is written for the African-American men. You don't have to turn away if you're not a black man, but brothas, this one's for you. I don't know if you've checked lately, but we -- black men -- have an image problem. Lots of people are afraid of us. Even Jesse Jackson has said that he would be worried if he were on the street at night and was approached by a young black man. Folks avoid us; "profiling" police officers target us. Of		
Blacks Who Were The First To Serve As Sailors Fought The Enemy - And Racism - In WWII, Greg Freeman, 864 words, book: harmony	Sun., 2/17/2002	The crew of the Mason Before Black History Month gets away from us, we probably shouldn't forget the history created by the USS Mason DE529. Thomas Howard of Cool Valley will never forget. Howard was aboard the Mason, an escort ship that made history as the first Navy ship to go into war with a black crew. The ship, whose officers were white, was big news when it was launched in Boston in 1944. "Everyone came out for the launch," Howard recalled recently. "The		
New Names Erase History, Familiarity Of St. Louis Venues, Greg Freeman, 655 words, :	Thu., 2/14/2002	I don't know about you, but I'm not excited about the trend of corporations buying the naming rights to all sorts of venues that already had names. The latest to do this is UMB Bank. Bank officials announced this week that the Riverport Amphitheatre in Maryland Heights will now be called the UMB Bank Pavilion. Besides the fact that "amphitheater" is probably a better description of the former Riverport than "pavilion," let's take a moment to pause and note		
Imagine MetroLink Murals That Teach History As You Ride, Greg Freeman, 602 words, book: city life	Tue., 2/12/2002	Writing the sort of column that I do, it's not unusual for me to get letters from readers with ideas for the city. Some of them have ideas that seem to hold merit. Other ideas are, well . . . Let's just call them difficult to imagine. But a regular reader of my online forum, "Greg Freeman's Front Porch," made a suggestion recently that I thought held merit. She followed up on it with me in several e-mails. The reader, who modestly asked me to refer to her only		
Readers Can Test Their Knowledge Of Events, People, Greg Freeman, 575 words, :	Sun., 2/10/2002	It's Black History Month, and though black history, like all history, should be studied throughout the year, February is the month in which the spotlight shines on the contributions of blacks in America and around the world. It's not like this focus has been with us forever. Black History Month was given birth as Negro History Week in 1929. Historian Carter G. Woodson championed the concept because he believed educators had paid no attention to the contributions of African-Americans.		
Whoa, Nelly? Sorry, I Won't Dis A Rapper Who Has A Good Rep, Greg Freeman, 636 words, :	Thu., 2/7/2002	It was good to see St. Louis rapper Nelly honored in Jefferson City this week by Gov. Bob Holden and the Missouri Legislature. He was honored for his work with schools in the St. Louis area and elsewhere. Basically, Nelly promised to play basketball with high schools that showed increased participation in standardized state tests. That pledge helped increase student participation in the tests by 13.5 percent. For those of you who haven't heard of Nelly, he is the rapper du		
Reader Makes Sure Everyone Knows Who's The "Goofus", Greg Freeman, 599 words, :	Tue., 2/5/2002	Let's turn today's column over to the readers. Dear Greg, In a recent article, you mentioned reading about "Goofus and Gallant" in Boys Life magazine. I seem to remember seeing them in the Highlights for Children magazines usually found in doctors' waiting rooms. Thomas S. Dear Thomas, Clearly, I was the "goofus" here. I read both magazines growing up, and it was, indeed, in Highlights for Children where I read about the Goofus and Gallant		
Mother Nature, Not Moms And Dads, Should Pick Child's Gender, Greg Freeman, 712 words, :	Sun., 2/3/2002	In vitro discrimination Missouri State Rep. Michael Reid is concerned about gender discrimination. But it's not in an area where most would expect. Reid, R-Hazelwood, is concerned about discrimination against human embryos before transplantation, based on their gender. His concern has to do with in vitro fertilization. As part of the process, embryos are tested for genetic diseases or disorders before they are implanted. Prospective parents who have tested positive for some		
North St. Louis Is So Often Ignored, So Ripe For Rebound, Greg Freeman, 663 words, :	Thu., 1/31/2002	It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that major areas of north St. Louis are in trouble. The area suffers from declining population. Many of its residents have left or are leaving. Last year's bitter redistricting battle in the Board of Aldermen was a result of the area's population loss. It's not hard to drive through the North Side and find abandoned or boarded-up homes. Even more prevalent are vacant lots. Lots of them. Take a trip just north of Cass Avenue,		
Son's Cat Did Stay, So The Fur Is Flying At Freeman Home, Greg Freeman, 642 words, :	Tue., 1/29/2002	I admit it. Some of you told me so. A couple of months ago, I wrote a column about our son Will's plans to bring his cat, Cornelius, home with him for the holidays. The idea was that he would be neutered and declawed here (meaning, of course, that we the parents would pay for it). Because it was an extended holiday break, the cat would have time to recover before going back to school with Will in Minneapolis. I was somewhat hesitant. Will had brought Cornelius home as a kitten over		
Rams' Newest Fan Thinks Team's Hard Work Will Pay Off - No Trash Required, Greg Freeman, 686 words, book: wit & wisdom	Sun., 1/27/2002	GOOD SPORTS Regular readers know that I'm not much of a sports fan. One friend calls me "sports impaired." I never played sports in school (other than a half-semester on the tennis team in high school). I've never been one to spend my Saturdays and Sundays glued to the set watching the various games that are shown one after the other. That's a complete contrast to my brother-in-law, who I consider to be "Mr. Sports." Not only does he play just		
Author Opposes Ban Of "N-Word," Says Context Is The Key, Greg Freeman, 644 words, :	Thu., 1/24/2002	It's a bitter insult, the worst of slurs, a word never used in polite company. It's a term of endearment, a way to address friends, an affectionate term spoken among black people. The word is "nigger." It's a word that has so many meanings, and one that is used today in even more contexts than ever before. Randall Kennedy, a professor at Harvard Law School who once served as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, calls the term		

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Program Debuting Here Aims To Keep Kids' Smiles Healthy, Greg Freeman, 646 words, :	Tue., 1/22/2002	How many of us in today's health-conscious America spend a lot of time worrying about our oral health? We exercise, diet, try to eat right and take other steps to make sure that we stay in good physical health. But when it comes to our oral habits, many of us fall short. Surgeon General David Satcher issued a report 18 months ago noting improvements in oral health among middle-age and younger Americans. Many can expect to retain their teeth for the rest of their lives. But the		
Objections To Statue Reflect Lack Of Diversity In NY Fire Department, Greg Freeman, 707 words, :	Sun., 1/20/2002	I guess we all knew that the unity that America showed after the attacks of Sept. 11 couldn't last. But who would have guessed that it would be broken over something like a statue? In New York, a bronze statue designed to honor the 343 firefighters who died Sept. 11 has drawn the ire of some white firefighters who are upset that it depicts white, black and Hispanic firefighters. The statue in question is based on a photograph taken of three firefighters raising an American flag at		
"Roots" Family Saga Is As Relevant Today As It Was In 1977, Greg Freeman, 660 words, :	Thu., 1/17/2002	It's hard for me to believe that it's been 25 years since "Roots: The Saga of an American Family" took America by storm. To me, it seems as if it were only yesterday that I was a college student watching "Roots" -- Alex Haley's eight-day miniseries about slavery -- with my wife, who was my girlfriend at the time, and two other friends. The miniseries made a significant impact on me and opened my eyes considerably. For younger people, it may be difficult		
I Had Two Kidneys, And Now I've Got 3: Let's Go To Work, Greg Freeman, 634 words, book: love, hope, & survival	Tue., 1/15/2002	So, where were we? That seems to be the appropriate question to ask after being gone from the pages of the newspaper for six weeks. I underwent kidney transplant surgery at the end of November. I was fortunate in that my sister, Cheryl McKinney, agreed to donate a kidney to me. As a bit of background, I learned in 2000 that my kidneys were failing and that I would ultimately have to go on dialysis or get a transplant. The idea of dialysis wasn't appealing, especially because I had		
2001:				
	134 columns	10 in book		
How Do You Go About Asking Someone To Donate A Kidney?, Greg Freeman, 670 words, book: love, hope, & survival	Tue., 11/27/2001	In July last year, I was hit with a double whammy. Within 10 days, I was told that I was suffering from muscular dystrophy and that my kidneys were failing. Worse yet, doctors weren't sure of the cause of either ailment, and they saw no connection between the two. For the muscular dystrophy -- limb girdle muscular dystrophy, to be exact -- there is no cure, no medicines to take. I would find my muscles gradually weakening. For the kidneys, my options were few: They boiled down		
Woman Hopes To Find Meaning In The Senseless Shooting Death Of Her Brother 7 Years Ago, Greg Freeman, 689 words, :	Sun., 11/25/2001	"A hole in my heart" It's been a rough seven years for Rosalind Allen. In 1994, her only brother, Vincent Allen, died in his mother's arms from a gunshot to the heart. Vincent, 18, had heard his car alarm go off outside his family's East St. Louis home. When he peered out his bedroom window, someone fired four bullets at him, as others tried to break into his car. Two of the bullets struck Vincent, and he died before an ambulance could arrive. Vincent had		
We Should Never Get Our Fill Of Days For Thanksgiving, Greg Freeman, 628 words, :	Thu., 11/22/2001	Today is Thanksgiving. For many of us, that means a day to stuff ourselves silly and then fall asleep while watching football games. Oh, and thanks for that feast that some Pilgrims had years ago with some Indians. Although I'm not much of a football fan, I've spent plenty of years being thankful for being off work and being able to stuff myself until there's been no room for even another morsel of food. In fact, it probably comes as no surprise that a favorite		
It's High Noon In The City As Slay Takes On Speculators, Greg Freeman, 662 words, :	Tue., 11/20/2001	In a speech at the groundbreaking ceremonies of downtown's Merchandise Mart building last week, Mayor Francis Slay broke some ground of his own. Gov. Bob Holden also attended the ceremony, and Slay's speech was designed to stress to the governor the importance of historic preservation tax credits. Those credits are among a variety of programs the governor is considering slashing in an effort to handle a tight state budget. "As Governor Holden can tell you, being the chief		
Funding For Mentoring Project Falls Before Federal Budget Ax, Greg Freeman, 698 words, :	Sun., 11/18/2001	Ashley Reed learned to test water samples for chlorine. Antonia Bates studied the properties of acids and bases. Passion Scott studied the effects of lead in tap water. All three were part of the St. Louis Environmentors Project, which matched urban high school students with environmental and science professionals. But the Environmentors appear to be to be the latest victims of the Sept. 11 attack on the United States. The project is shutting down because its funding has been cut. The		
Mother Still Seeks Reason For Slaying Of Son 5 Years Ago, Greg Freeman, 644 words, :	Thu., 11/15/2001	For most people, Friday will be another day: another final day of the workweek, another day to make weekend plans. Not so for Shelia Price of St. Louis. On Friday, Price will be thinking about her son, Charles Anthony McCoy Jr. Had he lived, McCoy would have been 26 on Friday. But Friday is also the five-year anniversary of the day that his body was found wrapped in a blanket in a field near an abandoned church in Brooklyn. He had been shot three times in the head. Brooklyn police have		
Since Sept. 11, Simple Pleasures Seem Much Sweeter, Greg Freeman, 695 words, :	Tue., 11/13/2001	Like many Americans, I've come to appreciate the great things in life, much more than before Sept. 11. Never was that more obvious to me than this past weekend, when my wife and I took a drive in Illinois. It was hardly our first drive there. Unlike some Missourians, we know that you don't fall off the Earth once you cross the river. So we headed off on our mini-adventure. Our drive took us along the Great River Road, through Grafton to Pere Marquette Park and then up to		
What You Don't Hear Speaks Volumes About Our Fair Metropolis, Greg Freeman, 474 words, :	Sun., 11/11/2001	Bits and pieces of conversations never heard in the Gateway City: "No, I meant what college did you go to." "First, drive-in restaurants, now drive-by assessments. Isn't the world getting convenient?" "It's highway forty, not forty." "Anheuser who?" "I'm outta here. This city is way too liberal for me." "The best thing about the city's public schools is that students have all their textbooks from day		
Older Folks' Stories About The Past Can Teach Us Something, Greg Freeman, 643 words, book: harmony	Thu., 11/8/2001	How many of us -- even when we have the chance -- decline to take advantage of the knowledge that older people have? I know I'm guilty. I have relatives who are seniors with whom I've been promising to sit down and listen to their stories, to learn about their lives. Every so often, though, an opportunity falls into your hands. I had such an opportunity Wednesday, and I grabbed it with gusto. Some readers may know that I also host "St. Louis on the Air," a talk show		
"Grandcat" Visit Is Setting Me Up For Yet Another Broken Heart, Greg Freeman, 584 words, :	Tue., 11/6/2001	Our son informed us last week that when he comes home from school for Thanksgiving, he's bringing a friend with him -- and the friend is going to stay awhile. The friend is Cornelius, his 6-month-old cat. Regular readers may remember Cornelius, the white, fluffy cat that Will brought home from school over the summer. After having three cats -- our oldest, Maxwell, died two years ago at age 20 -- I had decided that I wanted no more cats. My reasoning was that I get attached to them		

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Charity Sees Need Expand As Economy Continues To Tighten - And Giving Drops, Greg Freeman, 627 words, :	Sun., 11/4/2001	Circle of Concern Glen Keenan doesn't need an economist to tell him the nation is in a recession. All he has to do is look around him. Keenan works with the Circle of Concern food pantry in west St. Louis County. Circle of Concern reported a 47 percent increase in food requests in August compared to last year. "We're seeing a significant increase in demand and a significant decrease in food donations and in donations of money to buy food," he said. "Our		
Profiling Gives Us A First Impression, But Not A Lasting One, Greg Freeman, 636 words, :	Thu., 11/1/2001	I'm guilty of racial profiling. If you're honest with yourself, you're guilty of it, too. In fact, it's just about impossible for anyone to look at someone else without doing it to some extent. I'm suspicious of those who say that they don't. They're like the people who say they never notice a person's color. Huh? Could you have a conversation with someone for 10 minutes, walk away and never realize that the person you were talking with was black or		
It Remains In Doubt When City Will Shed Eyesore Of Amshack, Greg Freeman, 655 words, book: wit & wisdom	Tue., 10/30/2001	1978. I'm finishing up my last year of college. Jimmy Carter is approaching the middle of his presidency. Union Station is shut down. Trains are temporarily routed to a nearby trailer. St. Louisans are promised that a new train terminal will be built. Fast forward 23 years. My son is in his third year of college. Jimmy Carter is now as well-known for his humanitarian efforts as for his presidency. And St. Louisans are promised that a new train terminal will be		
Group Will Salute Man Of Action Who Boosted Minority Hiring Here, Greg Freeman, 514 words, :	Sun., 10/28/2001	It's uncommon for a police officer to admire people who are labeled with such adjectives as "militant," "outlaw" and "exhibitionist." But when Bill Monroe was a St. Louis police officer in the 1960s and 1970s, he found himself admiring Percy Green, who was, at various times, called all of the above. Green, who chaired the civil rights group ACTION, was well known for his acts of civil disobedience. When companies here refused to hire African-Americans,		
Internet Rumors Keep Us On Edge, Need To Be Checked Out, Greg Freeman, 632 words, :	Thu., 10/25/2001	As if there weren't enough terror in the world, a friend forwarded this e-mail message to me yesterday: "My friend's friend was dating a guy from Afghanistan up until a month ago. She had a date with him around Sept. 6 and was stood up. (She) . . . went to his home to find it completely emptied. "On Sept. 10, she received a letter from her boyfriend explaining that he wished he could tell her why he had left and that he was sorry it had to be like that. He begged her		
Tackling Terrorism Must Include Foreign Policy Reassessment, Greg Freeman, 632 words, :	Tue., 10/23/2001	Anyone who has read this column knows that I love our country and believe that we're doing the right thing in Afghanistan. But, like many Americans, I have begun to look closer at our foreign policy since the Sept. 11 attack on the United States. And in many cases, I don't like what I see. Like most of us, I didn't pay nearly as much attention to foreign policy as I should have. I kept up with the major developments, of course. The wars, the major tensions and any		
Conference Hopes To Launch Ideas On Keeping Young Adults In Area, Greg Freeman, 678 words, :	Sun., 10/21/2001	The question's hardly a new one: What can St. Louis do to attract - and keep - young people? The question's been asked dozens of times, and for good reason. The St. Louis area is relatively stagnant, population-wise. While the population continues to spread out, the numbers aren't growing. Part of the reason for that is that many young people grow up here and leave, often because they don't see opportunity for people like themselves, or because they don't find the		
With Anthrax, The Main Thing We Have To Fear Is Fear Itself, Greg Freeman, 620 words, :	Thu., 10/18/2001	Don't open the mail. The next letter you receive may be filled with anthrax bacteria. No, none of the television news reports have actually said that yet. But they've gotten mighty close. It's no wonder that some people are frightened to death. Is it just me, or have the news media -- particularly TV news -- gone overboard in covering the anthrax scare? I have to give television news credit for its coverage of the attack Sept. 11 on the United States. Many of the		
Readers Comment On Good Samaritan, Mother's Letter, More, Greg Freeman, 588 words, :	Tue., 10/16/2001	Let's turn today's column over to the readers. . . . Dear Greg, I read your column about . . . going bald with particular interest. Apparently you haven't noticed that in addition to a balding head, you have a body that seems to be getting more rotund by the day. Charles J. Dear Charles. Now that's hitting below, er, above the belt. Besides that, the opposite is true: I've pulled off 40 pounds in the last year thanks to Weight Watchers. I like to think		
Everyday Terror Is Closer To Home For Some People Living In The City, Greg Freeman, 576 words, :	Sun., 10/14/2001	America is in an uproar - and rightfully so - about terrorism. But in St. Louis there is a group of people dealing with terrorism on a personal basis: those who live in neighborhoods where violence is becoming a way of life. For many of these people, terrorism isn't something that they see on television happening in other cities. It's here and now. Sadly, these folks get little attention from the news media, and even less from public officials. For them, no one is making		
As A Deep Believer In Peace, I Still Must Support This War, Greg Freeman, 635 words, :	Thu., 10/11/2001	Come and sing this simple song of freedom. Sing it like you've never sung before. Let it fill the air, tell it to the people everywhere That we the people here, we don't want no war. Della Reese, 1969 I'm glad that I live in the United States, a nation that values free speech; a place that puts the right to that speech at the very top of the amendments to the Constitution. I'm happy that I live in a place that does not stifle debate; a nation that allows		
Helpful Man Provides A Snapshot Of How Nice People Can Be, Greg Freeman, 631 words, book: our life & times	Tue., 10/9/2001	Tiffany Wachter had only the best of intentions. Wachter, of Des Peres, was the matron of honor at her sister's wedding recently, and offered to produce something special for the rehearsal dinner: a slide show of her sister and her fiance. To put it together, Wachter went on a hunt-and-gather spree, searching for all sorts of photos of her sister and her sister's husband-to-be. "I got all kinds of pictures from his mom and from my mom and dad," Wachter said.		
Since Sept. 11, Many Of Us Are Turning A Wary Eye To The Sky, Greg Freeman, 558 words, :	Thu., 10/4/2001	There's a window by my desk at the Post-Dispatch, and I've lately found myself watching closely when planes fly overhead. I look at how low the plane is flying and whether it seems to be flying erratically. I never did that before Sept. 11. On the Thursday night after the terrorist attack, I was watching television as President George W. Bush spoke to Congress. As I watched, I heard loud noises coming from outside. "Bam! Boom! Boom! Bam!" The first thing that jumped		
Another Shock Challenges My Boyish Self-Image, Greg Freeman, 607 words, book: wit & wisdom	Tue., 10/2/2001	I rarely watch myself on television. I host a program on Channel 9 -- "Mosaic" -- but the show is taped in advance. Since I already know what everyone is going to say, I usually don't watch the show again when it's aired. But a couple of weeks ago, my wife was watching the show, and I joined her. When the camera angle turned a certain way, I realized something: I'm balding at the crown of my head. It's not something that I can see in the mirror each		
In Previous War, America Showed Its Ugly Side - To Its Own Citizens, Greg Freeman, 661 words, :	Sun., 9/30/2001	Learning from the past For many Americans, Sept. 11, 2001, was like Dec. 7, 1941. In both cases, the United States was unexpectedly attacked. In both cases, the president came forward and made a forceful speech about how this nation would do whatever necessary to defend itself. And in both cases, ethnic or religious minorities found themselves targeted, even when they were American citizens. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Japanese-Americans became the targets of racial		

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A Mother's Letter Explains The Crisis To Her Daughter, Greg Freeman, 627 words, :	Thu., 9/27/2001	In the aftermath of the attacks Sept. 11 on the United States, many parents have found themselves wondering what to tell their children. Should they give a rose-colored picture, telling them everything is OK? Or should they tell their youngsters that these are frightening times, that we may be attacked again, and that America's veneer of invulnerability has been punctured? The experts seem divided on this. Some suggest that parents say nothing at all, especially to young children.		
Gateway Classic Expands Opportunities For Young People, Greg Freeman, 630 words, :	Tue., 9/25/2001	Sharon Wise loves bands. Always has. Basically a shy person, she came out of her shell years ago, when she was in the band at Vashon High School. So when she and her husband saw a flier several years ago for the St. Louis Gateway Classic battle of the bands, they decided to go. "We hadn't realized that it was a football game and that the battle of the bands was at halftime," she said. "So we were surprised -- all this, and a football game, too." The Gateway		
Residents Would Improve City With A Makeover, A Night Life To Speak Of, Greg Freeman, 987 words, :	Sun., 9/23/2001	Three weeks ago - it seems more like a million years ago - I challenged readers to submit ideas that they think would make St. Louis a better place to live, ideas that would improve quality of life here. I got lots of excellent responses. Some were quite thoughtful; others were simple ideas. Some were extremely complicated; others made me wonder why others hadn't thought of them before. Today, I share some of these ideas with you. Sandy Hartin has lots of ideas for downtown. For		
With War Imminent, Caution Flags Are Appropriate, Too, Greg Freeman, 603 words, :	Thu., 9/20/2001	As we prepare for "a new kind of war," as President George W. Bush puts it, I hope that we proceed with caution. "War" is a word that is easy to throw around, but if we get into a war, we want to make sure that we're likely to win it. Unlike many of our past wars, this one has no clear enemy. It's not a war with any country in particular. Loosely, it's Osama bin Laden and other terrorists. So exactly whom are we going to fight? I've heard people		
After Day Of Horror, America Becomes A Different Place, Greg Freeman, 538 words, book: our life & times	Tue., 9/18/2001	Things have changed so much in the last seven days. Before 7:48 a.m. last Tuesday, America was a different place. Our priorities, so important then, seem trivial today. A week ago, Americans were still talking about Rep. Gary Condit and his involvement with missing intern Chandra Levy. Republicans were suggesting a cut in the capital gains tax, and Democrats were arguing that the tax cuts already enacted meant that the president would have to dip into Social Security funds. Locally,		
Harassment Of Sikhs Tells Us Now Is Time To Unite, Not Squabble, Greg Freeman, 638 words, :	Sun., 9/16/2001	Harprit S. Puri is an American. He's a graduate of Parks College and the University of Missouri at Columbia, who came to St. Louis 37 years ago. He met his wife, who is from Fenton, and the couple have two children. Puri, who is originally from India, is a member of the Sikh religion. The religion requires its members not to cut their hair. As a result, the men typically wear turbans and beards; the women wear their hair very long. Because of this, the Puris - and other Sikhs in St.		
Americans Are United -- And That Includes New Immigrants, Too, Greg Freeman, 595 words, :	Thu., 9/13/2001	The terrorists who attacked New York and Washington on Tuesday have succeeded in doing something that others have been unable to do for decades: They have united Americans against a common enemy. Those who went through World War II know what it means to have a unified America. We had been attacked on American soil in 1941, and the country had to pull together. Baby boomers like me weren't around then. But many of us remember the Cold War that followed, ominous reports about the Iron		
On A Terrible Day, We Share In The Nation's Disbelief And Concern, Greg Freeman, 695 words, book: our life & times	Wed., 9/12/2001	I was in my car Tuesday morning, on the way to a gas station, when I heard the news over the radio. One minute, the radio host was talking about whether Michael Jordan would play basketball again; the next minute, he was reporting that a plane had crashed into one of the towers of the World Trade Center. After I bought gas, the news broke that a second plane had crashed into the second tower of the building. Then, as if in a film with surprise twists and turns, the news flashes came, one		
Pop Culture Promotes Our City, Too; We Should Thank Nelly, Greg Freeman, 622 words, :	Tue., 9/11/2001	Melanie Adams has a unique perspective. She's the current president of Metropolis St. Louis. She is also associate director of student affairs at Washington University. In both of those worlds, she has the opportunity to deal with people who have moved to our city from other areas. Not long ago she spoke with a group of freshmen and asked them, "What do people ask you when you tell them you're from St. Louis?" While there was the random "Do you live on a		
Downtown Open House Tour Will Offer A Welcome Mat For City Living, Greg Freeman, 717 words, :	Sun., 9/9/2001	It was clear to me two years ago that some attitudes about downtown were changing. For years, downtown had been thought of as a place where you go for entertainment - whether it was baseball, football or a concert - and then leave as soon as possible. But when my wife and I showed up one Saturday for a downtown open house designed to show people the housing available in the city's business corridor, we were overwhelmed. So were the folks at the Downtown St. Louis Partnership, which		
Homicides In The City Highlight Reasons And Solutions For Crime, Greg Freeman, 636 words, :	Thu., 9/6/2001	The increase in homicides this year over last year has concerned some St. Louisans, who had grown accustomed to seeing a declining murder rate over the past several years. But it's really nothing new for St. Louis, says Scott Decker, a criminologist with the University of Missouri at St. Louis. "We've often been No. 1 for homicide," he said. "In 1957 we were No. 1, the same was the case in the mid-'70s, the late '80s and the early '90s. The police		
Fixing Up I-70 And Old Ads, Building Arch Walkway Lead List, Greg Freeman, 598 words, :	Sun., 9/2/2001	It's a new month, so how about some new ideas? On my online forum, Greg Freeman's Front Porch, readers have been making some suggestions for improving the quality of life in St. Louis. Some are quite creative. So I thought I'd share a few of them with you here, add a few of my own and invite you to send your suggestions in as well. There's no guarantee that Mayor Francis Slay will implement them, but some of them may give him ideas. Remember: Just a couple of years ago,		
Aaliyah's Death Touches Off Tears, Tributes, Record Sales, Greg Freeman, 584 words, :	Thu., 8/30/2001	If you didn't know before who Aaliyah was, chances are you will soon. Appreciation for the 22-year-old hip-hop-soul singer and actress who died in a plane crash over the weekend appears to have grown exponentially, both here and nationwide. Crying teen-agers and their parents have been calling radio stations here to share their thoughts. And record stores are reporting surges in the sales of her records and movie soundtracks. "We've had lots of calls since Sunday,"		
Condit Interview Leaves Him In Worse Shape Than Before, Greg Freeman, 632 words, :	Tue., 8/28/2001	Comedian Martin Short used to play a character being interviewed who was clearly guilty of something. The guy would sweat and shake, nervously smoking a cigarette with a long ash dangling, and answer questions from a reporter with comments like, "Papers? I don't know anything about any papers. What papers? Is it me or is it him?" That character came to mind last week as I watched Rep. Gary Condit being interviewed by Connie Chung on ABC. As I watched Condit do an amazing		

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City School Board President Welcomes Competition From Charter, Private Schools, Greg Freeman, 702 words, :	Sun., 8/26/2001	* New challenges in a new school year With so many competitors springing up to challenge the St. Louis Public Schools, you might think School Board members would be upset. Last year, four new charter schools siphoned away more than a thousand students from the city schools. Then last week, a coalition of ministers, educators, financiers and a prominent state senator announced that six tuition-free private schools would be opening in the city this school year. They said they hoped by the		
If Dusty's Death Can Stir Such Passion, Why Can't A Child's?, Greg Freeman, 618 words, :	Thu., 8/23/2001	Years ago, when I was a cub reporter -- an intern with the Washington Star -- I was given an assignment to spend a day with a dogcatcher and to write a feature about it. Before I wrote my piece, I was warned by veteran reporters: "Don't put your byline on your story. People go nuts about animal stories, and your phone will ring off the wall." My byline went on the story anyway -- the editors insisted -- and, just as predicted, I received more calls and letters about that		
Black Expo Here Has Become A Real Community Event, Greg Freeman, 566 words, :	Tue., 8/21/2001	The Missouri Black Expo has come a long way in 10 years. Founder and president Tom Bailey organized the first event in his basement in the hope of providing more exposure for black-owned businesses. Since then, the event has gotten bigger each year, to the point where it will feature 600 vendors this weekend at America's Center. Attendance is expected to be about 75,000. But the Black Expo has become much more than simply a place for vendors to show their wares. The expo has become a		
Group Engages In The Art Of Swaying Public Opinion, Greg Freeman, 747 words, :	Sun., 8/19/2001	Push for downtown art museum Can the public move an institution to change its position? That's what local activist Kay Drey is hoping, as she tries to get the board of the St. Louis Art Museum to consider putting a satellite museum in the Old Post Office downtown. Last month, Drey and an ad hoc group called Citizens for a Downtown Art Museum Satellite took out a full-page ad in the Post-Dispatch. Featuring a photograph of the interior of the grand building, the ad reads: "For		
State Lawmakers Should Act To Shore Up Bi-State., Greg Freeman, 653 words, :	Thu., 8/16/2001	While doing a radio show the other day, I got a call from a listener with a question: Why don't we hear more from the politicians about the cuts in bus service that are being proposed by Bi-State? I suggested that maybe the politicians are uncharacteristically quiet because they don't know what to do. Faced with a severe financial crunch, the bus system plans to consolidate its system on Oct. 1 by eliminating and restructuring a variety of routes to shore up its finances. It is		
Nest Isn't Empty -- It's Filled With Lots Of Love, Greg Freeman, 637 words, :	Tue., 8/14/2001	Now comes the time I hate. Will leaves us tomorrow, headed back to college. His summer stay with us was all too brief. We didn't get to do all the things that we talked about doing together. The house, noisy from our son's friends and music, will be quiet again. When the phone rings, it will again be for my wife or me. Will's cat, Cornelius, always rambunctious and curious, will be out of our lives once more. When Will was younger, people often asked us if it was hard on		
Group Follows Through On Efforts To Help Blacks Prosper, Greg Freeman, 749 words, :	Sun., 8/12/2001	Fourteen months ago, the St. Louis Black Leadership Roundtable held a summit meeting at Harris-Stowe State College. The purpose: to improve the lot of African-Americans in St. Louis. Tired of people simply complaining about problems, the roundtable set out to do something about them. Some 70 participants debated, discussed, set priorities and developed strategies. They gave themselves 18 months to make a difference. Some observers were skeptical at the time, certain that this would be yet		
Low-Income Housing Complexes: Let's Not Go Back There, Greg Freeman, 553 words, :	Thu., 8/9/2001	If St. Louis has learned anything in the past 50 years, it is that providing housing for a large number of low-income people in one area creates problems. Pruitt-Igoe, Darst-Webbe and several other public housing projects here failed because the federal government stacked poor people on top of poor people. The results were often neglected services, few role models and rampant crime. So it comes as a surprise to learn that a company hopes to buy Columbus Square, a 332-unit apartment and		
Cleaning Up After Dogs Makes For A Tidy Little Business, Greg Freeman, 602 words, :	Tue., 8/7/2001	Janet and Brian Martin have jobs that stink, but their business is picking up. The Martins are the founders of the Tidy Pup Pooper Scooper Service. For the past year and a half, the Martins have spent their days cleaning dog dirt from the yards of pet owners in St. Peters and O'Fallon, Mo. Before doing this, Janet was a paramedic and Brian worked for a printing company. Brian still works for the printing company, and the pooper scooper company is his No. 2 business. So how did the		
Clinton's Record Will Guarantee His Appeal To African-Americans, Despite Scandals, Criticism, Greg Freeman, 696 words, :	Sun., 8/5/2001	The man on the other end of the phone was clearly perplexed. Why, he asked, did Bill Clinton get such a rousing reception last week from blacks when he opened his new office in Harlem, the heart of the largest African-American community in the country? After all, the caller said, weren't African-Americans aware of the Monica Lewinsky scandal? Weren't they familiar with the Marc Rich pardon? The fact that Clinton as president had sometimes been, to put it charitably, less than		
Small Visitor Makes A Big Impression -- Much To Our Surprise, Greg Freeman, 611 words, :	Thu., 8/2/2001	There's a stranger in our house. He's never been to our house before. We never even saw him before two months ago. But he's living with us this summer. And, get this, sometimes he even sleeps with our son! His name is Cornelius, and he's our son's new kitten. When Will came home from college for the summer, he brought Cornelius with him. I had once decided that we would have no more cats at our house. A month after my wife and I married, we came into possession of a kitten, Maxwell. He lived for 20 years before exhausting the last of his nine lives two years ago.		
Reader Suggests Diverse Neighborhoods Are Fertile Ground For Attitude Change, Greg Freeman, 637 words, :	Tue., 7/31/2001	Over a week ago, I wrote a column here about a new FOCUS St. Louis report on race relations in St. Louis. The report -- the first wide-ranging report here on race since one done 12 years ago by FOCUS' predecessor -- showed that African-Americans here still lag behind whites in business, education and housing. Hispanic children also receive substandard education, it said. In the column, I noted that one of the points that the report didn't address -- and probably couldn't		
Fed Up With Torn Up Street, Business Owner Heads For The Suburbs, Greg Freeman, 640 words, book: city life	Sun., 7/29/2001	After nearly 50 years in the same location, the little store at 1317 Washington Avenue will close its doors on Monday. Anatol's Fabric Outlet, the city's only fabric outlet store, is calling it quits - at least as far as downtown is concerned. The store is moving to Webster Groves. Fed up with months of street closings and construction work being done on Washington that have harmed his business, owner Robert Tamsky has had enough. Tamsky says he wasn't dying to go.		
Miss Cleo's Realm Reaches Way Beyond Television Infomercials, Greg Freeman, 569 words, :	Thu., 7/26/2001	I guess Miss Cleo didn't see this one coming. The suit, that is, filed this week by Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon against the Caribbean-accented psychic. Nixon is accusing the operator of the psychic hot line -- Access Resource Services Inc. of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. -- of violating Missouri's "no-call" law. The suit is a result of the company's telemarketing calls to Missouri residents on the "no-call" list. And just when I was ready to give Miss		

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Sexuality Report Offers Mature Guidance On What Teens Need To Know, Greg Freeman, 623 words, :	Tue., 7/24/2001	When I was a teen-ager, back in the '70s, I watched a film in biology class showing a cow giving birth to a calf. That was the extent of the formal sex education I got in school. With the kind of sex education we got, it should have been no surprise when several girls turned up pregnant and some boys came down with sexually transmitted diseases. Because of the lack of information, I can remember boys passing around a dog-eared copy of the book, "Everything You Always Wanted"		
Focus St. Louis Report On Race Serves Largely To Show That Not Much Has Changed, Greg Freeman, 784 words, :	Sun., 7/22/2001	I was disappointed last week as I read the FOCUS St. Louis report on race in the region. My disappointment had nothing to do with the report itself. Members of the task force had clearly worked hard on the study, which took many months to put together. No, my disappointment had more to do with the snail's pace of progress. The FOCUS study is the first wide-ranging look at race here since the organization's predecessor, Confluence St. Louis, released a report on the topic 12		
What Happened At Board Of Aldermen Was Not Comic Relief, Greg Freeman, 574 words, :	Thu., 7/19/2001	Imagine my surprise to wake up Wednesday, turn on the national news and find my own city featured. This, unfortunately, wasn't a story that put the Gateway City in the best light. No, there on the screen was Alderman Irene Smith, apparently relieving herself in the aldermanic chambers. She stood over a trash can while supporters gathered sheets and quilts around her. Smith is displeased with a redistricting bill that would place her home and that of Alderman Sharon Tyus in the same		
Look At Other Cities, And You Might Stop Gripping About Ours, Greg Freeman, 595 words, book: city life	Tue., 7/17/2001	Dear Greg: How can you stand St. Louis? The city's shot to hell, the people are snobs and the area has very little redeeming value. We'll never be a city like Chicago . . ." That was the way one reader started his letter to me. I get comments like these every so often from St. Louisans who are fed up with this place. While I appreciate the letter-writer's point of view, I don't agree with him. His letter is a reflection of the inferiority complex that many		
Misperceptions May Be Holding Back Race Relations, Greg Freeman, 597 words, :	Sun., 7/15/2001	"I'm just a soul whose intentions are good. Oh Lord, please don't let me be misunderstood." - The Animals A new survey strongly suggests that some of the racial tensions that we see these days stem from misperceptions that many whites have of blacks. The survey, sponsored by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University and the Washington Post, finds that white Americans incorrectly believe that blacks are as well off as whites in terms of their jobs,		
Some Like Plan For Park; Others Would Give It The Gate, Greg Freeman, 579 words, :	Thu., 7/12/2001	Let's turn today over to the readers. Not surprisingly, my mailbox is running over with thoughts about the proposed entrance gates to Forest Park, which I dubbed the "gates from hell." (You can check them out yourself at home.post-dispatch.com.) Here's a small sampler: Dear Greg: I have been an art educator for over 25 years and needless to say, I have seen and studied a great deal of art over the years. Aesthetically, these entrance "gates" are out of		
Adults Must Raise Expectations To Help Students Achieve, Greg Freeman, 617 words, :	Tue., 7/10/2001	Ask Mychal Wynn why so many school districts are finding education gaps between black and white students, and he'll tell you: It's the adults. Wynn, a Georgia-based author and education consultant, says that it's teachers, administrators and parents and the expectations they set that make the difference. "If you look at almost any school district in this country where students are not achieving, you can find one or two school buildings where students are		
Ex-County Police Official Says Tag Theft Has Been A Problem For Decades, Greg Freeman, 570 words, :	Sun., 7/8/2001	A column I wrote a couple of weeks ago about the theft of Missouri license tags brought a flurry of letters from readers, many of them victims. The column noted that state Rep. Bob Hilgemann, D-St. Louis, plans to introduce a measure in the next legislative session that would allow motorists to choose between license tags or window decals. The decals would deter tag theft because they would be placed on the inside of the windshield. One of the people who wrote me noted that the more things		
Please Don't Give Us Gates From Hell For Our Heavenly Park, Greg Freeman, 631 words, :	Thu., 7/5/2001	I'll be the first to admit that I don't know much about art. But I know what I don't like: the entrances proposed for Forest Park. In fact, I have one word for the gates that are being proposed to welcome St. Louisans to the city's gem: Ugly. The entrances look like gnarled, metal, twisted hands. They resemble a huge bicycle that's been in a horrible accident, or refugees from a Dr. Seuss book gone terribly wrong. A colleague described them as looking like		
Businesses Need To Step Up And Offer City Youths A Hand, Greg Freeman, 615 words, :	Tue., 7/3/2001	A lot of folks talk about investing in our youth. But how many people walk the talk? Last week, Mayor Francis Slay announced a summer youth employment initiative. In a news conference with Police Chief Joe Mokwa, Urban League President James Buford, Khatib Waheed of St. Louis Caring Communities and other community leaders, Slay urged businesses throughout the area to hire a young person or two for the summer. "During my first two months in office, my staff and I have worked		
Please Don't Pass The Catsup - Not Without A Good Look At The World's Largest Bottle, Greg Freeman, 732 words, :	Sun., 7/1/2001	Driving along Illinois Route 159 in Collinsville, you can't miss it. It looms over the horizon, drawing the attention of all who come near it. With its brilliant colors of red, white and blue, it's unmistakable: This is the world's largest catsup bottle. From the bottom of the tower that supports the bottle to the top of the bottle cap, this monument extends 170 feet. The cap alone is eight feet in diameter. The bottle, which has been there since 1949, is a		
License Tags Are Stolen By Those Who Like To Cut Corners, Greg Freeman, 613 words, :	Thu., 6/28/2001	Audrey Ross has had enough. Once again, the St. Louisan has returned to her car, only to find her license tags stolen. "I can't believe it," she said. "It's a real nuisance and inconvenience. Every time this happens I have to go to the license office, stand in line forever and then pay for the 'privilege' of having to pay for new stickers. "This is the fourth time this year," she said. "I feel as if I'm being targeted." If		
Ball Of Twine Just Strung Us Along On A Father-Son Trip, Greg Freeman, 618 words, :	Tue., 6/26/2001	It had become an obsession for my son and me -- the world's largest ball of twine. And now, finally, we were on our way to see it. Actually, Will and I had chosen to do a father and son road trip to check out Minneapolis, where he'll attend college in the fall. We shared the driving and, 10 hours later, we were in the Twin Cities. But while we were there, we had to make a pilgrimage to see the ball of twine. Let me explain. About 10 years ago, my son became a big fan of		
Tootsie Rolls Helped Marines Survive Brutal Conflict At Chosin Reservoir In 1950, Greg Freeman, 594 words, :	Sun., 6/24/2001	When most of us look at a Tootsie Roll, we don't give it much thought. Not so for Fred Wahl of St. Charles. For him, Tootsie Rolls are lifesavers. Wahl, 71, is a survivor. And while others are remembering veterans Monday as part of the 51st anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, Wahl will be among the Americans expressing thanks for Tootsie Rolls. On Nov. 27, 1950, 17,000 Marines were at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. Advancing through the mountains, they found		
Survey Suggests Most Believe Race Relations Need Improvement, Greg Freeman, 641 words, :	Thu., 6/14/2001	Dana Blackwell thinks race relations are good in her own community -- University City. But she doesn't think they are nearly as good regionally. Blackwell, 25, isn't much different from many others surveyed throughout the region by RegionWise, an organization building a clearinghouse of information about the area. RegionWise, funded by the Danforth Foundation, conducted a poll on perceptions of race relations here. About 2,000 people were surveyed from St. Louis, St. Louis		

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Capital Punishment Has Pros, Cons, But Does It Really Help?, Greg Freeman, 602 words, :	Tue., 6/12/2001	Sitting in bed Monday morning, I found myself in tears. I was watching television news, the stories about Timothy McVeigh's execution. One by one, the faces of all 168 victims of the Oklahoma City bombing rolled across the screen with their names and ages. A heavy sadness fell over me and, without warning, I found myself crying. The faces -- men, women, children, black, white, Hispanic, old, young -- all touched me. They were parents, brothers, sisters, children and friends. Those		
Latest Snapshot Of St. Louis Residents Captures A Mottled Image Of Change, Greg Freeman, 749 words, :	Sun., 6/10/2001	So you think you know the city of St. Louis? Think again. An analysis of the city's latest census figures, courtesy of the St. Louis Public Library, paints a different picture than some might imagine. Among the findings: * Despite initial appearances, St. Louis is a city where no single ethnic group is in the majority. * 15 percent of the city's population is foreign-born. * If you build it in St. Louis, they will come. Those nuggets and more are from the		
Let's Hope Report Raises Awareness Of Racial Stereotypes, Greg Freeman, 626 words, :	Thu., 6/7/2001	Several years ago, while driving to a party in Ladue, I was pulled over by a police officer. I stayed in the car while the officer ran my drivers license. When he returned, he noted that I lived in St. Louis and asked me what I was doing in Ladue. I told him about the party, and he asked for the address. When I gave it to him, he looked at me, told me to drive carefully, and drove off. I hadn't been speeding or driving recklessly, but nonetheless felt relieved when he let me go.		
Let's Cut To The Chase And Get Down To Brass Tacks On Idioms, Greg Freeman, 637 words, :	Tue., 6/5/2001	A week ago, I ran a column in this space about unusual phrases and those that had gone out of fashion. Phrases like "don't take any wooden nickels," and "I'm too pooped to pop" came to mind, and I asked readers to send in suggestions of other phrases that either don't seem to make sense at face value or are simply fading away. Based on the responses I've received, I pity anyone trying to learn the English language for the first time. Can you imagine		
"Now You're Cooking With Gas," Readers Say In Response To Last Week's Column, Greg Freeman, 851 words, :	Sun., 6/3/2001	I don't think the Post-Dispatch had been on the streets for more than a few hours Tuesday before I started getting e-mail in response to that day's column. In that column, I noted that some phrases that I grew up with seemed to be vanishing. As proof of that, I noted my son's bewilderment when my mother said to him, "Don't take any wooden nickels." He had no idea what she was talking about. What's a wooden nickel? And why would anyone take one? In the		
Haas Calls It Quits, Low-Cal Concretes And Other Unlikely Notions, Greg Freeman, 538 words, :	Thu., 5/31/2001	Bits and pieces of conversations never heard on the streets of the Gateway City: I don't think the Cardinals are asking for enough public money to build a new stadium. I can't imagine a city more racially harmonious than St. Louis. What? Downtown has been revitalized so soon? I wish parking lot owners would charge more for stadium parking. Did you hear? The Rev. Larry Rice won \$1,000 on the Casino Queen. Bill Haas has decided not to run for office. I'm going		
Popular Phrases Go The Way Of Wooden Nickels, Turnip Trucks, Greg Freeman, 600 words, :	Tue., 5/29/2001	"Don't take any wooden nickels," my mother warned my son as he headed back to college after a recent visit. Will was puzzled. What in the world does that mean? he asked. His question took me off guard. I had heard the expression for years, both from my mother and from others. I knew the phrase meant don't be fooled or taken in by ideas that aren't well thought out. But Will was clueless. It made me realize that few people today use that phrase anymore. In fact,		
KMOX Morning Man Brennan Makes Sure The Rich History Of Downtown Is Properly Recognized, Greg Freeman, 979 words, :	Sun., 5/27/2001	Charles Brennan thought something was missing. It was nearly four years ago when the co-host of KMOX Radio's "Morning Meeting" was waiting outside the W.K. Woods Stationery Co. on North Fourth Street when he noticed a plaque on the building commemorating a World War II hero. He and Joseph Ferrara, a frequent guest on Brennan's show, started talking about the many historical facts downtown that went unmarked. "The next day I ran into a lawyer in front of the Old		
Jennings Officer Draws The Ire Of Former Policeman, Greg Freeman, 678 words, :	Thu., 5/24/2001	Charles Kirkwood knows all about police procedure. For 20 years, he served with the St. Louis Police Department, ending his career as a sergeant, complete with awards and commendations. That's why Kirkwood is so upset. He was stopped, arrested and booked last week by the Jennings police. Kirkwood was driving along Jennings Station Road when he saw a parked police car. He passed the car, and it began to follow him. Ultimately, the officer turned on her lights, and Kirkwood pulled		
Blacks Here Will Be Watching Sen. Bond's Pick For Federal Bench, Greg Freeman, 610 words, :	Tue., 5/22/2001	It's been nearly five years now since Ronnie White, the first black ever to hold a position on the Missouri Supreme Court, was nominated to fill a federal judgeship vacated by Judge George Gunn, who took senior status. By now, the Ronnie White story is familiar. White's nomination remained stalled in the Senate for two years, despite initial praise and lobbying from Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond. In addition, during his 1998 campaign for re-election, Republican Bond told		
I Admit It; I'm Hooked On A Game Show That Has Attitude To Spare, Greg Freeman, 637 words, :	Thu., 5/17/2001	I've got to admit to a guilty pleasure: I'm seeing a woman other than my wife. I see her every Monday night at 7. She insists on wearing black in public, along with an expression of contempt. She's prim and proper, but she's also rude and berates people. And she's British. She's Anne Robinson, and she is the host of NBC's "The Weakest Link." It's a game show that's sort of a combination of "Jeopardy," "Who Wants To		
To Fight Violence, Residents Must Sound The Alarm, Greg Freeman, 624 words, :	Tue., 5/15/2001	In front of Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital is a statue of a little boy standing barefoot with a tiny ball behind his back. Christopher Harris was 9 in 1991, when a drug dealer used him as a shield in a fight and he was killed. To honor Christopher, Clarence Harmon, then the city's police chief, ordered the statue made from guns collected by the police and melted down. Christopher's statue stands as a reminder of the city's high homicide rate in the early 1990s		
The Horror Stories We Hear About Nursing Homes Should Spur Us To Action; An Age-Old Worry, Greg Freeman, 615 words, :	Sun., 5/13/2001	Perhaps my greatest fear in life is getting old and not being able to take care of myself. Without a doubt, there are some nursing homes that are very nice. Over the years, I've seen some that are luxurious, some that looked more like hotels than nursing homes. But it's the horror stories that come to mind more often when I think of nursing homes. I think of places like the Leland Health Care Center in University City, where four women died within two days in April. The St.		
Hoover's Name Taints The Good Work Done At FBI Headquarters, Greg Freeman, 632 words, :	Thu., 5/10/2001	Imagine the outcry if someone were to suggest naming a courthouse after Bill Clinton, or naming a justice center after Richard Nixon. We'd never hear the end of it. So does it make any more sense for the nation's top investigative bureau to carry the name of J. Edgar Hoover? In light of what we've recently learned about Hoover, along with what we've already known, the answer should be a resounding no. The J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building sits in Washington		
Memories Rush Back At Gathering Of The "Beaumont Family", Greg Freeman, 622 words, :	Tue., 5/8/2001	To Beaumont High we pledge our love. Let her chorus ring above. Beaumont's warm and friendly walls, campus broad and ample halls. Pay we now the honor due to Beaumont's gold and blue. The gold of youth, the blue of truth and staunch loyalty. It's been years since I first learned those words, the school song for Beaumont High School. But they easily came back to me on Sunday when I arrived at the school that I first entered 31 years ago as a scared		
Student Pays Back ROTC Tuition Aid The Army Way, Greg Freeman, 926 words, :	Sun., 5/6/2001	You're in the Army now When Brett Shorts graduated from Pattonville High School in 1995, he knew he wanted to attend college. With a college degree, he was sure he'd be able to find a decent job and be in a good place to support a family. Shorts' family was unable to help him financially, but they supported his decision. He was accepted at Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo., but finances were an immediate issue. While Shorts had been a good student in high		

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Readers Respond To Column About Former Sen. Kerrey, Greg Freeman, 613 words, :	Thu., 5/3/2001	Tuesday's column about former Sen. Bob Kerrey generated an extraordinary number of letters, so I'm turning today's column over to the readers. Mr. Freeman, I read your column in today's Post and find it to be one of your better columns. I truly feel for Sen. Kerrey and feel that he does not deserve the criticism he is getting. I was in World War II and was a rifleman on the front line in Europe and have seen what day-to-day combat can do to a normal		
Kerrey Admission, Further Discussion Could Heal Wounds, Greg Freeman, 680 words, :	Tue., 5/1/2001	I never served in the armed forces. When I was in my teen-age years, the Vietnam War was in full force and terribly unpopular. Many young men -- boys, really -- watched anxiously each year as the draft was called, worried that when the time came, our numbers would come up. Shortly before it was time for me to register, the United States switched to an all-volunteer Army. Having no desire to fight in Vietnam, I chose not to volunteer. I wasn't alone: today, only 6 percent of Americans		
Cardinals Should Get New Stadium Because The Team Helps To Keep Downtown Alive, Greg Freeman, 825 words, :	Sun., 4/29/2001	Baseball is business Some afternoon when you have the time, take a drive along North Grand Boulevard, around the 2900 block. Years ago, that area was pretty robust. The old Busch Stadium - old-timers knew it as Sportsman's Park - was still there, and all sorts of businesses thrived nearby: restaurants, bars, hotels and stores. Today, with the stadium long gone, the area is a shadow of its former self. While the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club serves young people at the site of		
Conference Takes Aim At Rejuvenating North St. Louis, Greg Freeman, 642 words, :	Thu., 4/26/2001	North St. Louis will always hold a special place in my heart. I spent all my growing years there. My mother and sister still live there. But the north St. Louis of my youth is not the north St. Louis of today. When I was young, my friends and I would walk to the Tower Theater at Grand and West Florissant to see a "Dracula" movie. My parents would buy groceries at the "Big B" supermarket a block from our home at Newstead and Carter avenues. I used to buy comic books		
Junk Mail Has Become Digital, Greg Freeman, 648 words, book: wit & wisdom	Tue., 4/24/2001	There was a time, maybe 15 years ago or so, when the arrival of a fax meant something important. In this newsroom, faxes got special attention. They meant "urgent," that something was breaking, some piece of news too immediate to simply mail. Over time, however, that started to change. Faxes arrived with get-rich-quick schemes, announcement of fast-food restaurant openings, and press releases about things no one cared about. No surprise, then, that faxes these days get		
Support Is Gaining Ground For A Police-Civilian Review Board To Investigate Charges Of Brutality, Greg Freeman, 807 words, :	Sun., 4/22/2001	Bill Haas, the eccentric, perennial candidate and St. Louis School Board member, often finds himself not taken very seriously. He brings it on himself, of course, seemingly running for almost every office available, entering races and then urging voters to support someone else. But Haas had a good idea two years ago, and the idea is back today. Haas suggested the formation of a police-civilian review board to investigate allegations of police brutality. "It seems like there's		
Woman's Story Shows Lupus Can Be Controlled If Found, Greg Freeman, 635 words, :	Thu., 4/19/2001	When Yvette McKinley was 13, she jammed her finger while practicing karate. At least she thought she had done so. She began developing arthritislike symptoms. Her parents took her to doctors, who initially were unsure what she had. She had never been sick a day in her life -- no measles or mumps or other childhood diseases. But health problems began to pop up. She developed a thickening of the muscle wall around her heart. Her blood count dropped. Her blood pressure rose. What was		
Slay Has Tough Job To Make St. Louis "Great City Again", Greg Freeman, 640 words, :	Tue., 4/17/2001	When Francis Slay is sworn in as mayor at noon today, he'll find himself facing a myriad of problems. He's inheriting a city that hasn't exactly excelled in recent years. He'll find a city with low self-esteem. A city that knows where it wants to go but doesn't always seem to know how to get there. A city that seems to think that any and every problem can be resolved with yet another study. He'll find himself dealing with issues ranging from hospitalization		
Officers, Citizens Need To Respect Each Other's Roles, Take Care To Avoid Such Fatal Mistakes, Greg Freeman, 610 words, :	Sun., 4/15/2001	Let's be honest here. There are some cops out there who are much too trigger-happy when it comes to African-Americans. And there are some people who get shot by police because they do dumb things. Both of these are facts. Yet, depending on your beliefs, chances are that you're a lot more willing to believe one of those facts than the other. Truth be told, to believe one without believing the other is like believing in Santa Claus without believing in his flying		
Downtown's Upside: Why Isn't Every Night A Special Occasion?, Greg Freeman, 610 words, :	Thu., 4/12/2001	A couple of weeks ago, on a Saturday evening, my wife and I decided to take a ride around downtown. We do this once in a while. We pick an area and go for a drive, taking the time to check out the architecture, to enjoy the sights and sounds. This time we chose downtown. On this particular Saturday night, downtown was bustling. Now no one cares about downtown more than I, but "bustling" is not a term I usually use to describe downtown St. Louis, especially on weekends.		
Daytime Tv Ads Seem To Target Bums, Morons, Greg Freeman, 661 words, :	Tue., 4/10/2001	I've reached the conclusion that advertisers think that people who watch television during the day are lazy, moronic or just plain worthless. I came to that realization recently when I stayed home for a day with a bad cold. Between a steady diet of court shows like "Judge Judy" and game shows like "The Price is Right," I was hit with a barrage of commercials. So is my conclusion overly harsh? I don't think so, at least based on what I saw that day. There were		
Nixon Overcame His Skepticism To Lead An Effort Of Which This State Can Be Proud, Greg Freeman, 670 words, :	Sun., 4/8/2001	When Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon first heard allegations of law enforcement officials engaged in racial profiling - disproportionately targeting blacks and other minorities in traffic stops - he was skeptical. "I think all of law enforcement was somewhat suspicious," he said. "I think many saw it as an attempt to set up lawsuits." That was a couple of years ago. Nixon hadn't seen any instances of racial profiling, but he started asking others whether they		
Ex-Crew Member Of Spy Plane Says He Would Have Turned The Aircraft Around, Greg Freeman, 592 words, :	Thu., 4/5/2001	The e-mail came from a former student. "I was a crew member on the EP-3," he wrote. "I have some thoughts about what happened." "What happened," of course, was the collision of a U.S. Navy spy plane with a Chinese fighter jet. The collision has caused an international incident. I knew the student. He had been in one of the "Ethics in Media" classes that I taught for 10 years at Webster University. A smart student, I recalled. Very		
Neighborhood's Summit Gathers A Cross-Section Of St. Louis' Best, Gregory Freeman, 589 words, :	Tue., 4/3/2001	When the nation's founders wrote about "citizen government," they probably didn't have an annual neighborhoods conference in mind. Yet, I'd bet they would smile approvingly at a recent conference here. A neighborhoods conference is held each year by the St. Louis Association of Community Organizations, known to most people as SLACO. This year's conference was held Saturday. SLACO hosts the event each spring to bring people together from different		
Fear Is Preventing A Public Dialogue Over Leading Cause Of Black Women Contracting Aids, Gregory Freeman, 691 words, :	Sun., 4/1/2001	Living on the "down low" Black men call it living on the "down low" - men who are presumed to be straight having sex with other men - and it's a leading cause of black women contracting HIV, the AIDS virus. It comes as no surprise to Tyrone. Tyrone grew up in East St. Louis, knowing he was different from most boys. "There was no name for it in those days," he said. "Just terms like 'punk,' or 'sissy.'" "I got mixed		

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Next Mayor Must Be Ready To Hit The Ground Running, Gregory Freeman, 660 words, :	Tue., 3/27/2001	Quiet as it's kept, St. Louis will elect a new mayor one week from today. It's hard to tell. After a flurry of activity during the March 6 primaries, the general election has been downright serene. Even in a city where the Democratic nominee is almost always the winner of the election, this general election season has been quieter than most. Democrat Francis Slay has no ads on the air, and Republican Michael Chance has no money to put ads on the air. Yard signs on city lawns are		
Responses From Readers Includes Some Feedback On Two-Sided Issue, Gregory Freeman, 551 words, :	Thu., 3/22/2001	Let's turn today's column over to the readers: Dear Greg, I am hoping that by now you have been alerted at least dozens, if not hundreds of times that your attribution of "Both Sides Now" to Judy Collins is tenuous at best and ridiculous at worst. Is simple fact-checking too much for the Media Person of the Year? Jerome Dear Jerome, Actually, yours was the only letter I received about this. The facts I checked indicated that the song was performed		
Historic Syndicate Trust Building Downtown Needs A Hero, Gregory Freeman, 760 words, :	Sun., 3/18/2001	DEMOLITION OR RENOVATION? If St. Louis were a person, we'd probably call it confused. On the one hand, the city is celebrating the renovation of four of the old Cupples Station warehouses into a new, \$60 million Westin Hotel - demonstrating the value in waiting to find a good use for an old building. On the other hand, the city's been fairly quiet lately about the imminent demise of one of St. Louis's most historic high-rises, the Syndicate Trust/Century building		
GOP Candidate For Mayor Wants Not To Be Ignored, Gregory Freeman, 602 words, :	Thu., 3/15/2001	"It ain't over 'til it's over." -- Yogi Berra Michael Chance has a message for the local news media: There's an election going on. That might seem obvious. Chance was voted the Republican Party's nominee for mayor in the March 6 primary. St. Louis Aldermanic President Francis Slay was the Democratic nominee. But since the primary, Chance says, the news media have all but declared Slay the winner of the April 3 election. "It		
Affliction Opened My Eyes To Barriers I Never Saw Before, Gregory Freeman, 594 words, :	Tue., 3/13/2001	I've looked at life from both sides now, from win and lose, and still somehow it's life's illusions I recall. I really don't know life at all. Judy Collins, "Both Sides Now" Regular readers of this column know that last year, I was diagnosed with a form of muscular dystrophy. In my case, it was a disorder that didn't begin to affect me until I reached my late 30s. It has affected me gradually. I first noticed that something was		
The Reign Of Clarence Harmon Began And Ended Because He Isn't A Politician, Gregory Freeman, 721 words, :	Sun., 3/11/2001	One term at City Hall Chances are, Mayor Clarence Harmon is smarting right now after taking a major shellacking at the polls Tuesday. The mayor won only 5 percent of the vote and didn't carry a single ward. Still, when the history of mayoral politics is written, my guess is that Harmon won't be regarded as that bad of a mayor. Voters didn't throw Harmon out of office because they thought he was a horrible mayor. They elected not to put him back into office		
Hard Work Pays Off For Slay, Who Ran A Flawless Campaign, Greg Freeman, 591 words, :	Thu., 3/8/2001	No matter how you look at it, Francis Slay ran a picture-perfect campaign. It was as if all the gods came together so that he could win the Democratic nomination which, if history means anything, will make him mayor after the general election. Some of his good fortune came because of his hard work; some came because he was in the right place at the right time. When Slay announced plans to challenge Mayor Clarence Harmon, many expected a major battle between the two. Harmon had		
Milestone Birthday Leads Father To Look Back -- And Ahead, Greg Freeman, 695 words, :	Tue., 3/6/2001	Your attention please: I am no longer the parent of a teen-ager. On Monday, my son turned 20. To celebrate, my wife and I drove to Chicago over the weekend, where Will is attending college, and had dinner with him and a couple of his friends. We met him again the next day for brunch, and he, my wife and I had a chance to talk about what he was doing and what he hoped to do. He talked about how well he was doing, and I was impressed at how he had carefully thought about life after		
Straight Talk About What's Needed For Downtown, Gregory Freeman, 900 words, :	Sun., 3/4/2001	Jack Randall says that when he talks about what St. Louis needs, some dismiss him as a "crazy old man." But Randall is clearly someone who loves our city, and someone who's not at all satisfied with the status quo. Randall, a retired workers' compensation attorney, is a longtime downtown resident and property owner. He's a proponent of making downtown more colorful. As an example, in 1989, he installed a neon sign of Harry S Truman on his building at 916 Olive		
Institute Seeks To Help Men Who Were Victimized, Greg Freeman, 655 words, :	Thu., 3/1/2001	When most of us think of sexual abuse, we usually think of women or girls who have been abused. But in doing so, we may be erroneously throwing out the fact that men and boys are also victims of such abuse, says Donald Jeffries, executive director of the Mariposa Men's Wellness Institute here. The Mariposa institute is designed to promote the emotional wellness of men, who often ignore their emotional needs. Male sexual abuse is much more widespread than society is willing		
Regional Police Force Would Save Much-Needed Funds, Greg Freeman, 668 words, :	Tue., 2/27/2001	Cooperation is the key Eddie Roth, president of the St. Louis Police Board, struck a nerve last week when he suggested that entities outside the city help fund the city's Police Department. Roth argued that since St. Louis has commerce, culture and recreation that draw nonresidents who add to the law enforcement burden, it wouldn't be unfair to ask the city's neighbors to pay a tax to help the city Police Department's severe budget problems. Roth said that since		
Top Candidates For Mayor Show Off Campaigns On The World Wide Web, Gregory Freeman, 680 words, :	Sun., 2/25/2001	Cyberspace politics In the year 2001, candidates for mayor campaign not only through public appearances and radio and TV spots. They campaign on the Web. All three major Democratic candidates for mayor have entered the cyber-age in this year's election. They all have Web sites. They're all campaigning for your vote. But there are key differences in the Web sites. Mayor Clarence Harmon's Web site - Harmonformayor.com - is a fairly simple site. It features a		
African-American Mentoring Program Is Splendid Success, Gregory Freeman, 630 words, :	Thu., 2/22/2001	"Building men" For 17 years, the phrase "Building men is better than mending boys" has been the mantra of St. Paul Saturdays, a mentoring program based largely on volunteer efforts. While the faces of the boys have changed over the years, the program has stuck to its original mission: "To help African-American males become strong, responsible young men with a healthy sense of self-esteem and self-worth." Keith Antone Willis is the president and chief		
City Must Pull Out All The Stops To Halt Fraud In Elections, Greg Freeman, 648 words, :	Tue., 2/20/2001	A Not-So-Proud Tradition. Once more, the city of St. Louis is faced with a case of election fraud. This time, it involves bogus voter registration cards. Early last week, the St. Louis Election Board said it had found 3,000 suspicious registration cards that had been filed for the March mayoral primary. The board said later that it would scrutinize an additional 30,000 cards that had been filed before the November elections. Sadly, this is hardly the first time that election fraud		
Anniversary Of City's Founding Could Bring People Together And Enhance Civic Pride, Gregory Freeman, 324 words, :	Sun., 2/18/2001	What if you had a major birthday and no one noticed? That's what happened to St. Louis. You may have missed it, but last week saw an important milestone for St. Louis: the 237th anniversary of its founding. Don't feel bad if the anniversary went right past you. There was no fanfare. No major proclamations at City Hall. No parades or bands or flags. St. Louis celebrated its birthday Thursday like some St. Louisans do - quietly. That's quite a contrast to 1964. In		

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Foundation Aims To Raise Awareness About Kidney Disease, Greg Freeman, 640 words, :	Thu., 2/15/2001	Appeal to African-Americans Vivian McKinney had gone to her basement to do some wash when it happened. "I couldn't breathe," she said. "I had difficulty getting air." McKinney visited her doctor, who discovered that she had a high fever. "I was burning up," she said. Unable to figure out what was wrong with McKinney, the doctor sent her straight to the hospital. At the hospital, she went through a series of tests, including a kidney		
Hats Off To Mayoral Hopefuls For Keeping Racial Politics At Bay, Greg Freeman, 623 words, :	Tue., 2/13/2001	A campaign based on issues Keep your fingers crossed. The racial tensions of the mayoral election, which bubbled up at a fierce pace four years ago, have lessened considerably this time around. With only three weeks to go before the March 6 mayoral primary, none of this year's candidates is engaging in racial politics in his effort to be elected. In the 1997 race, the racial tension was palpable. Although both candidates, then-Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. and former Police		
Combining Church's Choirs Results In Understanding And Bodacious Buffet Lunches, Gregory Freeman, 703 words, :	Sun., 2/11/2001	Creating harmony Last year, Diane Jones had a revelation. Jones, of Washington, Mo., is a member of the St. Francis Borgia Church choir. In January of last year, the human rights office of the St. Louis Archdiocese asked the choir to perform with the North Area Choir, made up of several parishes in north St. Louis. The occasion was the annual Martin Luther King Mass at the St. Francis Xavier Church at St. Louis University. Jones, like many in her choir, was nervous about the		
Don't Be Fooled By Moderate Weather; Winter Yet Lingers, Gregory Freeman, 653 words, :	Thu., 2/8/2001	The Winter's Tale While everyone else has been enjoying the unusually warm weather we've been having this week, I've been apprehensive. Don't get me wrong. I love warm weather, and I've got no complaints about temperatures in the 50s, especially in February. Clearly, I'm not the only warm weather lover. In fact, I saw several guys this week who were brave enough to break out their short pants. Cars drove by with their windows down. Some St. Louisans		
Here Are Some Key Questions For Those Running For Mayor, Gregory Freeman, 626 words, :	Tue., 2/6/2001	St. Louis election With the race for mayor of St. Louis heating up, voters are paying closer attention to what the candidates have to say. While it's always easy for candidates to spout platitudes ("Let's bring the city back," "Let's keep St. Louis moving forward," "Pushing for a bolder St. Louis," etc.), what are some of the key issues the candidates need to address? And what should voters know about those issues before they can make		
Web Site Puts Your Knowledge To The Test - Beyond Martin Luther King And George Washington Carver, Gregory Freeman, 802 words, :	Sun., 2/4/2001	It's Black History Month, and while most Americans know at least something about black history - even if it's just who Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was, or what George Washington Carver was famous for - there's a lot more to black history than that. Eugene Walton, the former coordinator of affirmative action at the Library of Congress, has put together a site of 100 black history questions. Walton is making the questions available at the Web site www.blackhistorytest.com .		
St. Louisans Keep Adding To The List Of Our "Uniquities", Gregory Freeman, 574 words, :	Thu., 2/1/2001	Why we like it here A column I wrote a couple of weeks ago asking readers what they thought were St. Louis' greatest "uniquities" -- features that make this area stand out from other cities around the country -- resulted in a landslide of letters. I've spent the past week wading through the letters, e-mail and other missives that have arrived at my desk -- which, my colleagues will tell you, is already cluttered, even without the mail. I've read each		
Readers Give More Reasons Why Our Area Is So Special, Gregory Freeman, 632 words, :	Tue., 1/30/2001	St. Louis "uniquities" Imagine you're a tourist visiting the St. Louis area. What are some things about this place that would stand out? A couple of weeks ago, I asked readers to send me their thoughts on St. Louis' "uniquities," features about this area that make it stand out from other cities. What followed was an avalanche of mail. I printed some uniquenesses on Sunday, but they barely scratched the surface. Here are more uniquenesses suggested by		
Readers Offer Their Favorite "Uniquities" What's Special About Living In St. Louis Area, Gregory Freeman, 784 words, :	Sun., 1/28/2001	Pride in our town Based on all the mail I've received in the past week and a half, I've come to the conclusion that St. Louisans think they're pretty special. I recently wrote a column about St. Louis' "uniquities" - features that make this area unique, different from any other city. The idea came from some folks posting on Greg Freeman's Front Porch, an online forum that I moderate on postnet.com . The discussion was kicked off by the Regional		
"People Were Saying That These Kids Wouldn't Make It" Faith In A Dream Spawns Hope And Home For Crack Babies, Greg Freeman, 825 words, :	Thu., 1/25/2001	With \$10,000, two credit cards and a whole lot of faith, Mildred Jamison pursued a vision. Ten years ago, Jamison was a registered nurse, employed by the state of Missouri to evaluate residential programs and facilities throughout the state. The crack cocaine epidemic was spreading rapidly, and Jamison was seeing a new generation of crack babies. "People were saying that these kids wouldn't make it, that there was no way for them to succeed in society," Jamison said.		
Civil Rights Leader Has Let Down Some Of His Followers, Gregory Freeman, 643 words, :	Tue., 1/23/2001	Jesse Jackson Jesse Jackson's announcement that he fathered a child -- now 20 months old -- out of wedlock has his enemies rubbing their hands in glee. For years, he's been the poster child of civil rights, an invention, in part, of the media. It's a lot easier for reporters to run to Jackson to find out what African-Americans are thinking than to do the harder work of interviewing many different African-Americans. As the media attention to Jackson grew, so did		
Former Welfare Recipient Who Worked Her Way To A Better Life Faces Medical Crisis, Gregory Freeman, 709 words, :	Sun., 1/21/2001	Vada Parker is no stranger to adversity. Sixteen years ago, Parker was unemployed and on welfare. She had four kids, including an infant and a toddler. An unmarried mother of four children, Parker had a tough time keeping a roof over her kids' heads. It wasn't that she didn't want more; she simply didn't know what to do to change her fortunes. Then one day she got a call from Bill McRoberts, executive director of the Near Southside Employment Coalition, who		
Readers Are Invited To Share Ideas On What Makes St. Louis Good, Greg Freeman, 569 words, :	Thu., 1/18/2001	The area's "uniquities" A fellow who goes by the handle of Crowdaddy has coined the term "uniquities" to describe features that make the St. Louis area stand out from other cities. On "Greg Freeman's Front Porch," a forum that I moderate on postnet.com , Crowdaddy has asked people to list some of the area's uniquenesses, good or bad, that would let anyone know that they're in St. Louis, not Denver or Baltimore or Seattle or Dallas.		
We All Can Honor King By Living His Message Every Day, Greg Freeman, 623 words, :	Tue., 1/16/2001	"We Shall Overcome" Every year, my neighborhood hosts a Martin Luther King program to celebrate the works and ideals of the civil rights leader. A tradition, at the end of this program sponsored by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, is for everyone in the audience to hold hands and sing "We Shall Overcome." It was a song of determination during the civil rights era. Those involved in fighting for civil rights -- blacks, whites and others -- used the		
Few Are Willing To Predict Which Candidate Will Win The Top Job In St. Louis, Gregory Freeman, 1016 words, :	Sun., 1/14/2001	Talk to any St. Louis politicians these days, and chances are they aren't talking about John Ashcroft or any of George W. Bush's appointments. No, there's an office much closer to home that's on the lips of city politicians these days: the office of the mayor. In a couple of months, voters will help choose the man - no women have filed - who will sit in Room 200 of City Hall for the next four years. Who's the front-runner? It's anyone's		
New Governor Tries To Get Missourians Past Their Differences, Gregory Freeman, 671 words, :	Thu., 1/11/2001	A compelling message Missou-ree. Missou-rah. Neither is wrong, but how you pronounce the name of this state probably depends on which part of Missouri you're from. Missou-ree, or so say some, is the pronunciation of those from more urban parts of the state, namely St. Louis and Kansas City. Missou-rah, they say, is the pronunciation used by people from more rural areas. In this state, people are ready to battle for their own pronunciations. But that's		

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Hip-Hop Dominates World Youth Culture, Social Critic Says, Greg Freeman, 606 words, :	Tue., 1/9/2001	Urban folk art Whether it's several guys on a commercial for Budweiser saying "whassup" to one another, or "tagging," the colorful graffiti often found on walls in urban areas, hip-hop is having a major impact on world culture, says hip-hop journalist Kevin Powell. Hip-hop is often associated only with music, Powell says. "But it goes far beyond that," he said. "It's the dominant youth culture globally." A poet, social critic,		
After 32 Years In Congress, William Clay Moves On, With Lots Of Memories To Savor, Gregory Freeman, 690 words, :	Sun., 1/7/2001	Former Rep. William L. Clay beamed as his son took the oath of office last week, succeeding him as congressman from Missouri's First Congressional District. For the proud father and dean of Missouri's congressional delegation, watching William Lacy Clay Jr. take over was a moment he'll never forget. But neither will he forget the 32 years that he served in Congress. "Being in Congress is really a great experience, one that few Americans ever have the opportunity to		
Area Residents Donate Shoes To Aid Needy Kenyans, Greg Freeman, 725 words, :	Sat., 1/6/2001	* About 30,000 pairs will be delivered next week to Mombasa, Kenya. The shoes will be given to children and adults in orphanages and hospitals. St. Louisans have contributed about 30,000 pairs of used shoes for poor people in Kenya, the result of a plea from a student at Missouri Baptist College and the president of Eagle Wing Ministries. George Hutchings of Eagle Wing estimated that about 6,000 people have donated the shoes, which he plans to ship to Mombasa, Kenya next week. The		
Ashcroft Confirmation Hearings May Bring A Measure Of Payback, Gregory Freeman, 593 words, :	Thu., 1/4/2001	What goes around. . . . When I was growing up, a favorite aunt told me that when a person did something wrong to someone else, the Lord would eventually even the score. My great-aunt was a very religious woman. She died in 1980, the year John Ashcroft was re-elected Missouri attorney general. But I wonder what she would think these days, as Ashcroft becomes a lightning rod for controversy in the incoming administration of President-elect George W. Bush. Ashcroft has been		
2000:				
137 columns		8 in book		
When The Kid Heads Off To College, Dad's Hipness Quotient Takes A Dip, Gregory Freeman, 645 words, :	Sun., 12/17/2000	Since our son has gone away to college, I've slowly and sadly come to the realization that there are some things that I no longer know. The most recent discovery came last week when a guest on my radio program on KWMU mentioned some of the popular toys these days. I'd never heard of them. When Will was younger, I knew all the popular toys: Nintendo, Hot Stix (drumsticks that made noise without the drums), Cabbage Patch kids, you name it. I knew what they were and, in		
Behavior Of Football Fans Appalls New Downtown Residents, Greg Freeman, 822 words, :	Thu., 12/14/2000	A question of respect Margie Newman just wants some respect. Not for herself, but for downtown. Many people aren't giving it the respect it deserves, she says. Newman should know. She and her husband, Alan, live there and have seen the disrespect firsthand. The Newmans moved to St. Louis from Chicago a couple of months ago and bought a loft downtown, a few blocks from the Trans World Dome. They've enjoyed living there. While downtown loft living is considered by some as		
A Hero Takes The Worry Out Of Being Stalled, Greg Freeman, 695 words, :	Tue., 12/12/2000	Bad day on the highway Cathleen Martin of St. Charles counts one day last week among the worst days of her life. That was Wednesday, when St. Louis got snow and the roads were as slick as glass. When Martin got ready to go to work, her car wouldn't start. She called her father. He gave her car a jump and put a set of battery cables in her trunk. By now, she was an hour late, but Martin thought she was set for the rest of the day. Was she ever wrong. Martin,		
An Agreeable Introduction To Physical Pleasures Of The Spa Proves To Be Mind-Expanding, Gregory Freeman, 653 words, :	Sun., 12/10/2000	Anyone who knows me knows that I'm not really a spa kind of guy. There are men who are spa kinds of guys. You know who they are. You see them on the cover of magazines like GQ and Esquire. Blindingly white smiles. Impeccable dressers. Muscles from here to there and back again. Faces that look like they were chiseled on their bodies. That's not me. The only thing on me that goes from here to there and back again is my stomach. The only magazine that might consider me for the		
Advocate For Poor Women Had "Quite A Journey", Greg Freeman, 650 words, :	Thu., 12/7/2000	Fighting poverty LaDoris Payne-Bell wants women to know that there is no shame in getting welfare if they need it. Payne-Bell knows from personal experience: When she was younger, she was on welfare for a while. Her son, Derrick, who's now 32, was a baby at the time. Her husband was a Vietnam veteran who suffered from schizophrenia, and she suffered from depression. "I needed public support, and I got it at that time," she said. "Eventually, my husband got		
Since Thanksgiving Was So Nice, Why Not Have It Twice?, Gregory Freeman, 637 words, book: family	Tue., 12/5/2000	Longing for leftovers What do you do if you really enjoy Thanksgiving? In my case, you celebrate it again. Like most Americans, my wife, Elizabeth, and I celebrated Thanksgiving two weeks ago. It was a family affair. My mother came to our home for dinner. Our son Will, 19, came home from college to join us. Family activities these days often have something to do with Will's hair. He's growing dreadlocks. Though it's taken me a while, I've gotten used to		
Generosity Of St. Louisans Thrills Kenyan As He Collects Thousands Of Pairs Of Shoes, Gregory Freeman, 614 words, :	Sun., 12/3/2000	John Kihumba was overwhelmed. "You must see it," he exclaimed over the phone. Within minutes, I was at a warehouse in south St. Louis, filled with shoes. Tennis shoes. Dress shoes. Cowboy boots. House shoes. Baby shoes. Big shoes. Small shoes. All bundled into pairs. Every kind of shoe you could imagine, all in this warehouse, all in white, sturdy polypropylene bags. Five months ago, I wrote about Kihumba, a student at Missouri Baptist College who's studying		
While We Wait For A Leader, Mexicans Celebrate Their Vote, Greg Freeman, 637 words, :	Thu., 11/30/2000	What do the neighbors think? When it comes to elections, I used to do my superior dance, like the Church Lady from "Saturday Night Live." To understand why, I have to tell you that I was an exchange student in Mexico for several months while I was in high school. There I met Alejandro Verduzco. He and I have remained friends for nearly 30 years. Years ago, I asked him about Mexican government. He laughed. "It's a joke," he told me. The		
Woman's Dedication To Reading Got Her Through Hard Times And Has Aided Thousands Of Children, Gregory Freeman, 854 words, :	Sun., 11/12/2000	Fundamentally sound As a youngster growing up in Germany right after World War II, Gisela Zastrow loved books. They enabled her to escape from the rubble and devastation that the war had caused, a war that robbed her of her home and her father. Twice a week, she'd visit the American Memorial Library in Berlin, set up by the United States after the war. "Books took me out of all the horrors we saw around us," she said. Zastrow lived with her mother, grandmother and		
Thoughts On Election Turn To Inexcusable Problems In City Vote, Gregory Freeman, 650 words, :	Thu., 11/9/2000	Heads should roll Here are some random thoughts on Tuesday's election from an old political reporter and editor: * After Tuesday night's back-and-forth regarding Florida, I'm almost afraid to go to sleep again. When I fell asleep early Wednesday morning, Florida was considered too close to call -- after I was told by the television networks earlier in the evening that Vice President Al Gore had won the state. I woke up a couple of hours later to learn that Florida was		
If You Don't Vote, You Have No Right To Complain, Gregory Freeman, 667 words, :	Tue., 11/7/2000	A civic duty A word to the wise: If you don't vote today because you don't see a difference between the candidates, do me a favor and don't bother me with your opinions. I'm not interested in them. Sound harsh? Not really. Not a day goes by that I don't get letters, e-mail and phone calls from people with views on issues as diverse as drug laws, abortion, affirmative action, civil rights, HMOs, you name it. Some want the government to help in some way;		

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Had Bush Come Clean Early On, His Transgression Would Be Long Forgotten Now, Gregory Freeman, 599 words, :	Sun., 11/5/2000	As long as I've written about politicians, I don't know if I'll ever understand some of them. Why George W. Bush didn't come forward and disclose that he had once been arrested for drunken driving raises lots of questions; questions Bush doesn't need with only a couple days to go before the election. It's especially troubling for Bush because he has built his campaign on trust. His opponent, he says, trusts the government, while he trusts the people.		
Woman's Struggle With Finding Rides Ends With New Job, Gregory Freeman, 654 words, :	Thu., 11/2/2000	Call-A-Ride To Robyn Wallen, Dave Stone is a modern-day good Samaritan. Regular readers may recall Wallen. I wrote about her a month ago. Wallen is legally blind, and to get to work and back home, she had been relying on Call-A-Ride, the van system run by the Bi-State Development Agency to transport people with disabilities who can't ride regular buses. The problem with Call-A-Ride, she said, was that it regularly failed her. Big time, as vice presidential candidate		
Groups Join Forces In Effort To Bridge The Racial Divide, Gregory Freeman, 627 words, :	Tue., 10/31/2000	City's separate societies A new effort to reduce bias and discrimination in St. Louis gets under way Wednesday -- and not a day too soon. St. Louis is a great place in many ways. Where it isn't so great is when it comes to the issue of race. There, we have problems. Many of the problems here are due to our racial polarization, especially between blacks and whites. While there have been improvements over the years, many of our communities, many of our activities, many of		
Amshack Station, A Disgrace To Our City, Continues To Haunt Politicians After 22 Years Of Broken Promises, Gregory Freeman, 791 words, :	Sun., 10/29/2000	Get your party hats out, and don't forget the whistle-blowers and the cake. A major anniversary is coming up on Tuesday. That's right, ladies and gentlemen, it's time for my annual commemoration of the birth of Amshack! That's the Amtrak station, for the uninitiated, the "temporary" train station downtown that was erected on Halloween 1978. In what was clearly a trick - it's certainly been no treat - the "station" was made up of five		
Guidelines Drawn Up By 120 Individuals Transcend Politics, Gregory Freeman, 582 words, :	Thu., 10/26/2000	Agenda for black Missourians Early this year, Bob Holden, the Democratic candidate for governor of Missouri, asked Tim Person Jr. to become his deputy campaign manager. Person, a political veteran, is passionate about improving the condition of African-Americans. So he told Holden he would do it with one condition: That Holden would support the development of an agenda that would benefit African-Americans in the state. Holden agreed, and for six months this year, about 120 men		
Candidates Fuel Our Apathy By Ducking The Tough Issues, Gregory Freeman, 653 words, :	Tue., 10/24/2000	Election 2000 Marie Shaw of Normandy had just about made up her mind on whom to support for president when she saw the third debate. Shaw was ready to vote for George W. Bush until he hemmed and hawed on the issue of affirmative action. "He ducked the question," she said. "I was disappointed." So she's back on the fence. James Heimberger of Crestwood can't make up his mind. He's a single man who usually votes Democratic, but neither of the		
Campaign To Get Out The Vote Among Black Voters Is Likely To Help Gore More Than Bush, Gregory Freeman, 798 words, :	Sun., 10/22/2000	Not much attention may have been given to black voters in previous elections, but not so this year. In a year where the presidential election is being compared to the 1960 race between John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon in terms of how close the vote may be, major efforts are under way to get African-American voters to the polls. Because blacks tend to vote overwhelmingly for Democrats, that party would likely benefit from a large black voter turnout. How important is getting		
With Gov. Carnahan's Death, Missourians Have Lost A Friend, Greg Freeman, 676 words, :	Thu., 10/19/2000	Kind words for a kind man When state Sen. William Lacy Clay Jr. heard about Gov. Mel Carnahan's death this week, he thought about a meeting he had with Carnahan this year. Clay, who had known Carnahan for nearly 20 years, was meeting with the governor in his office in Jefferson City. Carnahan, who was seeking the U.S. Senate seat held by Republican John Ashcroft, and Clay, the odds-on favorite to win the 1st District seat in Congress over Republican Z. Dwight Billingsly, were		
Ignore What Foes Say -- Proposition A Makes Good Sense, Gregory Freeman, 590 words, :	Tue., 10/17/2000	Regulating billboards Driving to Madison, Wis., for the weekend several years ago, my wife, son and I admired that state's wonderful scenery. We got a terrific tourist's-eye view of the state. Farms dotted with grazing cows. Gorgeous, green hills visible for miles. At one point, I leaned over to my wife and said, "Do you notice something? We've hardly seen any billboards anywhere." Indeed, for whatever reason, billboards seemed few and far between		
Tenacious, Enthusiastic Woman Teamed Up With Police To Turn Neighborhood Drug Dealers Away, Gregory Freeman, 777 words, :	Sun., 10/15/2000	At 72, Anna Simmons isn't the kind of person you might expect to be a warrior. But because of her single-handed insistence, the 6100 block of Sherry Avenue in north St. Louis is a lot safer today. Simmons and her husband have lived in their home since 1973. When they moved in, it was a relatively quiet neighborhood. But over the years, drug dealers began taking over. "Oh, the drug dealers were here in full force, and their customers were coming here all the time,"		
At Washington U., Next Week's Debate Is Town's Hot Ticket, Greg Freeman, 628 words, :	Thu., 10/12/2000	Another spectator sport If you're like me, you spent Wednesday night glued to the television set, watching hardballs and softballs being pitched, hoping your side would hit a home run. I'm not talking about the Cardinals-Mets game. I'm talking about the presidential debate between Al Gore and George W. Bush. Regular readers know that I'm "sports impaired." I'm a big guy, and all my life, I've had people ask me if I played ball in school		
Blind Worker's Story Highlights Inefficiency Of System For Disabled, Gregory Freeman, 647 words, :	Tue., 10/10/2000	Call-A-Ride program Robyn Wallen loves her job. She finds it fulfilling, she likes her company and her co-workers. And she's on the verge of quitting. Wallen would love to stay on her job for years. But she's blind, and to get to work and back home she must rely on Call-A-Ride, the van system run by the Bi-State Development Agency to transport people with disabilities who can't ride regular buses. And more than once, the program has failed her, big time.		
Reader Says County Folks Don't Know What They're Talking About City Living Is Pretty Darned Good, Gregory Freeman, 858 words, :	Sun., 10/8/2000	"Simple sense of community" I got a call recently from someone considering a move to the city. A suburban resident, he and his family are attracted to city living, but he wanted to get an idea of what others thought about city life. Regular readers know my opinion; I enjoy city living and I'm a strong proponent of it, and I told him so. Then, almost as if on cue, the moment I hung up with him on the phone, I got an e-mail from reader Toby Weiss about city living.		
GOP Seems To Raise The Bar For Black Nominees To Courts, Gregory Freeman, 662 words, :	Thu., 10/5/2000	Senate stonewalling It's anniversary time: One year ago today the U.S. Senate rejected Ronnie White's nomination to the federal bench. The circumstances surrounding White's rejection were unusual. White, an accomplished attorney, is Missouri's only black Supreme Court justice. His nomination was held up by the Senate for 28 months. Missouri Sen. Christopher Bond, after previously expressing support for White, announced his opposition at the last minute. Bond and		
If Mr. Potato Head Falls, What Will Be Fate Of Mr. Whipple?, Gregory Freeman, 605 words, :	Tue., 10/3/2000	Politically incorrect icons Perhaps you missed the story over the weekend: "WARWICK, R.I. -- A 6-foot Mr. Potato Head statue, one of dozens dotting Rhode Island as part of a tourism campaign, will be taken down because of complaints that the grinning, brown-skinned figure appeared racist. "The 'Tourist Tater' was painted dark brown to appear suntanned and wore an ill-fitting Hawaiian shirt, glasses and a hat. The fiberglass figure had been on display since		

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Sights, Sounds And Tastes Of Hospital Made Columnist Ready To Come Home After Surgery, Gregory Freeman, 651 words, book: love, hope, & survival	Sun., 10/1/2000	An unexpected emergency It wasn't supposed to happen this way. I'd pulled a muscle earlier in the week, and the pain had remained with me. I'd planned a visit to the doctor. He would fix me up with some pills or a quick shot, or so I thought. I'd planned a busy day. Lunch with one fellow, a couple of interviews, a column to write. My doctor had other plans. He looked at me and told me I had a hernia. OK, I thought. I'd better get the		
Motorist's Run-In With Officer Turns A Bad Day Good, Greg Freeman, 649 words, :	Thu., 9/21/2000	A case of integrity Ted Proske knew it wasn't going to be a good day last week when he was pulled over by a police officer in Berkeley. Proske, who considers himself a safe driver, couldn't imagine what he had done wrong. When the officer walked up to his car, he told him that he had violated a flashing red traffic signal by running two or three car lengths into it before stopping. "I disagreed with him and told him that I believed he was mistaken," Proske		
Readers React Over North St. Louis, Ford And Firestone, Gregory Freeman, 615 words, :	Tue., 9/19/2000	Exercising their write Today, let's go to the old mailbag: Greg Freeman, you are the biggest racist I know. I read your article every chance I get, just to see if you will ever say anything good about a white man. Your recent column about north St. Louis is a disgrace. If you want to clean up north St. Louis, get the trash out. Schnucks closed due to lowlifes like yourself. If people in north St. Louis have time to shut down the highways and MetroLink, why don't they		
All The Studies Done On Ways To Improve The City Ignore The Area Of Greatest Need, Gregory Freeman, 716 words, :	Sun., 9/17/2000	North St. Louis He's a real nowhere man, Sitting in his nowhere land, Making all his nowhere plans for nobody. - The Beatles We St. Louisans love studies. Name a subject and I'll cite the study that's been done about it. Race in St. Louis? Studied. Turning downtown around? Studied. Restoring Kiel Opera House? Studied. Of course many, probably most, of those studies collect dust on shelves, never again seeing the light of day after they've		
South Side Politician Gets Forced Primer On Health Care Issue, Gregory Freeman, 657 words, :	Thu., 9/14/2000	Fighting back from stroke Phil Sgroi was set to give it his all. In the 1980s, he had been a South Side politician, the Democratic committeeman from the city's 14th Ward. Longtime political junkies may remember him. Sgroi -- pronounced SA-GROY -- was a "good government" politician, one of those guys who's the fly in the ointment of politics-as-usual. In the early '80s, he was a thorn in the side of Joseph P. Roddy, the then-powerful chairman of the		
Company's Actions May Put The Brakes On My Ford Buying Streak, Gregory Freeman, 629 words, :	Tue., 9/12/2000	Tire recall I've driven a Ford product since 1983. For me, Fords have always been solid American cars. I've found them to be sturdy and reliable, my requirements for a good automobile. After having trouble with a Volkswagen Rabbit that I bought in 1978 -- my first and only foreign car -- I bought my first Ford product, a Cougar, in 1983. I had purchased the Volkswagen when I was single. But by 1983, I was married and my wife and I had a 2-year-old son. I needed a		
Gateway Classic Football Game And The Battle Of The Bands Aim To Be Better Than Ever, Gregory Freeman, 604 words, :	Sun., 9/10/2000	"Pull yourself up by your bootstraps!" It's an admonition that Earl Wilson Jr. heard years ago, and one he strongly believes in today. Wilson, the engine behind the St. Louis Gateway Classic machine, has built that organization in just such a way. The nonprofit Gateway Classic Sports Foundation plays host to a football game each year at the Trans World Dome. This year's game will be Saturday, Sept. 30, between the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and		
Tom Eagleton's Loss Was, Literally, A Gain For St. Louis Region, Gregory Freeman, 633 words, :	Thu., 9/7/2000	What might have been History is filled with potential "what ifs." What would America have been like, for instance, if John F. Kennedy hadn't been assassinated in 1963? Would the Vietnam War not have been escalated? Would the counterculture that grew up around the anti-war movement never have begun? Would our music and clothing styles today be radically different? Would the civil rights movement have taken on different dimensions? No one knows, of course. But		
Critic Challenges United Way Policy Of Funding Scouts, Gregory Freeman, 638 words, :	Tue., 9/5/2000	Backlash As the United Way of Greater St. Louis kicks off its annual fund-raising campaign today, one man is seeking a change in the agency's funding. St. Louisan Scott Miller believes the United Way should withdraw funding from local Boy Scouts organizations. Because of the Boy Scouts' refusal to allow gays to be Scouts, Miller thinks that the United Way should immediately stop funding the organization. Miller's concerns follow a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court		
A Form Of Muscular Dystrophy Is Making Changes In My Life - But The Pity Party Is Over, Gregory Freeman, 772 words, :	Sun., 9/3/2000	If someone had told me 10 years ago that I was going to become disabled, I would have disagreed vehemently. Just 10 years ago, I could climb several flights of stairs without skipping a beat. Just five years ago, I could go for walks on Sunday mornings all the way around Forest Park. Today, I have difficulty climbing steps, and if there's no handrail, I can't climb them at all. I can walk for about a half block before my legs tire out. I've developed a form		
Readers Continue To Share Stories Of Memorable Officers, Gregory Freeman, 994 words, :	Thu., 8/31/2000	Beyond the call of duty This is the third and final installment of a series of columns written, in effect, by the readers. After the murder of Officer Robert Stanze, I wrote a column bemoaning his death. The result was an overwhelming response from readers, many of whom wanted to tell their own stories about the police. I asked readers to send in police stories about "unsung heroes" -- police officers who did things that may not have made the papers, TV or radio, but		
More Readers Share Stories Of Officers Who Touched Their Lives, Gregory Freeman, 629 words, :	Tue., 8/29/2000	St. Louis' "unsung heroes" The murder of St. Louis police officer Robert Stanze this month has prompted many St. Louisans to pass along stories of "unsung heroes" among the police. These heroes are police officers who have taken actions that may not have necessarily made the papers, TV or radio, but which had an impact on readers. Here are excerpts from some of the letters I've received. The first letter is from Dorothy Shea of St. Louis		
Officer's Slaying Inspires Testimonials To Dedication Of City Police, Gregory Freeman, 1010 words, :	Sun., 8/27/2000	A couple of weeks ago, I wrote a column about the killing of St. Louis police Officer Robert Stanze, pointing out how we often don't thank the men and women who take their lives in their hands for us every day. The column brought an outpouring of responses from readers, so I asked readers to pass along to me stories of the unsung heroes - stories in which police officers had done a great service but would have otherwise gone unnoticed. I got lots of letters, and I thought I'd		
African-American Women Are Helped By Today's YWCA, Gregory Freeman, 609 words, :	Thu., 8/24/2000	88 years of service In the days before integration, the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA -- for years at 2709 Locust Street -- was the Y for African-American women. From its founding in 1912, the Wheatley branch offered the services they couldn't get elsewhere. Much has changed in 88 years. YWCAs are no longer segregated, the Y that was on Locust has moved to the St. Louis University campus at 3820 West Pine, and the name and focus have changed: It's now the YWCA Phyllis Wheatley		
Column On Police Touches Nerve With Sympathetic Readers, Gregory Freeman, 662 words, :	Tue., 8/15/2000	Unsung heroes Last week, I wrote a column about the murder of Officer Robert Stanze. In that column, I noted that we often don't value the work that the police do, even when we expect them to come when we're faced with emergencies. That column drew a flood of responses. Almost everyone who wrote or called agreed that we don't say "thank you" enough to the men and women who put their lives on the line for us each day (although one hard-hearted guy wrote me		

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Latest Buzz Word In The Current Political Lexicon Has Made The Election Scene Much Too Heavy For Me, Gregory Freeman, 627 words, :	Sun., 8/13/2000	A gravitas situation Some readers would say I have it. Others would say I don't. George W. Bush didn't have it until he picked Dick Cheney for vice president. Now he's got it. Cheney has plenty of it. So does Joseph Lieberman. "It" is gravitas. That seems to be the hottest word to hit the political circuit this year. Everyone's talking about gravitas. What is gravitas? According to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, it's		
We Don't Take Time To Say "Thank You" To Police Often Enough, Gregory Freeman, 663 words, :	Thu., 8/10/2000	Death of an officer A police officer is dead today, and there probably won't be any demonstrations for him. No one will block an interstate to protest his death. There will be no marches about the shame of a wasted life. No one will call press conferences to criticize those who would even consider shooting a policeman. But the shooting death of Officer Robert J. Stanze on Tuesday is just as heartbreaking. Often, if a person is killed by a police officer, questions		
Let's Hope Religion Will Not Play Role In Coming Election, Gregory Freeman, 649 words, :	Tue., 8/8/2000	Gore's choice "Al Gore just committed political suicide." Those were the first words on my voice mail Monday, just after reports that Gore had selected Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., as his vice presidential running mate. But the words came from an unlikely source: Gene Carton. Regular readers of the Post-Dispatch may recognize Carton's name. He often writes letters to the editor. He also calls many of us at the newspaper to express his opinion on our		
Protesters At Republican Convention Get Noticed, But Point Remains Unclear, Gregory Freeman, 762 words, :	Fri., 8/4/2000	* Because of the wide range of issues being protested, the demonstrators' main message to public is seemingly lost. Maybe Freaky the Clown was the best representative of the protesters at the Republican National Convention. Freaky, a hippie-dippy character who looked to be in his mid-30s, showed up at various protests this week in Philadelphia, carrying a sign saying "Elect me to nothing." With hair dyed as red as his eyes, tie-dyed jeans and red shoes, Freaky said he		
Renovation Of Strip For Convention Appearances Prompts Cynicism, Gregory Freeman, 672 words, :	Thu., 8/3/2000	* Sleazy massage parlors and X-rated theaters were torn down along a suburban street. "It's a shame it takes a convention like this to get them to do what they should be doing all along," cabbie Ed Stanton said. To get to the Republican National Convention each day from their hotel in suburban Cherry Hill, N.J., members of the Missouri delegation travel along Admiral Wilson Boulevard. The street is pleasant, with its freshly paved surface and stripes, flanked by grassy		
First Amendment Thrives In Hometown Of Constitution, Gregory Freeman, 693 words, :	Wed., 8/2/2000	ON THE STREET * While GOP delegates conduct their business, a different meeting blocks away features activists campaigning for an end to the death penalty. The nation's founders would have been proud. Just blocks from the site where the Constitution was signed, the First Amendment -- freedom of speech -- was being exercised liberally on Tuesday. While delegates attended the Republican National Convention, a different kind of meeting was being held at the Old First		
Philadelphia Is Hoping To Shove Aside Unsavory Images, Gregory Freeman, 751 words, :	Tue., 8/1/2000	ON THE STREET With a police bombing and police beating in its past, the city is eager to sell an image of tolerance and hospitality, in part with savory food. The first thing you learn about this place is that Philadelphia Cream Cheese is not made here. Hasn't been for years, they say. But the place is famous for other delights. Like hoagie sandwiches -- much like poor-boy sandwiches but with a special, crusty bread -- and Philly cheesesteaks. These are authentic		
Chicago Columnist Clearly Hasn't Taken The Time To Get To Know Our Fine City, Gregory Freeman, 798 words, :	Sun., 7/30/2000	Overlooking St. Louis' hidden treasures I've never met Neil Steinberg, but I've got a bone to pick with him. Steinberg doesn't think much of St. Louis. Or at least that's what he's told readers of his column in the Chicago Sun-Times. In a column last week, Steinberg questions why Amtrak would be interested in putting bullet trains on the track at 125 mph from Chicago to St. Louis. "Don't get me wrong," Steinberg writes. "If		
Some Are Skeptical Of Audit That Praises Hotel Chain's Diversity, Gregory Freeman, 637 words, :	Thu., 7/27/2000	Adam's Mark image Can a leopard change its spots? Owners of the Adam's Mark hotel chain would say that they have no spots that need changing. But they are trying to improve their image. And an employment audit of the chain that they ordered appears to be a small step in the right direction. The audit, released Wednesday, was conducted by Project Equality, a Kansas City-based monitoring organization. It was commissioned by the hotel chain in February, in the midst of a		
Hey, George W., Forget Dick And John And Go With Bill, Gregory Freeman, 620 words, :	Tue., 7/25/2000	Vice presidential madness Dear George W. Bush, By now, you realize that one thing reporters do when they don't know what's happening is to pretend we know exactly what's happening. No reporter knows for certain that you are about to select former defense secretary Richard Cheney or former Sen. John Danforth as your vice presidential running mate. But lots of reporters from big magazines and TV stations and newspapers think you're going to announce -- perhaps		
Student Helps Doctors Here Cut Through Red Tape To Reach Patients In Kenya, Gregory Freeman, 609 words, :	Sun., 7/23/2000	After planning a volunteer surgery mission to Kenya, Dr. Carl Laurysen was faced with a dilemma. Laurysen, a neurological surgeon with the Washington University School of Medicine, was to lead a team of doctors and nurses from St. Louis on the trip, but the mission was in jeopardy. It looked as if the governmental red tape of the African nation could tie up the equipment that was being shipped there for as much as a year. Without the surgical equipment, the trip would be		
Graduates Of A Segregated School Retain Some Positive Memories Of The "Separate But Equal" Era "We Thought It Was A Good Life. We Didn't Feel Deprived.", Gregory Freeman, 892 words, :	Thu., 7/20/2000	The Douglass School Before the Civil War, the laws of Missouri prohibited blacks from being taught to read or write. But in 1866, one year after the end of the war, whites at the First Baptist Church in Webster Groves organized a school for black children. In 1892, a school was built for black children on Holland in Webster, and it was named after Frederick Douglass, the anti-slavery orator who eventually became the U.S. ambassador to Haiti. Because of laws that required separate		
North St. Louis, North County Can't Seem To Get Respect, Gregory Freeman, 673 words, :	Tue., 7/18/2000	Developers look elsewhere When Energizer Holdings Inc., formerly known as Eveready Battery Co., announced its plans to move from the city to Town and Country earlier this year, the company announced the move was being made because the firm needed more space. Chances are, though, that Energizer never looked at north St. Louis when it sought that additional space. It instead chose to sprawl westward to Highway 40 (Interstate 64) near Woods Mill Road. Energizer is not unlike other		
Proposed Blockade Was Never In Same League As Other Protests, Gregory Freeman, 624 words, :	Sun., 7/16/2000	Civil Action I believe in magical moments. Those are the times when all the planets and stars line up just right. The times when lots of people from different areas come together and things happen. History, national and local, is filled with such moments. The historic March on Washington of 1963, in which the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have A Dream Speech" was one of those magical moments. Thousands showed up in Washington to participate in that,		

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School Programs That Stress Character Really Work, Educator Says, Gregory Freeman, 635 words, :	Thu., 7/13/2000	Doing the right thing Mary Aranha believes that even the most troubled schools can be transformed into showplaces of positive student-teacher relations. Aranha, an educator for 35 years, preaches the gospel of character education. As director of character education for the Maryland Department of Education, Aranha thinks major changes can be achieved in schools by integrating character education principles in their culture. Aranha is in St. Louis this week as part of the Character		
Man Fights Ordinance Barring Him From Ward As Unconstitutional, Gregory Freeman, 676 words, :	Tue., 7/11/2000	Street vendors Jerrold Wright still thinks he can fight City Hall. So far, though, he's been losing the battle. Wright is a street vendor who works out of the back of his van. Since 1988, he's sold an assortment of items from his van, which he's parked in front of P-X Wine and Spirits, 4938 Natural Bridge Avenue, near North Kingshighway. Among the items he's sold have been T-shirts, sunglasses and caps. "It's a living," he said. "It		
Widow, 76, Will Mark Husband's Birthday By Parachuting From Airplane For 1st Time, Gregory Freeman, 638 words, :	Sun., 7/9/2000	Free-fall celebration Some widows commemorate their late husbands' birthdays quietly. Not Maxine Reisenleiter. She's remembering her husband by jumping out of an airplane. Not bad for a 76-year-old, white-haired grandmother. "I think my kids think I've lost it," Reisenleiter confided. "But I'm going to do it." Harry Lee and Maxine Reisenleiter had been married for 52 years before his death. "He was a good man,"		
When The Moon Hits Your Eye Like A Big Pizza Pie . . . , Greg Freeman, 647 words, :	Thu., 7/6/2000	Happy anniversary I always say that it was her frozen pizza that did it. That's the first meal my wife ever served me. Back when we were fellow students at Washington University, Elizabeth and I were on the staff of Student Life, the school newspaper. As I suspect even today's editors of that paper experience, the newspaper was life-consuming. Those of us who worked for it ate, drank and slept the newspaper. Deans warned students who became editor of Student Life		
For North County Man, Holiday Is Time To Cherish Family, Gregory Freeman, 659 words, :	Tue., 7/4/2000	Remembering a best friend Independence Day won't be the same for George Mathis. Mathis, 82, lost his wife last year after a bout with cancer. She died on Independence Day. George and his wife, Mary, were inseparable for nearly 55 years. They met at a church when he returned from World War II. "She was a wispy thing," he said. "But she was beautiful. We took to each other right away." The couple married and soon bought a small home in		
"Plain" Apparently Isn't Good Enough For M&Ms Anymore, Gregory Freeman, 726 words, :	Sun., 7/2/2000	Name games Some random thoughts from here and there: First Coke, now M&Ms? After 46 years of being called plain, the chocolate-coated candies are being renamed "milk chocolate M&Ms." Why? Was there some confusion by the public between plain and peanut M&Ms? No. Michael Tolkowsky, vice president for marketing and licensing at M&M/Mars, is quoted as saying, "For a long, long time, our chocolate has been too good to be called plain, but		
Street Entertainers Need More Than Just Warm Applause, Greg Freeman, 588 words, book: city life	Thu., 6/29/2000	You get what you pay for Three years ago, KMOX radio's Charles Brennan and I started a campaign. In an effort to make the streets of downtown livelier, Brennan and I encouraged lawmakers to change ordinances to allow street vendors and entertainers on the streets of downtown. Both had been banned years before, in an effort to make downtown's streets more pristine. Brennan and I argued that vendors and street performers would enliven the place. Much of downtown was dead,		
Program Pushes Prisoners To Look At Their Behavior, Gregory Freeman, 618 words, :	Tue., 6/27/2000	Violent offenders A man sits in a circle as he calmly talks about his life and what has caused him to wind up in this prison. "I'm here because two women were shot and two kids were killed," he says, nonchalantly. The facilitators catch him and ask him who shot the women and who killed the children. The man concedes that he was the one who did it. He explains that the shootings and deaths were the results of a drug deal gone bad. The facilitators remind him that he		
Circumstances Demand An Outside Inquiry Of Police Shooting That Killed 2 In Berkeley, Gregory Freeman, 671 words, :	Sun., 6/18/2000	Too many questions An independent investigation. That doesn't seem like much to ask for in the case of two men shot and killed last week on a Jack in the Box parking lot in Berkeley. If you came in late, here's what happened. The shooting happened during a drug investigation in which agents from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, Dellwood and other local police departments participated. Killed in a hail of gunfire were Earl Murray, 36, of Northwoods, and Ronald		
Immigrants Must Know U.S. History; How Do You Score?, Gregory Freeman, 590 words, :	Thu., 6/15/2000	Take a citizenship test For most of us, being American took very little work on our part. We were born American. No inspections to pass. No tests to take. But for immigrants who want to become American citizens, it takes some work. To become naturalized citizens, they have to know how to read, write and speak basic English -- something, to be honest, that not every native-born American can do. Immigrants also have to have knowledge of U.S. history and government. Most of us		
Roundtable Pledges To Deal With Problems Of African-Americans, Gregory Freeman, 593 words, :	Tue., 6/13/2000	"It's time for action" When it comes to the problems that African-Americans face, both nationally and in St. Louis, chances are you've heard them before. What you probably haven't heard is what, if anything, anyone is doing about them. A meeting that some describe as historic may change all that. And we'll have a good idea within 18 months. That's the timetable that the St. Louis Black Leadership Roundtable has given itself to make some		
From Long Hair to Macaroni and Cheese, Some Things Seem to Bridge Generations, Greg Freeman, 640 words, book: family	Sun., 6/11/2000	The "heir" is once again apparent It's been a noisy week at the Freeman household. The "heir" is home. Our son Will is home from college - at least for a short while. He's headed back to Chicago this summer to work and take a class. But he's taken a brief respite from the Windy City and landed in the Gateway City, and my wife and I are glad to see him. Suddenly the CD player - the one I practically need a manual to operate - is getting		
Realtors Give City A Chance To Show Off Housing Opportunities, Gregory Freeman, 601 words, :	Thu., 6/8/2000	St. Louis open house When Matt O'Leary stood up a couple of years ago to accept an award on behalf of Metropolis St. Louis from a group of real estate agents here, he was pretty blunt. Thanks for the award, he told them. Now, please stop steering people away from houses in the city. "I guess I was kind of rude," O'Leary told me this week. But his rudeness paid off. Out of his remarks and the discussion that followed, a group called "We Love the		
Host Of New Show Has Longtime Passion For The Medium, Gregory Freeman, 595 words, :	Tue., 6/6/2000	Black radio When Hank Thompson was a kid, he'd hear KMOX radio every morning. His bedroom was next to the kitchen, and when his father got ready for work before dawn each day, he'd turn the radio on and young Hank would hear the late John McCormick. McCormick was the legendary talk show host known as "the man who walks and talks at midnight." "I loved this guy," Thompson said. "He was charming. He was informative. He'd occasionally mix in a		
In Survey, Most Young Teachers Say Their Goal Is To Make A Difference, Gregory Freeman, 646 words, :	Sun., 6/4/2000	Passion vs. money Teachers deserve more credit than the public gives them. When I gave a talk a couple of months ago at St. Elizabeth's Church in St. Louis, a woman rose from the audience, eager to make a statement. The news media, she argued, don't understand teachers. A teacher herself, she said the public gets a warped view of teachers, many of whom work diligently, despite conditions that aren't the best. I thought about her recently when a new study by		

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Its About Time the Government Tested Diets, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, book: love, hope, & survival	Thu., 6/1/2000	Battle of the bulge Finally. The government has decided to take a look at a couple of the popular diets on the market to see if they work. As one who has tried more diets than Bill Clinton has political lives, I can only say it's about time. Those who know me know that I'm on a seemingly perpetual diet. I've always been on the heavy side. Some would suggest that I'm "big-boned," but I don't know that my bones are any bigger than anyone		
Finding A Solution To Stopping Murder Is Still Elusive, Gregory Freeman, 688 words, :	Tue., 5/30/2000	No conscience How can people be so heartless? How can people be so cruel? Easy to be hard Easy to be cold -- "Easy to Be Hard," from the musical "Hair" When I learned of the fatal shooting last week at a Wendy's restaurant in Queens, N.Y., my heart was broken. And I couldn't help but think of a similar incident that took place here some years ago. In St. Louis, one of the area's most heinous crimes took place Sept.		
Weeding Out Some Ordinances, Gregory Freeman, 703 words, book: city life	Sun., 5/28/2000	Bart Simpson, stay out of downtown St. Louis, if you know what's good for you. If you're not careful, you could wind up just like 14-year-old Baron Mitchell. Baron might appear to be a fine, upstanding lad. He's an honor student. Gets straight A's. But that didn't prevent him from being stopped by one of St. Louis's finest last week. His crime? Skateboarding. Baron had been in an office with his dad, Bob Mitchell, who works at a building downtown.		
How Did Negative Images Become Test Of Blackness?, Gregory Freeman, 597 words, :	Thu., 5/25/2000	Challenge for young people In a recent column, I printed a letter I'd received from a 15-year-old African-American student who was distraught because he found himself being picked on by fellow black students. His fellow students picked on him, he said, because he likes a variety of musical groups, white and black; because he chose not to wear dark colors, as many of the other students do; and because he speaks grammatically correct English. Because of his diverse interests and		
A Helping Hand For Poor Areas Now Needs A Hand Itself, Gregory Freeman, 646 words, :	Tue., 5/23/2000	Tax credit lure is reeled in Were it not for the Rebuilding Communities tax credit program, John Callahan may never have seen the rapid growth of his communications company. He may never have moved downtown the business that he launched in his kitchen in Kirkwood. And his company may not have been on its way to becoming a national firm. Callahan's company, Partner Communications & Service Inc., wires new and existing apartments and complexes for high-speed Internet access.		
A Message To Graduates: You've Got It Pretty Good, Gregory Freeman, 679 words, :	Sun., 5/21/2000	Good morning, graduates. As I stand here and look out over this sea of hopeful faces, I am reminded of my own graduation, so many years ago. When I graduated, our speaker was a United States general who most of us had never heard of. Today, your speaker is someone many of you have never heard of, except I wear no stars. But since few people come to graduations to hear the commencement speaker anyway, that probably doesn't matter. Nonetheless, I was selected to bring you words of		
Cancer Survivor Fills Life With Advocacy And Fund Raising, Gregory Freeman, 588 words, :	Thu., 5/18/2000	Race for the Cure Mikki Brewster thought she was going to die. She had just gotten the news: A mammogram had shown a tumor in her breast. It came as a complete surprise to her. "I have an annual physical," she said. "I have a mammogram each year. It had never shown up." Brewster had done monthly breast self-examinations, and she and her doctor knew that she had a cyst in one of her breasts, which had been there for several years. She checked it monthly		
Never Let Peers Force You To Give Up Your Individuality, Greg Freeman, 609 words, :	Tue., 5/16/2000	* "Trying to be me" "Dear Mr. Freeman," the letter began. "I'm 15 years old and I have a problem." I'm not Ann Landers, and I don't usually get letters from teen-agers asking for advice. But the young man continued. His family recently moved to St. Louis from another city, and the teen-agers at his school are treating him coolly, he says, because he is black. The twist is, they're black, too. The problem, the young man says, is		
Fans Of Orchestra For Black Students Plan To Keep It Going, Gregory Freeman, 619 words, :	Sun., 5/14/2000	When Kem Williams died after an automobile accident last month, his dreams didn't die with him. St. Louisans are stepping in to take the reins of the Cameron Youth Chamber Orchestra. The orchestra was founded by Williams, 37, to expose black students to classical music and to introduce audiences nationwide to local talent. Leading the effort to keep Williams' dream alive is Anita Bond, president of the youth orchestra's board. Bond said she felt compelled to do so		
Follow These Tips To Avoid Pitfalls Of Mother's Day, Gregory Freeman, 681 words, book: family	Thu., 5/11/2000	* Listen up, gentlemen OK, fellas, consider this your three-day warning. Mother's Day is Sunday. If you're like most guys, you haven't given it any thought. I know that until now, I've given it very little. But you can be sure that your wife is watching. And your mother isn't far behind. At this moment, they're dreaming about what you're going to get for them. It's got to be the right present, bar none. Anything less and		
The "N" Word Might Be Hip, But It's Still Hateful; We'd Be Better Off Without It, Greg Freeman, 688 words, :	Sun., 5/7/2000	Evolving language The first time I was called the "n" word, I was in Columbia, Mo. Actually, it wasn't the first time I was called the racial slur, but more on that in a moment. About 15 years ago, I was in Columbia to help with a journalism workshop there for students at the University of Missouri. After leaving the campus, I pulled up to a stoplight. A young man in a red sports car pulled up in the lane next to me. He looked over at me, yelled out the		
Drive Around Town Reveals New Eden Right Here In River City, Greg Freeman, 655 words, :	Thu., 5/4/2000	Spring is in the air There's no paradise greater than St. Louis in the springtime. St. Louis may have its share of troubles, but it's easy to forget them on a wonderful spring day. As if to prove that, nature cooperated earlier this week with sunny, breezy weather, the kind of weather that makes you want to go outside and just breathe in all of nature. After work one day this week, I decided that the weather was too nice for me to simply go home. I chose to drive around		
Politicians Become Critics -- Unless The Polls Disagree, Gregory Freeman, 604 words, :	Tue., 5/2/2000	Elian Gonzalez case Politicians are a funny bunch. Especially when election year rolls around. Republicans often accuse President Bill Clinton of governing by public opinion poll. But one would have to be unconscious to think that they don't do the same thing. Want proof? Take a look at America's favorite Cuban boy, Elian Gonzalez. After hours of futile negotiations, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno ordered the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the		
Name-Calling Isn't A Very Effective Way To Deal With Region's Problems, Greg Freeman, 853 words, :	Sun., 4/30/2000	Race vs. regionalism A great deal of heat but not too much light came out of the recent flap surrounding state Rep. Charles "Quincy" Troupe. Troupe, D-St. Louis, caused an uproar when he accused Sen. Steve Ehlmann, R-St. Charles, and his constituents of being racists. Troupe, angry over efforts to have a regional board take control of Lambert Field, said on KMOX radio that Ehlmann - the idea's main supporter - "just needs to put on his hood and declare himself		
Asking Me To Forgo Writing As A Black Man Isn't Realistic, Gregory Freeman, 672 words, :	Thu., 4/27/2000	Letter from a white man "Dear Mr. Freeman," the letter began. "I am a big fan of your column. You really seem to have your head screwed on right. "I'm with you except when you write that black stuff. We get bombarded with black people in our culture today, and I'm bothered when you write from a black point of view. "Let me make it clear, I'm not a racist. I'm a white guy, a baby boomer who lives in St. Louis County. I'm often		
Poor Families Deserve A Choice For Their Children, Gregory Freeman, 650 words, :	Tue., 4/25/2000	The charter school debate The caller at the other end of the line was red-hot angry. She had just heard my radio program, "St. Louis on the Air," and was outraged that Mayor Clarence Harmon, the guest that day, had said that charter schools were good for the city. "How can he say that?" she asked. "The charter schools are going to be a drain on the public schools. All they'll do is take a bad situation and make it worse." The caller said		

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Race For Clay's District Looks More Interesting This Year, Greg Freeman, 696 words, :	Sun., 4/23/2000	For years, one of the most boring races for a political reporter to cover was the race for Congress in the 1st District. That's because the election almost always was the same story: Bill Clay runs for re-election, Democratic sacrificial lambs get in the race, sacrificial lambs get trounced in the primary, and Republican sacrificial lamb gets pummeled in the general election. "Sacrificial lamb" is probably a harsh phrase to use to describe Clay's opponents. But		
Action Is Needed To Bathe Symbol Of City In Lights, Gregory Freeman, 627 words, :	Thu., 4/20/2000	illuminating the Arch Picture this: A warm, breezy spring night. Small tables are set up outside a downtown restaurant. As you and your companion enjoy your meal, lively music wafts through the air. As you look east, you see the Arch lighted up for all to see, a beacon to those who come here, a symbol of stability for those who live here. That picture may not be too far-fetched. After much study, it looks as if the Arch may be on its way to being lighted up at night. The Arch,		
Politics Turn Simple Decision Into A Complicated One, Gregory Freeman, 649 words, :	Tue., 4/18/2000	Elian Gonzalez case "Papa, yo no me quiero ir pa' Cuba." "Dad, I don't want to go to Cuba." Wagging his finger in a surreal home video, 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez's words were included in his relatives' latest salvo in the propaganda war over whether he can return to Cuba with his father. My first thought, when watching that, was what sort of trouble I would have gotten into with my parents when I was 6 if I'd wagged my finger at		
Langston Hughes Poetry Festival Honors Missouri-Born Writer, Greg Freeman, 1710 words, :	Fri., 4/14/2000	"We'd love to put a poem in every heart and a book of poetry in every household. If we can get that to happen, this festival will be a success." -- Poet Eugene B. Redmond I've known rivers: I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins. My soul has grown deep like the rivers. --Langston Hughes Langston Hughes, born in Joplin, Mo., in 1902, wrote novels, short stories and plays,		
Ballpark Plan Could Just Mean Another Strikeout For Schools, Gregory Freeman, 641 words, :	Thu., 4/13/2000	A new Cardinals stadium You've got to hand it to the owners of the baseball Cardinals. They've come up with a proposed \$370 million plan for a new baseball stadium that looks terrific. You can't help but like the look. The red brick, granite and steel design is more contemporary than Busch Stadium. The proposed ballpark isn't as closed and inward looking, and it's designed with more than just baseball in mind. The owners also propose building several		
Make No Bones About It, I Do Look Like That Film Star, Gregory Freeman, 581 words, :	Tue., 4/11/2000	Readers write in Dear Greg, I saw "The Bone Collector" last night. It made me think of you. Joe B. Ah, yes. Finally a letter from an astute reader. "The Bone Collector" is a film about a forensic expert who was paralyzed on the job. Most important, however, is that the film stars Denzel Washington. Joe B. was obviously struck by the uncanny resemblance between Washington and myself, a resemblance that some readers have somehow missed. For years,		
Mothers Are Aiming To Balance Debate Over Gun Control, Gregory Freeman, 642 words, :	Thu., 4/6/2000	A call for common sense For Kirstin Ware, the need for stricter gun control laws began when she taught in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. "I had kids from Cool Valley," she said. "I would often hear them talking about handgun violence, how it was affecting their lives. It scared the heck out of me." Ware no longer teaches. But the idea of guns being so readily available scares her even more now that she's the mother of two. "I love my		
Ballot Scheme Using Similar Names Has A History Here, Gregory Freeman, 661 words, :	Tue., 4/4/2000	Gebhardt with a "b" As supporters of Rep. Richard A. Gephardt worry about the filing of Richard A. Gebhardt -- with a "b" -- for Congress, they shouldn't look to former St. Louis Circuit Clerk Joseph P. Roddy for any consolation. Roddy was the victim of the same ballot scheme 18 years ago. I hold the "distinction" of being the only reporter in this city whoever spoke with Clara Jo Roddy, once she had filed. Actually, I was never really		
What If Regis Philbin Moderated This Year's Election Debates?, Gregory Freeman, 739 words, :	Sun., 4/2/2000	Asking the tough questions It's time for America's favorite game, "Who Wants To Be A Senator?" And now your host, Regis Philbin! Regis: Thank you, everyone, and welcome to "Who Wants To Be A Senator!" Our first contestant joins us from the state of Missouri. He was once dub bed the redneck from Rolla, please welcome Mel Carnahan. Welcome to the show, Mel. Carnahan: Thanks, Reege. It's a pleasure to be here. Regis: Let's get		
Harmon Is Right To Get Police To Buy From Smith & Wesson, Greg Freeman, 634 words, :	Thu., 3/30/2000	The economics of gun control Unlike some mayors, who know the pain and devastation that gun violence can cause only through what they've read or heard, St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon knows that violence firsthand. The city's former chief of police, Harmon has seen the heartache of a parent whose child has shot himself accidentally. He's seen the hurt caused by shootings done in the heat of argument. He's witnessed the pain of a mother whose child has been caught		
Newcomers To Internet Should Be Wary Of Perpetuating Untruths, Gregory Freeman, 718 words, :	Tue., 3/28/2000	Debunking online myths In a column last week, we debunked the case of the stolen kidneys. Another one of those Internet myths, this one involved a man who was drugged and awoke the next morning in a bathtub filled with ice, the victim of a kidney theft ring. The ring was supposedly selling kidneys on the black market for thousands of dollars. Some checking found that there wasn't a bit of truth to the story, though it seems to pop up on the Net every few years. Susan		
Prostate Cancer Is A Subject Many Men Just Ignore; But Getting Tested Once A Year Can Be A Life-Saver, Gregory Freeman, 647 words, :	Sun., 3/26/2000	Lessons cancer taught me It's funny how a brush with death can change your life. A little over a year ago, I had what I thought was a brush with death. I was told that I had cancer. Prostate cancer, to be specific. I will never forget the feeling that I had when I learned the news. I'm going to die, I thought. "You have cancer." Surely the three most frightening words in the English language. I couldn't understand how I could have		
Adam's Mark Should Have Fixed Problem Before Settlement, Greg Freeman, 597 words, :	Thu., 3/23/2000	Has hotel learned its lesson? Truth be told, the Adam's Mark case never should have gotten this far. From the very first moment that allegations of discrimination by the Adam's Mark hotel chain were made, its executives should have taken meaningful action. It's like a house. If someone tells you that there's a fire in the basement, do you wait until the flames are lapping the bedroom to do anything about it? The Adam's Mark had a fire in its		
Story About Thefts Of Kidneys Could Hurt Transplant Programs, Gregory Freeman, 640 words, :	Tue., 3/21/2000	E-mail hoaxes Here's the story: A college student was at a party on a Saturday night, having a couple of beers. He meets a young woman, who invites him to come with her to another party. He readily agrees. They arrive at an apartment, continue to drink and take some drugs. The next thing the student knows, he's waking up naked in a bathtub filled with ice. He's alone and feeling the effect of the drugs. He looks down at his chest, sees the words "Call		
From Its Neighborhoods To The Airport, St. Louis Has Many Chances To Strut Its Stuff, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Sun., 3/19/2000	Jesse Jackson calls them "rocks, just lying around." He's referring to missed opportunities. Jackson likes to tell the biblical story of David and Goliath, where little David slays Goliath with a rock. Jackson tells the story to explain how people who choose not to vote ignore simple opportunities to make changes. The city has lots of rocks, just lying around. Missed opportunities. What's puzzling is why someone isn't picking up the rocks to make a		
Real-Life Judge Advises Students On The Perils Of Truancy, Gregory Freeman, 627 words, :	Thu., 3/16/2000	A program that's working It's 7:30 a.m. at Berkeley Middle School, and about 20 students file into the library, some by themselves, some with their parents, some with other students. Judge Susan Block dons her black robes and "truancy court" begins. "All rise," says bailiff Terry Manning, as Block moves to a table at the front. "Be seated." One by one, Block calls students up by name. She reads comments about the student's		

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Johnny Appleseed Of Nonviolence Planted Lasting Legacy, Gregory Freeman, 611 words, :	Tue., 3/14/2000	Robert Cunningham When I first met Robert Cunningham, several years ago, he was clearly a man who was about something. Some folks aren't about anything. They talk a lot but don't follow up with action. Cunningham was different. He scoffed at those who thought there was no hope for troubled youths. He knew he could make a difference. Cunningham, 60, died last week of a heart attack. Like his idol, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he died much too		
Readers Are Mixed On Whether Internet Sales Tax Should Be Used To Get Poor Online, Greg Freeman, 903 words, :	Sun., 3/12/2000	Digital divide (Part II) When I wrote a column last week asking whether there was a relationship between two much-discussed ideas these days - that of a digital divide between the "haves" and "have-nots" and the concept of an Internet sales tax - readers were swift in responding. Most don't like the idea of an Internet sales tax. And many question whether a digital divide even exists. Chris Dornfeld is director of corporate strategy for Access US. He also		
This Isn't The Time To Give City Officials Huge Pay Increases, Gregory Freeman, 621 words, :	Thu., 3/9/2000	Not in it for the money Think about what you could do with a \$46,000-a-year pay raise. Rehab your house. Send your kid to college. Build that deck you've always wanted. Buy a new car -- or two. No, a \$46,000-a-year raise isn't bad at all if you can get it. And if the St. Louis personnel director gets his way, that's what the mayor of St. Louis will get, effective April 1 of next year: a 48 percent pay raise, a jump from \$97,422 to \$143,754. The mayor		
Lack Of Sales Tax Benefits The "Haves" Enjoying Net Access, Gregory Freeman, 667 words, :	Tue., 3/7/2000	Shopping online Around the holidays, I wrote a column about how I did all of my Christmas shopping online. The experience was a good one, for the most part. As someone who hates shopping, it allowed me to get my gifts without going through the hustle of crowds of people. And while it wasn't an advantage I was necessarily looking for, I found online buying to be a savings, in that I didn't pay sales tax. That issue has caused Chris Dornfeld to do a lot of		
Army Bows To Political Correctness In Censoring Historical Display, Gregory Freeman, 902 words, :	Sun., 3/5/2000	Has the Army gone overboard with political correctness? Ed Kennedy thinks so. Kennedy is a retired lieutenant colonel who lives in Leavenworth, Kan. He's still scratching his head about a black history month display on black Confederate soldiers that he put up - and then was ordered to remove - at Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College. To understand Kennedy's concerns, you need to know about Kennedy. He was an instructor of history at an Army		
Metropolis Program Aims To Explain City Living's Benefits, Gregory Freeman, 632 words, :	Thu., 3/2/2000	New to town? You're an out-of-towner who's planning to move to this area. You're interested in city living, but some real estate salespeople and others are telling you that you don't want to move to the city. What do you do? Some have chosen to blindly follow such advice. But members of Metropolis St. Louis have come up with another idea. They've formed a program called "Welcome to St. Louis," designed to give out-of-towners a		
Diallo Case Shows Why Blacks Don't Trust Our Justice System, Gregory Freeman, 625 words, :	Tue., 2/29/2000	A travesty "What happened in the Amadou Diallo case will happen again and again and again, and nothing will be done about it . . . What the Diallo case reinforces is that police can murder black men whenever and however they choose and get away with it." With that began one of many e-mails that I received from readers, many African-American, who said the Diallo trial spoke horrors about the criminal justice system -- not to mention undoing countless hours that		
Commentator Takes The Stance That Ordinary People Can Do Quite Extraordinary Things, Gregory Freeman, 586 words, :	Sun., 2/27/2000	A frank talk with Tavis Smiley When I first interviewed Tavis Smiley four years ago, I'd never heard of him - and neither, I suspect, had many others. That was before Smiley gained a national reputation as a talk-show host, radio commentator, author, lecturer, advocate, political pundit and moderator of presidential debates. That was before he'd become the most watched and listened to black commentator among African-Americans. He hosts "BET Tonight with Tavis		
A Neutral Arbitrator Might Help Find A Feasible Compromise, Gregory Freeman, 660 words, :	Thu., 2/24/2000	Soulard Market improvement plan Let's hope members of Soulard Market Restoration Inc. change their minds. After Soulard vendors last week turned down a plan to improve the market, members of the restoration group indicated that there was nothing more to do. A frustrated Kathryn E. Nelson, who chairs the restoration group, said the vendors' vote makes it impossible to go forward. But does it? Isn't a compromise by everyone better than nothing at all? For		
Hotel Needs To Take The Initiative On Allegations Of Bias, Gregory Freeman, 603 words, :	Tue., 2/22/2000	Audit at Adam's Mark At last, the Adam's Mark Hotel chain is taking some steps to deal with its problems -- charges that it has discriminated against African-American hotel guests. It's too bad the hotel has given the impression that it's going into this whole thing kicking and screaming. The hotel has been a member for a couple of years of an organization called Project Equality, a Kansas City-based program sponsored by religious and corporate groups to help		
Reasonover Case Shows Why Missouri Should Institute 2-Year Freeze On Executions Under Senator's Bill, Gregory Freeman, 614 words, :	Sun., 2/20/2000	Death penalty A couple of years ago, I wrote a column about a debate my son and I had on the death penalty. When I was younger I had opposed the death penalty, but I changed my mind over the years, probably because of the many heinous crimes I had seen as a journalist and interviews that I'd done with the families of murder victims. My son, on the other hand, was opposed to the death penalty. Murder is murder, he argued. Is our government any better than the people we put		
Complex Problem In Our Education System Requires More Than One Solution, Gregory Freeman, 654 words, :	Thu., 2/17/2000	What's wrong with public schools? William Raspberry, the Washington Post columnist, once wrote that when it comes to the problems that we have in schools, there are two kinds of people: those who know exactly why so many of our schools aren't working well, and those who aren't quite sure why. Those who are sure that they know the answers, while not always in agreement, are confident. It's prayer in schools, or racism or phonics or poverty or some other reason. Deal		
It's Nice To Have Time To Get Reacquainted With Your Spouse, Gregory Freeman, 674 words, :	Tue., 2/15/2000	It's a lot quieter around the Freeman household these days. Our son has left home to go to college, and things are considerably different. Gone are the loud music, the attempts at dancing, the many friends in and out of our home and refrigerator. Gone, too, is my in-house computer expert. Will has always understood computers better than I; the younger a person is, the better that person is with computers, I've concluded. (In a phone conversation last week, he was trying		
Man Who Tore Down Klan Sign Stood Up For His Beliefs And Showed True Courage, Gregory Freeman, 639 words, :	Sun., 2/13/2000	"My parents raised me right" Christopher Bellers is a hero. Before you spit out your coffee, hear me out. Bellers is the guy who cut down a Ku Klux Klan Adopt-A-Highway sign early Friday on Interstate 55. He was arrested on charges of stealing and destruction of state property. So what makes him a hero? Bellers is an employee of the Central R III School District and works with students every day. In my view, he set a positive example for the students.		
Plan That Generated So Many Rumors Now Goes Before Vendors, Gregory Freeman, 941 words, :	Thu., 2/10/2000	Soulard Market renovation Years ago, Good Housekeeping magazine used to run a regular feature called "Can this marriage be saved?" An updated, localized version of that might be called "Can Soulard Market be saved?" The answer to the local question is more in doubt than that asked of most of the marriages ever featured in the magazine. Here's the scene: Soulard Market is a St. Louis tradition. An open-air market has been at its location --		
St. Louis Native's Effort Ensures "Old" Light Will Shine On, Gregory Freeman, 618 words, :	Tue., 2/8/2000	Barry Williams jokes that he must have been dropped on his head as a child. While other kids were taking an interest in baseball and fishing and other simple pleasures of childhood, young Barry was interested in other things. Like streetscapes. And phone booths. And street lights. "I don't know why," said Williams, who grew up in the city's West End. "I just always took an interest in such things." That lifelong interest has now been manifested		

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Bush Still Has A Lot Of Money, But It Won't Matter If He Starts Looking Like A Loser, Gregory Freeman, 628 words, :	Sun., 2/6/2000	What do you do when your candidate's strengths become his liabilities? Such is the case with George W. Bush, the Texas governor who hopes to follow his father's footsteps into the White House. Bush's strength doesn't lie in the positions that he takes or in his campaign style. It lies in the fact that he looks like he could beat the Democratic candidates in a general election. Or at least he looked that way. Republicans, tired of losing to Democrats, have come		
Setting Apart A People's Story Isn't Doing Much For Inclusion, Gregory Freeman, 650 words, :	Thu., 2/3/2000	It's celebration time again. Time to celebrate Black History Month. Time for television to air its dramas that feature black folks. Time to pull out the posters of Martin Luther King Jr. Time to recognize the contributions that blacks have made to America. Until March 1. Then we'll pack everything away until next year. This isn't to knock Black History Month. The celebration does exactly what it was designed to do when it was established		
Now That We've Won A Super Bowl, Let's Host One, Gregory Freeman, 740 words, :	Mon., 1/31/2000	Meet me in St. Louis. You can't help but be filled with the excitement of a Super Bowl -- even if you're a nonsports enthusiast like me. The thrill is infectious. If you don't know a quarterback from a running back, the electricity is still there. It invigorates a city. All of Atlanta was ready for this event. Not only did it bring the city national attention, it also brought in an estimated \$250 million to the area's economy. Not bad for a \$7.5 million		
Even Without Tickets, St. Louisans Want The Super Bowl Experience, Greg Freeman, 710 words, :	Sun., 1/30/2000	Leata Price had to be part of this. Price, of St. Louis, hasn't been this excited about a sporting event in years. "Not since the Cardinals were in the World Series," she proclaimed. She had to come to the Peach Tree State, to Atlanta, to the city where she hopes the Rams will demolish the Tennessee Titans on Sunday. So when the Rams kick off at the Super Bowl, where will Price be? Outside the Georgia Dome, at a tailgate party. Outside the dome?		
At One Atlanta Restaurant, Other Issues Are Taking Precedence Over Super Bowl, Gregory Freeman, 680 words, :	Sat., 1/29/2000	The Super Bowl may be here in their hometown, but over on Martin Luther King Drive, the folks at Paschal's are more concerned about other matters. Even as tourists pour into this city - filling its hotels, restaurants and shops - the customers at this legendary restaurant are talking about issues more important to them, like Coca-Cola's announcement that it plans to lay off 2,500 workers in Atlanta. Or the predictions of snow or freezing rain this weekend. "Darling,		
Things Are Much Different In Atlanta Than In St. Louis, Greg Freeman, 752 words, :	Fri., 1/28/2000	The first thing you notice when you arrive at the airport in Atlanta is a huge sign: "Mayor Bill Campbell welcomes you to the home of the 1996 Olympics." For someone from St. Louis, the sign is noticeable. Who would welcome visitors at our airport? "Mayor Clarence Harmon welcomes you to the Gateway to the West?" "County Executive Buzz Westfall welcomes you to the home of 92 municipalities?" "Bridgeton Mayor Conrad Bowers wishes you were		
Free Clinic For Poor Latinos Here Is Labor Of Love, Mission Of Faith, Gregory Freeman, 669 words, :	Thu., 1/27/2000	The sign on the side of Scruggs Memorial United Methodist Church at 3646 Fairview Avenue in south St. Louis reads: La Clinica -- Accion Social Comunitaria. The Clinic-Community Social Action. While it might not be apparent to the average English speaker what's going on here, it's clear to many poor Latinos in the area: This is a free health clinic. And it's unlike other health clinics in the area. For one, all the doctors, nurses and assistants here speak Spanish. For		
Naming Interstate For Rosa Parks Is A Good Idea, Gregory Freeman, 624 words, :	Tue., 1/25/2000	The right track Today's column is made up of thoughts and bits from here and there. To paraphrase the legendary radio broadcaster Walter Winchell, "Good morning, Mr. and Mrs. St. Louis and all the ships at sea . . . Let's go to press!" KLAN KLEANS ROSA'S ROAD: That could be the headline somewhere if state Sen. William Lacy Clay gets his way. You've got to hand it to the St. Louis Democrat for being a part of the wittiest response yet to the Ku Klux		
A Call To Action For The "Sports-Impaired": Go Rams!, Gregory Freeman, 630 words, :	Sun., 1/23/2000	Regular readers of this column know that I'm not the world's biggest sports fan. I've got nothing against sports. It's just something that's never interested me much. The one exception to that, of course, is the Cardinals. If you're born and raised in St. Louis, it's mandatory that you be a Cardinals fan. To grow up here and not be a Cardinals fan is like growing up here and never imbibing an Anheuser-Busch product. It's just not done. But when		
Business Assistance Center Can Help New Companies Get Started, Greg Freeman, 675 words, :	Thu., 1/20/2000	Julie Usher wishes City Hall would be easier to work with. That's an understatement. She really wishes City Hall would be easier to work with. Usher's new to the city. More accurately, her small business is new to the city. After working out of her home in Webster Groves, she decided she needed more space for her business, AzuCarte, which produces custom-made desserts, like wedding cakes. She was in luck, she thought; she found a city site that already had much of the		
School Fund-Raiser Will Help St. Louisans Expand Their Horizons, Gregory Freeman, 611 words, :	Tue., 1/18/2000	"Explore-A-Thon" What would you do if every time someone asked how you were, you had to say to them, "I'm tired of the racial polarization in this city," and then tell them what you were doing to end it? Or how would you like to spend a Saturday picking up trash that you hadn't thrown down? What if you had to live on half your usual budget for a month? Beth Champlin plans to do those things -- and more. She's one of several St. Louisans		
If King Were Alive, He'd Be Proud Of Progress, Point To Unfinished Work, Gregory Freeman, 646 words, :	Sun., 1/16/2000	Civil rights 2000 Had the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lived, he would have turned 71 on Saturday. Most people have retired at that age, and King perhaps would have given up his position as pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. But considering how active King was when he was assassinated at 39, it's likely that he would still be involved in civil rights matters. Chances are, King would have been pleased with much of the progress that has been made. At 71,		
Accountant Volunteers His Time And Expertise To Give Low-Income Families A Helping Hand, Gregory Freeman, 642 words, :	Thu., 1/13/2000	Giving back A bout with colon cancer and a realization that he had lived a comfortable life led Ron Szweda to an unlikely mission: helping the working poor get money back from the government. Unlikely because Szweda is a principal with the Conner Ash certified public accounting firm. A semiretired CPA doesn't generally do much work with poor people. Most poor people can't afford CPAs, after all. Even commercial firms are often too pricey for poor pocketbooks. But when		
South Carolina Should Retire Confederate Banner For Good, Gregory Freeman, 661 words, :	Tue., 1/11/2000	It's history Years ago, when I worked for a newspaper in Michigan, I was occasionally asked what it was like to grow up in the South. I used to chuckle because I didn't grow up in the South; I grew up in St. Louis. But to them, St. Louis was the South; it is south of Michigan, I suppose, so they considered it a much different place. In fact, I don't know what it was like to grow up in the South, or to live there. While I have relatives who live in the South, and		
Man Volunteers In The Fight Against Sickle Cell Anemia In Memory Of A Gracious Warrior, Greg Freeman, 888 words, :	Sun., 1/9/2000	At first blush, the heavysset, balding man in glasses and beard hardly looks like someone who would head a sickle cell anemia group in St. Louis. Jerry Crumley is white, after all. What would a white guy know about a disease that primarily affects African-Americans? For Crumley, it's a personal story, and a matter of love. A love that dates back to 1991. That's when Crumley first laid eyes on Kim Clark. Clark was a single, African-American mother; Crumley was		
Readers Point Out The Many Things That Make Our City Great, Greg Freeman, 641 words, :	Thu., 1/6/2000	The Best of St. Louis Some of you who read this column in the newspaper may not realize that it's found elsewhere as well. The column also appears on the Web. It's located on postnet.com, the online service of the Post-Dispatch. The folks at postnet.com allow me to be king, at least in one place. It's a Web site, a forum dubbed "Greg Freeman's Front Porch." In addition to writing the column, I monitor the forum daily, conversing online with those		

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Promotional Program Finally Shows Off City Neighborhoods, Gregory Freeman, 619 words, :	Tue., 1/4/2000	St. Louis living For those of us who know and love city living, St. Louis is a combination of many different neighborhoods, each with its own unique flavor. Each neighborhood adds to the color and atmosphere and diversity that make cities stand apart from their suburban cousins. But for many who don't know St. Louis -- either those who live in suburbia or those who move to this area from other parts of the country -- the city often remains an enigma. It's one thing for		
Gentle Listener Is United By Prayer To Angry Hitchhiker, Greg Freeman, 653 words, :	Sun., 1/2/2000	A chance encounter With New Year's Eve past, Ana Grace is breathing a little bit easier, not having heard any catastrophic news out of Denver. Grace, of Webster Groves, was braced following a recent trip she took to Kansas City, where she picked up a hitchhiker. "It was a day where I was full of prayer," said Grace, a spiritual woman. "I happened to notice a cloud formation that evening that looked like an angel." At one point, she saw the		
Remembering The Old, Ringing In The New: Cars Don't Fly Yet, But We're Much Better Off Than We Were, Gregory Freeman, 631 words, book: wit & wisdom	Sat., 1/1/2000	What a difference 100 years makes; 876,600 little hours . . . A century. Wow. Here we are, in the 21st century. It's not at all how I had imagined it. When I was in the eighth grade, a teacher gave us an assignment to write about life in the year 2000. This was 1970, and the idea of life in the 21st century seemed so far off, so futuristic. But I let my imagination go. Like many baby boomers, I'd been weaned on "The Jetsons," so flying cars		
	1999:	144 columns	10 in book	
Parents Lose Their Powers When Their Children Enter College, Gregory Freeman, 641 words, :	Thu., 12/30/1999	Winter break revelation With an 18-year-old son in college, I've come to compare parenthood with witchcraft. Let me explain. If you're a baby boomer like me, you grew up watching "Bewitched," the story of the enchanting Samantha Stephens, a witch who married the often-suffering Darrin, a mere mortal. Samantha had lots of things, including a mother who could never get Darrin's name right ("Durwood," "Darby," "Dumdum"). She		
U. City Free-Lancer Will Debut His Comedy On Big Screen Here, Gregory Freeman, 629 words, :	Tue., 12/28/1999	Movie was shot in St. Louis On Thursday of next week, Darnell Singleton will see his dream come true. A movie that he produced will make its way to the big screen -- at least for the night. This is no small feat for Singleton, a free-lance video producer who lives in University City. He worked on the comedy for several years, begging, borrowing and stealing whatever was necessary to produce it. The result is "Super Brotha," a comedy about a feud between two rival		
St. Louis Native Hopes The City Can Save A Downtown Landmark, Gregory Freeman, 638 words, :	Sun., 12/26/1999	Arcade-Wright building Michael Willis couldn't believe it when he read the newspaper. The owners of the Arcade-Wright building in downtown St. Louis want to demolish the historic structure. "I was shocked," Willis said. Regular readers of this column may be familiar with Willis. I've written about him a couple of times. He's a St. Louis native who cares a great deal about this place. He's the owner of Michael Willis & Associates, a San		
Frustrations Aside, Web Is The Place For Holiday Shopping, Greg Freeman, 837 words, :	Sat., 12/25/1999	The "dot-com" revolution You are reading the words of a revolutionary. I am now a seasoned veteran of the "dot-com" revolution, a man of the new millennium. Every Christmas gift that I give today was bought online. My shopping experience was a mixed blessing. But to understand what I did, you have to understand me. I hate shopping. I'm told that makes me a typical man, but since I know guys who actually like to shop, I don't know if		
Dads Graduate From Course In Parenting, Job Responsibility, Greg Freeman, 629 words, :	Thu., 12/23/1999	Fathers' rites While many St. Louisans were at the malls Tuesday night, fighting the crowds in search of just the right gift for Christmas Day, seven men were already celebrating. Their celebration had nothing to do with Dec. 25, or Kwanzaa, or any of the other holidays of the season. This celebration was more akin to a rite of passage. They celebrated fatherhood. These men were graduates of the Fathers' Support Center, a program designed to help those fathers who often		
Hotel Chain Is Accused Of Discrimination: What Else Is New?, Gregory Freeman, 1094 words, book: harmony	Tue., 12/21/1999	Adam's Mark "Discrimination is a hellhound that gnaws at Negroes in every waking moment of their lives to remind them that the lie of their inferiority is accepted as truth in the society dominating them." The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1967 Some may have been surprised last week when the U.S. Justice Department filed a civil rights suit against the Adam's Mark hotel chain, charging it with repeatedly discriminating against African-Americans. Not		
Meal Program That Has Quietly Grown To Feed Thousands Rewards Volunteers With; Powerful Gospel Concert, Gregory Freeman, 617 words, :	Sun., 12/19/1999	It's become a tradition of sorts in St. Louis, with little fanfare. In fact, most St. Louisans have probably never heard of it. But for those involved, it's been a heart-warming project. And it has become a much-anticipated event that brings people of different colors and faiths together, while helping thousands in need. "It" is the annual "Holiday Sharing and Caring Program." And at 4 p.m. Sunday, just like in past years, hundreds will flock		
Carter Continues To Serve America With Courage, Honesty, Gregory Freeman, 631 words, :	Thu., 12/16/1999	A statesman extraordinaire Jimmy Carter may not be everyone's favorite ex-president, but he certainly is mine. Not only did Carter serve our nation well as president, he's continued to serve us -- and set an example -- as a former president. He's remained active, curious and concerned about those who aren't as well-off as he. He's especially known for his work with Habitat for Humanity, building houses for the poor. But he's also been a statesman while		
Greg Freeman's Front Porch Gives You A Chance To Tell What You Like About St.; Louis, Gregory Freeman, words, :	Thu., 12/16/1999	At this holiday time, when people like to talk about their favorite things, visitors to Greg Freeman's Front Porch forum on postnet.com are talking about why they like St. Louis. The answers vary: its small-town feel, its central location, its rich history, its variable weather, the Zoo, the Cardinals, its neighborhoods and its diversity. Greg is even offering a free lunch for the best answer, so what are you waiting for? Tell the world what you like about St. Louis at		
Ex-Player Looks For Job Satisfaction In Starting New School, Gregory Freeman, 666 words, :	Tue., 12/14/1999	Passing on football When Jerry Sharp walks into a room, there's no doubt in your mind that he's an athlete. At 6-foot-3 and weighing 295 pounds, Sharp is a big, powerful-looking man who looks as if he could lift a medium-size car with very little effort. One's first impression of Sharp would be accurate. He's a former football player who spent the last five years playing arena football. He's played for teams in Orlando, Nashville and Hartford, Conn.		
Woman Fights To Save The Life Of The Man Who Killed Her Son, Greg Freeman, 620 words, :	Sun., 12/12/1999	Believing in forgiveness Not a day goes by that Aritha Payne doesn't grieve for her son. Marlin May was far from the perfect son. In fact, he was doing time for armed robbery. But he was Payne's only son, and her love for him was as strong as that of any mother for her son. Perhaps it was that bond that instinctively told her that he was dead, even before her sister-in-law arrived at her doorstep in St. Louis to deliver the crushing news in 1987. What she learned		
It's Time To Stop Complaining And Start Working On A Solution, Gregory Freeman, 654 words, :	Thu., 12/9/1999	Revitalizing downtown "Talk is cheap, but actions speak louder than words." Those words are still scribbled on the worn inside cover of my high school yearbook. They were written by a favorite English teacher the year that I graduated. That teacher, Larry Mitchener, served as one who inspired me during my teenage years. One of his mottoes, in so many words, was that while students talked a lot -- and like most 17-year-olds, we had opinions on everything -- we should be		

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We Can All Play A Role In Getting To Know Each Other, Gregory Freeman, 633 words, :	Tue., 12/7/1999	Racial polarization During his days as a member of the "Saturday Night Live" cast, comedian Jon Lovitz played a TV pitchman whose key phrase was "Get to know me!" Lovitz's character would often start off talking about how before meeting him someone had been "a down-and-out country bumpkin who never had a real job or even a home of his own" ... "And now that man is president of the United States. Get to know me!" Lovitz's key		
Paralyzed Shooting Victim Keeps Fighting Back, And He Wants Others To Join Him, Greg Freeman, 618 words, :	Sun., 12/5/1999	Dietrich Smith Dietrich Smith breathes a little easier today. Thanks in no small part to his diligence, a gunman who tried to take his life 17 years ago remains behind bars. It's a small victory for Smith, but one he considers a larger one for other victims of crime. Smith is a man with a clear message: Fight back. For him, the message has been intensely personal. Smith was riddled with gunfire in 1982 as he sat in a car at a drive-in bank downtown. The attack		
In 2000 Race, Weber Leaves His Fate In The Hands Of The People, Greg Freeman, words, :	Thu., 12/2/1999	The perennial candidate You're a political junkie and you know all about the presidential candidates: Bush, McCain, Gore, Bradley, Weber . . . Weber? That's right, Eureka's own George Boots Weber is running for president of the United States. And you read it here first. Weber is vying for the Reform Party nomination for president. And he says he's ready to take on Pat Buchanan, Donald Trump and the rest of the presidential wannabes. Weber's		
Galleria Should Use The Internet, Not Ban Its Promotion, Greg Freeman, 629 words, :	Tue., 11/30/1999	Online shopping Just in time for the holidays, the Galleria shopping mall had something for its tenants' stockings recently: a lump of coal. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the Galleria has brought fame to our teeming metropolis -- though it's not the kind of publicity we need. In a classic case of trying to close the barn door long after the horse has escaped, gotten a drink and fled to the next county, the Galleria issued an edict to its tenants barring them from		
Bill Haas Urges Tolerance For Those Caught In Some Sex Crimes, Greg Freeman, 611 words, :	Sun., 11/28/1999	An unusual topic, an unusual politician By now, no one would disagree with the assertion that Bill Haas is an unusual politician. He's not one to go with the flow. Unlike many politicians, he doesn't run from controversy. Instead, he often embraces it, letting the chips fall where they may. But Haas, a member of the St. Louis School Board who's an announced candidate for mayor, is taking on an issue these days that no one is talking about, one that's likely to		
Sometimes We Need to be Reminded of the Blessings Around Us, Greg Freeman, 632 words, book: family	Thu., 11/25/1999	A lesson in gratitude During a class after church on Sunday, our group listened to a song recorded by a young man. In a clear, strong and pleasant voice, he sang about all the things that he was thankful for: He sang of the sounds of birds, the joy of nature, the feeling of raindrops. When the song ended, Donna, who led our group, explained that the singer was only 23 and studying to become a priest when he died last year of leukemia. Despite his illness, he remained thankful for		
Check Back with Me Jan. 1st on this Y2K Computer Thing, Greg Freeman, 618 words, book: wit & wisdom	Tue., 11/23/1999	It was only a movie Well, I'm either the biggest fool who roamed the Earth in the 20th century or one of the smartest fellows of the 1900s. And only time will tell. That became abundantly clear Sunday night as NBC aired "Y2K," a made-for-TV movie about the world in chaos on New Year's Eve 1999. In the film, an F-18 Navy jet in the Marshall Islands crashes at 12:01 a.m. in the first place to see the millennium change. Major disasters soon follow throughout the		
Readers Respond To Challenge With A Long "Must-See" List, Gregory Freeman, 1138 words, :	Sun., 11/21/1999	A couple of weeks ago, I issued a challenge. A colleague had watched a special about St. Louis, but was concerned because it didn't mention any north St. Louis highlights. The colleague was disturbed because he grew up on the North Side and felt that something was missing. So I put the question to readers: If you were going to give an out-of-towner a tour of north St. Louis, what places would you consider as "must see" sites? Readers responded, and in a big way. No		
Everyone Who Has Joined The Fracas Looks Like A Loser, Greg Freeman, 634 words, :	Thu., 11/18/1999	Expulsions in Decatur, Ill. You can't look at the situation in Decatur, Ill., and not be reminded of old comic strips. You know the ones I mean. The ones where a fight ensued that started with a couple of people and then just grew and grew as first one person and then another jumped in and piled on. Before long, everyone was disheveled, tattered and covered with grime. You never really found out who won. After the dust finally settled, everyone looked like a loser. Such is		
Internet Hoaxes Are Starting To Drive Me Crazy, Greg Freeman, 626 words, :	Tue., 11/16/1999	Bogus e-mail Stop it, please! I hope that I've received the last e-mail telling me that Bill Gates is testing an e-mail tracing program and offering me and the first 1,000 people who forward it \$1,000 and a free copy of Windows 98. It ain't happening. Neither is the "Good Times" e-mail virus. This e-mail says: "Here is some important information. Beware of a file called 'Good Times.' If you get anything called 'Good Times,'		
Open Minds, Open Doors Could Help Bring White Patrons, Black Businesses; Together, Gregory Freeman, 643 words, :	Sun., 11/14/1999	Shopping around Recently, Sylvester Brown Jr., the editor and publisher of Take Five magazine, wrote a commentary piece in this newspaper encouraging whites to consider shopping at black businesses. Brown said the best way to address race in St. Louis is financially. Toward this end, Brown expressed a willingness to help organize a black shopping tour. Rick Geissal read Brown's piece and it prompted him to jot down some of his own thoughts on the issue. Brown is black;		
Treasurer's Plan Raised Eyebrows But Was Far From Crazy, Gregory Freeman, 615 words, :	Thu., 11/11/1999	The Marquette Building There's a lot more to the new parking garage next to the historic Marquette Building downtown than meets the eye. City Treasurer Larry Williams -- and lots of other folks who are trying to turn downtown around -- expect that it will become a catalyst in producing market-rate downtown living. Two years ago, no one would have thought that possible. The future of the Marquette Building, at 314 North Broadway, seemed in doubt then. No heat for two		
North Side Is Left Out Of Show, But There Are Treasures Worth Noting, Greg Freeman, 616 words, :	Tue., 11/9/1999	Something to brag about An HBO television program, "Inside the NFL," caught the attention of a colleague last week. The colleague, Anthony Glover, enjoyed watching the show, especially since it featured St. Louis in a story about the Rams. It featured a number of well-known and well-loved sites here, including the colorful "Hill" neighborhood, Ted Drewes and its amazing frozen custard, and the Scott Joplin museum. But Glover was a bit disturbed about the show:		
St. Louisan Has Ideas For Turning Around Our Race Problems, Gregory Freeman, 658 words, :	Sun., 11/7/1999	Rick Bonasch is tired of people talking about racial polarization in St. Louis. He thinks someone should do something about it. Bonasch says he'd love to do something about it. Better than that, though, he has some ideas. Bonasch, who lives in the city's Southampton neighborhood, is active with Metropolis St. Louis, an organization that promotes city living. "I'm very interested in revitalization of the city," he said. "But before we can return		
Police Integrity Bill Could Help Stop Harassment Of Blacks, Greg Freeman, 621 words, :	Thu., 11/4/1999	Calling for accountability "I am sitting here writing about an incident that I cannot believe happened in this day and age, and in a country where we are supposed to enjoy a high level of freedom," the letter began. The letter writer explained how he, his brother and three friends had recently attended a basketball game at Kiel Center, and had split up to check on their wives and girlfriends before going out again later that night. The men had agreed to meet at a service		
It's Hard Saying Goodbye to an Old Friend of the Family, Greg Freeman, 649 words, book: family	Tue., 11/2/1999	A tribute to Max How do you say goodbye to a friend of 20 years? My wife and I were faced with that question recently after our cat became very ill. Maxwell had been our companion since a month after we married in 1979. He'd been a present to us from a former editor of the Belleville News-Democrat, where I worked at the time. My wife and I named him after a favorite restaurant in Belleville. We brought the kitten home and found him to be lots of fun. My wife had been		

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Downtown Now, Gregory Freeman, 652 words, :	Sun., 10/31/1999	W. Thomas Reeves is upbeat and energetic when he talks about downtown. If he has his way, downtown's streets will become as upbeat and energetic as he. On Monday, Reeves officially becomes executive director of Downtown Now. That organization was set up a couple of years ago by Mayor Clarence Harmon to develop a cohesive plan for downtown. After dozens of meetings and public hearings, a plan's been developed. And Reeves has been given the task of taking the plan from		
Railroad Club Asks City To Build Station Promised In 1978, Greg Freeman, 665 words, :	Thu., 10/28/1999	"I think I can, I think I can . . ." If you were born on Halloween 1978, you share something with St. Louis' "temporary" train station: It was erected the day you were born. On Sunday, you'll be 21 – and chances are, you look a lot better than the temporary train station that's still in use today, in the eastern shadow of Union Station. Some St. Louisians will be commemorating the anniversary of that building, lamenting that nothing better has		
St. Louis Schools Lack Leadership, Local Author Says, Greg Freeman, 638 words, :	Tue., 10/26/1999	"Someone to take charge" Ask Lana Stein what needs to be done to turn the St. Louis public schools around, and she'll reply with one word: "Leadership." Stein, a professor of political science at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, is the co-author of a book examining school systems in three cities. The book has a lengthy title: "City Schools and City Politics: Institutions and Leadership in Pittsburgh, Boston and St. Louis." The book		
Schools Should Use Reprieve To Improve, Gregory Freeman, 672 words, :	Sun., 10/24/1999	The St. Louis public schools system experienced a brush with death last week as the Missouri Board of Education agreed to give it a two-year reprieve. Missouri education commissioner Robert Bartman had recommended that the district lose its accreditation for meeting only three of 11 mandatory state standards for performance. The board pulled the accreditation for the Kansas City public schools, which met none of the state standards. The St. Louis schools received a reprieve, largely		
Task Force Will Look At Progress Of Race Relations This Decade, Gregory Freeman, 570 words, :	Thu., 10/21/1999	Where are we now? A couple of weekends ago, I served as a judge in the Embajadora Hispana contest. The contest, organized by the Hispanic Leaders Group of Greater St. Louis, was designed to select a "Hispanic ambassador," to represent and help raise the profile of the Hispanic community in the area. As we interviewed the various contestants, I found it interesting how many of them had felt the sting of discrimination. As a black man, I'm very aware of the many		
Keep An Open Mind On Rehab, Rebirth Of Kiel Opera House, Greg Freeman, 625 words, :	Tue., 10/19/1999	Dear Bill and Nancy Laurie: An open memo to Bill and Nancy Laurie: Welcome to St. Louis. OK, I'm a little late in that welcome, seeing as you've already bought the Blues and have St. Louisians excited that you may bring a basketball team here in a couple of years. By now, you've heard from lots of folks with lots of ideas. But there are some folks you haven't listened to yet. And you'd be wise to hear what they have to say. They're		
They Can Provide Parents Choices, Force Schools To Improve, Gregory Freeman, 698 words, :	Sun., 10/17/1999	The voucher debate With the news that St. Louis schools are in danger of losing their accreditation, it's clear that some different thinking about education here is needed. Some believe such thinking should include the idea of school vouchers. The mere mention of the word "vouchers" sends chills down the spines of some educators. They view vouchers as harmful to public education, something that would make the schools even worse than they are now. But others,		
Ethnic Jokes Wound, Support Stereotypes, So Use With Caution, Gregory Freeman, 679 words, :	Thu., 10/14/1999	We are not amused It was an off-the-cuff remark that President Bill Clinton meant as a joke. But it rubbed some Irish-Americans the wrong way, and Clinton found himself forced to apologize. In remarks last week, dedicating a new U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, the president departed from his text. In efforts to show how hard it is for people to let go of struggles they have waged for generations, the president used a metaphor that raised concerns in some Irish communities about reinforcing		
Customs Agents Put Damper On Long-Distance Love, Greg Freeman, 657 words, :	Tue., 10/12/1999	"Fiancee visa" is missing Last Tuesday was to have been a very special day for Anthony St. Clair. The University City man was to meet his fiancee at Lambert Field. He met her while in the Army, and they fell deeply in love. After knowing each other for a year and a half, she was coming here to visit. St. Clair arrived at the Northwest Airlines gate. But when the passengers got off, his fiancee was nowhere to be found. Airline officials had no idea where she was, or if		
We Need Character, Not A Bunch Of Characters, In The Race For President, Gregory Freeman, 659 words, :	Sun., 10/10/1999	Campaign 2000 Perhaps it's the times in which we live. Perhaps it's the fact that we're enjoying one of the longest eras of peace and a booming economy in years. And perhaps there's something in the water. Whatever it is, you've got to wonder what's making seemingly every celebrity come out of the woodwork and think of running for president. Look at other eras. Take 1968, for instance. Richard Nixon, George Romney, Hubert Humphrey, Gene		
Bond Abandoned Campaign Promises To Black Missourians, Greg Freeman, 687 words, :	Thu., 10/7/1999	The rejection of Ronnie White Make no mistake about it: Judge Ronnie White was the victim of a political lynching at the hands of Missouri's two U.S. senators. As Sen. John Ashcroft held the noose, Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond slipped White's neck into a device meant to destroy White's character. In fact, if anybody's character is questionable, it is Bond's and Ashcroft's. The Senate's rejection Tuesday of White's nomination		
This Time, I Was Ready To Talk At Local Emmy Awards, Greg Freeman, 663 words, :	Tue., 10/5/1999	And the winner is . . . Last year, I won an Emmy Award. I was as surprised to win it as you perhaps are to read it, but I was a winner. For those who don't know, I am host to a show called Mosaic that airs Fridays at 8 p.m. on KETC (Channel 9). It's a discussion/interview show, and we address all sorts of topics. This week, for instance, we'll be talking about the renewed interest in living downtown. I consider myself a newspaper journalist who dabbles in TV		
Back In The '70s, Soulard "Pioneers" Were Called Crazy, Gregory Freeman, 658 words, :	Sun., 10/3/1999	When Skip and Darlene Gaterman moved into their home in the city's Soulard neighborhood back in 1975, their friends thought they'd lost it for sure. Why would this young couple move into a run-down neighborhood south of downtown, full of old and abandoned houses? Sure, the couple were looking for their first home, but why here, among these very old and boarded-up buildings? "People thought we were crazy," Skip Gaterman said. "They were shaking their		
Brother-Sister Team Compiles Officials' Most Inane Utterances, Greg Freeman, 666 words, :	Thu., 9/30/1999	How's that again? It's got to be rough being a politician. Not only is the spotlight always on you (actually, many of them probably enjoy that) but also someone's always recording what you say, and saving it for posterity. That's OK if you're the kind of person who always says the right thing, no matter when. But if you goof anywhere along the line, someone's bound to catch you, and your stupid remark will likely follow you. Ross and Kathryn Petras		
Group Takes Its "Back The City" Slogan Seriously, Greg Freeman, 646 words, :	Tue., 9/28/1999	Metropolis St. Louis It's been a couple of years since a group of young professionals began wondering why so many of their friends were leaving St. Louis. They had recognized what others were already seeing here: a severe "brain drain" of young St. Louisians. People in their 20s and 30s didn't view St. Louis as a very exciting place to start or further their careers. They were going to other cities they perceived to be more interesting. The group of young		

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City Deserves A Mayor Who Will Share A Vision, Not Just An Honest Person Who; Will Show Up For Work, Gregory Freeman, 766 words, :	Sun., 9/26/1999	What a city we live in! Two years ago, Clarence Harmon was elected mayor for saying, in effect, "I won't steal from you." Now Francis Slay is hoping to get elected by saying, "I'll show up for work." These aren't exactly promises that evoke confidence. For those of you who weren't here two years ago, here's a brief recap: Freeman Bosley Jr. was mayor of St. Louis from 1993 to 1997. While most found Bosley to be an affable guy		
Son Will Do Well In College Keeping Sensitivity, Humor, Greg Freeman, 719 words, :	Thu., 9/23/1999	Rites of passage After a couple of weeks of purchasing, planning and packing, my wife and I got our son off to college over the weekend. Along with the many boxes, I enclosed a letter. I share that letter with you today. Dear Son, Well, here you are, in college. I'll bet there were times when you weren't sure you'd ever make it this far. I always knew that you would. It's been a joy watching you grow, from a pudgy little baby to a curious youngster to		
Together In Grief; St. Louisans Joined In A Peaceful March After The Assassination Of Martin; Luther King Jr., Greg Freeman, words, :	Sun., 9/19/1999	Pages Of History; No. 38 In A Series; The 20th Century: St. Louis And Martin Luther King Jr. When an assassin's bullet ripped into the body of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the night of April 4, 1968, it also ripped into the heart of America, causing riots to erupt in major cities across the country. In some cities, angry African-Americans took to the streets, torching stores and businesses, mostly in black neighborhoods. But in St. Louis, Mayor Alfonso J. Cervantes went from one St. Louis television station to another, imploring residents to maintain calm. Except		
Gateway Classic Helps Needy -- But Without Begging, Greg Freeman, 676 words, :	Tue., 9/7/1999	Game will be played Sept. 18 One of my biggest pet peeves is adults who put youngsters on the corners of busy intersections to collect money. Usually they're collecting for a school band or a baseball team's uniforms or some good cause. What's annoying is that adults are putting youngsters in dangerous places to collect money. Even more annoying is the message it sends to children: It's OK to beg. I'd be happy to support any of those causes if the		
A Couple Of Sisters Who Always Have Had A Lot In Common Have Finally Met Their Match, Gregory Freeman, 688 words, :	Sun., 9/5/1999	For years, the grandfather of identical twins Diane and Darlene Nettemeier encouraged them to visit him in Ohio. One way of coaxing them was by inviting them to attend the Twins Day Festival, held every year in Twinsburg, Ohio. Twins from across the nation converge there each year to meet one another and celebrate the life of being a twin. Diane and Darlene are legal secretaries at Greensfelder, Hemker and Gale, a downtown law firm. They grew up in Illinois, in Aviston, a Clinton		
"Paint Louis" Enjoys A National Reputation; Mayor Should Allow It, Greg Freeman, 651 words, :	Thu., 9/2/1999	Graffiti on the flood wall J.C. Dillon runs CORE, a hip advertising agency downtown. In its first four years, it's won acclaim for its work, attracting clients from all over the country. One of CORE's clients is Vain, a Seattle-based company. Vain manufactures and markets a full line of alternative hair care products. It's recognized throughout the industry as an emerging leader. In fact, its owner, Victoria Gentry, is listed in the current issue of Jane magazine as		
St. Louis Missed Its Chance To Be Bold And Let Event Continue, Greg Freeman, 677 words, :	Tue., 8/31/1999	Riverfront graffiti About a year ago, I had a conversation with a young man in his twenties who told me he was planning to leave St. Louis. "I'm getting outta here," I remember him saying. When I asked him why, he said he didn't think St. Louis had much to offer young people. "It's great for families but lousy for young, single people," he said. St. Louis lacks imagination and is afraid to take risks, he added. In some ways, he's		
Alcoholic's Story Shows Sobriety Can Be Achieved, Gregory Freeman, 663 words, :	Sun., 8/29/1999	If you offer C.J. a drink, he'll tell you he's allergic. The response usually gets laughs, but for C.J. the issue is no laughing matter. C.J. - who asked me not to use his full name - began drinking when he was 12 years old. "I was an alcoholic by the time I was 17, but I didn't know it," he said. "I was drinking a fifth of whiskey every four or five days." "A lot of it was peer pressure," he said. "Other kids were doing it, and I		
Church Youth Group Helps To Renew One's Hope For The Future, Greg Freeman, 663 words, :	Thu., 8/26/1999	Today's teen-agers As a new school year begins, some parents are probably still a bit jittery after such incidents as the one in Littleton, Colo. Columbine High School and other schools that have suffered tragic shootings have made many wring their hands and wonder if the kids are all right. While there are certainly more troubled and just plain bad youngsters than we would like, the number of good ones largely outweighs the bad. While the bad ones often get much of the		
Reunion Showed My Wife How Much She's Been Missing, Greg Freeman, 650 words, :	Tue., 8/24/1999	There probably are no two people more different than my wife and I when it comes to high school reunions. Elizabeth has never attended one of her high school reunions. Clayton High School was never that enjoyable for her, and she's never desired to attend any of the reunions. She bumps into a few of her classmates every now and then, but she doesn't really keep up with many of them. I, on the other hand, am the opposite. I was president of my senior class at Beaumont High		
There's No Easy Fix To The Problem Of Gun Violence In America, Greg Freeman, 677 words, :	Sun., 8/15/1999	Shootings in Los Angeles Last week's terrible shooting at a Jewish community center in California is yet another reminder of the problem of violence in our society. All violence is senseless, of course. But crimes such as that one - where a loony gunman with an Uzi walked into a center and wounded five people, then later used a Glock 9-millimeter semiautomatic to shoot and kill a postman he thought was Asian or Hispanic - get everyone to speculate, each seeing the incident as		
Steering Doesn't Surprise Fighter For Fair Housing, Greg Freeman, 664 words, :	Thu., 8/12/1999	City living Reactions I've received after writing about real estate agents steering people away from buying homes in the city convince me that some readers have been surprised to learn that steering goes on. Bronwen Zwirner wasn't at all surprised. Zwirner is the executive director of the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Opportunity Council. The council is a fair-housing group that monitors steering. She gave me a call after reading columns I'd written about the		
It's Time To Quit Bickering And Start To Rebuild Downtown, Greg Freeman, 663 words, :	Tue., 8/10/1999	Make the project fun Are St. Louisans ready to invest in downtown? I don't mean financially, although I'm sure Mayor Clarence Harmon wouldn't mind that. No, I mean emotionally. After so many years of division -- city vs. county, Missouri vs. Illinois, black vs. white -- is the metropolitan area ready to wrap its arms around downtown? An excellent case can be made for doing it. Downtown is the icon of St. Louis. And whether you live in Belleville, Chesterfield		
State Owes Apology To Woman Set Up In Murder Case, Gregory Freeman, 672 words, :	Sun., 8/8/1999	Ellen Reasonover's trial Ellen Reasonover should be an angry woman today. Her youth robbed from her by the state of Missouri, she walked out of prison last week after U.S. District Judge Jean C. Hamilton ordered authorities to release her. Reasonover served more than 16 years in prison for a murder she maintains she did not commit. Hamilton called the flimsy case that prosecutors had built against her "fundamentally unfair." In effect, the entire case upon		
Real Estate Group Plots To Steer Agents, Greg Freeman, 655 words, :	Thu., 8/5/1999	St. Louis ambassadors A little more than a month ago, I wrote a column about steering -- the practice of some real estate agents of steering clients away from the city. In that column, I cited two instances of steering -- one that involved Flora Maria Garcia, director of the Missouri Arts Council, the other that involved Richard Fleming, president of the Regional Commerce & Growth Association. Both moved to St. Louis from other cities. Both wanted to live in the city when		

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It's Hard To See Good In The "Good Ol' Days" Of Segregation, Greg Freeman, 676 words, :	Tue., 8/3/1999	Civil rights and urban myths I took a phone call the other day from a woman who told me that Congress was trying to wipe out the Civil Rights Act. I asked her where she got her information, and she referred me to an e-mail that she had received. I asked her to forward it to me. When I read it, I realized what it was -- another one of those urban myths. According to the e-mail, Congress was considering legislation that would get rid of the rights blacks won in the act. The fact		
Overheated Pad: Some Like It Hot, But I Like It Not, Gregory Freeman, 629 words, :	Sun., 8/1/1999	Summertime and the livin' is easy. -From Porgy and Bess George Gershwin obviously hadn't been to St. Louis when he wrote those lyrics. I love St. Louis, but I hate St. Louis in the summertime. I don't do well in heat. I may have been born and raised here, but that doesn't make it any easier to deal with the heat and humidity. St. Louis has a lot going for it, but let's face it folks, the weather isn't one of our assets. None of the		
Leadership Program Gets Cut Because It Won't Aid Test Scores, Greg Freeman, 634 words, book: our life & times	Thu., 7/29/1999	Making the grade With the end of school desegregation comes the apparent passing of a program that has helped bring hundreds if not thousands of students together while training them in leadership and team building. The Metropolitan Student Leadership Program is being axed by the St. Louis School Board. The program was funded with school desegregation money. With desegregation going by the wayside, the program is getting the heave-ho. In a way, you can't blame the St. Louis		
Inmates Find Sense Of Purpose In Their Own NAACP Chapter, Gregory Freeman, 679 words, :	Tue., 7/27/1999	A special dinner invitation I looked up at the audience and began my talk, opening with a joke. When I got to the punchline, the audience roared, momentarily making me wonder whether I should have been a standup comic instead of an ink-stained scribe. And then I continued, looking out at the crowd of about 70 or so people, while a security guard kept a watchful eye. A good number of the men in the audience wore gray slacks. On the back of each pair of slacks was a yellow tag with		
Lemp Avenue Archaeological Dig Deserves More Time, Gregory Freeman, 1077 words, :	Sun., 7/25/1999	Chip Clatto thinks he may be on to something - something he may find if city government will stay out of his way. Clatto is leading a group of students on an archaeological dig at an area that some think may have once been a stop on the Underground Railroad. But the city's given him only until Aug. 1 to complete his digging. Clatto's hoping for a year's extension. On a sultry St. Louis day last week, Clatto - a teacher at the Gateway Institute of Technology -		
The Struggle Continues; In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Told The World, "I Have A Dream," And; Local Protesters Marched Into History, Florence Shinkle & Greg Freeman, 682 words, :	Sun., 7/25/1999	Pages Of History; No. 30 In A Series; The 20th Century: St. Louis And Civil Rights. By the 1960s, civil rights protests were nothing new in St. Louis. But, tied into the national civil rights movement that reached its zenith in that decade, such actions intensified locally. "A movement doesn't start from an idea. It starts from a feeling -- a feeling of anger, a feeling of pain," said Percy Green, founder of ACTION, a leading activist group of the 1960s and 1970s. "When enough people feel that way, they rise up, all of them, and things		
Family's Name Stood For Fair Shake For Blacks, Greg Freeman, 667 words, :	Thu., 7/22/1999	John F. Kennedy Jr. I was only 7 years old at the time, but I remember Nov. 22, 1963, as clearly as if it were yesterday. It had been a rainy morning, and the students at Emerson School were forced to stay in the lunchroom over the noon hour instead of going out for recess. I left the lunchroom a little early and went back to my classroom. I figured I'd read a book from one of the bookshelves before class resumed. When I got to the classroom, I asked Mrs. Nance if I		
Readers Are Vexed Over Internet Access, A Young Man's Death, Greg Freeman, 591 words, :	Tue., 7/20/1999	Letters, we get letters Today belongs to the readers. Dear Greg, I just read your article about the gap between who has Internet access and who doesn't. You probably know this, but just in case you don't, the St. Louis library offers free computer use, including Internet access. I don't currently have a computer at home, so I have been using the library for access to the Internet every week. Ann H. Dear Ann, In writing about places where it would		
Teen's Murder Shocks Those Who Knew Him, Gregory Freeman, 718 words, :	Sun., 7/18/1999	* Romero Jones, 19, was a young man with promise who was trying to turn his life around. Then robbers stole his second chance. The story may have been just another one of those items in the paper that readers sometimes ignore. Another city robbery, another murder: Romero Jones, 19, was fatally shot by a robber at his home in the 2700 block of Allen about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday. A short time earlier, a neighbor of Jones', a man, 27, was robbed of \$500 at gunpoint in front of his		
The Dream Begins; The Struggle For Civil Rights Started Early In The Century, Florence Shinkle & Greg Freeman, 556 words, :	Sun., 7/18/1999	Pages Of History; No. 29 In A Series; The 20th Century: St. Louis And Civil Rights. For African-Americans in the St. Louis area, the 20th century has been one of hope and despair, one of seeing some dreams achieved and finding others dashed. From race riots early in the century to last week's Interstate 70 protest, issues of race have remained prominent here. On July 2, 1917, race riots erupted in East St. Louis over the hiring of African-Americans by industrialists determined not to meet the wage demands of their employees. In all, 44 people died, 39 of them		
A Landmark Case, Greg Freeman, 476 words, :	Sun., 7/18/1999	Pages Of History; No. 29 In A Series; The 20th Century: St. Louis And Civil Rights. Like many African-Americans early in this century, J.D. Shelley decided to leave the South. He'd lived in Starkville, Miss., with his wife, Ethel, and five children. He'd worked as a laborer and she as a domestic, but they never seemed to get ahead. So J.D. Shelley packed up and moved to St. Louis, where he had relatives. Soon, he would embark on a landmark case that would change housing laws in St. Louis and around the country. Shelley and his family shared cramped quarters		
We Need To Help Poor, Minorities Get Internet Access, Greg Freeman, 650 words, :	Thu., 7/15/1999	The "Digital Divide" If you're reading today's column online, chances are you're white, have a college degree, live in a household that makes \$75,000 or more a year and live in an urban or suburban community. That's based on a new report by the U.S. Commerce Department on who has access to the Internet and who doesn't. The report points out a great "digital divide" between information "haves" and "have nots." At the		
Mainstream, Grass Roots Mix To Make A Point, Greg Freeman, 662 words, :	Tue., 7/13/1999	Interstate 70 protest "Without a struggle, there can be no progress." -- Frederick Douglass It's been 36 years since black St. Louisans -- accompanied by white supporters -- threw down the gauntlet on employment discrimination at Jefferson Bank & Trust Co. The Jefferson Bank demonstration was a peaceful protest on Aug. 30, 1963. About 250 people were arrested, and the protests led to revolutionary changes in the hiring practices of banks and many other		
With Trip, Man, 72, Seeks to 'Mow Down' Prostate Cancer, Greg Freeman, 660 words, book: love, hope, & survival	Thu., 7/8/1999	Coast-to-Coast message Trevelyn Zander of Arnold has always been an adventurer. Whether it's free-fall sky diving, rafting in Chile or walking across hot coals in Hawaii, Zander has always been willing. Now he's embarking on what may be his biggest adventure yet: Today he begins a coast-to-coast trip -- on a lawn tractor. Zander, and his wife, Dorothy, want to call attention to prostate cancer and to raise money for cancer research. Trevelyn, 72, was		

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Clearly, The Evidence -- Or Lack Thereof -- Justifies A New Trial, Gregory Freeman, words, :	Tue., 7/6/1999	The Reasonover case It has been 16 years since Ellen Maria Reasonover was convicted in the murder of a service station attendant in Dellwood. But there have always been those who were convinced that Reasonover was railroaded on scanty evidence from shady people. Indeed, there were no eyewitnesses, no fingerprints, no guns recovered in the case that would have pointed the finger at Reasonover. The prosecution's case was based largely on the testimony of two witnesses who claimed		
Street Vendors, Performers Add Color, Character To Downtown St. Louis, Gregory Freeman, 650 words, :	Sun., 7/4/1999	A cultural shift we sorely need How can we make the streets of St. Louis more lively? It's a question I've been pondering for a while. In fact, KMOX radio host Charles Brennan and I have pushed for street vendors and performers downtown for a couple of years now. Imagine a downtown St. Louis with street vendors selling hot dogs and bratwurst at every other corner. With musicians strumming lively tunes on guitars. With magicians performing the latest disappearing act to		
Harmon Vows To Work To Stem Flow Of People From City, Gregory Freeman, 664 words, :	Sun., 7/4/1999	You're the mayor of a major American city, and your city is losing population like an old clunker loses oil. Census figures estimate that your city has lost about 58,000 people since 1990 and nearly 11,000 people from 1996 to 1998. Your city is now at its lowest point, populationwise, since 1870. What do you do? If you're St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon, you work harder. The figures, released last week, weren't good news for the city. St. Louis is now		
Sensible Shoes Can Change a Person's Outlook on Life, Greg Freeman, 664 words, book: wit & wisdom	Thu., 7/1/1999	Comfort over fashion I write today in praise of comfortable shoes. It may seem like a topic of little importance, particularly in comparison to some of the major issues facing the world. Yet shoes can make a difference between whether a person is easygoing or ill-mannered. I was inspired to write this column after purchasing a pair of shoes from a local shoe store last weekend. My old pair of tennis shoes were worn, dirty, a bit uncomfortable and had seen their better days. I		
Few Seem To Care That We're Losing A Tourist Attraction, Greg Freeman, 656 words, :	Tue., 6/29/1999	Closing the McDonald's boat St. Louis is about to lose another landmark, but the usual suspects haven't made much noise about it. At the end of the summer, the McDonald's boat, on the downtown riverfront, will close. Usually, when an announcement is made that something major is going to close, there's a scramble to see what can be done to keep it open. The city rushes in to see what it can do to help. Preservationists come forward to see if there's		
Stereotyping The City Is No Different Than Labeling A Race - And Makes As Much: Sense, Gregory Freeman, 783 words, :	Sun., 6/27/1999	Flora Maria Garcia and her husband, Billy Hassell, knew just what they wanted: They wanted a home close to downtown, with space for an art studio. Moving here from Houston, the couple knew little about St. Louis other than it was a midsize city and they liked the urban feel of it. What they didn't know was how difficult it would be to find a real estate agent to show them a home in the city. The couple arrived here and stayed at a bed-and-breakfast in the Soulard neighborhood.		
Downtown Plans Need Infusion Of Energy From Mayor, Greg Freeman, 662 words, :	Thu., 6/24/1999	Selling the city George Bush called it "the big mo." St. Louis had it. Can it get it back? "Big mo" was Bush's shorthand for momentum. And two years ago, downtown clearly had it. The city seemed poised for change. Mayor Clarence Harmon had just been elected, promising sweeping changes in city government. He formed Downtown Now, designed to develop a plan for downtown. The Peirce Report had been released, indicating that with the right moves,		
Regulars Fear Upgrade Of Soulard Market Will Destroy Its Flavor, Greg Freeman, 674 words, :	Tue., 6/22/1999	Another Union Market? For years, Jon Hinds has been a regular shopper at Soulard Market. He loves the curious aroma of spices, fresh fruits and vegetables wafting through the air, the sounds of shoppers bargaining in various languages, the sight of farm families earnestly calling out to potential customers to buy 10 lemons for a dollar. But Hinds is worried. He worries that efforts to upgrade the market -- a fixture in St. Louis since 1779 -- will make it, as he describes		
Cherish Parents Every Day, Not Just When They're Gone, Gregory Freeman, 609 words, :	Sun., 6/20/1999	A Father's Day lesson Dear readers: Over the years, I've had numerous requests to rerun the column below, which first ran on Father's Day 1992. It was only a small item in the Post-Dispatch that ran on June 1, 1971. A man was killed in an accident at the Main Post Office. Frederic W. Freeman, 44, a postal clerk, was crushed to death Sunday by a trailer on the parking lot of the Main Post Office, 1710 Clark Avenue, Lamont Houston, 2424 Gaty Avenue, East		
African American Rite Of Passage Is For All Colors, Races, Greg Freeman, 669 words, :	Thu., 6/17/1999	A diverse charter school Lamar Beyah wants St. Louisans to know one thing: The African American Rite of Passage Learning and Education Institute -- Arthur J. Kennedy Skills is not just for African-Americans. "Our school is pushing for diversity," said Beyah, chief executive officer of the city's first charter school. "We're making a conscious effort to appeal to students of all colors and races. We want to make sure we're inclusive in our entire		
What If They Sold The Government And Nobody Cared?, Greg Freeman, 653 words, :	Tue., 6/15/1999	For Sale: One government, used but in fair condition. Lobbyists welcome. Price: Negotiable. In the days when I covered City Hall, the other reporters and I often joked that St. Louis had the best politicians money could buy. In reality, that phrase could easily be extended to St. Louis County, St. Clair County, Missouri, Illinois and the nation's capital. The latest proof of the fact that government is for sale is found in a study by a professor at the University of		
After 40 Years In Politics, Simon Continues His Search For "Tangible": Solutions At SIUC, Gregory Freeman, 1218 words, :	Sun., 6/13/1999	The first thing I noticed about former Sen. Paul Simon was that he wasn't wearing his trademark bow tie. "It's a casual day, so I decided not to wear it today," Simon said, greeting me in his office at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. A part of the Democratic political scene in Illinois and Washington for more than 40 years, Simon has settled into a new role: that of professor, founder and director of the Public Policy Institute. Founded 2 1/2 years		
Sports Comic Books Try To Help Children Build Character, Greg Freeman, 686 words, :	Thu., 6/10/1999	Drawing on good examples I was a lover of comic books as a kid. Superman was my favorite, but I read other ones as well. I can remember reading American history and Bible stories produced in comic form. There was something about the drawings and the action that attracted me to the comics much quicker than I would have been drawn to normal books. Brian Troupe was no different. As a child, he thrilled to the adventures of Spiderman and Ironman. "I used to picture myself as one		
America Still Has Good Kids, And I'd Like You To Meet One, Greg Freeman, 685 words, :	Tue., 6/8/1999	In Columbine's aftermath After Columbine, Jonesboro and other school shootings, it's not hard to find adults talking about kids these days -- and often not in the positive sense. Turn on the tube, and chances are you'll find talking heads on one of the cable channels having a discussion about what's wrong with today's youngsters. Turn on talk radio, and you're sure to come across people calling in with all sorts of thoughts on the subject; some claiming		
Graduation Day Is A Joyous Occasion For My Son, Wife And Me, Gregory Freeman, 710 words, :	Sun., 6/6/1999	My little bud grows up Today, my son graduates from high school. It's an important point in his life. It's an important point in my life as well. First, I'm grateful that I've lived to see this day. My father never had the chance to see me graduate from high school; he was killed in an accident when I was a freshman. Throughout my life, I've been haunted, often wondering what my dad would think had he been alive to see this or that. My son		
News Item Revives The Agony Of Defeat In A Spelling Bee, Greg Freeman, 643 words, :	Thu., 6/3/1999	A point of pride I've always prided myself on my spelling. I may not be much of an athlete, I may not be rich, I may not be particularly good-looking (no one ever agrees with me that I look like Denzel Washington), but I've always been a good speller. It's a point of pride with me. Colleagues turn to me when they want to double-check the spelling of a word. I'm irritated when I read words that are misspelled. And while I try not to be overly critical of others		

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City Living Shows Us How Diversity Can Make Us Better, Greg Freeman, 658 words, :	Tue., 6/1/1999	Regular readers of this column know that I live in the city and encourage city living. For me, there's nothing like it for its color, its economic and ethnic diversity, for its convenience, for its proximity to everything. But here in St. Louis, those of us who choose city life are sometimes stereotyped by those who choose not to live in the city. Either we live in the city because we can't afford to live elsewhere or because we've gone off the deep end. I can assure		
Clay's Retirement And Banks' Trouble Could Signal A Shift In Political Power, Greg Freeman, 658 words, :	Sun., 5/30/1999	Like an area during a major earthquake, the black political landscape in St. Louis is beginning to shift, and much quicker than some had expected. For years, the area's top political power brokers -- all Democrats -- were U.S. Rep. William L. Clay Sr., state Sen. J.B. "Jet" Banks and longtime 20th Ward Committeeman Leroy Tyus. Those seeking the support of black city voters -- on behalf of candidates or ballot issues -- knew they faced an uphill battle without the support of		
Live From St. Louis; Local Television Caused A Stir When It Arrived On The Scene In 1947, Greg Freeman, 983 words, :	Sun., 5/30/1999	Pages Of History; No 22 In Series. The date was Feb. 3, 1947, and St. Louisans tingled with excitement over the first tests of television here -- "radio with pictures," some called it. The first local television station -- the St. Louis Post-Dispatch-owned KSD-TV -- made the tests, one between 3:30 and 4 p.m., and the second between 10 and 11 p.m. Watching Channel 5 that day were two audiences: 110 RCA-Victor dealers at the old Hotel Statler, and a group of Brownies gathered at a Clayton home. The broadcasts		
Sometimes It's Best For A Columnist To Admit He Was Wrong, Greg Freeman, 649 words, :	Thu., 5/27/1999	Fate of the Arcade/Wright I have a confession to make: I've changed my mind. You don't understand how significant that is. Columnists are supposed to be wise surveyors of all about us. Rarely do we change our minds on issues. There are still columnists around who say Americans should have re-elected Herbert Hoover rather than vote for that upstart, Franklin D. Roosevelt. So when a columnist changes his mind, it's unusual. I've changed my mind on the		
Anti-Violence Program Taught Troubled Teen The Value Of Education, Gregory Freeman, 659 words, :	Tue., 5/25/1999	"A much better way" Had you told Byron Williams five years ago that he'd someday hold an associate's degree with plans to further his education, he probably would have laughed in your face. By the time Williams was 14, he was getting into plenty of trouble. He dabbled in gang activity. He regularly broke into houses in his North Side neighborhood. He was on his way to becoming another statistic. And then something happened. He got caught. He was		
Bill Clay Gave Blacks In Area Their First Voice In Congress, Gregory Freeman, 699 words, :	Sun., 5/23/1999	A man of principle If, as anticipated, U.S. Rep. William L. Clay announces his retirement Monday, it will spell the end of an era. That's because Clay was our congressman. By "our," I mean those of us who grew up or lived in north St. Louis. Black people who -- before Clay's election to Congress in 1968 -- couldn't imagine what it was like to have a black congressman, to have a black politician in any significant role of power. Bill Clay represented		
Hey, I've Still Got Brains; Police Review Board Is A Good Idea, Gregory Freeman, 495 words, :	Thu., 5/20/1999	Readers get their turn Today's column belongs to the readers. Dear Mr. Freeman, Where do you keep your brains? Apparently, you don't realize that the St. Louis Police Department already has a civilian review board. It's called the Board of Police Commissioners. The last thing the department needs is another group of civilians second-guessing what the department does. David C. Dear David, The idea behind a police-civilian review board was suggested		
Society Representing Black Police Officers Makes Itself Heard, Gregory Freeman, 729 words, :	Tue., 5/18/1999	* Working to increase trust In many ways, Joan Glover has it tough. She's a black police officer in a city where many blacks are suspicious of the police. She's also the first woman to serve as president of the Ethical Society of Police, most of whose members are men. The society represents a majority of the city's black police officers. Glover often finds herself in situations where blacks -- many of them law-abiding folks -- are skeptical of her because of		
It's Time To Launch Volunteer Campaign To Help City Schools Don't Just Stand; There, Gregory Freeman, 987 words, :	Sun., 5/16/1999	* Don't Just Stand There Next to watching Mark McGwire, griping is the favorite pastime of St. Louisans. Whether it's over what to do with The Arena or whether Lambert Field should be expanded, we love to complain. At the top of that list is the St. Louis Public Schools. We love to complain about them. We gripe about how bad the schools are. We complain about the dropout rate. We carp about the system's bureaucracy. None of us is immune to this. It		
Review Board Makes Good Sense When Brutality Is Alleged, Greg Freeman, 701 words, :	Thu., 5/13/1999	Promoting confidence in police A lot of people don't take stock in what Bill Haas has to say. Haas, a member of the St. Louis School Board, has done some things over the years that have, well, raised eyebrows here. Like when he advertised for a wife with money so he could get help in a political campaign. Or when he suggested giving condoms to high school students. But sometimes, Haas comes up with ideas that make perfect sense. His idea that St. Louis establish a		
McGwire Highway? Get Serious; Nobody Here Will Call It That, Gregory Freeman, 652 words, :	Tue., 5/11/1999	The name game Lots of sand is being kicked up over the idea of some legislators to rename a highway and bridge after Mark McGwire. The legislators think it would be a great idea to name the stretch of Interstate 70 that runs through St. Louis the Mark McGwire Highway and the I-70 bridge that crosses into Illinois the Mark McGwire Bridge. Although no one could ignore his home-run feats, McGwire doesn't even live here, complain some. There are people more worthy of the honor,		
Support Group Helps Daughters Who've Lost Their Mothers, Greg Freeman, 670 words, book: love, hope, & survival	Sun., 5/9/1999	A painful day for some Katherine McGrory won't be celebrating Mother's Day today. The 46-year-old executive from Des Peres was 9 when her mother died of cancer. Since that time, Mother's Day has always been painful for her. "It's not like I hate the day or anything like that," said McGrory, who has no children. "I just try not to think about it. Mother's Day isn't the happiest day for me." McGrory says she feels isolation		
Open Hearing Is The Best Way To Handle Death Of Suspect, Greg Freeman, 670 words, :	Thu., 5/6/1999	The Julius Thurman case When St. Louis Circuit Attorney Dee Joyce-Hayes deals with alleged police misconduct, she often finds herself feeling squeezed, like a grape during wine season. Traditionally, after police officers have been charged, the circuit attorney's office sends the case to the grand jury, which hears testimony in secret and decides on the charges. But no matter what happens, one side is dissatisfied. If the grand jury decides to indict an officer, police often		
Hispanic Business Group Starts To Wield Clout In The Area, Greg Freeman, 661 words, :	Tue., 5/4/1999	"Breaking stereotypes" When the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis was formed 17 years ago, not many took it seriously. With a Hispanic population that was all but invisible, some questioned the need for such a group. "It's not that Hispanics weren't here," said Jorge H. Toro, president and CEO of Toro Technologies, a software engineering products and services company. "But there was no one Hispanic neighborhood, there was no		
Parents Must Stay In Touch With Their Children, Gregory Freeman, 649 words, :	Sun., 5/2/1999	Learning from Littleton Like seemingly everything else in this country these days, the tragic murders in Littleton, Colo., have caused a battle of tongues between liberals and conservatives, each side pushing its own views. For liberals, it means calls for tighter controls on guns, working harder on keeping them out of the hands of children and closing loopholes that allow people to buy guns at gun shows without the normal checks. For conservatives, it means finding fault with video		
Another Group In Another City Would Be Called A Gang, Greg Freeman, 656 words, :	Thu., 4/29/1999	Perpetuating stereotypes Mark Jurkowitz, the media columnist for The Boston Globe, called Wednesday with a question that got me thinking: Out of all of the media descriptions of the shooters in the Columbine High School massacre last week, had I ever seen them referred to as a gang? I thought about it and realized that I hadn't. I'd seen the shooters referred to as everything else: "Trench Coat Mafia," "troubled teen-agers," "clique," even		

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Internet Campaign Exhorts Motorists To Protest Pump Prices, Greg Freeman, 677 words, :	Tue., 4/27/1999	Great American GasOut If you're a service station owner, don't look for Jean Colombo on Friday. Colombo, a Des Peres homemaker, won't be buying any gasoline that day. And, if she's right, millions of Americans will be staying away from gas stations that day as well. Colombo is participating in an Internet-based campaign to boycott rising gasoline prices by not buying gas this Friday. She received over the Net an e-mail declaring Friday, April 30, as the date		
Never Teach Your Children They're Victims, Gregory Freeman, 653 words, :	Sun., 4/25/1999	Lessons from Colorado After Tuesday's tragedy in Littleton, Colo., I received a call from a reader with an opinion I hadn't heard. "Those students who were shot deserved what they got," he said. "That should send a message to people who bully other people." Whoa, I thought. This guy is coming at this issue from an entirely different angle. To him, members of the "Trench Coat Mafia" were victims who had been pushed too far. As far as he		
One Father's Journey Away From Hatred And Revenge, Greg Freeman, 679 words, :	Thu., 4/22/1999	The Death Penalty When Bud Welch's only daughter, Julie, was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing four years ago this week, he had but one thing on his mind. "I wanted Timothy McVeigh to fry," he said. It was an unusual reaction for Welch, who is in St. Louis this week. Welch, the owner of a Texaco service station in Oklahoma, had always opposed the death penalty. "My parents had opposed it and my grandparents had opposed it," he said. But the argument had		
A Better Man Can't Be Found For Expanding The U. City Loop, Greg Freeman, 682 words, :	Tue., 4/20/1999	Joe Edwards is a mover, shaker Joe Edwards is a man with a track record. He's the owner of Blueberry Hill, the popular Chuck Berry hangout in the University City Loop. He's the guy who started the St. Louis Walk of Fame along Delmar Boulevard, which features St. Louisans who have gone on to do great things in the world. He's the man behind the rehabilitation of the Tivoli Theatre, a tastefully well-done renovation of a yesteryear movie house. And now he's got		
It's Time To Go Back To Work; Rosie And I Are Much Too Close, Greg Freeman, 841 words, :	Sun., 4/18/1999	DAYTIME TV JUNKIE If all goes well, I hope to be back at work this week, after being away a few weeks recuperating from surgery. It won't be a minute too soon. I spent far too much of my recuperation watching daytime TV, and I learned something: Daytime TV is like a drug. It's addictive. It draws you in and then makes you come back for more. For me, the addiction started while I was in the hospital. It's pretty boring being in the hospital. Except when		
Men Can Learn From Women to Better Care For Themselves, Greg Freeman, 741 words, book: love, hope, & survival	Sun., 4/11/1999	On the road to recovery During my recent bout with prostate cancer, I've begun to learn the difference between men and women. Some of those differences I knew already, of course. My wife has been the great teacher in this effort. She and I share a mutual friend who's been divorced twice and who is constantly dating, ever hoping to meet wife No. 3. He and I get together for dinner or drinks every so often. Without a doubt, when I return home, my wife asks me who		
Holiday Meals Just Aren't Complete Without Chitterlings, Greg Freeman, 706 words, :	Sun., 4/4/1999	* Greg Freeman is recovering from surgery. This column previously ran Nov. 26, 1996.		
St. Louis' Answer To Oscar Madison Goes It Alone, Greg Freeman, 788 words, :	Sun., 3/28/1999	Greg Freeman is recovering from surgery. This column originally ran June 24, 1997.		
Retiring Judge, 80, Is A Testament To The American Dream; Giving A "Helping Hand", Greg Freeman, 748 words, :	Tue., 3/23/1999	Theodore McMillian took a second to ponder. The 80-year-old judge had been asked how he wished to be remembered. "I think I'd like to be looked on not for anything I've accomplished or for any material thing that I have gathered," he said. "Instead, I'd like to be remembered for how many times I was able to look over my shoulder and give a helping hand to someone behind me, to pull him or her up so he, too, could participate in the American		
U.S. Attorney Takes Dead Aim Against Concealed Weapons, Greg Freeman, 705 words, :	Sun., 3/21/1999	Proposition B debate At first blush, U.S. Attorney Edward L. Dowd Jr. would seem to be an unlikely leader in the fight against Proposition B, the proposition that would allow people to carry concealed guns. Not only is he from a well-known law enforcement family -- his father was a former FBI agent and circuit attorney -- but he's got a strong law-and-order background himself. He was an assistant U.S. attorney from 1979 to 1984. He was the first head of the federal drug task		
It's Time To Replace The Train Station That Embarrasses Our City; Let's Get Rid Of "Amshack", Greg Freeman, 642 words, :	Thu., 3/18/1999	Marian Westerman stood outside the Amtrak station Wednesday, shocked by what she saw. Westerman, of Washington, couldn't believe what passes for a railroad station here in St. Louis. Dubbed "Amshack" by St. Louisans, the station here consists of five trailers pulled together. From those trailers, at 550 South 16th Street, trains pull into and out of St. Louis each day. From a city that was once second in rail traffic only to Chicago, St. Louis now settles for a		
Chief Henderson Deserves Benefit Of The Doubt; Always On The Scene, Greg Freeman, 642 words, :	Tue., 3/16/1999	Let's hope St. Louis Police Chief Ron Henderson has a better week this week than he did last week, when he was knocked by an audit of the Police Board and by the St. Louis Police Officers Association. I hate to see the chief get knocked so much because he's so hard-working. Unlike some police chiefs, he likes working on the streets. He's as likely to be found out on the streets directing traffic as he is to be sitting behind a desk somewhere. When there's a crime --		
Son's European Trip Is Sure To Bring Out Parenting Instincts, Greg Freeman, 664 words, :	Sun., 3/14/1999	What, me worry? It's hard to say goodbye to a child, even if that goodbye is really a "see you later." My wife and I had to do that a couple of days ago, as our 18-year-old took off for a few weeks' stint to London and Paris. If you know me, you know that a trip to places like London and Paris isn't common. No, that's putting it mildly. Neither my wife nor I has ever been to London or Paris. I'm the type of guy who squeezes a penny so tightly		
Readers Offer Their Views On "Cruisers", Greg Freeman, 674 words, :	Tue., 3/9/1999	Public problem-solving A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about the problems the city was having with cruising in O'Fallon Park and at the riverfront. It seems that large groups of cruisers -- many of them teen-agers, but some older people as well -- have been making life difficult for people who want to simply enjoy the park or the riverfront, and when leaving the park at nightfall, many of the cruisers head to nearby Natural Bridge Avenue and congregate in fast-food restaurant parking		
Civic Group's Message On Cancer Could Save Lives, Gregory Freeman, 788 words, :	Sun., 3/7/1999	Early detection is important "You have cancer." Without a doubt, the three most frightening words that I've ever heard. The words numbed me. I was, after all, not going to get cancer. I'd always tried to avoid those things that I thought could be cancerous. Although both my parents smoked, I never took up the habit. I never drank much, partially to avoid those health problems associated with heavy drinking. I even followed some of the fads that supposedly		
"Love Roses" Might Not Be Intended For Valentine's Day, Greg Freeman, 668 words, :	Thu., 3/4/1999	Finding the right market Dan Davis knows roses. He has to. He's in the wholesale flower business. So he was a little more than interested when he walked into a 7-Eleven store at Gravois Avenue and South Grand Boulevard and found a product displayed called "love roses." Frankly, a "love rose" doesn't look like much. It costs about a buck, comes in a narrow glass tube that's about 3 inches long and contains a piece of wire connected to a tiny wad		
Sooner Or Later, Father And Son Will Agree On Curfew, Gregory Freeman, 645 words, :	Tue., 3/2/1999	Setting limits My son turns 18 Friday. It's no surprise, I suppose, that he and I are struggling with the issue of curfew. He doesn't think he should have one. I think he should. Right now, I set his curfew at 11 o'clock on school nights and midnight on other nights. I think that's a decent curfew for a high school senior. Will sees otherwise. He doesn't think he needs to have a curfew because he's responsible. At times we have		

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Retired Columnist Reveals In Recalling An 'Interesting Life', Gregory Freeman, 958 words, :	Sun., 2/28/1999	Melba Sweets turns 90 Melba Sweets never thought she'd live to be 90. "I just never thought I'd live so long," said Sweets, a petite woman whose snow-white hair frames her soft facial features. Few would guess that this woman with the virtually wrinkle-free face is nearly a century old. Hers has been a full life. As the widow of the former publisher of the St. Louis American, as a columnist for some 50 years and as a mother, she is filled with stories.		
Neighborhoods Seek Help In Solving A Seasonal Problem, Greg Freeman, 561 words, :	Thu., 2/25/1999	Crowds of cruisers Within a few short weeks, spring will be here. The flowers will be in full bloom, birds will begin chirping, and the cruisers will come out in full force again. Cruising is a popular pastime for young people in the city. Driving around slowly, showing off your car, double-parking, seeing and being seen has become almost a rite of passage for some. But the cruising has had some negative results. Every year, residents in and near O'Fallon Park cringe when		
Despite Problems, St. Louis Is A Place I Proudly Call Home, Greg Freeman, 693 words, :	Tue., 2/23/1999	Be it ever so humble... On a recent out-of-town trip, I had pause to reflect on this city and how much it means to me. St. Louis is, of course, home. I was born here, raised here and have spent most of my adult years here. For me, St. Louis is like an old friend. I have a love-hate relationship with it, but in the end I'll stick up for it. At times, it infuriates me. I grind my teeth thinking about how resistant this city is to change. New ideas are looked upon with a		
More City Residents Defy The Labels Of "Black," "White", Greg Freeman, 656 words, :	Thu., 2/18/1999	Diversity in St. Louis While it didn't get a lot of media attention -- it wasn't breaking news, after all -- an effort last week by Mayor Clarence Harmon and the city's Civil Rights Enforcement Agency was perhaps the city's biggest acknowledgment of its diversity. Instead of a traditional Black History Month celebration at City Hall, Harmon and the agency hosted a "National Race Relations Day" event in the building's rotunda. There, Harmon and		
Whatever Happened To Real Important Issues Such As War?, Greg Freeman, 663 words, :	Tue., 2/16/1999	Teletubbies debate lacks merit Maybe it's time for America to go to war. An unusual suggestion, I admit. But maybe a war would be the only thing to shake us from this strange warp zone we've entered. When I was growing up, we were always engaged in war, real or cold. We fought enemies, real and imagined, and we fought for truth, justice and the American way. Our debates were over monumental issues: Should America get out of Vietnam? Is it possible to win a war on		
Program's Founder Would Be Proud Of His Baby, Gregory Freeman, 793 words, :	Sun., 2/14/1999	"Building men is better than mending boys." That's the slogan of St. Paul Saturdays, a youth development program that's settling into its 15th year. And like any 15-year-old, the program shows signs of maturity. William J. Harrison would have been proud of his rapidly maturing baby. The late Harrison founded St. Paul Saturdays in 1984 through the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church. "He was always creative and independent, and always believed in doing		
Concealed Weapons Ban Has Been Good Idea Since 1875, Gregory Freeman, 678 words, :	Thu., 2/11/1999	Proposition B Like the snake oil salesman who blows into town selling bottles of medicine that supposedly will cure all ills, supporters of a measure to let people carry concealed weapons are trying to get Missourians to buy their special concoction. Let the buyer beware. Proposition B, which will be on the April 6 ballot, is a binding referendum that would allow concealed weapons, repealing current state law. The current law, incidentally, wasn't written by '60s		
Black History Should Be Studied All Year, Not Just One Month, Greg Freeman, 650 words, :	Tue., 2/9/1999	Important lesson for everyone Believe it or not, black folks don't often get a chance to see films or documentaries about themselves on television or on the big screen. Oh, there's always something at the movies these days. But more often than not, it's some "Boyz 'N' Da Hood Want Power 'N' Da Money" kind of foolishness, nothing that comes close to reality for the average African-American. In terms of movies with characters who look and		
Race Was Wrong Issue To Attack On Sales Tax Vote, Greg Freeman, 664 words, :	Sun., 2/7/1999	Support crossed racial lines Mayor Clarence Harmon raised a ruckus last week by criticizing the successful school sales tax campaign for targeting some of its messages to city voters based on race. The mayor was critical of two pieces of campaign literature. One, targeting white voters, cited the endorsements of the St. Louis Archdiocese, two white politicians -- Rep. Richard Gephardt and Aldermanic President Francis Slay -- and Harmon, who is black. The other, targeting black		
Before Improving Schools, Look Where The Problems Start, Gregory Freeman, 690 words, :	Thu., 2/4/1999	Putting tax increase to work With the passage Tuesday of a two-thirds-cent tax increase to settle the long-standing school desegregation case here, St. Louis school officials can now turn their sights toward another task just as crucial: turning the school system around. The task is daunting. It's easy to point to the bureaucracy of the St. Louis Board of Education as the cause of the system's troubles. But such an accusation is hardly accurate. It's not bureaucracy		
It's Not Perfect, But School Settlement Deserves Support, Gregory Freeman, 699 words, :	Tue., 2/2/1999	A vote for Proposition 1 After studying Proposition 1, the sales tax measure on today's ballot designed to settle the St. Louis desegregation case, I've decided to vote for it. I'm convinced it's in the best interests of the students who, we sometimes forget, is what all this desegregation hoopla is about. The settlement plan isn't perfect. No one can honestly say that if the tax is passed, the academic level of students will improve, or that the pay of		
Some Random Post-Papal Thoughts On Lights, Speed, Crowds And The Fleeing Of; The Flock, Greg Freeman, 646 words, :	Sun., 1/31/1999	A few days after the departure of Pope John Paul II, here are some random thoughts from a mere scribe: Light of the city: No one can dispute that the plan to light up the Gateway Arch during the two nights of the pope's visit was anything but fantastic. MSNBC, a cable network, provided live coverage of the Holy Father's visit to St. Louis and lighted the Arch as a backdrop for its nighttime coverage. It made many of us wonder why we hadn't done that all the time. Now comes		
To Many Folks, The Pink Sisters Prove A Point About Prayer, Gregory Freeman, 786 words, :	Thu., 1/28/1999	WEATHER . . OR NOT Two weeks ago, Catherine Casey was afraid she wouldn't be able to catch even a glimpse of Pope John Paul II when he visited St. Louis. The streets were glazed with ice, the weather was bone-numbing cold and snow was everywhere. A frail retired sales clerk, Casey was afraid to go outside. "I was afraid that I'd fall and break a bone," she said. A devout Catholic, the 67-year-old widow really wanted to see the Holy Father, but she hadn't won		
Pope's Visit Brings People Together In More Ways Than One, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Wed., 1/27/1999	Crossing boundaries Had it not been for Pope John Paul II, Michael Bradley wouldn't have had a chance to get closer to the Schmidt family. Bradley, a city student who is in the St. Louis school desegregation program, is an eighth-grader at Crestview Middle School, in the Rockwood School District. Most St. Louis County schools are open today, but city schools closed Tuesday and again today during the visit by the Holy Father. School buses that would normally transport city		
'Rock' Choir is Ready to Roll in Performance for Pope, Greg Freeman, 669 words, book: our life & times	Tue., 1/26/1999	Keeping the faith Malcolm Speed was almost disbelieving when he got the news back in September. Speed, a minister of music at St. Alphonsus "Rock" Catholic Church who directs the church's Voices of Praise choir, was told by the Rev. Maurice Nutt that the group had been asked to perform as part of this week's papal festivities. "Everyone in the choir was excited," he said. "But we didn't want to get too excited, just in case they changed		
Pope's Visit Will Give City Needed Rejuvenation, Greg Freeman, 674 words, :	Sun., 1/24/1999	A blessing for St. Louis Myrtle Brandmeier knows exactly what she'll be doing Tuesday afternoon: Sitting in her lawn chair on Lindell Boulevard, wearing her knee-length, gray wool coat, and cheering on Pope John Paul II. Brandmeier, of the city's Shaw neighborhood, has made a 3-by-4-foot sign. On it is a picture of the pontiff. Beneath the picture are the words, "St. Louis loves Pope John Paul II," spelled out in glitter. Brandmeier speaks proudly of how she		

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Desegregation Plan Could Bring About Integration's Decline, Gregory Freeman, 668 words, :	Thu., 1/21/1999	Downside of settlement If the polls are accurate, St. Louis voters are likely to approve a two-thirds-cent sales tax to settle the school desegregation case here when they go to the polls in two weeks. While there may be benefits in settling the case, there will also likely be a downside: The resegregation of schools in the area. FOCUS St. Louis has produced a thorough report examining all sides of the proposed settlement. The civic group has also looked at what's happened		
King Day Parade Is Another Example Of A City Divided, Gregory Freeman, 662 words, :	Tue., 1/19/1999	Missing: white faces at march The weather was terrific for Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. parade downtown, and the marchers were once again in full force, remembering the slain civil rights leader and all that he stood for. But once again, missing from the parade were whites. That's not quite true. There were whites in the march. But their numbers were few. They were overwhelmingly outnumbered by African-American faces. And while it was heartening to see so many		
Shooting Doesn't Minimize Man's Love For His Son, Gregory Freeman, 612 words, :	Sun., 1/17/1999	Unwavering love Stan Greer still feels the pain from being shot in the back. Even worse is the pain of knowing that his wife is dead and that his then-15-year-old son shot them both. But Greer continues fighting back - against the pain and for his son. It was a morning in November 1997 when Vince Greer ambushed his father with a .22-caliber rifle and shot him in the back in his basement bedroom. He then marched upstairs and shot his mother at close range. He was reloading		
Downtown Is Expected To Match National Resurgence, Gregory Freeman, 666 words, :	Thu., 1/14/1999	A growing phenomenon The next time you hear someone say downtown St. Louis is dying, refer them to the Brookings Institution. The institution has produced a preliminary survey indicating that St. Louis is one of 24 cities that project an increase in downtown population between now and 2010. The survey predicts a 31.8 percent growth in downtown population over that period. The survey was conducted by the Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy and the Fannie		
Security Vs. Free Speech; Order To Move Boxes Angers Editor, Gregory Freeman, 643 words, :	Tue., 1/12/1999	* Humor magazine and other newspaper dispensers on the pope's route are targeted. Rich Balducci, the editor of Snicker magazine, is as thrilled as anyone that Pope John Paul II is coming to St. Louis on Jan. 26-27. He's less than thrilled with the city's response. Balducci is upset that city officials are asking him to remove his magazine boxes from the pope's parade route. He argues that it's a free speech issue. Snicker is a tiny humor magazine,		
School Suit Settlement Provides Closure For A Child Of Segregation, Gregory Freeman, 612 words, :	Sun., 1/10/1999	'You never forget' Dr. James A. DeClue will never forget that day, more than 60 years ago, when he was arrested and thrown into jail. Just a child, DeClue was taken to the old Deer Street police station and thrown into a cell. His crime? He had been caught playing in an empty schoolyard. That would seem to have been an odd reason to throw a youngster into jail, except for one thing: DeClue is black, and the school was all-white. Black students were not allowed at Cote		
Returning To Work Will Save Me From Impractical Impulses, Gregory Freeman, 665 words, :	Thu., 1/7/1999	The lure of infomercials The time had clearly come for me to return to work from vacation. I knew it for sure as I flipped channels during one of those vacation days and came across a guy named Billy Blanks. You've probably never heard of Billy Blanks. I hadn't, either. But I soon realized that I had simply been unenlightened, as big stars like Sinbad sang his praises and said they had been working with him for years to stay in shape. Blanks is the guy who pushes		
1998:	141 columns	4 in book		
A Tale About How St. Louis Became the Hot Place To Be, Gregory Freeman, 681 words, book: city life	Thu., 12/24/1998	The magic of Christmas 'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the city the trees were all up. The lights were so pretty. Mayor Harmon was nestled all snug in his bed while a sparkling new downtown danced in his head. Buzz Westfall was sleeping free from tension as he dreamed about the Page Avenue extension. And on the East Side Mayor Gordon Bush slumbered knowing his days as mayor were numbered. Roger Wilson wasn't		
It's Been Six Years Since I First Met Some Of The Folks In The, Gregory Freeman, 853 words, :	Sun., 12/20/1998	It's been six years since I first met some of the folks in the 5800 block of Maffitt Avenue, in northwest St. Louis. When I first met Walter L. McKinney Sr., the neighborhood was dismal, struggling to hang on. I described it at the time as a neighborhood of "apartment buildings and houses where people barricade themselves inside with bars on windows and doors." "Tenants who are active in the crack cocaine trade often move into apartments in the area," I wrote.		
Street Vendor Fears That City Will Put Him Out Of Business, Gregory Freeman, 676 words, :	Thu., 12/17/1998	Endangered livelihood Wednesday was a brisk morning. I could see my breath as I walked toward Kiener Plaza downtown. At the plaza was hot dog vendor Charlie Santangelo, roasting chestnuts and grilling dogs and Italian sausages, doing a steady business. Charlie's been there every weekday since February, during St. Louis' sizzling summers and chilly winters. He's been there during rainy days and sunny ones. His is not a fly-by-night business, and he's become a		
Landmark Should Be Used As Museum For Performances, Gregory Freeman, 689 words, book: city life	Tue., 12/15/1998	Opera House heritage If I didn't know better, I'd think someone had it in for Kiel Opera House. You know the Opera House. It's the dignified building on Market Street guarded by two great bears on each side of its entrance. It's a St. Louis landmark that has been host to countless operas, rock groups, plays and even high school graduations. When it was shuttered in 1991, it was with great anticipation. Kiel Center Partners had formed, with plans to replace the old		
E-Mail Group Provides A Forum For Advocates Of Urban Living, Gregory Freeman, 728 words, :	Sun., 12/13/1998	All day long, seven days a week, St. Louisans are having a conversation. They're talking about school desegregation, living in the city, the Page Avenue extension, the renovation of downtown and a whole host of other issues. They're talking about how to improve the quality of life around here, where to find good neighborhoods and great restaurants and where good bookstores can be found. And they don't see one another as they discuss these topics. Welcome to		
St. Louisans Realize The Importance Of A Vital Downtown, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, :	Thu., 12/10/1998	Leading the city's comeback Some folks still don't get it. St. Louis is making a comeback, and downtown is leading the charge. But some folks still think that's little more than Chamber of Commerce rhetoric. They've convinced themselves that the city is dead and that there's no way to resurrect it. As recently as this week, someone posted a missive on my Web site, "Greg Freeman's Front Porch" (http://www.postnet.com/freeman), in which he		
Professor Says Antagonism Is On The Decline, Gregory Freeman, 714 words, :	Tue., 12/8/1998	Blacks and Jews The animosity between many blacks and Jews - long documented in this decade - appears to be subsiding, says Julius Lester, a professor at the University of Massachusetts and former civil rights activist. "I don't see the antagonism that I once did," said Lester, an African-American who teaches Judaic studies. "There seems to be a total change." Lester was in town recently to speak to students at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park.		
Lingering Dread Of 'Nappy' Shows Some Are Still Ashamed About Themselves, Gregory Freeman, 691 words, :	Sun., 12/6/1998	One of the scenes I remember as I was growing up was watching my sister fidget in a chair in our kitchen as my mother stood behind her, a black, metal comb in hand. The comb was heated on the stove's burners. Once the comb was hot enough, and my sister's hair was oiled up enough, my mother would use the comb to go through my sister's thick, nappy hair and straighten it. It wasn't an unusual scene in black households. In the '60s, before Afros came along,		

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Street Vendors, Opponents Plead Cases Before City, Greg Freeman, 667 words, :	Thu., 12/3/1998	The cart vs. the café It's been Fred Cheshier's longtime dream to operate a vending cart downtown. Cheshier wants to sell items like blooming onions, curly fries and nachos. But Cheshier's dream clashes with that of Bob Hynes. Hynes, who operates Amighetti's Bakery and Cafe at 711 Olive Street, serves sandwiches. He's concerned that Cheshier would take business from his restaurant. In a nutshell, that's the dilemma facing a committee of the		
He Didn't Seek Fame or Fortune, But His Family Felt His Love, Greg Freeman, 670 words, book: family	Tue., 12/1/1998	William Dean Johnson William Dean Johnson was a gentle man. Yes, a gentleman in the common sense of the word. He opened doors for women, waited for women to be seated before he sat and rarely had a cross word to say about others. But he was a gentle man too. He lived a peaceful life. He didn't bother others. After his wife died, he raised his young daughter alone, serving as a perfect dad. That gentle man died early Thanksgiving morning, at the age of 76. He was buried		
Slain Man's Mother Channels Her Sorrow Into Helping Others, Greg Freeman, 655 words, :	Thu., 11/26/1998	A search for justice and love Today is Thanksgiving, and many St. Louisans are preparing some of their family's favorite dishes. Shelia Price is preparing her son's favorite dessert, German chocolate cake. But her son, Charles Anthony McCoy Jr., won't be home to enjoy it. McCoy, 20, was killed two years ago. His body was found wrapped in a blanket in a field near an abandoned church in Brooklyn. He had been shot three times in the head. His killers never have been		
St. Louis Schools Need Big Shake-Up To Rescue Students, Greg Freeman, 668 words, :	Tue., 11/24/1998	A system in distress The dozen or so children gathered Monday near the front of the kindergarten class sat cross-legged on the floor and listened intently as I read stories to them about trains, rainy days and playing games. I read to them as part of the St. Louis Public Schools' Role Model Experiences program. The children, at Emerson School, were a delight. They were bright-eyed, curious, eager to learn. They participated in the discussion about the books and demonstrated a thirst		
Kevorkian Tape Shows How TV Is Putting Both Ratings And Money Above Morality, Gregory Freeman, 621 words, :	Sun., 11/22/1998	'Dr. Death' comes to '60 Minutes' How far is too far? When it comes to television these days, there seems to be no limit at all. On Sunday night, the kind people at CBS are promising us a videotape showing a terminally ill patient dying after being administered a lethal dose of drugs by Dr. Jack Kevorkian. The videotape will be broadcast on "60 Minutes." By now, most people know of Dr. Kevorkian, the Michigan-based pathologist who advocates physician-assisted		
New Center Helps Fathers Learn How To Care And Support, Greg Freeman, 921 words, :	Thu., 11/19/1998	'Deadbeats' but still dads Ron Madison trooped into the office of the Father's Support Center, took a seat and beamed with pride. After doing volunteer janitorial work at the West End Community Center at 724 Union Avenue, he'd been offered a job at the center. The father of six children, Madison was excited about the prospect of actual work. For him, it meant being able to make child-care payments. It also meant a chance for him to get closer to his kids. Madison		
Legalize Street Vending Downtown Food Seller Says City Should Give Him Company, Gregory Freeman, 666 words, :	Tue., 11/17/1998	Streetvending update The temperature was in the mid-60s Monday afternoon as Charlie Santangelo grilled hot dogs and did his usual brisk business in Kiener Plaza downtown. Santangelo's the maverick who set up a vending cart downtown east of Tucker Boulevard earlier this year. Street vending east of Tucker has been against the law since the 1970s, when the city's aldermen, in an effort to make downtown more pristine, instead made it more boring by banning street		
'Prison Abolitionist' Angela Davis Seeks Overhaul Of Penal System, Gregory Freeman, 679 words, :	Sun., 11/15/1998	It's been nearly 30 years since Angela Davis made national headlines, but you wouldn't know that by looking at her. The statuesque woman with long, reddish, frizzy hair could easily be one of the students she now teaches at the University of California at Santa Cruz. But at 54, Davis is as passionate today as she was in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when she was accused of planning an alleged kidnapping of three San Quentin prisoners and supplying the gun that killed four		
Some Wimps Aren't Afraid Of Saying That They're Wimps, Gregory Freeman, 996 words, :	Sun., 11/8/1998	United in fear The wimps of the world - or at least, of St. Louis - have spoken. And there are a lot of us, if my mail is any indication. Last month, I wrote a column about a Sunday drive my wife and I took to Augusta. We enjoyed the lovely scenery, but I was a major whiner as we twisted and turned along the curves of Highway 94 into Augusta. By the time we arrived, my nerves were frazzled, and we headed back to the safety of the city's straight and intersecting streets. I		
Many Of Missouri's Black Voters Did On Tuesday What A Few Short, Gregory Freeman, 1013 words, :	Thu., 11/5/1998	Many of Missouri's black voters did on Tuesday what a few short years ago would have been considered unthinkable: They voted Republican. According to exit polls, slightly more than one of every three black voters cast a ballot for Republican U.S. Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond in his re-election bid against Democratic Attorney General Jay Nixon. Bond's black support provided about half of his 10-point margin of victory. Considering that an overwhelming majority of		
Hate Crime Laws Are Necessary To Send Clear Message, Gregory Freeman, 690 words, :	Tue., 11/3/1998	Three years ago I met a woman who made it clear to me why hate-crime laws are needed. The woman had been an outgoing person, a natural leader with a positive outlook who attracted friends like porch lights attract moths. Her leadership abilities led her to become president of a lesbian and gay group on her college campus. That's when her troubles began. She started receiving threatening letters. One letter read: "Please stop propagating your deviant sexual activities or we		
City Archives Reveal Some Unbelievable Medicines That Once Were Made Here, Gregory Freeman, 693 words, :	Sun., 11/1/1998	A glimpse into St. Louis' past Have you ever looked for a remedy for "frosted limbs?" Something to "give tone to the digestive organs?" How about a tonic for "female irregularities"? All sorts of "medicines" were produced in St. Louis in the 1800s for those and other ailments. The producers registered their trademarks with the city recorder of deeds. The books of those trademarks were discovered recently. For years, they were in books		
Whom Will Blacks Support? Forum Gives Few Clues, Gregory Freeman, 685 words, :	Thu., 10/29/1998	Bond vs. Nixon Now that Attorney General Jay Nixon has made peace with some of the area's black Democrats, who will black St. Louisans vote for in the U.S. Senate election Tuesday? If a political forum earlier this week was any indication, it's anyone's guess. About 75 people filed into the West Presbyterian Church in the city's West End the other night to try to make up their minds. On the panel were Sherman Parker, an aide to Sen. Christopher "Kit"		
Black Couple Hope Book Sheds Light On 'Normal' Lives, Gregory Freeman, 657 words, :	Tue., 10/27/1998	Middle-class love story Shirlee Taylor Haizlip and her husband, Harold C. Haizlip, are real people. That's the message that shines through in their book, "In the Garden of Our Dreams: Memoirs of a Marriage." The couple met while in college, he at Harvard, she at Wellesley. The two enjoy the pleasures of middle-class success. She has written a prize-winning book, produced television shows, headed charity fund-raisers and written for national publications. He		
Judge Sent Wrong Signal To Suspended Football Players, Gregory Freeman, 647 words, :	Sun., 10/25/1998	Misbehavior And Punishment Imagine yourself the parent of a teen-ager. He's ignored your 10:30 p.m. curfew, coming home at midnight instead. You decide that he should be punished. He was aware of the curfew but knowingly disobeyed it. As a result, you decide he will have to stay home the entire weekend. Now imagine that after you've set the punishment, your teen-ager files suit against you, alleging that it would be detrimental for him to have to stay home all weekend.		

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Amy And College Retreat In Face Of Car With No Lights, Gregory Freeman, 694 words, :	Thu., 10/22/1998	An 18-year-old's dream Just a month ago, Alicia Smith faced a bright future, preparing for a career in the military. Today, her future is uncertain, as she begins a life much different than the one she had planned. Smith, 18, loves sports. At Ritenour High School, she played varsity basketball and volleyball. She also played on the girls' basketball team of Mathews-Dickey Boys Club. Athletic, with a winning smile, Smith graduated from high school this year. Unable		
Coming Attractions: Older-Style Theater Battles Chain, Gregory Freeman, 704 words, :	Tue., 10/20/1998	The Kirkwood Cinema Harman Moseley's passion for the movie business shines through when he talks. He bubbles with enthusiasm when he talks about it. His business, the Kirkwood Cinema, is his pride and joy. But these days, that pride and joy is threatened. The theater, a small, two-screen place on Kirkwood Road, opened as a neighborhood theater in 1937. It seats a total of about 400. No fancy stadium seating or opulent lobby. No major blow-em-up movies,		
This Campaign Is Now Little More Than A Boxing Match, Gregory Freeman, 659 words, :	Sun., 10/18/1998	The Bond-Nixon Senate race Right about now, I have three words for Republican U.S. Sen. Kit Bond and his Democratic challenger, Attorney Gen. Jay Nixon: Oh, shut up. I don't know about you, but I'm sick of the carping back and forth between the two. I am counting the days between now and election day. What should have been a civil discourse about issues - what has Bond done in the Senate, why does Nixon think he can do a better job - has turned into little more		
Sunday Drive Can Push You Over Edge, If You're A Wimp, Gregory Freeman, 675 words, :	Thu., 10/15/1998	A columnist's confession It's time for me to make a confession. I've held it in for too long already, and it's time for me to come clean. I am a wimp. OK, I said it. I feel better now that it's out in the open. It's not something I've just discovered. It dates back at least to my childhood. When you're a kid, the worst thing you can do is be a wimp. Kids tease you mercilessly, and you acquire ugly nicknames. So I never		
Why Do Blacks Support Clinton? Because He Cares, Gregory Freeman, 694 words, :	Tue., 10/13/1998	Agenda helps African-Americans "Why," the white caller on the other end of the line asked me, "do black people continue to support Bill Clinton?" It was one of those calls that I get from time to time, from some readers who expect me to speak for the race - something no single person can do or, for that matter, should try to do. Still, the caller seemed legitimately curious. And while blacks are no more monolithic than any other racial or ethnic group, blacks		
City Doesn't Need Any More Studies; It's Time For Action, Gregory Freeman, 685 words, :	Sun., 10/11/1998	Downtown development If St. Louis isn't careful, it's going to talk itself into doing nothing again. Lots of plans are in the works these days for the city. Lots of consultant types are talking about what to do to improve downtown. Others are talking about what to do about The Arena. All sorts of consultants have been meeting now for nearly a year to come up with a viable plan to improve downtown. Countless ideas have been kicked around, but most of what we've seen		
Cardinals Fan Missed His Chance To Capture Glory, Gregory Freeman, 719 words, :	Thu., 10/8/1998	* Loss still stings Most St. Louisans who saw Mark McGwire hit No. 70 at Busch Stadium last month will never forget that day. Chris Roach was there, and he won't soon forget the day, either. But his reason differs from most. Back in June, Roach was thrilled to learn that he'd be sitting in a private box during the last Cardinals game this year. A friend, Joey Bedell, is an employee of the Genome Sequencing Center at Washington University, and the company bought		
School Employee Says Dedication Is His Driving Force, Gregory Freeman, 667 words, :	Tue., 10/6/1998	Attending to duty Lots of people love their jobs. Few love them as much as Steve Velloff. He's missed five days of work since 1962. This middle-aged columnist was 6 years old in 1962. John F. Kennedy had become our nation's youngest elected president just a year before. Microwave ovens, home computers and cell phones were the sorts of gadgets found on "The Jetsons." Velloff's accomplishment is even more remarkable considering that he works at a high		
Radio Station Is In A Battle With The Ku Klux Klan, Gregory Freeman, 712 words, :	Sun., 10/4/1998	A controversy at KMWU You run a public radio station owned by the University of Missouri at St. Louis. The Ku Klux Klan wants to underwrite programs on your station. That will allow the group to get 15-second promotional announcements during the afternoon rush hour. Well, you're probably not going to Disney World. If you're Patricia Bennett, the general manager of KWMU radio, you fight it. After all, can you imagine hearing, " 'All Things Considered'		
I Try To Be Good, But My Tickets Keep This City Solvent, Gregory Freeman, 692 words, :	Thu., 10/1/1998	Scofflaws have their uses I'm convinced that I am single-handedly keeping the city of St. Louis in business. I came to that conclusion Wednesday morning, when I stepped out my front door to go to work, only to find that I had a parking ticket on my windshield. On my block, there's no parking on one side of the street from 8 a.m. to noon on odd Tuesdays and no parking on the other side of the street from 8 a.m. to noon on even Wednesdays. I can never remember		
Finally St. Louis Can Stop Resting On World's Fair Laurels, Gregory Freeman, 724 words, :	Tue., 9/29/1998	Another reason to thank Big Mac I don't know about you, but I'm already starting to suffer from "post-McGwire-syndrome." It's the sense that baseball - at least as far as the Cardinals and Mark McGwire are concerned - is over. No more baseball on everyone's lips. No more nail-biting games to watch. No more watching McGwire with one eye while keeping the other eye on the Cubs' Sammy Sosa. For St. Louis, the season is over. But McGwire - who		
Preserving Underground Railroad Site Was A Near Thing; Saving History From The Wrecking Ball, Gregory Freeman, 929 words, :	Sun., 9/27/1998	* Beneath an old house on Lemp Street is a tunnel that once led to the river and may have been dug by slaves to win their freedom. The short, squat house at 3314 Lemp Avenue doesn't look like much. The windows and door that face the front of the street have been boarded up for years. Weeds embrace the sides and back of the brick building, and its front is covered with a facade of gray paint. The house is a couple of feet lower than the street and the houses nearby. It's		
Readers Respond To Arcade, Clinton, McGwire Columns, Gregory Freeman, 657 words, :	Thu., 9/24/1998	From the mail bag Today, let's go straight to the letters. "Dear Greg Freeman, "I must say that I was angered by your column suggesting that we tear down the Arcade Building. Sure, that gray old lady has seen better days, but that doesn't mean we should tear her down. If no one has come up with the money to renovate the building, we should wait. Sooner or later, someone with the funds will come along and restore it to its former beauty. The building has		
Scandal May Deny Report On Racism Attention It Deserves, Gregory Freeman, 684 words, :	Tue., 9/22/1998	Noble cause jeopardized Amid great fanfare, President Bill Clinton last year pledged to use the weight of the presidency to attack the nation's racial ills. The president, recognizing trends that indicate that America will become more multiracial than ever in the next century, established an Advisory Board on Race. The board was charged with studying the issue of race and diversity and making a report and recommendations to Clinton. Now that report, along with the White		
Let's Hope Congress Gets The Picture, Spares Clinton, Gregory Freeman, 693 words, :	Sun., 9/20/1998	PROTECTING PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES Poor Bill Clinton. His fate is going to be decided by Congress. Unfortunately for him, it won't be decided by me. If I had to decide, he'd get a chance to serve out his term. My decision would have nothing to do with Monica Lewinsky or whether he committed perjury or anything like that. No, my decision would be based on a photograph. To understand what I'm talking about, we need to go back a couple of decades.		
Our Mayor, The Nonpolitician; Harmon Must Start Recognizing Office's Political Reality, Gregory Freeman, 667 words, :	Thu., 9/17/1998	Last week's Mark McGwire rally at Kiener Plaza was a politician's dream. Thousands of St. Louisans packed into the plaza to celebrate McGwire's milestone. It was the perfect opportunity for a politician to garner votes from exuberant fans. And the politicians were in full force. Madison County Board Chairman Rudy Papa gushed about McGwire's integrity being "a refreshing example to our nation." East St. Louis Mayor Gordon Bush thanked God for McGwire's		

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Not Everything Is Worth Saving In Downtown Revival, Gregory Freeman, 647 words, :	Tue., 9/15/1998	The Arcade Building I'm not a very neat person. My colleagues at the newspaper will tell you that my desk is usually among the messiest in the office. Newspapers are scattered everywhere. Books are spread all over. I have coffee cups in which an entire civilization is growing. Unfortunately, this is nothing new with me. As a child, my room was always a mess. My mother was always getting after me to make my bed, to clean my room. Along with the toy soldiers and games		
McGwire's Homers Boost Our Self-Esteem, Gregory Freeman, 688 words, :	Sun., 9/13/1998	Talkin' baseball . . . baseball in St. Loo * Low self-esteem has been one of our greatest problems here. It's often hurt our ability to dream. Until last week, ours was a city with a serious self-esteem problem. We worried about ourselves. We didn't see value in who we were. If the city had been a person, one would have suggested counseling. You could almost hear a collective "We're not worthy" coming from our mouths. Then along came Mark		
St. Louis Is Basking In Glow Of Sport's Shining Moment, Gregory Freeman, 681 words, :	Thu., 9/10/1998	United state of pride Mac Mania has brought this city together again. It may just be for a little while, but for now St. Louisans are united amid the enthusiasm for Mark McGwire. In my column Tuesday, I lamented the end of Mac Mania. After McGwire hit No. 62, I had predicted that things would get back to normal. We'd get back to business and the dizzying ride would be over, I'd said. Turns out, I was wrong. At least for now. St. Louisans are still		
Slugger's Big Run For The Record Is Welcome Diversion, Gregory Freeman, 664 words, :	Tue., 9/8/1998	Take it slow, Mac I don't know about you, but I'm sort of hoping that Mark McGwire doesn't hit No. 62. Not today, anyway. Hang on, don't get the tar and feathers out yet. I really do like Big Mac. Regular readers know that while most sports don't excite me, I've al ways been a big fan of Cardinals baseball. And no one was more excited than me when he hit No. 61 Monday afternoon. So why the blasphemy, you ask? Why the suggestion that it would be		
Smart Organizations Must Adapt To Changing Times, Gregory Freeman, 880 words, :	Sun., 9/6/1998	CIVIC PROGRESS When the flames of racial discord led to the burning of cities across the country in the late 1960s, organizations reacted differently. Mainstream news organizations began hiring black journalists because they needed people willing to go into the neighborhoods of angry blacks and tell their stories. Some businesses, expecting the worst, boarded or bricked up their windows in efforts to guard against trouble. And the top business leaders of many cities took		
As My Son Matures, He's Growing Up, Up ... And Away, Gregory Freeman, 680 words, :	Thu., 9/3/1998			
Activist's Constant Theme, And Lasting Legacy, Was Fairness, Gregory Freeman, 676 words, :	Tue., 9/1/1998	Clarene Royston Clarene Davis Royston became an activist early in life. The daughter of Mae Bell Davis and James Buchanan, Royston grew up in the Cochran public housing complex. At 16, she participated in demonstrations during public housing rent strikes, efforts to improve deplorable conditions in public housing. It was her first taste of activism. Royston was a bright student, attending gifted programs at Walbridge and Walnut Park elementary schools and Northwest High School. As an		
To Understand Black American Men, Get A Haircut, Gregory Freeman, 707 words, :	Sun., 8/23/1998	BARBER SHOP WISDOM As a teen-ager, I was a regular visitor to Cobbs' barber shop. The barber, Mr. Cobbs, did much more than cut hair. He held court. As I'd sit in the barber's chair while clumps of my afro fell to the floor, Mr. Cobbs would moderate the discussions with all the other men in the barber shop. As the aroma of Afro Sheen wafted through the air, the conversations would almost always be about one of three topics: Women, politics and sports.		
Civic Group Needs To Rethink Mission And Membership, Gregory Freeman, 633 words, :	Thu., 8/20/1998	This is progress? For years I've written columns in favor of civic progress. For years I've written columns critical of Civic Progress. It's because I've sometimes wondered if Civic Progress really is interested in civic progress. Civic Progress is the private St. Louis organization made up of the heads of 30 of the area's largest corporations. In fairness, Civic Progress has done some good things. When a group of racial separatists threatened		
Expo Producer Builds On Success That Took Root Here, Gregory Freeman, 687 words, :	Tue., 8/18/1998	Golden touch Call Tom Bailey the Johnny Appleseed of black expos. That's hardly an overstatement. After producing the successful Missouri Black Expo every year since 1992, Bailey, its president, is branching out. This year he produced a successful black expo in his native Dallas. Although entrepreneurs in that city had produced an expo between 1993 and 1996, financial woes caused its demise. Bailey stepped in this year and produced an expo that attracted nearly 10,000 people		
Adopting A Black Baby Gives White Pair Joy And Anger, Gregory Freeman, 812 words, :	Sun., 8/16/1998	Facing prejudice for first time For some time, Amy and Christopher had tried to have a child. Unsuccessful in their efforts, but eager to have a baby in the house, the West County couple looked into taking in a foster child. Friends had told them that the city had more babies available than St. Louis County, so they checked it out. There they found an adorable, 6-day-old baby boy. Although Amy and Christopher are white and the boy, Anthony, is black, they had no reservations		
Gateway Classic's Director Helps Other Help Themselves, Gregory Freeman, 700 words, :	Thu., 8/13/1998	Too proud to beg Earl Wilson Jr. doesn't believe in begging. Wilson's always been a strong believer of working for what you get. It's something he has learned in his 66 years. Wilson, who is black, doesn't believe that blacks should have to go, hat in hand, begging for handouts. It's not a new idea to him. He has felt that way from the time he was a poor kid growing up downtown near 11th and Carr streets, from the time as a youngster when he was involved		
'Rock' Church Shows Just How Beautiful Diversity Can Be, Gregory Freeman, 672 words, :	Tue., 8/11/1998	A progressive parish A favorite phrase of those critical of the nation's sometimes unwillingness to accept diversity is: "The most segregated place in America is the church on Sunday morning." After an experience earlier this week, I'd be inclined to say that the most diverse place in St. Louis is St. Alphonsus "Rock" Catholic Church on Sunday morning. My wife and I attended Mass there Sunday. The church is in the city, at 1118 North Grand Boulevard.		
Readers Suggest Groups That Aid Black Youths, Gregory Freeman, 1547 words, :	Sun., 8/9/1998	Volunteers are needed Last month, I wrote about Raymond Petty Sr. Petty was chagrined that his nephew Billie Allen had been arrested and charged in the murder of a bank guard. Petty had tried to be there for his nephew as he was growing up, especially since the youngster's father wasn't around much. But despite Petty's efforts, Allen had become a child of the streets. In June, he was sentenced to death for his role in the robbery and the murder of security guard		
Cruel Texas Heat Spelled Death For Loving Family Man, Gregory Freeman, 666 words, :	Thu., 8/6/1998	The crossing Texas' 100-degree-plus temperatures and the resulting death toll have caught the attention of many, especially with reports of more than a hundred people dying because of the heat and nearly 50 illegal aliens dying while attempting to cross the desert. But for some St. Louisans - like Javier and Maria Lara - such reports are more than statistics. For them, the news brought back sad and disturbing memories. One year ago this month, the Laras got horrible news.		
Big Corporations Aren't Seeing The Benefits Of Diversity, Gregory Freeman, 694 words, :	Tue., 7/28/1998			

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Only Way To Save Kiel Opera House May Be To Jazz It Up, Gregory Freeman, 658 words, :	Sun., 7/26/1998	CITY HAS BEEN SUCKERED From all indications, the Kiel Center Partners have succeeded in playing St. Louis like a finely tuned violin. As we reel from the impact of an out-of-town panel of experts recommending against renovating the closed Kiel Opera House as a hub for culture and entertainment, it becomes terribly clear that the partners were never serious about renovating it.disabled alone, it should have been clear that \$2.5 million would never do the trick. But the city was		
Chief Lawyer In Case Against Tobacco Is Confident Of Victory, Gregory Freeman, 690 words, :	Thu., 7/23/1998	'We're right' In the aftermath of the Senate's failure last month to adopt comprehensive tobacco legislation, Missouri - like many other states - is hard at work on a major lawsuit against the tobacco industry. The state's 13-count petition is alleging everything from costing the state untold dollars in Medicaid payments to violation of consumer protection laws. "The crux of the case is Medicaid," said Reuben Shelton, Attorney General Jay		
Man Knows What Trouble Is, Wants To Help Others Avoid It, Gregory Freeman, 635 words, :	Tue., 7/21/1998	Guiding black youths When Raymond Petty Sr. got the news that his nephew had been arrested and charged in a robbery and the murder of a bank guard, he felt as if he'd been slammed in the face with a concrete block. It wasn't as if his nephew, Billie Allen, hadn't been in trouble before. Allen had become a child of the streets, and the streets almost always prove to be a poor parent. Still, nothing could have prepared Petty for this. Allen, 21, was sentenced		
Parking Czar Plays Key Role In Spurring Rebirth Of Downtown, Gregory Freeman, 693 words, :	Sun., 7/19/1998	The City Treasurer The phones are ringing off the walls at City Hall these days as developers inquire about rehabbing some of downtown's old buildings. New historical tax credits offered by the state combined with the strong economy are sparking an interest in redevelopment that St. Louis hasn't seen in years. But many of the calls are going to an unexpected source: the city treasurer's office. Treasurer Larry Williams says he's being deluged with calls		
Hearings On Revival Of Downtown Reflect Community Interest, Gregory Freeman, 678 words, :	Thu., 7/16/1998	A comeback in the making Maureen Dohle walked into the hall and found a seat near the front where she could see and hear everything. A longtime St. Louis resident, she has great memories of the city, from riding an elephant at the St. Louis Zoo to shopping downtown amid the hustle and bustle that once characterized its department stores. It's been 44 years since she and her husband bought their home in the city's Hampton Village area, and she has no regrets. Now		
A Letter About The Unknown Soldier ... And Other Topics, Gregory Freeman, 661 words, :	Tue., 7/14/1998	Three things on my mind Today's column is filled with bits and pieces. The first item is an open letter sent via me to the family of Michael Blassie, a lieutenant in the Air Force who was shot down over Vietnam in 1972. For 26 years, his body remained unidentified; for the past 14 of those years, Blassie was the Vietnam Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. DNA tests in June finally confirmed his identity, and his remains were returned last week to St. Louis, where he		
East St. Louis Teen Parlays Chess Skills, Intelligence To Get Ahead, Gregory Freeman, 698 words, :	Sun., 7/12/1998	'I feel I've been blessed' Watching his parents play chess as a young boy has led Micah Dortch to dozens of trophies, an analytical mind and now a handful of mentors from a local brokerage firm. Not bad for a 15-year-old sophomore from East St. Louis. Back in April, Micah was at the Hampton Inn on Market Street, celebrating at a birthday party his mother had thrown for a younger brother. Walking through the lobby, he spied David Lither of Salt Lake City, a broker for		
Strawberry Pickers' West Cost Struggles Reach St. Louis Area, Gregory Freeman, 635 words, :	Thu., 7/9/1998	Farm workers' conditions Are strawberry pickers in California being treated poorly? Or are they working under good conditions? That's the dispute between three religious leaders here and a strawberry firm in California that contracts with several farms. The religious leaders are involved because Schnuck Markets Inc. is the firm's leading buyer of strawberries in the Midwest. On Wednesday, two priests and a nun held a press conference in the Central West End. They		
Bond Vs. Nixon Race Is Divisive, But Still Is Good News For Blacks, Gregory Freeman, 664 words, :	Tue., 7/7/1998	U.S. Senate contest Many African-Americans trying to decide who to give their vote to in the U.S. Senate race are having a difficult time. That's because Attorney General Jay Nixon, the Democrat, and incumbent Sen. Christopher S. Bond, the Republican, are courting black votes. Nixon's people have proudly distributed the NAACP's Senate report card that gave Bond a failing grade. Nixon's staff said that had he been in the Senate, Nixon would have received a		
Municipal Officials In Berkeley Make Sure That Boredom Is Never On The Public Agenda, Gregory Freeman, 730 words, :	Sun., 7/5/1998	'Mickey Mouse politics' Folks at St. Louis City Hall are upset these days. There were times - many times, in fact - when we St. Louisans loved to watch them. They provided great entertainment value. And every Friday, the Board of Aldermen put on a show for free. But lately, the show's become old. The antics aren't that entertaining anymore. The political rivalries that always made for great entertainment and which caused the audiences at weekly Board of Aldermen		
Downtown Is Rising To Meet Demand For Calling It Home, Gregory Freeman, 671 words, :	Thu., 7/2/1998	City living If you're anything like me, there are times when you wish you had money. Like the other day, when I saw a commercial for a car I really liked, only to see the price tag of \$41,000. And that was before options. Right now, if I had the bucks, I'd buy a lot of old buildings downtown, rehab them and turn them into market-rate housing. From all I can see, downtown's about to take off. Yes, we've heard it all before. But things seem different		
Some Of Us Never Get Chance To Rest In Battle On Bulge, Gregory Freeman, 697 words, :	Tue., 6/30/1998	Fighting to lose This is a difficult battle. A fight that never seems to end. The stakes are high and the challenge is great. It's my battle with weight. It's been a lifetime war for me. Right now, I'm winning. Since June 1, I've lost 17 pounds. That may not seem to be exciting news, but for me it's thrilling. Regular readers know that weight loss is one of my goals in life. It's up there with being the best father I can be and winning		
Camping Teaches Lessons On Life To Troubled Youths, Gregory Freeman, 695 words, :	Sun., 6/28/1998	Positive Attitude For Living Eleven-year-old Ashley Akridge skips through the dining hall, a bundle of energy. She's at camp, and she loves it. "It's fun," says Ashley, of St. Louis, who had never been out of the city. "We go on field trips, swimming, have craft lessons, and get to make new friends." But she also gets something else out of this camp. "You learn how to control your temper," she says. "You learn how to stay out of		
Exchange Students Are Off To Gather Indelible Memories, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, :	Thu., 6/25/1998	Experiment in international living Several St. Louis students are about to embark upon what may be the adventure of their lives. The students, most of whom are 16 or 17, are participants in World Learning's Experiment in International Living. In about a week, they will leave St. Louis to live for several weeks with families in Mexico and Costa Rica. I met with some of them this week and found a group of enthusiastic, excited youngsters. Most of them have never been out of		
Missouri's Senators Deserve 'Award' For Knocking Legislation, Gregory Freeman, 685 words, :	Tue., 6/23/1998	Failed tobacco bill The nominations are pouring in for the "Cave-In Award," designed to honor politicians who've demonstrated the courage to go down that long, lonely tobacco road, despite all obstacles. As the honorary chairman, I can tell you that since the vote that killed the tobacco bill last week, the special Cave-In Award committee has been working overtime on nominations. The tobacco bill was designed to cut down on teen-age smoking and reduce tobacco-related		
Victims Often Are Reluctant To Report Hate Crimes, Gregory Freeman, 692 words, :	Sun., 6/21/1998	NEW INITIATIVE TARGETS PROBLEM While the term "hate crime" has been thrown around a great deal lately, Mike knows about hate crimes firsthand. Mike has been the victim of them more times than he'd care to remember. Mike is gay and lives near Tower Grove Park. He and his partner have lived there for several years but now are looking for another home. Their sexual orientation has forced them to deal with a variety of problems. Some are minor: name-calling by		

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It Takes A While To Understand System, New Resident Learns, Gregory Freeman, 701 words, :	Thu., 6/18/1998	The city's bureaucracy Wes Sargent has two pieces of advice for would-be St. Louisans. The first is to move to the city. The second is to get ready for the bureaucracy. Sargent loves city living. Since moving here a couple of years ago from Collinsville, he's enjoyed the city's color, its institutions and its diversity. He hasn't particularly enjoyed its government. Sargent's been baffled by the bureaucracy of the city and state and is only now		
Issue Of Parking May Kill Deal On Jail, Office Building, Gregory Freeman, 675 words, :	Tue., 6/16/1998	Downtown development I've never met Sam Glazer, but he strikes me as a pretty smart guy. Based in Cleveland, he's the "Mr." behind "Mr. Coffee." He's also the owner of the Court Square building downtown, at 101 South 11th Street. The building's not fancy. It was built in 1902 and christened the Winkelmeyer Building. Back in the 1980s, Glazer headed a group of investors that purchased the structure and engaged architect Andy Trivers to		
St. Louis Hispanics Are Losing A Nun Who Truly Felt Their Pain, Gregory Freeman, 1044 words, :	Sun., 6/14/1998	CESAR CHAVEZ IS HER ROLE MODEL Sister Alicia Alvarado has a teacher to thank for her decision to become a nun and to get involved in grass-roots ministry. But her thanks are not for the teacher's nurturing and support. Quite the opposite. Alvarado, now a Dominican nun and coordinator of the Hispanic Pastoral Ministry here for the St. Louis Archdiocese, was born in Puerto Rico. When she was a young girl, her father moved the family to Cleveland, joining the wave of Puerto		
Holding Stereotypes Is Not Only Ignorant, It's Also Dangerous, Gregory Freeman, 690 words, :	Thu., 6/11/1998	Why are people racist? What is it that provokes people to become racists? Why do so many people get impressions of others based solely on skin color? Maybe I'm dense, but I don't get it. Sure, social scientists often tell us that it has to do with how we are raised. If our parents were racists, we're more likely to become racists. If our folks say that certain groups of people are bad, or dangerous, or stupid, we're more likely to carry that belief around with		
Nerve-Gas Report Fails To Outrage In Our Cynical World, Gregory Freeman, 688 words, :	Tue., 6/9/1998	Lost innocence Today's world differs greatly from the one inhabited by Robert F. Kennedy 30 years ago. Ours was a much more innocent nation then. And Kennedy was a much more sincere politician than most of those on the national scene today. We've lost our innocence because of a government that often seems to take us for granted and to do what it wants to do, regardless of morals. The latest cause of our cynicism is being reported this week by Time magazine and		
Supporter Of Kiel Opera Grew Up With It, Gregory Freeman, 697 words, :	Sun., 6/7/1998	ONE MAN'S HERITAGE While some St. Louisans these days are hoping someone will save the shuttered Kiel Opera House, few are hoping as much as Ed Golterman. That's because few have such ties to the facility as Golterman, whose grandfather, Guy Golterman, an attorney and promoter of grand opera, worked with former Mayor Henry Kiel to get the Opera House built. Guy Golterman traveled to Europe in 1929 to visit all of the great European opera houses and bring back the best		
It's Time To Support The Good Ideas And Make Them Succeed, Gregory Freeman, 681 words, :	Thu., 6/4/1998	Revitalizing downtown Can downtown St. Louis really become the "24-hours, 7-days-a-week, vital, exciting place" that Mayor Clarence Harmon says it can be? Or is it all pie in the sky? Harmon made his comments the other night at a public workshop held by Downtown Now, made up of groups and individuals trying to revitalize downtown. About 300 St. Louisans showed up to learn of the organization's vision for the future of downtown and to offer their own ideas. At		
Aldermen Should OK Proposal From Black Religious Leaders, Gregory Freeman, 641 words, :	Tue., 6/2/1998	Tobacco billboards The call by black religious leaders here to ban tobacco billboards near homes, schools, churches and wellness and recreation centers here should come as no surprise. A greater question may be what, if anything, black organizations here will do about it. It probably shouldn't be a question at all. In April, the surgeon general issued a report that showed a marked increase in smoking among minority teen-agers. The report showed smoking rates among		
\$ 16,275 Bill Leads To Lesson In Larceny, Gregory Freeman, 698 words, :	Sun., 5/31/1998	PHONE BILL FRAUD For Al Raben, what should have been the routine opening of a telephone bill proved to be anything but routine. The 81-year-old Creve Coeur man knew that something was wrong when he took the Southwestern Bell envelope out of his mailbox and saw that it was an inch thick. When he opened it, he was in for a major shock. He had been charged more than \$16,275 for long distance calls. Raben had been expecting a bill with a few long-distance calls on it. But in no		
Downtown District's Leader Tries To Shed New Light On Image, Gregory Freeman, 669 words, :	Thu., 5/28/1998	Laclede's Landing Mention Laclede's Landing to some people and they immediately think, "Ah, a place for people in their 20s to go, get a beer and have a good time." Tom Purcell doesn't mind the "have a good time" part, but thinks the thought that the Landing is mainly for singles in their 20s is largely an urban myth. "The median age here is actually around 35," said Purcell, president of the Laclede's Landing Redevelopment		
Computer Proficiency Isn't Something You Can Fake Forever, Gregory Freeman, 705 words, :	Tue., 5/26/1998	1-800-HELP I wish I knew more about computers. I know enough about them to use them. I can write a column on one. I can use the Internet with one. I know how to look up information on one. But when it comes to buying one, installing one, buying the equipment and accessories, well, I'm not the world's brightest person. Oh, I like to pretend that I'm knowledgeable about them. I do this best when I'm dealing with people who don't have computers. When		
Readers Support The Woman Who Didn't Keep Quiet After Hearing A Rude Remark, Gregory Freeman, 716 words, :	Sun., 5/24/1998	A QUESTION OF COURTESY The readers of this column have spoken loud and clear, and have landed squarely on the side of courtesy. Last Sunday, I wrote a column about a woman I called Sue, who went to an all-you-can-eat church dinner with her husband. Seating at the dinner was family style, so the couple found themselves sitting with several people they didn't know. Sue and her husband aren't tiny people, and when Sue mentioned to her husband that she thought she'd		
Wayward Trucks, Off-Course Satellites Keep Us Connected, Gregory Freeman, 654 words, :	Thu., 5/21/1998	We're not so independent Most St. Louisans don't know Christopher Chilson. But many commuters who have to cross the Poplar Street Bridge know of him. Chilson is the truck driver who struck a bridge pier Monday, snarling traffic and causing two downtown bridge ramps to close. Chilson works for Waste Management of St. Louis Inc. and was driving a truck designed to carry industrial-sized trash containers. When his truck went out of control Monday on the Interstate 70		
The Government Is Right In Enforcing Children's Safety, Gregory Freeman, 671 words, :	Tue., 5/19/1998	Seat-belt campaign A family pulled into the parking lot of Crestwood Plaza with the father behind the wheel, the mother in the front seat and a young boy on her lap. None was wearing a seat belt. They were kind enough to talk to me, and I decided to ask them a few questions. First, why was the child in the front seat instead of in a child-restraint seat in the back? "He doesn't like to ride by himself," the mother said. "He cries a lot if you don't		
A Rude Remark Poses Problem Of Response, Gregory Freeman, 693 words, :	Sun., 5/17/1998	GIVE ME YOUR IDEAS What do you do when you're placed in an awkward situation? A woman I know found herself in such a position not long ago. She and her husband had gone to a church dinner. The woman, who we'll call Sue, decided to go with her husband to the all-you-can-eat dinner. Sue's a very nice woman, always considerate of others. Neither Sue nor her husband are tiny people. Sue is around 200 pounds and her husband tips the scale at about 300. Like yours truly,		
Spoiled, Whiny And Know-It-All; That's Us, Fellow Boomers, Gregory Freeman, 665 words, :	Thu., 5/14/1998	Farewell to 'Seinfeld' Well, folks, this is it. Either a night you've been awaiting for a while, or a night that you can't wait to be over. It's the night of the final episode of "Seinfeld." After tonight, there will be no new adventures of Jerry, Elaine, George and Kramer. It took me a while to get into this show. It had been on the air for a couple of years before I started watching it. But once I started, I was hooked. Maybe it was		

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'This Case Really Tugs At Your Heart,' Police Chief Says, Gregory Freeman, 656 words, :	Tue., 5/12/1998	Shooting of 6-year-old girl Charles Jenkins stood at his door, wearing an undershirt and blue jeans, and shaking his head. "I don't know what to think," he said Monday. "I can't believe it happened. We've had our share of crime around here, but never this kind of trouble." Jenkins referred to a drive-by fatal shooting in his neighborhood last week. Dominique Evans, 6, was shot in the head about 4:10 p.m. Wednesday while she stood with a group of		
Law Grad Recalls The Day, And Gunshots, That Changed His Life, Gregory Freeman, 805 words, :	Sun., 5/10/1998	From Troubled Juvenile to Model Citizen Had it not been for three shots from a .357-caliber Magnum 10 years ago, Tyrone J. Flowers wouldn't have graduated from law school Saturday at the University of Missouri at Columbia. Ten years ago, Flowers was 18, a high school senior, preparing to go into the armed services. An excellent basketball player, he'd received scholarship offers from several colleges. But college wasn't for him. "I just wanted to go into		
Architect Who Backs Aquarium Thinks Arena Can Be Saved, Gregory Freeman, 686 words, :	Thu., 5/7/1998	Looking at the options An architect who wants to turn The Arena into an aquarium insists that the fat lady hasn't begun to sing. Theodore Wofford, who helped devise one of two aquarium proposals for the site, doesn't think it's too late to save The Arena from demolition. Mayor Clarence Harmon last month announced plans to raze the 69-year-old building. Earlier this year, Harmon had expressed interest in the proposal by Wofford and construction executive Alfred		
Shiloh Case Shows Military Battling Against Prejudice, Gregory Freeman, 675 words, :	Tue., 5/5/1998	Racial discrimination There was a time in my life when I didn't think much of the armed forces. When I was growing up, the Vietnam War was raging. The unnecessary deaths there caused me to question our nation's military system. Over the years, however, I've begun to view the military in a more positive fashion. Part of that has to do with age. The other part has to do with Harry Levins. Levins is the newspaper's expert on military matters. For a few		
Hate Mail Has Upside . . . You Get Tough Skin, Gregory Freeman, 683 words, :	Sun., 5/3/1998	ANONYMOUS ADMIRERS It's the end of the week as I write today's column, and again I've received mail from people who want to blame me for the world's racial ills. Not a week goes by that I don't receive letters from people with nasty racial comments. Almost always they're anonymous, with no return address, lest I visit their homes and hurt them in some way, I suppose. And they come in different tones. One person sends me an envelope each week filled		
Take It From A Clerk Who's Been Robbed: OSHA Plan Is Needed, Gregory Freeman, 655 words, :	Thu., 4/30/1998	Deadly occupation Michael Wasserstein has had more than his share of life-threatening experiences. Wasserstein, of University City, is a former clerk for a 24-hour convenience store. He was robbed at gunpoint on more than one occasion. "It's incredibly dangerous," he said. "Usually, I didn't have any trouble. But every so often, someone would come in and rob the place. And there was nothing I could do." Wasserstein recalled one incident where a		
GOP Senator Seeks To Lure Blacks From Democratic Party, Gregory Freeman, 682 words, :	Tue., 4/28/1998	Kit Bond comes calling Like a southern belle being wooed by two gentlemen callers, black voters are being courted this year by the major Democratic and Republican candidates for the U.S. Senate. It's an experience black voters in Missouri aren't used to. That's because black voters almost always vote Democratic. It's been that way since Franklin D. Roosevelt battled the Great Depression. Before then, blacks had voted Republican, grateful to Abraham Lincoln for		
Hippies And Hip Checks: A Pleasant Restaurant, A Crumbling Old Hockey Rink; Slide Into Retirement, Gregory Freeman, 688 words, book: our life & times	Sun., 4/26/1998	Farewell to old friends My son and I visited a soon-to-be-defunct institution last week to reminisce about a soon-to-be-defunct institution. Will and I ate dinner at Sunshine Inn. For those of you who somehow never heard of it, Sunshine Inn was perhaps the best bastion of vegetarian food in the region. Well, it started out as a vegetarian restaurant. Later it added fish and chicken. Most of the food on the menu, however, continued to be vegetarian. Ken Cooper, a fellow		
Beaumont High School's Turnaround Is Largely Based On A Creative Principal, Gregory Freeman, 696 words, :	Thu., 4/23/1998	It wasn't that long ago that Beaumont High School was the poster child for troubled inner-city schools. Fistfights broke out regularly, gang activity was common, and the school made the news far too often for what went wrong there, not for what went right. But that was before Floyd Crues became principal. Crues has turned the school around in several ways. A "zero-tolerance" policy on gangs and gang-related clothing, an insistence on discipline and an increased		
Political Answers Won't Work For Educational Problems, Gregory Freeman, 668 words, :	Tue., 4/21/1998	City schools Every reporter who has covered government knows that rumors abound in politics. They certainly abound right now, as the Legislature considers measures to bring school desegregation in the city to an end and to dismantle the St. Louis School Board. Not surprisingly, perhaps, most of the rumors center on political motives for what's going on in Jefferson City. For instance, Sen. William Lacy Clay, D-St. Louis, has become so gung-ho in favor of much of the		
Fifty-One Years Ago, A Young Black Girl Here Made History, Gregory Freeman, 698 words, :	Sun., 4/19/1998	A FIRST STEP For young Gloria Waters, the fall of 1947 was special. She was a giddy freshman, excited about starting high school for the first time. Others were excited about her too, for reasons she didn't realize initially. Gloria, along with another student, were the first two blacks to attend Rosati-Kain High School. In a dramatic move, Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter had announced that all parochial high schools in the area were to be integrated immediately. Seven years before		
Video Producers Here Hope 'Living Wall' Will Promote City, Gregory Freeman, 689 words, :	Thu., 4/16/1998	A downtown slide show Until last year, Frank Popper and Doug Jones made their living by showing others what St. Louis had to offer. Now they're planning to do the same - for St. Louisans. For the past three years, Popper and Jones have produced videos for the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission. Those videos are shown in other cities to attract tourists and conventions to our city. They sell fun and excitement and paint ours as a Midwestern city rivaled by		
Actor Joe Torry Helps Community With Celebrity Event, Gregory Freeman, 700 words, :	Tue., 4/14/1998	Basketball challenge Once he was, as he describes himself, "just a short, black kid" from St. Louis. But today, Joe Torry is a successful stand-up comedian and actor. At 32, he's starred in several movies, including "Poetic Justice," "Harlem Nights," "Strictly Business," "Sprung" and "Tales from the Hood." He's had a feature role in several episodes of "E.R." and been host of HBO's "Def Comedy		
Hot Dog Salesman Finds Niche In Law For Downtown Cart, Gregory Freeman, 629 words, :	Sun., 4/12/1998	Street vendors His name is Charlie Santangelo, and he's a maverick. And in St. Louis, where downtown street vendors are against the law, ladies and gentlemen, he's an outlaw. Santangelo has set up a hot dog vending cart in Kiener Plaza. Every day, from about 9 a.m. until about 2:30 p.m., Santangelo sells hot dogs. With sauerkraut. And mustard. And pickles. And chili. Not to mention sodas, Italian sausage and bratwurst. Shocking, isn't it? For those of you who		
'Tastefully Done' Or Not, Art Must Be Free Of Censorship, Gregory Freeman, 710 words, :	Thu., 4/9/1998	A nude painting My mother is an artist. Although she spent most of her professional career as a third-grade teacher, her first love is art. She graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute. There was always art in our house when I was a child. African heads, water colors and statues all were a part of the Freeman household. One statue was that of a reclining woman. The woman was nude and, although her vital parts weren't visible, her breasts clearly were. My mother		
Here, Even A Non-Sports Fan Roots For The Cards, Gregory Freeman, 616 words, :	Sun., 4/5/1998	* A columnist confesses he is 'sports impaired.' But it is impossible to be a St. Louisan and not cheer loudly for the Redbirds. FLY HIGH, REDBIRDS If you're a regular reader of this column, you know I'm not a sports fan. Sports don't particularly interest me. This disgusts people regularly, especially those who are very much into sports. From time to time, readers will write me, asking my opinion about something going on in sports. I usually have to reply,		

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Revolutionary Gets Helping Hand From Avowed Capitalist, Gregory Freeman, 677 words, :	Thu., 4/2/1998	Stokely Carmichael They seem an odd pairing, the 49-year-old successful businessman and the 56-year-old, self-described revolutionary. But that isn't preventing Michael Roberts from making an all-out effort to help Kwame Ture - formerly known as Stokely Carmichael - pay some serious medical bills. Roberts, an attorney, describes himself as "very much a capitalist," and his investments confirm that. He and his brother, Steven, are partners in an empire of businesses		
Colorado Governor Touts Handling Racial Issues Face To Face, Gregory Freeman, 686 words, :	Tue., 3/31/1998	President's Initiative While some continue to scoff at the dialogues being held in different cities by the President's Initiative on Race, Colorado Gov. Roy Romer thinks America could use more of them. Romer's state was host to one of the dialogues last week in Denver. Rom er, Energy Secretary Federico Pena and Denver Mayor Wellington Webb participated in the meeting, which dealt with race and stereotypes. The dialogue in Denver was a heated one, as American		
Race-conscious area has fallen short of King's ideal, Gregory Freeman, 787 words, :	Sun., 3/29/1998	LIVING THE DREAM And so today I still have a dream. People will rise up and come to see that they are made to live together as brothers and sisters. - Martin Luther King Jr. *** When Daniel Waters moved into the then-integrated Penrose neighborhood in 1965, he believed he was living the dream so eloquently articulated by Martin Luther King Jr. "We were middle-class black folks living next to middle-class white folks," Waters said. "We were so proud to		
College-Hunting Trip With My Son Is A Rite Of Passage For Us Both, Gregory Freeman, 628 words, :	Thu., 3/26/1998	Two for the road My son, Will, and I loaded up the car with potato chips, Cheetos and soda and embarked on the Great College Hunt. Since he was on spring break, it seemed an opportune time to go on this adventure, to take a look at a couple of colleges. He's a high school junior, and it won't be long before he's sending applications to a variety of schools. So we headed west to check out two schools: the Kansas City Art Institute and the University of Kansas at		
Race Initiative Is Needed, Even Though It's Been Done Before, Gregory Freeman, 691 words, :	Tue., 3/24/1998	St. Louis 2004 A small battle is being waged on my front porch over St. Louis 2004 and its race initiative. For those of you who aren't POSTnet followers, "Greg Freeman's Front Porch" is my Web site. Readers often post their thoughts on all sorts of issues of the day there. As you know, St. Louis 2004 recently outlined a list of what it believes to be the area's most pressing issues and announced initiatives to try to get a handle on those issues. The		
A Father's Pain Persists After Physical Wounds Heal, Gregory Freeman, 651 words, :	Sun., 3/22/1998	FAMILY TRAGEDY Times are still difficult for Stanley Greer.. Not a day goes by that he doesn't think about that fateful morning of Nov. 26, when his 15-year-old son, Vincent Greer, shot him and fatally wounded his wife. Stanley Greer is still recuperating from being shot in the back. He suffered nerve damage during the shooting. "I'm still in a lot of pain," he said. But a greater pain for him is that his son is still in jail, receiving no medical help		
Official Is Pushing For Revitalization Of A Once Vibrant Area, Gregory Freeman, 696 words, :	Thu., 3/19/1998	Murphy-Blair neighborhood Back when I was a kid, in the late '60s and early '70s, my mother used to take my sister and me shopping along 14th Street, in the Murphy-Blair neighborhood. The area was often busy, with lots of stores, especially places to buy clothing and shoes at good prices. The area around it was also quite active, an old but lively city neighborhood. Today, the near North Side neighborhood looks quite different. Many of the homes, some of which were		
Think 'Yes' On The Way Toward 2004, Gregory Freeman, 695 words, :	Sun., 3/15/1998	A NEW WAY This wasn't done the St. Louis way. St. Louis 2004 has developed 11 initiatives designed to recast ours as the nation's next comeback city. But the decisions weren't made the way they're often made here. No fat cats sat back and arbitrarily decided what St. Louis should do. No "top-down" decisions were made, where those at the top decide and those at the bottom endure. No new monument to ourselves - such as the Trans World Dome - was		
'Official' Language Bills May Divide Rather Than Unify, Gregory Freeman, 689 words, :	Thu., 3/12/1998	English usage Anthony Ramirez is not thrilled with the Legislature these days. Ramirez, a St. Louis attorney, is troubled by bills in Jefferson City that would make English the state's "official" language. "The bills are nonsensical because English is spoken by almost 100 percent of the people in the state of Missouri," he said. "And 98 percent of all the documents used in the federal government are already in English. If there is already the		
Woman Let Down Her Guard, Lost Her Job, And Raised Her Voice, Gregory Freeman, 703 words, :	Tue., 3/10/1998	Question of bias Being a security guard can be a difficult job. You've got to be tough and prepared to deal with almost any situation at any time. Many people who go into the field have military or police backgrounds. It's not a field that is overwhelmed with women candidates. That made Heather Dye different. Although she came from a military family, she'd never served in the military, unless you count a stint in ROTC in high school. She'd never		
Tell The Mayor How You Feel About Allowing Street Vendors, Gregory Freeman, 673 words, :	Sun., 3/8/1998	STREET LIFE I couldn't believe it. One day after I'd written a column last week saying that downtown was picking up, it suffered a setback. A measure to allow street vendors downtown was stalled. A restaurateur, Bob Hynes, who operates the Amighetti's Bakery and Cafe franchise at 711 Olive Street, told the aldermanic Streets Committee he feared that he and other small restaurants could lose business to vendors. The bill's sponsor, Alderman Phyllis		
Unwanted E-Mail Clearly Is The Bane Of My Cyberexistence, Gregory Freeman, 716 words, :	Thu., 3/5/1998	Too much spam I have been spammed to death. No, not the meat product that begins with a capital "S." The spam I'm talking about starts with a small "s" and is Internet language for unwanted junk electronic mail. I'm a subscriber at home to America Online, the world's largest online service. Whenever I log on to the service to check my e-mail, I find myself swamped with dozens of e-mail letters from people trying to sell me things.		
New Hotel Is On Tap, Loft Living Is Hot, Activity Is On Rise, Gregory Freeman, 687 words, :	Tue., 3/3/1998	Downtown turnaround What makes a downtown successful? What are the attributes that impress you about downtowns that you've seen? Is it the hustle and bustle? The new buildings? The street life? Street entertainers? Vendors? It's taken some time, but St. Louis has begun to slowly remove its head from the sand and dream of what its downtown can become. Gradually, it's incorporating many concepts that have made other downtowns work. At a time when some have		
Saturday Was The Last Day Of Black History Month, Gregory Freeman, 1362 words, :	Sun., 3/1/1998	Saturday was the last day of Black History Month. During Black History Month, we often think of the famous who have made a difference in history. Usually we think of national figures but forget about those who are here and who, sometimes, are very close to us. At the beginning of February, the Post-Dispatch invited you to call in with your nominees for heroes, those who should be honored for their work, both during Black History Month and at other times. Many of you had good		
This Is No Time To Think Only Of Narrow Interests, Gregory Freeman, 697 words, :	Thu., 2/26/1998	The debate over growth An editor at the Post-Dispatch doesn't like the term "urban sprawl." The term isn't particularly accurate, he argues. A better term for it, he continues, is "unmanaged growth." Not only is he right, but perhaps the term would sound better to those who cringe at the idea of urban sprawl. After all, a good number of St. Louisans don't even think urban sprawl is a problem. Still, there's no question that it exists,		
Second Generation Of Family Is Fighting To Preserve Building, Gregory Freeman, 664 words, :	Tue., 2/24/1998	The Old Post Office Preservationists in St. Louis generally acknowledge Austin P. Leland as the man who saved the Old Post Office. His daughter, Irene Leland, is following in his footsteps. She is active in the effort to get the boards of the St. Louis Art Museum to consider using the Old Post Office downtown as a satellite museum. She and other supporters of the 114-year-old building have gathered more than 1,000 signatures asking the boards for the satellite.		

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Memories Of Opera House Are Too Precious To Lose, Gregory Freeman, 667 words, :	Sun., 2/22/1998	SAVE A ST. LOUIS TREASURE Both memories and dreams come into play when we think about Kiel Opera House. Ask Mary Berger. Berger says she will never forget the first time she went to the opera house, with her parents to see the Ziegfeld Follies. "It was so grand and plush," she said. "I remember being impressed by how large it was and how beautiful it was." Or ask Harmon Puckett, who went there years later to see the Temptations. "The acoustics		
Program For Youths Is Thriving, Despite Death Of Its Founder, Gregory Freeman, 708 words, :	Thu., 2/19/1998	The legacy of Bill Harrison When Bill Harrison died suddenly back in 1994, many thought his work would be lost. Harrison had several types of jobs - some paid, some unpaid; all of them important. His paid job was as associate dean at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. But he was more than that. He served as sort of an unofficial historian for the local civil rights movement. He was a mentor to many. But, perhaps most important, he was the founder of a program called St.		
Museum Exposes Children To Sights, Sounds Of The World, Gregory Freeman, 683 words, :	Tue., 2/17/1998	Founder's idea flourishes A single mother of two with a big idea has created a small miracle. Tucked into a southern corner of West County Center, the Worldways Children's Museum is set up to expose youngsters to the culture of the world. And while it may be one of St. Louis' best-kept secrets, the museum is rapidly growing, and its attendance is up 28 percent in this, its second year. When the museum's doors are open, a magical world exists for		
Washington Trip Inspires St. Louisan To Do His Part, Gregory Freeman, 688 words, :	Sun., 2/15/1998	MILLION MAN MARCH Bill Monroe felt absolutely inspired when he returned to St. Louis from the Million Man March in Washington in 1995. "I saw it as a battle cry against drugs, against joblessness, against homelessness," he said. "These men were not followers of the Nation of Islam. I grew up in a Pentecostal home, for example. But they, like me, looked on the march as a call for unity in the family. I left there with a deep commitment to do something for my		
On Capital Punishment; Readers' Reactions Have Son Feeling Proud Of Himself, Gregory Freeman, 660 words, :	Thu., 2/12/1998	Well, my teen-age son is gloating, and it's all your fault. OK, not all of you. But those of you who wrote me this week have given him a lot of pleasure. On Sunday, I ran a column about the first political disagreement my son and I have had. It was over the issue of capital punishment and Karla Faye Tucker. I explained that over the years, I've come to favor the death penalty, after strongly opposing it as a teen-ager. My opinion has changed after seeing some of the most		
Ads Aimed At Blacks And Children Should Exact A High Price, Gregory Freeman, 682 words, :	Tue., 2/10/1998	The tobacco industry Three years ago, members of the St. Louis Clergy Coalition - made up of local black ministers - accused the tobacco industry of targeting African-Americans. Some scoffed at the ministers. They argued that the tobacco industry didn't target blacks any more than it did other groups. Now it turns out that the ministers are having the last laugh. But the information revealed last week is no laughing matter. That information disclosed the		
A Father And Son Talk About, And Disagree On, Capital Punishment, Gregory Freeman, 737 words, :	Sun., 2/8/1998	KARLA FAYE TUCKER * Ever hear an opinion you held strongly at age 16 coming from your teen-ager - and discover you now don't buy it? My son and I had our first political argument last week. Who would have guessed that our first political disagreement would have been over Karla Faye Tucker? For those who somehow missed it, Karla Faye Tucker, a pickax killer who was a born-again Christian, was executed in Texas last week for hacking a man and a woman to death in a		
Old Neighborhood Is Creating New Memories For Others, Gregory Freeman, 673 words, :	Thu., 2/5/1998	Going home again I stopped by my old apartment building the other day. Actually, it's not my apartment building. I never owned it. But I lived there 34 years ago. From 1960 until 1964, my family lived at 5452 A Wells Avenue, at the corner of Belt Avenue. The building's in northwest St. Louis. It's rare that I get through that neighborhood. I no longer know anyone who lives there. And it's not on my usual path to anywhere. But, with a few minutes to kill and		
Lewinsky Scandal Column Attracts Praise, Outrage, Gregory Freeman, 598 words, :	Tue., 2/3/1998	The readers write The latest White House scandal, in general, and a column I wrote last Thursday, in particular, aroused a lot of feelings in readers, based on the mail I received. In that column, I said that I wasn't particularly concerned about whether the president had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky. While it's rather embarrassing, I argued, that's an issue that Bill and Hillary Clinton need to resolve between themselves. I'm more concerned about such		
Who Needs Black History Month? All Of Us Do, Gregory Freeman, 905 words, :	Sun., 2/1/1998	Valuable lesson Sunday kicks off Black History Month. And if this year is like past years, some whites will scratch their heads and say they don't get it. Every year around this time, I get a few letters from readers who tell me they don't understand why we celebrate Black History Month. There's no white history month, they say, so why should we celebrate the history of blacks? My response is always the same: While we obviously know a great deal about the		
Clinton Should Get The Chance To Finish The Work He Started, Gregory Freeman, 663 words, :	Thu., 1/29/1998	Scandal at the White House As I watched President Bill Clinton deliver his State of the Union address, a few thoughts crossed my mind. First, I found myself hoping that he's not taken down by the reports of an alleged affair with a White House intern. Why? Because in his speech, as during various times of his presidency, the president touched me. Tuesday night, it was when he talked about Social Security. I'm a baby boomer - part of what is threatened to be the		
Civil Rights Champion Fears Racial Climate Has Taken Step Back, Gregory Freeman, 669 words, :	Tue., 1/27/1998	A continuing struggle When it comes to issues of race and tension, Morris Dees has seen it all. Dees, a soft-spoken man with a Southern drawl and Kennedyesque features, is one of the nation's top civil rights lawyers. Among his accomplishments has been the taking of a Ku Klux Klan headquarters as part of a court judgment and turning it over to the mother of a young man murdered by Klan members in Mobile, Ala. Dees, a co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, regularly		
Family Struggles After Shootings, Worries About Teen, Gregory Freeman, 642 words, :	Thu., 1/22/1998	Vincent Greer case A family's heart is broken today. Its members are shedding tears, disturbed about what has happened to two relatives - and worried about what will happen to a third. Fifteen-year-old Vincent Greer took his father's .22-caliber rifle on the morning of Nov. 26, shot his father and fatally wounded his mother. His family's life would never be the same. His father, Stanley Greer, who was shot in the back, is on the mend. But Stanley Greer		
Housing Agency Failed Those Who Needed It The Most, Gregory Freeman, 627 words, :	Tue., 1/20/1998	A world of problems Four years ago, I met a woman I'll call "Mary." She was pleasant and in her 30s, a slight woman with skin the color of caramel. Mary was the mother of four children, all under 6. A lack of child care had caused Mary to lose her job. Because she'd lost her job, she wasn't able to hold onto her apartment. She lived occasionally with a relative who was also willing to take care of the children from time to time, but not that often. Mary		
High School History Moves Into Spotlight, Gregory Freeman, 682 words, :	Sun., 1/18/1998	The making of a museum No one knew exactly what to expect in September 1955, when Beaumont High School accepted its first black students following the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling that decreed that separate but equal schools were illegal. Donnell Reid was among the first wave of blacks to attend that school. While some may have expected trouble, the students were made to feel comfortable. Reid, who played basketball, speaks fondly of people like basketball coach Tom		
Counties Unlikely To Accept Expanding Museum District, Gregory Freeman, 619 words, :	Thu., 1/15/1998	Good intentions For years, I've thought the region would be better off if St. Louis merged with St. Louis County. The reasons for it, I think, are obvious. It would end the duplication of services provided by the city and county, saving taxpayer dollars. It would end the pattern of squabbling between the city and the county, most recently exemplified by the battle between Mayor Clarence Harmon and County Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall over MetroLink. It would		

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The Powers That Be Must Remember: Education Is First, Gregory Freeman, 647 words, :	Tue., 1/13/1998	The city schools I owe the St. Louis public school system a great deal. It's through that system that I learned much of what I know today. I had great teachers. They were concerned about their students, and they made sure that we got the knowledge we needed, whether we liked it or not. Teachers like Miss Perkins, Mrs. Nance, Mr. Catlett, Miss Darden, Miss Day, Mrs. Boulding, Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Mitchener were only some of the fine teachers I had. It's because of them		
UMSL Needs To Refocus Its Arts Center Plan, Gregory Freeman, 769 words, :	Sun., 1/11/1998	Fix Kiel Opera House Officials at the University of Missouri at St. Louis shouldn't be terribly surprised that their proposal to build a high-priced cultural arts center has developed so much opposition. Mayor Clarence Harmon last week was the latest to ask the university to consider dropping its plan to build a deluxe performance center in favor of renovating the shuttered Kiel Opera House. Such a center could doom efforts to renovate Kiel, he argued. Harmon was hardly the		
Member Of Race Panel Hopes To Start Movement, Gregory Freeman, 684 words, :	Thu., 1/8/1998	'A sense of urgency' William Winter views his position as a member of President Bill Clinton's initiative on race as akin to being on President John F. Kennedy's council on physical fitness. "The purpose of President Kennedy's council was to get us to look at ourselves and our physical conditions," said Winter, the former governor of Mississippi. "It ultimately resulted in the creation of a national movement that led to people jogging and taking other		
Food Vendors On The City Streets Would Hit The Spot, Gregory Freeman, 678 words, :	Tue., 1/6/1998	Making downtown better Charles Brennan of KMOX radio and I are on a mission. We'd like to see vendors selling food on the streets of downtown St. Louis this year. Doesn't sound like a big deal, right? Plenty of other cities allow vendors to sell bratwurst, hot dogs, cappuccino and other goodies on street corners all the time. Chicago, Cambridge, Cleveland, San Francisco and New York are just some of the cities whose central business districts are enhanced by having		
Mayor Is Right: Empty Eyesores Hurt Our City, Gregory Freeman, 622 words, :	Sun., 1/4/1998	Property rites Have you ever lived next door to a dilapidated house or building? I have. Twice in my life I've endured having an abandoned building next door. It wasn't a lot of fun. In addition to being general eyesores, dilapidated buildings are magnets for dumping, for graffiti and for trouble in general. Bad guys find them to be convenient places for things like drug buys or gun sales. Empty liquor bottles are often left on and around the property. No matter how		
A Look Ahead; Predictions Are Easy To Make, Harder To Forget, Gregory Freeman, 642 words, :	Thu., 1/1/1998	It's 1998, and this year's got me worried. You'd be worried too if you knew the world was going to come to an end. Or that those who died on the battlefield of Gettysburg 135 years ago would come back to life this year as we watch on TV. Or that meteors would fall to the Earth this year with increasing frequency, pounding the Statue of Liberty to rubble. I know these things not because I have a crystal ball or anything close to one. Instead, I pay attention		
1997:	140 columns	2 in book		
Greggy Awards Go To The Most Unforgettable, Gregory Freeman, 659 words, :	Tue., 12/30/1997	The year that was The year 1997 is drawing to a close, probably a good thing for many of those who said or did things this year that they'd rather us forget about. But before we sing "Auld Lang Syne," here's one more reminder, the first annual Greggy awards: Oh, getting out of prison was nice, too: Nelson Mandela says that meeting the Spice Girls was one of the best things that ever happened in his life. Thanks for sharing: In her new book, "The Other		
Businessman Says Trolley Line Would Help Revive U. City Loop; Time To Get On Board, Gregory Freeman, 663 words, :	Sun., 12/21/1997	Earlier this century, it was common to see streetcars traveling west toward University City, turning around near Trinity Avenue and heading back toward St. Louis. Now, an area businessman wants to bring those days back, sort of. Joe Edwards, an entrepreneur who owns Blueberry Hill and who is responsible for the St. Louis Walk of Fame, wants to bring back vintage trolleys on rails. The trolleys would travel from the Delmar Avenue MetroLink stop, about three blocks east of Skinker		
Animated Displays At Christmas Make Downtown Magic; Reviving The City, Gregory Freeman, 643 words, :	Thu., 12/18/1997	The year was 1962. It was Christmastime. I was 6, but I remember the evening vividly. My sister, Cheryl, and I bundled up as my dad prepared to take us downtown. My mother, never one for crowds, chose to stay home. We jumped into my dad's green 1951 Chrysler - a tank of a car - and started our trek. Once we hit downtown, my sister and I oohed and ahed as we took in the glittering lights of red and green that advertised the holiday season. After we parked, Cheryl and I		
It's Time For Schools To Do A Better Job With Black History Too Many 'Lost Stories', Gregory Freeman, 635 words, :	Tue., 12/16/1997	I am not one who regularly cries at movies. But I found tears rolling down my face as I watched the new film "Amistad." The powerful film, directed by Steven Spielberg and produced by Debbie Allen, recounts the tale of a rebellion aboard the Spanish slave ship La Amistad in the year 1839, an incident with international repercussions that also inflamed the domestic tension between the North and the South. The Africans on board, who had been bound for sale into slavery, were		
Many Of Us Dream About It, But Sprewell Took His Actions Way Too Far With His; Boss; A Fantasy Gets Out Of Hand, Gregory Freeman, 595 words, :	Sun., 12/14/1997	How many of us have ever wanted to choke our bosses? I'm willing to bet that many of us have. I once worked for a city editor at a newspaper in Michigan who apparently thought all of us on the staff were children. "Sit down and stop talking!" she'd yell at reporters. "Write those briefs!" she'd bark. "Be quiet!" A few of us on the staff wanted to choke her on more than one occasion. Not surprisingly, none of us had the nerve. Just		
This Time Of Year, My Favorite City Has A Cold Touch; St. Louis Blues, Gregory Freeman, 628 words, :	Tue., 12/9/1997	If you're a faithful reader of this column, you know I love St. Louis. The Gateway City in the Show-Me State. The city of the Arch, 630 feet of stainless steel, rising to the heavens. The city of one of the nation's largest urban parks and one of the country's best zoos. The city of baseball, beer and bratwurst. This is St. Louis, a great place to be, a great place to live. Except for this time of year. This time of year I hate St. Louis. Sorry.		
So One Day The Priest Said, 'Why Don't We Start Our Own Barbecue Restaurant?'; Cooking Up Neighborhood Pride, Gregory Freeman, 659 words, :	Sun., 12/7/1997			
Silence Won't Make Problem Vanish; It Will Make It Worse; The Race Issue, Gregory Freeman, 648 words, :	Thu., 12/4/1997	Every so often I get a letter from a white reader who urges me not to write about race. "You're a good writer, but I get tired of reading about race all the time," said a letter I got recently. As regular readers know, I don't write about race - or, more specifically, racism - all the time. But when I do, I almost always irritate some white readers who would rather not read about it at all. Still, I write about it because it's a part of life. Not just my		
Many Folks Still Eager To Improve Downtown; Unofficial Ideas, Gregory Freeman, 687 words, :	Sun., 11/23/1997	The city's population may continue to shrink, but that hasn't stopped many folks from working on ways to bring downtown back to life. Not only are official efforts to develop ideas and strategies under way - through such entities as the Downtown St. Louis Partnership and Downtown Now, the task force formed by Mayor Clarence Harmon - but lots of unofficial ideas are developing, too. St. Louisans these days are giving a lot of thought to downtown and are coming up with all		

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Reporter Worries That Violent Themes Damage Black Teens; Gansta Rap, Gregory Freeman, 677 words, :	Thu., 11/20/1997	Nathan McCall enjoys rap music. A fan of it since it started, he likes the creativity of it. He likes its style and marvels that it is a type of music "created right in the streets of the urban 'hood by the very people society dismisses as worthless and dumb." But he's troubled by the genre of rap music known as "gangsta rap," a form that's often characterized by its glorification of violence and sexism. The music, he suggests, is having a negative		
Son Begins To Hunt, And His Father Begins To Worry; College Search, Gregory Freeman, 643 words, :	Tue., 11/18/1997	It's a busy time around the Freeman household. Our son is looking at colleges. When I was in high school, we didn't think about where we would go to college until the senior year. But times have changed, and so does the process of college hunting. The process now starts earlier. So my 16-year-old is busily checking out colleges and trying to decide where he'd like to go. Not a day goes by that we don't get something in the mail from some college or other,		
An Anniversary Of Birth And Death; Remembering Her Death, Gregory Freeman, 591 words, :	Sun., 11/16/1997	Sunday will be a difficult day for Shelia Price. It's the day that her son, Charles Anthony McCoy Jr. was born 22 years ago. It's also the one year anniversary of the day that his body was found wrapped in a blanket in a field near an abandoned church in Brooklyn. He had been shot three times in the head. Price is the first to acknowledge that her son was no angel. He had been troubled as a teen-ager. At 18, while riding in a car that had been carjacked, he was wounded by		
Man Walks In A Customer, Walks Out A Volunteer; St. Louis' Restore, Gregory Freeman, 630 words, :	Thu., 11/13/1997	Not many stores entice people to shop and then invite them to become volunteers. But few stores are like ReStore. Nestled between a couple of old buildings, the store at 1024 South Vandeventer Avenue is inside an old Sears warehouse. Hernando Florentino, 73, has been a volunteer there for five months. "I just went in to shop one day," he said. "I had no idea that I would end up becoming a volunteer." The store is a branch of Habitat for Humanity St.		
One Man's Opinion: Raze The Centre, Use Warehouses; Rejuvenating The City, Gregory Freeman, 673 words, :	Tue., 11/11/1997	Tear down St. Louis Centre? The idea may sound radical, but it's only one of the suggestions Michael Willis has for rejuvenating the city. Willis, owner of Michael Willis & Associates, a San Francisco architectural firm, is a St. Louis native. He visits here frequently and keeps an eye on what's going on in his hometown. While in St. Louis recently, Willis passed along a few of his ideas. Willis knows the idea of demolishing St. Louis Centre won't go over		
Revolution May Be The Answer To Woes; St. Louis Public Schools, Gregory Freeman, 621 words, :	Sun., 11/9/1997	A proposal to strip the St. Louis School Board of its authority and give the mayor power over city schools has rocked some St. Louisans, who think the idea is ridiculous. But the idea, being pushed by state Sen. William Lacy Clay and state Rep. Charles Quincy Troupe, both St. Louis Democrats, is an example of the frustration with public schools that many St. Louisans are experiencing. The St. Louis school system is, in many ways, a dysfunctional entity. It has its highs, such as the		
Measure's Defeat Was Voters' Opinion Of 'Just Trust Us' MetroLink Tax, Gregory Freeman, 677 words, :	Thu., 11/6/1997	Sharon Willis loves MetroLink. She takes it each day from her home in north St. Louis County to her job at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. When I caught up with her Wednesday, she was walking briskly along Euclid Avenue, minutes after exiting the MetroLink stop there. Willis told me she "can't live without MetroLink." And she said there was "no way" she could have voted for it Tuesday. She was among the 58 percent of county voters who rejected Proposition		
Pointing Fingers On Urban Sprawl Misses The Point, Gregory Freeman, 623 words, :	Tue., 11/4/1997	If you think urban sprawl isn't a hot issue here, you haven't seen my mail. I wrote a column Sunday - rather low-key in tone, I thought - about the issue. In short, I said that the problem of urban sprawl is a real one; one felt not only here but also in many other areas across the country. While Mayor Clarence Harmon has been criticized for his suggestion that each new house in St. Peters results in \$37,000 in additional infrastructure costs - a figure that he's been		
Urban Sprawl Is Destroying Our Region, Gregory Freeman, 738 words, :	Sun., 11/2/1997	WHETHER SOME like it or not, urban sprawl is slowly but surely killing us, dividing us bit by bit, neighborhood by neighborhood, person by person. Hearings last week on the issue only underscored the divisions caused by sprawling development. Officials of St. Louis, St. Louis County and St. Charles County sparred over the issue, with St. Charles County on the defensive. "If we stop growth or movement, we all would die," said St. Charles Mayor Robert Moeller. In fact,		
Sharing Can't Wait For Crisis Mentality, Gregory Freeman, 761 words, :	Thu., 10/30/1997	IF YOU DON'T think that relations among people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds here are strained, take a look at some excerpts from letters I've gotten recently: "Black people here clearly don't want to work. When I drive through the city and see black men hanging on corners, young black men who could easily have jobs, I can only conclude that most black people are not interested in working. They want to be on welfare and get free government		
If Blacks Don't Show Up, They Won't Be Heard, Gregory Freeman, 757 words, :	Tue., 10/28/1997	TODAY'S COLUMN is for those of you who are black. If you're not black, feel free to read along, of course. If you are black, this one's for you. I've got one question: Where are you? Last week I moderated a program at the Missouri Botanical Garden on downtown St. Louis. The session featured an edited version of a documentary called "Back from the Brink." It also featured discussion from such folks as Michael Jones, chief of staff to Mayor Clarence Harmon;		
She 'Kept On Pushing' To Help Pupils, Gregory Freeman, 930 words, :	Sun., 10/26/1997	NO ONE took the ragtag group of black parents seriously. That, more than anything else, spawned the 1972 lawsuit against the St. Louis school system that led to today's hotly debated school desegregation program, says Minnie Liddell. Liddell, the parent whose name is on the suit, is known as the "mother of school desegregation" here. Yet she'd never planned to be part of anything monumental. "I was just looking out for my child," she said in an interview		
Bare Necessities Scant On North Side, Gregory Freeman, 786 words, :	Thu., 10/23/1997	A FRIEND HAS compiled a list of all the products and services that can't be found or are hard to get in north St. Louis. The list is pretty impressive. It contains such things as contact lens solution, avocados, nice sit-down restaurants, coffee shops, health food stores, major clothing stores, drugstores, places like Steak 'n Shake, discount stores like Target, Venture or Kmart, and Blockbuster video stores. "I spend a lot of time burning up gas, trying to get to the		
New Bill To Build Brighter Future Here, Experts Say, Gregory Freeman, 674 words, :	Tue., 10/21/1997	BACK IN 1982, I covered a national conference on cities in which St. Louis was hailed as a model city in historic rehabilitation. I quoted Paul R. Porter, a professor at Cleveland State University, who couldn't say enough about our efforts. "There is no city that can measure up to St. Louis when it comes to neighborhood renovation," he said at the time. "St. Louis has done more in neighborhood redevelopment than any other city in this country. St. Louis is even		
Task Force On Downtown Can Start By Talking With The Last Two Such Panels, Gregory Freeman, 721 words, :	Sun., 10/19/1997	FOR SEVERAL years, St. Louisans have heard much about plans to redevelop downtown but have seen little. In 1993, during the tenure of then-Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr., a task force was formed by the St. Louis Development Corp. and Downtown St. Louis Inc. to develop a master plan for downtown. The plan was delivered to the mayor's office in 1994, then occupied by Freeman Bosley Jr. Little happened, but in February, Bosley commissioned another task force to develop a new downtown		
Former Roommate, Longtime Friend, Lingering Question, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Thu., 10/16/1997	TODAY'S COLUMN is one I never thought I'd write. A good friend committed suicide this week. An adult cousin took her life when I was about 10, but I've never known anyone since who committed suicide. Any suicide is a tragedy, but it seems a greater one when the person is a good friend. David Schechter was that kind of a friend. We were joined together at the hip - at least for a while - when we were students at Washington University. We both worked for the		

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We Need To Defeat Defeatist Attitudes About Downtown, Gregory Freeman, 711 words, :	Tue., 10/14/1997	NOT TOO long ago, a colleague walked up to me and said, "You know, you're wasting your time." I wasn't sure what he meant, but he went on: "Downtown's not coming back." I've written several columns about the possibility of downtown coming back, what it will take and why St. Louisans - all of us, city residents or not - should be excited about the prospect. My colleague, a wise journalist who occasionally offers me advice when he thinks		
To Govern, Harmon Must Master Politics, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Sun., 10/12/1997	WHEN MAYOR Clarence Harmon started making public noises about a year ago about seeking the city's top office, his critics argued that he was politically naive. He'd never run for political office before. He wasn't seasoned. The Board of Aldermen would eat him alive, or so argued supporters of then-Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. Harmon countered their arguments by saying that he would be an independent mayor, not beholden to special interests. A year later, in office for		
Blacks Seem Unwilling To Confront AIDS, Gregory Freeman, 729 words, :	Thu., 10/9/1997	A YEAR AGO, at a conference held at Harvard University, some of the nation's top black minds gathered to discuss a serious problem: the silence of African-Americans about AIDS. The conference was hosted by three groups: the Harvard AIDS Institute, the National Minority AIDS Council and Harvard's W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Research. Groups represented at the conference included the NAACP, the National Urban League, the Children's Defense Fund and the National		
Ethiopian Serves Up His Own Customs In University City Loop, Gregory Freeman, 747 words, :	Tue., 10/7/1997	FOR YEARS, Shimeliss Demissie has wanted Americans to know about his native Ethiopia. Born there 39 years ago, Demissie loves his country dearly. But he also suspects that most Americans know little about it. "I'd really like a lot of Americans to visit Ethiopia," he said. "I think they'd be surprised by the culture there." Most Americans believe that Ethiopians are all starving. "That's not so," he said. "Ethiopia is a beautiful		
From A Small Farm In Oklahoma To The Streets Of St. Louis, Gregory Freeman, 992 words, :	Sun., 10/5/1997	I DON'T KNOW what drew me to her. She was like so many of the people you see on the streets, pushing a shopping cart with all of her belongings in it. The kind of people you rarely stop and talk to. Maybe I was attracted because she looked like the pictures I'd seen of my great-grandmother, who died nearly 40 years ago. There was something about this woman with the stooped shoulders, thinning white hair and a face like mahogany that made me want to talk to her. I		
African-Americans Should Be Aware Of Silent Killer, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Thu., 10/2/1997	FOR AGNES CONNOR, the word "diabetes" has been nearly synonymous with the word "family." Connor's parents had eight girls and four boys. Of the 12, 10 developed diabetes. Their mother had diabetes, but as they were growing up, doctors were unaware of any relationship between genes and diabetes. "We thought it was coincidence," said Connor, 63, of Alorton. But as time went by, and more and more of her siblings developed diabetes, she knew - and		
Downtown's Future? The Answer May Lie Down By The River, Gregory Freeman, 763 words, :	Tue., 9/30/1997	EVEN AS SOME GO about developing ways for the city to renew itself, a local professor worries that they may be overlooking a key St. Louis asset: the riverfront. Dennis Judd, a political science professor at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, says St. Louis is behind many port and industrial cities. "If you take a look at many of these cities - Boston, New Orleans, Portland, Seattle - waterfront development is a linchpin," he said. That wasn't always the case. At		
A Painful Foot, A Loving Family, A Lesson Learned, Gregory Freeman, 721 words, :	Sun., 9/28/1997	AS I WRITE today's column, I'm sitting here with a foot the size of a brick. I'm having an attack of gout. Gout is the painful inflammation of a joint that occurs predominantly in men. It can last for a few days or even longer. It is not, as it once was called, a "rich man's disease." My checkbook is certain proof of that. One of the most famous people to be afflicted with gout was Benjamin Franklin, and people still get it all the time. Doctors have		
The Bike Man Needs Help, Gregory Freeman, 758 words, :	Sun., 9/21/1997	ROY BOHN'S not an angel. But a lot of kids think he is. Nine years ago, Bohn started St. Louis BicycleWORKS, a program that allows youngsters to earn donated bicycles in exchange for good grades or a willingness to attend a study center after school. Over the years, more than 500 kids have participated in the program, based in the city's Shaw neighborhood. Now, all of that is threatened. Bohn worries that unless he can get some significant financial and paperwork		
So Much For Polls: Female Fans Of Stooges Speak Out, Gregory Freeman, 733 words, :	Thu., 9/18/1997	WHO WOULD have figured? I recently wrote a column "outing" myself as a Three Stooges fanatic. In the column, I mentioned that I had conducted the Greg Freeman Official, Unscientific Survey On The Three Stooges and found that women generally were not fans of the trio. I chalked this up to women having grown up and men still living their childhood. After the column, I was swamped with letters. Men agreed with me about living their childhood. But a considerable number of women		
Child Safety Locks: Good Enough For Smith & Wesson, Gregory Freeman, 764 words, :	Tue., 9/16/1997	ST. LOUIS POLICE OFFICER Jack Thurmond was at home one day when he heard "Click! Click!" He rushed to his bedroom and found his teen-age son pointing the officer's handgun at his head and pulling the trigger repeatedly. Fortunately, Thurmond had remembered to unload the gun. He recognized his son's suicide attempt as a cry for help and got him immediate treatment. It also made him realize the need for safety locks on guns, something he regularly recommends		
Nixon Sees Desegregation As Opportunity To Help Himself, Gregory Freeman, 726 words, :	Sun., 9/14/1997	WHEN Bill Clinton first sought the Democratic nomination for president in 1992, opponent Paul Tsongas had a nickname for him: "Pander Bear." Tsongas called Clinton that because he believed the then-governor of Arkansas would say or do anything - whether he believed it or not - to pander to voters. Missouri now has its own Pander Bear, and his name is Jay Nixon, the state's attorney general. Nixon is blatantly going after voters by crusading against school		
North Siders Let Hopeful Side Show At 2004 Hearing, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Thu., 9/11/1997	FOLKS IN north St. Louis have a tendency to be skeptical. They've got every right, of course. Over the years they've been promised a lot, but as often as not the promises haven't become reality. Politicians have promised all sorts of things, never to come through. MetroLink got people to vote for a tax by promising a route that would pass through north St. Louis. During that tax campaign they should have said, "You'll get MetroLink - someday. Not soon, of		
'We' May Be Bad, But Don't Censor Us, Gregory Freeman, 784 words, :	Tue., 9/9/1997	THE DEATH of Princess Diana has caused many to question the role of those of us in the media. Are we more intrusive than we should be? Should laws be established to curtail our actions? Just how far should we be allowed to go? I shudder a bit to use the word "we" as I write about this. I don't consider myself, nor any of my colleagues at this newspaper, to be in the same category as the paparazzi. Still, I realize that the public lumps us all together. Whether I		
True Confessions From A Three Stooges Fan, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Sun., 9/7/1997	THE CURRENT issue of Entertainment Weekly magazine features a section it's calling "Guilty Pleasures." "Late at night," it says, "with the shades drawn, the doors bolted, the lights turned low and no one in the house, we've done the dirty deed. We've watched 'Coach' reruns. Listened to Anne Murray CDs. And, as painful as it is to admit, enjoyed the occasional Pauly Shore movie. Yes, we've sinned against the gods of good taste, reason, and		
Busy Center Here Shows Homeless Can't Be Ignored, Gregory Freeman, 661 words, :	Thu., 9/4/1997	QUICK: How many homeless people live in the city? How about in St. Louis County? If you're like many St. Louisans, you're probably off in your estimate. Nearly half of us think that 5,000 homeless people reside in the city, according to a scientific survey conducted by the Western Wats Center, a polling firm in Provo, Utah. That same survey shows that more than a third of us believe that about 500 homeless folks live in the county. But data from the Housing Resource		

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2004 Deserves A Chance, Gregory Freeman, 717 words, :	Sun., 8/31/1997	'Do you know the great enemy? The great enemy is the almost knee-jerk 'this-is-the-way-we-are' negativism and cynicism that seems to be so pervasive in this community.' Former Sen. John Danforth, - chairman, St. Louis 2004 "We will not let them remake this city into some huge University City sidewalk, replete with multiethnic homosexuals and Loop-losers on roller blades." A reader disgruntled with the ideas of St. Louis 2004 WHILE ST. LOUIS 2004 is		
Festival Mess: Long On Blues, Short On Sense, Gregory Freeman, 701 words, :	Thu., 8/28/1997	AFTER attending the St. Louis Blues Heritage Festival for four years in a row, Susan and David Murphy chose not to go this year. Their reason was simple: they didn't like the location. In recent years, the festival had been held at Laclede's Landing. But this year the festival's organizers decided to hold it in Buder Park in southwest St. Louis County. Festival organizers said the move was the result of a lack of support from the city and from Laclede's		
Bent Out Of Shape Over Those Who Drive Uninsured, Gregory Freeman, 711 words, :	Tue., 8/26/1997	IT WAS a sweltering August day earlier this month when Ike Brown was coming from a supermarket and on his way to a post office on Natural Bridge Avenue in north St. Louis. Brown stopped his car at a light at Union Avenue near Natural Bridge when all of a sudden - wham! An older model Oldsmobile crashed into his 1990 Toyota. Brown's neck and back were sore, but he was most concerned about the damage to the back of his car. He got out, assessed the damage and talked to the young man		
Youth Could Be Downtown's Key, Gregory Freeman, 789 words, :	Sun., 8/24/1997	ASK CHRIS Dornfeld about the future of downtown and he bubbles with enthusiasm. "I think this city is going to explode in 20 years like no one can imagine," he says. "And in the next five years you're going to see a dramatic change downtown that will blow people away." Dornfeld is co-chairman of Metropolis St. Louis, a group of mostly 20- and early-30 somethings interested in making downtown more attractive to younger people. He and others believe that if		
Don't Follow Me, Prisoner Writes To Troubled Boy, Gregory Freeman, 837 words, :	Thu., 8/21/1997	A LITTLE over a year ago, I wrote about Edna Silvestri, who had married Donald Harden, a bank robber in prison. This is the second time in prison for Harden, sentenced to 35 months in 1977. In 1980, he was convicted of the robbery of Gateway National Bank in St. Louis. A security guard was shot twice. I heard from Silvestri recently, and she shared with me a letter written by Harden to an 11-year-old from the city who's starting to get into trouble. Harden learned about the young		
Leader Of Event Tries To Maintain A Classic Weekend, Gregory Freeman, 745 words, :	Tue., 8/19/1997	TO DESCRIBE Earl Wilson Jr. as someone who doesn't suffer fools gladly wouldn't do him justice. His detractors use such words as "stubborn," "difficult" and "never-satisfied" to describe him. His supporters prefer "strong-willed," "firm" and "perfectionist." He's been known to quit an organization at the drop of a hat if he thinks it's being mishandled. And he's quick to let an employee go who's		
From Loft Apartments To Parking, Ideas Abound For Revitalization, Gregory Freeman, 1876 words, :	Sun., 8/17/1997	ST. LOUISANS have no shortage of ideas on what it will take to improve downtown. A few weeks ago, I asked readers to submit their ideas on making downtown a better place and what it would take to get them to go there. Several hundred readers responded. The suggestions were many, but some themes kept reappearing: * Save as many historically and architecturally significant buildings downtown as possible, but take down those vacant and derelict buildings for which there seems to be		
Immigrant Finds Little Bit Of Food Goes A Long Way, Gregory Freeman, 790 words, :	Thu., 8/14/1997	RAYMUNDO "Ramon" Otero has come a long way from his days as a shepherd in rural Mexico. At 68, Otero is the owner of Ramon's El Dorado, a family-run - and successful - restaurant in Collinsville. He opened a second restaurant three years ago in Fairview Heights. Otero made a long journey to get where he is. And it wasn't just a journey of distance. As a child, Otero lived in El Salto, then a rural part of Mexico. The family lived on a mountaintop, and Otero		
Building Purchase Unorthodox, Wise, Gregory Freeman, 722 words, :	Tue., 8/12/1997	RAYMUNDO "Ramon" Otero has come a long way from his days as a shepherd in rural Mexico. At 68, Otero is the owner of Ramon's El Dorado, a family-run - and successful - restaurant in Collinsville. He opened a second restaurant three years ago in Fairview Heights. Otero made a long journey to get where he is. And it wasn't just a journey of distance. As a child, Otero lived in El Salto, then a rural part of Mexico. The family lived on a mountaintop, and Otero		
Higher Courts Have Too Few Black Judges, Gregory Freeman, 682 words, :	Sun., 8/10/1997	HERE'S a staggering statistic: In the past 50 years, only three blacks have ever been named to the Missouri Supreme Court or the Missouri Court of Appeals: Theodore McMillian, Fernando J. Gaitan Jr. and Ronnie L. White. Those courts have a total of 39 judges. Despite the fact that blacks make up 11 percent of the state's population, only one - White, a Supreme Court judge - now serves at that level of the judiciary. And White is likely to leave the court shortly, having been		
Voters Were Wise To Mudslinging In Council Race, Gregory Freeman, 711 words, :	Thu., 8/7/1997	HERE'S YOUR dilemma: You're a Democrat, and many people consider you a nice guy. You're running against a Republican who some have dubbed "the local Mother Teresa." She's set up a program that aids homeless people, trains them and helps them find work. She's been head of a local do-gooder organization that's recommended positive changes for the region. She's been a volunteer for many years, has never run for political office and says		
Between The Quiet And A Full Fridge, I Still Miss My Son, Gregory Freeman, 710 words, :	Tue., 8/5/1997	AT LAST THE silence has been broken. It had been quiet around the Freeman household in recent weeks. A little too quiet. Our 16-year-old just got back after visiting friends in Mexico for nearly three weeks. I actually found myself missing the loud music from Will's room, played by groups with funny names that I'd never heard of. I began to miss his guitar playing, even though when he's played it in the past, I've usually yelled upstairs, "Will you shut		
Downtown Needs New Magnets To Attract People, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Sun., 8/3/1997	ON MY DESK at the Post-Dispatch is a bumper sticker that reads: "St. Louis: Gateway to the Best." It was sent to me by a guy from Collector's Holiday, a local company that makes bumper stickers and political buttons. I appreciate the bumper sticker and believe what it says. Unfortunately, not enough people believe in St. Louis, especially the city of St. Louis. As downtowns across the country are making comebacks, St. Louis is falling back. Just last week,		
Racial Harmony Hard to Achieve, 2 Teens Discover, Gregory Freeman, 754 words, :	Thu., 7/31/1997	HOW DO you teach the lesson of racial harmony to black teen-agers who have had to deal with trouble for much of their lives because of the color of their skin? Ask that question of Jamal Campbell and Henry Johnson (not their real names), who were beaten last week. Jamal, 16, and Henry, 17, live in the Clinton-Peabody housing complex. Because of some problems they've been having, an art professor has let them live with him for a while at his home in the Affton area. The professor,		
It's Not All Bad; Just Listen To This, Gregory Freeman, 774 words, :	Tue., 7/29/1997	WHENEVER ST. LOUIS gets bad publicity from out-of-town news organizations, it causes a stir among the folks who live here. When The Wall Street Journal criticized downtown St. Louis as being dead and the area's top business leaders as being comatose, radio talk-show lines lit up as St. Louisans snarled about the coverage. We hate for others to say bad things about us. Still, many of us suffer from an inferiority complex. The grass is often greener on the other side - whether that		

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Victims Not Rich Or Famous Are Also Important, Gregory Freeman, 701 words, :	Sun., 7/27/1997	GIANNI VERSACE was a king in the world of fashion. The rich and famous wore his clothes. Women and men adored him. His name was found in ads in high-class magazines. So it's not surprising that Versace's death - and the suicide of Andrew Cunanan, his suspected killer - garnered coverage befitting a king. Many people breathed sighs of relief last week when Cunanan's body was found by police who stormed a houseboat. The Versace case took the media by storm. To		
Man Conquering Drug Addiction, Helping Others, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Thu., 7/24/1997	FOR KEVIN COOK, life with cocaine began in the Air Force. He never planned to use it. But when others in the service started doing it, he followed suit. When Cook left the service in 1987, he discovered a world where cocaine was much more available than it had been before he entered. "Things had changed drastically," he said. "Within a year, I'd gotten into snorting regularly and was addicted to it." At first he thought he handled it pretty well. He		
To Lift Downtown, Keep Ideas Coming, Gregory Freeman, words, :	Tue., 7/22/1997	The St. Louis Board of Aldermen took a progressive step last week by apporpriving a measure to allow street performers in most of St. Louis.		
Man Loved Working For Schnucks But Couldn't Get No-Cut Contract, Gregory Freeman, 735 words, :	Tue., 7/15/1997	AFTER A hairy ordeal with a Schnucks supermarket, Nolan Peskind has called it quits. Peskind worked for the supermarket chain for a grand total of 2 1/2 days. After that, he decided to quit and cut his losses. What he didn't cut was his beard. As a fellow beard-wearer, I can sympathize. No one around here has asked me to shave my beard, thank goodness, and that may be because the boss wears a beard. You know how it goes in business. If the boss does it, it's got to be		
Turning Housing Into Something More Than Just A Troubled Name, Gregory Freeman, 805 words, :	Sun., 7/13/1997	DIMITROS GRIGGS wishes that the last 30 years or so could be wiped away. Griggs lives in the area near the old Pruitt-Igoe public housing project, just west of the north end of downtown. The complexes were critically acclaimed when they first opened in 1952. They were supposed to be a model of the future of public housing. The complex housed more than 10,000 people on 55 acres. But lack of attention by the planners to basics - no peepholes in doors, hallways with closed doors,		
Aldermen Display Their Street Smarts, Gregory Freeman, 772 words, :	Thu., 7/10/1997	THOSE OF US in the world of journalism often make fun of politicians. They sometimes provide us with a cheap source of entertainment. At times, they push for unusual legislation, like making it illegal to blow your nose in public, or calling for public flogging for juvenile delinquents. But sometimes politicians do things that make you feel good. Like recommending a bill that would allow street performers in the city. The Convention, Tourism, Arts and Humanities Committee of the		
Diversity Rising At Black Colleges, Says Top Official, Gregory Freeman, 761 words, :	Tue., 7/8/1997	AN UNFORESEEN reaction to a growing anti-affirmative action sentiment may be an increase in the number of students attending black colleges, says the president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund. William H. Gray III, who has headed the UNCF since he left Congress in 1991, says his organization is not happy about the efforts to dismantle affirmative action. "But we have to be ready to prepare the nation's next doctors, next lawyers, next		
Mister Magoo Is Just A Nearsighted Fellow, Not A Cause For Boycotts, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Sun., 7/6/1997	POOR Disney. First the Southern Baptists choose to boycott the company, calling its policies immoral and gay-friendly. Now, the National Federation of the Blind is going after it, calling it insensitive. The federation wants Disney to stop making a new Mister Magoo movie. It says that reviving the cartoon character is an insult to the blind. Mister Magoo first appeared in 1949 in a theatrical cartoon. With the jovial voice of the late Jim Backus, the character appeared in		
Make No Excuses For 'Iron Mike', Gregory Freeman, 721 words, :	Thu., 7/3/1997	FROM office buildings to coffee shops, from barbershops to corporate dining rooms, Mike Tyson's name is on everyone's lips this week. Tyson's Saturday night antics - biting both ears of heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield in their World Boxing Association title bout - were beyond contemptible. But they didn't surprise at least one St. Louisan. Gerald Early, director of African and African-American studies at Washington University, has read every biography of		
Lois Lane Is Hot On The Trail Of Superman, Gregory Freeman, 675 words, :	Tue., 7/1/1997	EXCEPT for the snowy hair, Noel Neill looks almost the same as she did 40 years ago, when she retired from the Daily Planet newsroom and put away those pillbox hats she wore on television's "The Adventures of Superman." The voice is the same. The spunkiness that Neill displayed as Lois Lane is still there. So are those sparkling eyes and radiant smile that attracted many a baby boomer to her interpretation of always-determined reporter. Although she's retired from		
Downtown Has Symbolic Value, Gregory Freeman, 762 words, :	Tue., 7/1/1997	IN MOST MAJOR American cities, downtown is the area that symbolizes the region. When you think of Chicago, you don't necessarily think of Skokie or Lincoln Park or the South Side. You think of downtown, its hustle and bustle, Michigan Avenue and the liveliness that goes with it. When you think of New York, the first thing that comes to your mind is rarely the Bronx, Brooklyn or Harlem. You think of Manhattan, of guys selling hot dogs with sauerkraut, even of guys		
A Salute To Strong Women Who Raise Their Children Alone, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Sun., 6/29/1997	WHEN I WAS a teen-ager, my father was killed in a job-related accident. For my 10-year-old sister and me, his death was devastating. The tears that flowed from our eyes never seemed to stop. But my mother remained strong. Although she told us later that she had done so privately, we never saw her cry, not even at the funeral. She felt that she had to be strong for her children. And she was. She raised us on her own, made sure that our needs were taken care of and served as both		
Lots Of Hypocrisy Fills Debate On Affirmative Action, Gregory Freeman, 728 words, :	Thu., 6/26/1997	FOR YEARS, I've been clobbered by some readers every time I've mentioned my support for affirmative action. My argument has been that of the level playing field: that affirmative action is a necessary remedy to correct the wrongs that this country in flicted on blacks here in the past. Few would deny that slavery and racism put blacks behind other Americans, educationally and economically. I've argued that affirmative action programs have allowed for more diversity on		
When Wife's Gone, Main Vice Kicks In, Gregory Freeman, 768 words, :	Tue., 6/24/1997	MY WIFE and teen-age son just got back into town after entrusting me with the house and cats while they took a few days' vacation. "Entrusting" is the right word. Rarely does my wife trust me to stay home during excursions like this because she knows of one vice I have: I am a slob. There's no mistaking it. I'm not the neatest man in the world. I'm a lot closer to Oscar Madison than Felix Unger. My colleagues have known this for years. More		
Why Some White Americans Are Afraid To Talk About Race, Gregory Freeman, 701 words, :	Sun., 6/22/1997	A COLLEAGUE came to me the other day and told me he'd decided to be quiet. "I ain't saying anything," he told me. His comments came on the heels of President Bill Clinton's announcement that he wants to establish a national dialogue on race. My colleague, who is white, said he's decided to keep his thoughts on race to himself. He thinks many whites are doing the same. Why? He doesn't want to be branded a racist, he told me. I		

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Race, Park, Mayor And Cat In The Mail, Gregory Freeman, 730 words, :	Thu., 6/19/1997	TODAY, LET'S GO straight to the letters: Greg, A very good column today regarding President Clinton's discussion of race and diversity in America. You are so right about the importance of maintaining an open discussion on race relations. I can remember my boyhood church having one black family in our congregation of over 1,000 people, and wondering why the church would send thousands of dollars in missionary outreach money to foreign countries and spending nothing in		
Clinton Does Nation A Favor By Talking On Race Relations, Gregory Freeman, 746 words, :	Tue., 6/17/1997	A HEALTHY percentage of blacks and whites surveyed in a Gallup poll released last week believe that blacks make up more than 40 percent of the nation's population. I asked my wife what she thought the percentage was of blacks in this country, and her answer was similar. In fact, blacks make up about 12 percent of the population, followed by Hispanics and Asians. The poll indicates something that President Bill Clinton knows: We don't really know who we are. Not only do		
'Unfinished Business' Of Race Spurs Clinton, Gregory Freeman, 810 words, :	Sun., 6/15/1997	WHEN IT COMES to minorities - and African-Americans in particular - President Bill Clinton has often been accused of being someone who knows all the steps but refuses to dance. He knows the right rhetoric to make people feel good. But when it comes to action, critics have alleged, he falls short. Yet Clinton is right when he says that he probably understands African-Americans better than most white politicians today. He knows the words to the old Negro spirituals. He is as comfortable		
Clinton Promises To Take Action On Race Panel's Recommendations, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Fri., 6/13/1997	President Bill Clinton says he won't let languish the recommendations of a panel he is appointing to begin his national dialogue on race. He plans to act decisively on the panel's recommendations. "I want this to be something where I can have no distance from this, so I can't just say it's something I did, and then, if I choose to take the recommendations, fine; if I don't, fine. I don't want that sort of a deal. I'm not looking for a way out here.		
Instead Of Beating St. Louis Down, Let's Look At The Up Side, Gregory Freeman, 767 words, :	Thu., 6/12/1997	DO ST. LOUISIANS suffer from an inferiority complex? A case can be made that we do. For whatever reason, we don't feel good about ourselves, I'd argue, and it shows - sometimes to the detriment of our region. On more than one occasion, I've heard conversations between St. Louisians and someone who's just moved here. When the newcomer says where he's from, he's asked something like, "Why did you move here?" as if St. Louis were the other side		
Yet Another Study To Examine City, Gregory Freeman, 749 words, :	Tue., 6/10/1997	IT SEEMS as if St. Louisans are studied to death. There's always someone or another doing a study here of something or other. So when Mayor Clarence Harmon announced last week that FOCUS St. Louis would be conducting a study of city government, most of the news media in this town yawned. You can't blame us. Another study. And it seems that most of them end up sitting on a shelf somewhere, collecting dust. Just last year, for instance, a blue-ribbon panel that had		
New Lexington Elementary - A Model For Neighborhood Schools, Gregory Freeman, 706 words, :	Sun., 6/8/1997	SOMEONE driving past Lexington Elementary School might not realize it's a new building. The two-story, brown-brick building with a pitched roof blends in with the architecture of the neighborhood. The 25-classroom school, complete with an ample cafeteria and a library, sits nicely amid the tidy homes and well-maintained lawns in this north St. Louis neighborhood. But Lexington, at 3130 Norwood Avenue, is just completing its first school year. It's the first new, nonmagnet		
Promise Breakers Ought To Accept Opera House Plan, Greg Freeman, 748 words, :	Thu., 6/5/1997	REGULAR READERS know that I've taken to calling the Kiel Center Partners the "Non-promise Keepers." That, of course, refers to their inability or refusal to renovate the Kiel Opera House. But a couple of professors from the University of Missouri at St. Louis have come up with an idea that could get the partners' fat out of the fire. For those of you who just came in, though, a little background: The Kiel Opera House, the grand building on Market Street		
Diversity Fuels This Court Fight, Gregory Freeman, 845 words, :	Tue., 6/3/1997	BYRON WILLIAMS joined the service to fight for his country. Now the Army sergeant from St. Louis is fighting for basketball courts. Williams grew up near Lafayette Square. For most of his life, he's played basketball in the courts at Lafayette Park. Last week, he was looking forward to shooting a few hoops in his neighborhood. But his hopes were shot down when the city - egged on by some Lafayette Square residents - removed the hoops from the park. Regular readers of		
It's Time To End Racist Attitudes About Housing, HUD Official Says, Gregory Freeman, 687 words, :	Sun., 6/1/1997	THOSE WHO know Kenneth Lange know that he doesn't often raise his voice. Though powerful, the head of the local U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development office works with area politicians on a regular basis, so he rarely says anything controversial. He's got to get along with those guys, after all. So when Lange, who is white, accused St. Louis County Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall of pandering to racists recently, a lot of folks stood up and paid		
When We Are Out, Is Cable Always On?, Gregory Freeman, 753 words, :	Thu., 5/29/1997	ALL OF US who have cable television service know how frustrating it can be when the service is out. Sometimes just the cable stations are out. Other times, none of the channels seems to work. Bill Hunt is among the frustrated. Hunt got up one morning, turned on his set to see the latest sports news on ESPN and found that his cable service was out. It wasn't the first time. His service goes out about once a week, he says. When Hunt got ready to pay his bill, he		
Legend Singers Get In Tune With Perfectionism Of Their New Choral Director, Gregory Freeman, 786 words, :	Tue., 5/27/1997	THE YEAR WAS 1940. Americans had yet to fight in World War II. The nation was still dealing with the consequences of the 1929 stock market crash. President Franklin D. Roosevelt had set up federal projects to get Americans working again. Here in St. Louis, 22-year-old Kenneth Brown Billups took on one of those projects by forming the Legend Singers, a choral group whose mission was to perform and preserve the music of black Americans, including spirituals, work songs, gospel and		
Age 16, A Mother And Not A Bit Sorry, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Sun., 5/25/1997	THE REPORT looks good: Fewer teen-age girls are having sex, and those who do are more likely to have partners who use condoms. The government reports that this is the first time teen-age sex rates have dropped in 25 years. Researchers credit increased education on AIDS prevention and how to say no to sex. Some 50 percent of teen-age girls have had intercourse at least once, compared with 55 percent in 1990, according to reports. The results are similar among teen-age boys, where 60		
Flap Over Author Upsets Many People, Gregory Freeman, 771 words, :	Thu., 5/22/1997	"What would have happened if whites had picketed Jackie Robinson?" the caller asked. HIS analogy wasn't quite right, but I knew the point he was making. And I knew that this was one of those issues - I call them "O.J. issues" - that strike whites and blacks differently. The controversy surrounds author Terry McMillan, who penned "Waiting to Exhale" and other titles. McMillan backed out of her lone appearance here earlier this week promoting her new		
Apology Is A Start, But Is It Enough?, Gregory Freeman, 748 words, :	Tue., 5/20/1997	SEVERAL YEARS ago, when the government was recommending that most Americans get flu shots, I had a conversation with a black acquaintance. I was planning to get a shot. Was he? "No way," he said. Why not? It's probably better than getting the flu over the winter. "There's no way they're going to put anything in me," he said. "I know the Tuskegee thing." I knew immediately what he meant by the "Tuskegee thing."		

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Robinson Took More Heat So Others Would Take Less, Gregory Freeman, 821 words, :	Sun., 5/18/1997	When Jackie Roosevelt Robinson first came to St. Louis in a Brooklyn Dodgers uniform in 1947, this was a much different place than it is today. Segregation was commonplace. Blacks and whites didn't mingle. Discrimination was an everyday occurrence. Bennie G. Rodgers remembers those days well. Rodgers was the city editor of the St. Louis American. He remembers the slights at the old Sportsman's Park before Robinson broke the color line. Some were large. Others were		
Rice-Peebles Lives With Echoes Of Whistle-Blowing, Gregory Freeman, 713 words, :	Thu., 5/15/1997	EVELYN RICE-PEEBLES looked relaxed Wednesday in her office at the southwestern edge of Forest Park. A corner of her office was filled with plants and balloons from well-wishers. Pieces of African and other art graced the walls, and she was clearly comfortable in the office that she'd vacated last August. Back in her job as St. Louis recreation commissioner since last week, she acknowledged that the results of being a whistle-blower had taken a toll on her. Rice-Peebles blew		
When It Comes To The Basics, Most Of Us Agree, Gregory Freeman, 728 words, :	Tue., 5/13/1997	WHEN I started writing this column a few years ago, an editor suggested the name "A Different View." I disliked the name, as did other editors. To me it suggested that the opinions that I would express in the column would be different from other opinions, presumably because I am black. Indeed, some of my opinions do differ from those of some whites, and my opinions are sometimes colored by my race. I know, for instance, that my view of affirmative action - that it is a good		
I Like Watching Jerry Springer, Gregory Freeman, 715 words, :	Sun., 5/11/1997	A CHICAGO television station's decision to hire talk show host Jerry Springer as a commentator - and the controversy that resulted - hits home a bit. The station, WMAQ-TV, decided to hire Springer to boost its ratings. The decision caused a stir in the station's newsroom and prompted one veteran news anchor to resign. Of that, Springer had said: "What the hell? It's only reading a prompter. I mean, they make it seem like it's journalism." But after a week		
Winds Of Change Starting To Blow Throughout Area, Gregory Freeman, 801 words, :	Thu., 5/8/1997	THERE'S a buzz in the air in St. Louis these days. A sense that maybe, just maybe, something's about to change here. St. Louis 2004, the Peirce Report, the election of Mayor Clarence Harmon - all are contributing to that buzz, which has been a catalyst for ideas. More St. Louisans, it seems, are coming up with ideas for moving this area - which has been stagnating for much too long - forward. Whether it's letters to the editor, callers to radio talk shows or		
Group Sings Praises Of Loyal Volunteer, Gregory Freeman, 814 words, :	Tue., 5/6/1997	BEFORE Colin Powell began assembling his army of volunteers, Kenneth Brown had already enlisted. Two factors influenced Brown's decision to "sign up" seven months ago. The first was his then-girlfriend. Brown had no idea what was troubling her. At times she was pensive, quiet and withdrawn. At other times she was almost secretive, refusing to let him into certain parts of her life. "She stayed inside a closed shell," he said. "I figured something was		
The Word On The Street: We Want Vendors, Musicians, Gregory Freeman, 735 words, :	Thu., 4/24/1997	A WEEK AGO, I wrote a column about what street musicians and vendors would add to downtown St. Louis. I asked readers to imagine a downtown filled with wonderful sights and sounds and smells, a place where street vendors would sell a dozen types of smoked wurst, where young men with drumsticks would play white plastic buckets turned upside down before an appreciative crowd, where a stroller could buy a hot dog with sauerkraut and mustard. We can only imagine such a place now because		
'Youth Side' Keeps Teens On Track, Gregory Freeman, 827 words, :	Tue., 4/22/1997	IT'S 10:30 ON a Friday night, and the Monsanto YMCA is abuzz with activity. About 100 youngsters, ages 13-18, are busy playing basketball and swimming, doing other sports or socializing. This is an overnight outing, and the young people will be at this North Side Y until 6 a.m. Saturday. As one boy enters the door, Greg Tumlin's eyes dart to him and he asks facetiously, "Hey! Are you 13?" "Yeah, I'm 13," the boy says. "You		
Father Knows Best: Tiger Woods' Dad Is A Champion, Too, Gregory Freeman, 751 words, :	Sun., 4/20/1997	ELDRICK "TIGER" WOODS made history last week when he shattered the 72-hole scoring record at the Masters, becoming, at 21, the youngest and first black champion in the golf tournament's history. Many writers and commentators remarked on how Woods would now become a role model for millions of Americans. That may be, but there's another role model that some are missing: Woods' father, Earl Woods. Americans watched him give his son a 30-second victory hug after his		
How To Revive Downtown? Start With Tunes, Food, Gregory Freeman, 710 words, book: city life	Thu., 4/17/1997	IMAGINE A DOWNTOWN St. Louis filled with marvelous sights, sounds and smells. Street vendors sell a dozen types of smoked wurst. Two young men with drumsticks play upside-down, white plastic buckets to the delight of an appreciative crowd. A man sitting nearby plays old blues tunes on a bass guitar. Nearby, a bearded man who looks to be in his early 40s is dressed up in an Uncle Sam outfit, selling handmade puppets. Around the corner, two young men display their juggling talents with		
First Day As Mayor, Last Day To Relax, Gregory Freeman, 830 words, :	Tue., 4/15/1997	An open letter to Clarence Harmon: GOOD MORNING. This is a special day for you and for St. Louis. This morning, you'll be sworn in as the city's 48th mayor. This evening, you'll celebrate your swearing in at the inaugural ball. Enjoy this day. Tomorrow you've got to hit the ground running, with a sense of urgency. The first issue you'll have to tackle will be the Regional Hospital mess. You're to be commended for your efforts already to try to keep		
When Reform May Do Harm, Gregory Freeman, 716 words, :	Sun., 4/13/1997	IF YOU WANT a different perspective on President Bill Clinton's efforts to get people off of welfare, you might talk to Rowena Hudson. Hudson works for a small factory here. She's held the job for about a year and a half. Before that, she worked at a fast-food restaurant. She left the fast-food job for the factory because it guaranteed her more hours and it pays slightly above minimum wage, her salary at the restaurant. Hudson is 25 and the mother of two daughters, ages 9 and		
Married 75 Years, Couple Reflect On Promises, Blessings, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Thu., 4/10/1997	IN 1919, WOODROW WILSON was in the White House. Fine women's hats could be bought for \$3.95 and men's silk socks went for 39 cents. "Mutt and Jeff" was one of the popular comic strips of the day. A large box of Kellogg's Corn Flakes went for 11 cents. The Academy Awards were still eight years away from being established. And in Mason, Tenn., a town of 300, John Mack Walker set his eyes on Annie J. Burrell for the first time. The meeting would have lifelong		
Steering My Son Through A Teen Rite Of Passage, Gregory Freeman, 700 words, :	Tue., 4/8/1997	THE TIME HAD come for the ritual, the one that fathers and their children go through. It was time to get the drivers permit. Like most youngsters his age, Will is eager to drive. Like dandelions, his friends are popping up with drivers licenses, one by one, and he'd like to join them. To his credit, though, he's been patient. While he turned 16 last month, it wasn't until recently that we went to the drivers license bureau to take the test. License bureaus are		
Give Students A Fair Share, Gregory Freeman, 712 words, :	Sun., 4/6/1997	WHY CAN'T all school districts get the same amount of money per pupil? It's a question that's crossed my mind more than once as I've considered the disparity in education that students get. Why, for instance, does the Ladue School District pay \$9,348 a year to educate each pupil while the De Soto School District pays \$3,975 for each student? Why does the Clayton School District pay \$9,400 for each of its students while the Jennings School District pays \$3,854? Does		

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Clarence Harmon: 'This Is All About Changing Things', Gregory Freeman, 798 words, :	Thu., 4/3/1997	WHEN MAYOR-ELECT Clarence Harmon worked the streets as a young cop on the beat, he wasn't always greeted with open arms. "People would sometimes call you names, and no one likes that," he said during an interview on election night. "But I was trained to always remain focused. I always had to stay focused on the issue that I wanted to accomplish." It was, he says, the way he approached the race for mayor. Harmon suffered various slights and indignities		
Healing Our Racial Rifts: The Solutions Are Here, Gregory Freeman, 1919 words, :	Sun., 3/30/1997	A COUPLE OF WEEKS ago, I wrote a column about racial polarization here. The issue was raised in the Peirce Report, written by urban experts Neal Peirce and Curtis Johnson. From their report: "Race pervades every St. Louis regional issue. It feeds the sprawl and all the costs of sprawl as people run from inner-city minorities. It explains the disparities in school funding and the extraordinary percentages of private and parochial school enrollments. It limits the geographic appeal		
St. Louis 2004 Needs To Avoid Bad Habits That Hold Area Back, Gregory Freeman, 770 words, :	Fri., 3/28/1997	FOR NEARLY 100 years, St. Louisans have grazed on the memories of the 1904 World's Fair. We speak with pride of those glory days of our city, when the world came to our doorsteps. We tout the many inventions that came out of the fair, like iced tea and ice cream cones. The song, "Meet Me In St. Louis," is still taught in some elementary schools here While precious few of us were around in those days, many of us cling to our dreams of what St. Louis was and stick to our		
Working Quietly, Excise Commissioner Has Helped Strengthen Neighborhoods, Gregory Freeman, 762 words, :	Tue., 3/25/1997	WHEN MOST St. Louisans think about city government, Bob Kraiberg doesn't come to mind. He's never run for public office. He's not the sort of person who seeks publicity. His isn't a household name But for the last 10 years, Kraiberg has been the city's excise commissioner, responsible for liquor licenses and the like. And while you may not recognize his name, he's been deeply involved in giving power to neighborhoods. He's been active in reducing the		
For A Weak Party, City Republicans Are Surprisingly Lively, Gregory Freeman, 746 words, :	Sun., 3/23/1997	IF, IN NINE DAYS, Jay Dearing doesn't become the first Republican since 1945 to be elected mayor of St. Louis, he may be in a position to help rebuild his party in St. Louis. In a debate last week sponsored by the Post-Dispatch and St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, Dearing held his own on a panel with Democrat Clarence Harmon and independents Marit Clark and Donnell Smith. Dearing was confident, witty and had some well-thought-out ideas. He provided the quip of the debate,		
Adults Need To Teach Youngsters That It's OK To Do Well In School, Gregory Freeman, 685 words, :	Fri., 3/21/1997	I first met Kim Rogers eight years ago. Rogers was a 17-year-old student who lived in the Walnut Park neighborhood where, as she described it, many people carried guns and where people were willing to shoot others for committing such heinous crimes as stepping on a toe or accidentally bumping into someone Rogers, who is black, talked to me about how people in her neighborhood would tease her as she walked past their houses because she was going to school. They chided her for getting an		
Cat's Illness Lets His Love For Felines Out Of The Bag, Gregory Freeman, 774 words, book: family	Tue., 3/18/1997	IT'S 2 A.M., and one of our three cats is having some sort of seizure. I'm not sure what to do, so I pick him up and hold him in my arms to try to calm him. These little seizures have been going on for a couple of weeks, and the vet doesn't yet know what's causing them. What we do know is that the cat is 14 years old and is having kidney problems. He's eating special food and we're giving him medication to deal with an infection. The vet also has		
Searching For Some Good Ideas On Healing The Racial Rift In St. Louis, Gregory Freeman, 729 words, :	Sun., 3/16/1997	A FEW YEARS AGO, a friend and I got into a discussion about the problem of racial polarization in St. Louis. The friend, Daniel Schesch, and I agreed that one reason for the polarization here is the housing segregation. Living in one of the nation's most segregated areas when it comes to housing - as pointed out in several national studies - St. Louisans rarely interact with one another socially. We see each other at work or, perhaps, at school. Other than that, though, a majority of		
Something Other Than Christian Charity Greet's Casting Of Annual Passion Play, Gregory Freeman, 695 words, :	Fri., 3/14/1997	THE PRODUCTION of a Passion play at a performing arts center in New Jersey is causing an uproar - not because of its content. Desi Arnaz Giles portrays Jesus Christ in the play. Giles is black, and therein lies the controversy The Rev. Kevin Ashe, a Catholic priest who is executive director of the Park Performing Arts Center in Union City, N.J., reports that the box office has received a flood of calls critical of the concept of a black Jesus. Several callers canceled their		
Harmon Draws Line On Donations But History May Be On His Side, Gregory Freeman, 729 words, :	Sun., 3/9/1997	CLARENCE HARMON'S campaign staff says it has only \$50,000 on hand for the April 1 general election. That may have been the case on election night. But that sound you hear is the sound of checks being written to Harmon's campaign. You can be certain that a lot of people and businesses who like to be on the winning side are sending money to Harmon's campaign right now. To his credit, Harmon has said that he won't accept money from firms seeking to do business with the		
Killer's Sentence Leaves Victim's Family Upset, Gregory Freeman, 731 words, :	Fri., 3/7/1997	THE BOOK was closed last week in the case of Reginald Jamont Wilson. Readers may remember Reggie's case. I wrote about the 16-year-old's murder more than a year ago. His body was found on a vacant lot in the 5000 block of Wren Avenue, in the city's Walnut Park neighborhood. He had been stabbed to death His body was found Dec. 7, 1995 - his 17th birthday. But police believe he was killed the previous night. He died of more than 50 stab wounds, many of which were found on		
Bosley Aides May Have Painted Him 'Too Black', Gregory Freeman, 738 words, :	Thu., 3/6/1997	IN SEPTEMBER 1995, before Clarence Harmon surprised everyone by resigning as police chief, before Midnite Basketball trouble and before cell phone controversies, I wrote: "The Colin Powell of the 1997 mayor's race, though, is Chief Clarence Harmon. While Harmon has expressed no public interest in wanting the job, he has plenty of cheerleaders all over the city who would love for him to run. And while he has never been involved in elective politics and has no political		
Sometimes, History Changes Course When A Gentle Man Takes A Stand, Gregory Freeman, 783 words, :	Tue., 3/4/1997	J.D. SHELLEY didn't want any trouble. In fact, he'd moved to St. Louis to get away from trouble. Shelley and his wife, Ethel, were born in Starkville, Miss. The two had five children. J.D. Shelley worked as a laborer, first in a sawmill and later on the highways. Ethel Shelley worked as a domestic, cleaning homes. By 1939, Ethel Shelley, a black woman, decided to quit work so that she could take better care of her children. She notified her white employer, a woman who asked		
Going To Ballot Box Tuesday Is True Test Of Love For City, Gregory Freeman, 730 words, :	Sun., 3/2/1997	A FRIEND OF MINE, a fellow city dweller, tells me she's made up her mind on Tuesday's primary for mayor. She's not going to vote. My friend says she's tired of the charges and countercharges from the campaigns of Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. and former Police Chief Clarence Harmon. "Every time I turn on the television, there's another commercial with one candidate going after another candidate," she said. "That's not what I want to hear. I		
'It's How I Relax'; Evening With Ray Charles Tonight, Gregory Freeman, 507 words, :	Sat., 3/1/1997	* The entertainer, who turns 67 this September, said he has no plans to retire or even slow down. WHEN Ray Charles was a child, growing up in Greenville, Fla., he loved staying up late to listen to the radio "It took me everywhere," he said. "I could hear live broadcasts of good music." It took him to Nashville, where he enjoyed listening to the Grand Old Opry. It took him to New York, where he could hear the musical styling of such greats as Count Basie and		

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2 Candidates Lay Claim To Villa Legacy, Gregory Freeman, 758 words, :	Fri., 2/28/1997	ALBERT "RED" VILLA was the last of the old-time city politicians. Red represented the 11th Ward - a working-class ward that generally covers the Carondelet neighborhood - from 1953 until his death in 1991. A saloonkeeper-politician, Red was known for a fat Dominican cigar, a rounded profile, a spitoon and a fedora. He had a shiny black Cadillac and a wry sense of humor. From 1931 to 1977, he operated a saloon called The Cottage, at 8129 South Broadway. There, he held court at		
Regional's Dying Spurs Barely A Whimper, Gregory Freeman, 731 words, :	Wed., 2/26/1997	WHAT A DIFFERENCE 18 years make. It was 18 years ago, in August 1979, when then-Mayor Jim Conway made what ultimately became a politically fatal mistake: He closed Homer G. Phillips Hospital, in the city's historic Ville neighborhood, leaving the city's only inpatient services at City Hospital, on the near South Side. Conway's decision touched off such a furor among many black St. Louisans, a majority of whom lived in north St. Louis, that he was defeated in the 1981		
Debate Shows Growth Of Gay Power, Gregory Freeman, 686 words, :	Tue., 2/25/1997	FOR GAYS AND lesbians in St. Louis, Sunday may have been a special day - at least if the candidates running for mayor are to be believed. That's because six of the seven candidates sought the votes of gay and lesbian St. Louisans during a debate at Trinity Episcopal Church in the Central West End. More significantly, many of the candidates sided with gay and lesbian activists on most of the issues they addressed. With the exception of Republican Jim Rapp, all of the candidates -		
Opening Minds To Black History - Not Just A February Exercise, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Sun., 2/23/1997	IMAGINE A HIGH school American history class where the teacher proclaims that any history involving whites in America will be taught only in March. The remaining months will be dedicated to teaching the history of blacks in America. Such an announcement would surely cause some parents to be outraged. Some might even go as far as to call for the teacher's ouster, claiming that the teacher was not giving the students a complete picture of American history. That thought comes to		
Checkerboard Square Conspiracy Idea Just Doesn't Stand Up To Scrutiny, Gregory Freeman, 757 words, :	Tue., 2/18/1997	RIGHT AFTER the news broke, reader Chris Arps gave me a call. "Do you think they're trying to affect the election?" he asked. "They" are Ralston Purina Co., which after 103 years in the city of St. Louis is considering a move - out of the city or out of the area. A decision by its board is expected March 20. Arps wondered if the announcement had been timed to embarrass Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. as he seeks re-election. The loss of a major business like		
Trickling Down And Building Up, Gregory Freeman, 813 words, :	Sun., 2/16/1997	TRICKLE DOWN. The words more readily bring to mind Ronald Reagan's economic theory than what's happened over the years to Keith Turner. But, in many ways, Turner is perhaps a better example of what "trickle down" really means. It was 13 years ago that Bill Harrison, an associate dean at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, founded St. Paul Saturdays. The program, through St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, was designed to help young men gain		
A Friendship That The Rules Wouldn't Allow, Gregory Freeman, 734 words, :	Fri., 2/14/1997	GOING THROUGH my e-mail the other day, I ran across a letter from reader Jerry McDonald. McDonald had read a recent column I'd written about race relations and wanted to share an experience with me. I don't usually print complete letters here, but I felt compelled to make an exception with McDonald's letter. With his permission, here it is. Mr. Freeman, I am white, was reared in a poor, south St. Louis neighborhood in the 1940s and 1950s. Our flat was less than 20		
Haas Encounters 'Serious' Problems As He Jousts With Political Windmills, Gregory Freeman, 884 words, :	Tue., 2/11/1997	This is the last of three columns focusing on the campaign styles of the three Democratic candidates for mayor of St. Louis. IT'S ANOTHER night of campaigning for Bill Haas, who's busy trying to get his message across to anyone who will listen. On this evening, Haas, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for mayor of St. Louis, is at the 25th Ward Democratic Club, in deep south St. Louis. The meeting is in a church hall, and about 50 people are gathering to hear him, his		
Race Relations And Our Future, Gregory Freeman, 697 words, :	Sun., 2/9/1997	"My fellow Americans, we must never, ever believe that our diversity is a weakness - it is our greatest strength. Americans speak every language, know every country. People on every continent can look to us and see the reflection of their own great potential - and they always will, as long as we strive to give all of our citizens, whatever their background, an opportunity to achieve their own greatness." President Bill Clinton 1997 State of the Union Address BRENDA		
It's Time To Look At Where Races Agree, Gregory Freeman, 727 words, :	Fri., 2/7/1997	IT'S TIME TO put O.J. Simpson behind us. Probably more than any other in recent years - and that would include the Rodney King case - the Simpson matter has pulled blacks and whites apart. It has served only to exacerbate our racial problems, to divide us even more. More ominously, it's brought out the worst in us. The Simpson case has made too many of us willing to stereotype those of another race. It's caused people to make blanket assumptions of others that they		
On A Cold Night, Bosley Warms Up Crowd Before Meeting On South Side, Gregory Freeman, 825 words, :	Tue., 2/4/1997	This is the second of three columns examining the styles of the three Democratic candidates running for mayor of St. Louis. The third column will appear next Tuesday. THE TEMPERATURE IS 9 degrees, but inside a hall at a South Side church, Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. is busily warming up the 50 or so people who have braved the cold this night to hear the mayor, his challengers and candidates for other offices. Bosley is one of the first to arrive for this meeting. He positions himself		
Let's Haul Down The Rebel Flag, Gregory Freeman, 805 words, :	Sun., 2/2/1997	LAURE HARDEN doesn't strike you as a woman who gets angry often. Hers is a face that at once conveys compassion and empathy, understanding and concern. But on this afternoon, her face was filled with anger, and it centered on the Confederate battle flag. Harden, a sales manager at a local shoe store, was angered by the most recent news stories about that flag. In the last month, that flag has popped up in the news in two states. In Maryland, officials agreed to recall		
Many Factors Contribute To Crime Drop, Gregory Freeman, 745 words, :	Fri., 1/31/1997	THE NUMBERS are out, and St. Louisans are feeling good about themselves. Crime in the city is down, some of it dramatically. But why is it down? And can anything be done to make sure the numbers don't creep up again? The reduction in crime is clearly part of a national trend. To no one's surprise, politicians are busy taking plenty of credit for it. In his radio address a couple of weeks ago, President Bill Clinton gave his administration credit for the drop. He		
Harmon's Campaign Style Appealing More To The Mind Than To The Heart, Gregory Freeman, 746 words, :	Tue., 1/28/1997	This is the first of three columns on the campaign styles of the three Democratic candidates for mayor of St. Louis. The other two will run on the following Tuesdays. IT'S A BONE-CHILLING night, but more than 300 people pack into a hall in south St. Louis to hear what the mayoral candidate has to say. The former police chief, wearing a crisp navy suit, white shirt and dark tie, is hosting one of his "Conversations with Clarence Harmon," a series of town hall meetings		
Confessions Of A Sports Misfit, Gregory Freeman, 712 words, :	Sun., 1/26/1997	IT'S SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, and most of America is getting ready for today's Big Game. Like locusts, Americans are descending on supermarkets, clearing their shelves of tortilla chips and salsa, Cokes and cases of beer. Advertisers are preparing special commercials, suitable for airing only during the game. Super Bowl party hosts are cornering the market on bean dip. I won't be in front of the set during the game. Regular readers know that I'm not much of a sports		

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Black Talk Radio Here Has Its Drums Silenced, Gregory Freeman, 777 words, :	Fri., 1/24/1997	I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED what attracts people to the radio business. It's so volatile. Always changing. Its motto seems to be format today, gone tomorrow. Every year, though, when I volunteer at a high school journalism workshop, I find dozens of enthusiastic students who can't wait to get their voices on the air. Journalism schools are always bulging with budding broadcasters. People are willing to go into the profession knowing that they're not likely to get rich and		
St. Louis Never Misses A Trick, Gregory Freeman, 786 words, :	Tue., 1/21/1997	WARNING: YOU ARE entering an inauguration-free zone. Nothing here about how long Bill Clinton's speech was Monday. Nothing about what Hillary Rodham Clinton wore to the inaugural ball. Not a word about how much Chelsea has grown in four years or what Socks the cat was doing while the First Family was out celebrating. No, instead what you'll read here is a tale about a promise unkept, a promise made to an excited - probably too excited - city that makes a lot of folks here feel		
King's Words Speak To Today, Gregory Freeman, 801 words, :	Sun., 1/19/1997	IT'S THAT TIME again. Martin Luther King Day is tomorrow, and once more everyone is pulling out all the stops. The TV documentaries, the school programs, the celebrations and church services, all honoring the man who had a dream. But as the years go by, King's messages become fuzzier. Some would even paint a picture of King as a mild, passive man who simply urged all Americans to hold hands and sing "We Shall Overcome." King was much more forceful, much		
Archaeologists, Art Aficionados Helping Youngsters Dig Education, Gregory Freeman, 764 words, :	Tue., 1/14/1997	HOW MANY OF US sit around and fret about the state of public schools, griping about how youngsters aren't getting the kind of education that we did? How few of us actually get around to doing something about it ourselves. Judy Brilliant did. So did Michael Fuller. And over the past 10 years, so have countless volunteers from the St. Louis Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and the St. Louis Art Museum. "The institute has always done programs for the		
The Delights Of Christmas Linger - If You Give Them A Little Time, Gregory Freeman, 726 words, :	Sun., 1/12/1997	TODAY MARKS THE 18th day after Christmas. That doesn't bother me. Our Christmas tree is still up in our living room. And considering the cold and the snow - and the fact that weather guy Dave Murray says we should put on our snowshoes, wear more layers of clothing than Schweig Engel has commercials for credit, and hook up a team of Alaskan huskies before we step outside to get the newspaper - it doesn't look like it will get out of the house any time soon. That sort of follows		
Man Can Hit Bottom, Bounce Back, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Fri., 1/10/1997	ROBERT JENKINS has a smooth and easy grace when he enters the room. This military veteran is a man at ease with himself, self-effacing yet confident. The firm, sure handshake offered by this tall man with the mahogany face and slightly graying beard does nothing to betray his past. That in itself is remarkable because Jenkins is a man who's been up, been down to the very bottom and - thanks to much soul-searching, religion and a program that gave him a chance - is coming up once		
The Flames Of Racial Division Threaten To Consume Area's Hopes For Progress, Gregory Freeman, 713 words, :	Tue., 1/7/1997	A FIRE is smoldering in our community. The smoke is visible for miles. We try to ignore it, but its sickening smell forces us to gasp for air. We try to flee, but it's ever-present. The flames of racial polarization in this community are licking at our feet while too many of us are doing our best to ignore them. Don't see them? Maybe it's because so many of us have become so accustomed to them that they seem commonplace. What's abnormal is accepted as		
Readers' Thoughts On Downtown Woes, Gregory Freeman, 803 words, :	Sun., 1/5/1997	A FEW WEEKS AGO, Post-Dispatch reporter Charlene Prost provoked a great deal of thought with her package of stories on the slide of downtown St. Louis. The stories noted that although some parts of downtown still flourish, such as along Broadway or the always-busy Market Street, much of downtown has headed downhill. Office buildings are emptying out, street-level shops are declining, fewer people are heading downtown to shop. The stories were the source of lots of lively discussions in		
City Schools Talking The Right Language, Gregory Freeman, 726 words, :	Fri., 1/3/1997	ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO, I wrote a column critical of the St. Louis School Board for dropping its foreign language requirement for graduation. Board members at the time believed the requirement was too much of a hurdle for some students to jump. w Instead, students who were college-bound were encouraged, but not required, to take a foreign language. That column quoted Rep. Charles Quincy Troupe, D-St. Louis, who was troubled by the decision. "I've traveled around the world, and		
1996:				
	147 columns	3 in book		
'Ebonics' May Have Its Place, But Not Ahead Of Basic English, Gregory Freeman, 833 words, :	Tue., 12/31/1996	"Lias, Lias, bless de Lawd! Don't you know de day's abroad? Ef you don't git up, you scamp, Dey'll be trouble in dis camp. Think I gwine to let you sleep. While I works my board and keep? Dat's a putty howdy do. Don't you hyeah me, Lias you?" Excerpt from "In De Mornin'" by Paul Laurence Dunbar. MY MOTHER USED to read that poem to me when I was small, and she'd delight me as she'd		
How About Goodwill Toward Tardy?, Gregory Freeman, 730 words, :	Tue., 12/24/1996	YOU FOLKS have some nerve. I just bought our Christmas tree, and you didn't leave me with much of a choice. OK, it's Christmas Eve. But that doesn't mean that someone else might not still be looking for a tree. My 15-year-old, his friend and I just set out for our annual excursion to buy a tree. It was all planned. We were going to drive to the place where we usually get our trees. I was going to let Will search among them all and pick out his favorite. We were		
Mayoral Rivals Must Reach Out, Gregory Freeman, 842 words, :	Sun., 12/22/1996	"LET'S GET ready to rumble!" You can almost hear the announcer calling it out. But this isn't the "thrilla in Manila," and it's not the "rumble in the jungle." No, this is the "brawl at the Hall." City Hall, that is. Not since cigar-chomping Comptroller John Poelker took on the always-controversial Mayor Alfonso Juan Cervantes has St. Louis anticipated such a battle as the upcoming mayoral race between incumbent Freeman		
Packnett Touched Many Lives, Stood Up For Important Causes, Gregory Freeman, 722 words, :	Fri., 12/20/1996	THERE'S A void today at Del Monico's Diner. The Rev. Ronald Packnett, pastor of Central Baptist Church, was a fixture at the restaurant. He could be found at the restaurant at Delmar Boulevard and Euclid Avenue almost every morning, chowing down on one of their hearty pancakes-and-sausage breakfasts. And he had a passion for Del Monico's fried chicken legs. Packnett, who died Tuesday at 45 after a long illness, called restaurant matriarch Eva Bobo his mother away from		
Program Aims To Teach Teens About Making Life's Decisions, Gregory Freeman, 742 words, :	Tue., 12/17/1996	FIFTEEN STUDENTS PILE into the small classroom at Normandy Middle School. They are tall and filled out, young men with deep voices, young women with lipstick. One might think that they're adults, but their belongings, clothes and other items betray them: a young woman with a lollipop, a young man with blue jeans that sag endlessly. When Debra Robinson asks these students their ages, most reply 14. Robinson is no regular teacher. And this is no regular class. She's		

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Welfare Reform And Real Life, Gregory Freeman, 761 words, :	Sun., 12/15/1996	IF YOU BELIEVE everything that chest-pounding politicians tell you - aided at times, unfortunately, by some of us in the news media - you might think that the Welfare Reform Act is the best thing to come along since the Internet. Despite figures that show otherwise, some politicians would have us believe that the average welfare recipient is an urban black woman with lots of kids, seemingly able-bodied. It seems that every time an evening news program chooses to focus on the issue of		
Like It Or Not, Downtown Defines Our Region, Gregory Freeman, 690 words, :	Fri., 12/13/1996	DOWNTOWN was a different place when I joined the staff of this newspaper 16 years ago. The streets were bustling. Hungry diners waited in lines to get tables at the Sommer House restaurant across the street. The Sverdrup Corp. down the street was a flurry of activity. The old St. Louis Globe-Democrat building was busy, with reporters and photographers rushing in and out. Today, Sommer House has long gone, and restaurants are few near the Post-Dispatch. Sverdrup has moved many of its		
Lafayette Square's Harmony On The Line, Gregory Freeman, 805 words, :	Tue., 12/10/1996	UNDER THE STEADY GAZE of a towering bronze statue of Thomas Hart Benton, Lafayette Park today remains the haven for its residents that it was when built by the city in 1836. Pieces of art dot the near South Side park. A serpent sits atop a much-surprised fish. An oversized turtle peers out of its shell. A frog sits and takes in his surroundings. A baseball diamond, a playground and a basketball court wait to be used by the young and energetic. But it is here - and in Lafayette Square,		
Thurgood Marshall's FBI Link Must Be Seen In Context Of Times, Gregory Freeman, 770 words, :	Sun., 12/8/1996	THE NEWS HIT like a ton of bricks. Thurgood Marshall, the late Supreme Court justice and an icon in American and civil rights history, appeared to have cooperated with the FBI in the 1950s, occasionally providing information to the agency privately, even while criticizing it publicly. The news came from 1,300 pages of FBI files on Marshall released last week under the Freedom of Information Act. The files suggest that while Marshall headed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund,		
With The Midnite Basketball Scandal, Bosley Comes Closer To Fouling Out, Gregory Freeman, 742 words, :	Fri., 12/6/1996	AT A TIME when he should be trying to put his best foot forward, Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. is tripping all over his feet. The latest fall surrounds the firing of Evelyn Rice-Peebles, the city's recreation commissioner. Her dismissal appears to be the classic case of a whistle-blower being fired after alerting her boss to a problem. Rice-Peebles, a city employee for 20 years, first alerted Bosley that about \$120,000 was missing from the city's Midnite Basketball program. Her		
In Diverse Place Like City, One Man's Chitterling Is Another Man's Kishka, Gregory Freeman, 694 words, :	Tue., 12/3/1996	ONCE MORE, it's time to go through the mailbag. Dear Greg, Enjoyed your article yesterday on chitterlings. I am Jewish. We have a traditional food item that I have eaten and prepared most of my life. It is called "kishka." Kishka is stuffed beef intestine. The stuffing is very healthy as it is pure chicken fat and flour. Beef fat would probable work too, but there is nothing like "chicken fat." The skin or casing comes from the small intestine of the cow,		
Evil Act Brings Out Good In Neighbors, Gregory Freeman, 758 words, :	Sun., 12/1/1996	IN SOME NEIGHBORHOODS, a murder, no matter how rare, is enough to make some people hit the panic button and start scrambling for a new place to live. Not in the city's Central West End. Residents of the 4700 block of Westminster Place say a recent murder there has only made them stronger and more determined to stay. Through that determination they've collected nearly \$2,500 as a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who killed retired		
Clark Avoided Faceoff Not To Save Face, She Says, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Fri., 11/29/1996	IS MARIT CLARK a losing candidate who's saving face by pulling out of the Democratic primary for mayor of St. Louis a d running as an independent in the general election? Or is she a shrewd politician who's increased her chances of winning by skipping what's certain to be a rough-and-tumble primary? While some suggest that the former is closer to the truth, Clark insists it's the latter. And as proof of that, she's carrying on her campaign to succeed		
Why We're Thankful, Gregory Freeman, McClellan, et al, 775 words, :	Thu., 11/28/1996	GREGORY FREEMAN I'm thankful to be alive today. It may not sound that spectacular, given my age, 40. But nearly two dozen of my old high school classmates are gone today. Many of them died of gunshot wounds. Some died as the result of drug abuse. Others died of illness. Too many black men never live to see 40. Somehow, God has allowed me to live this long, and I'm grateful. Grateful for parents who raised me in a way that's surely helped me live to see		
Tradition, Schmadition: If Chitlins Aren't On Your Thanksgiving Menu, It's Not; A Real Holiday, Gregory Freeman, 690 words, book: family	Tue., 11/26/1996	WHILE SOME of you are preparing for a mouth-watering turkey this Thanksgiving, my mouth is preparing for something entirely different: chitterlings. They're pronounced chitlins really, unless you're the formal type. Then look for raised eyebrows when you say "chit-ter-lings." I've been eating chitterlings since I can remember, and I love 'em. They're no health food by any stretch of the imagination, and they're certainly not on my diet. But since		
Lacks Verdict Proves It's Not Profane For A Teacher To Display Creativity, Gregory Freeman, 762 words, :	Fri., 11/22/1996	LET'S HEAR IT for those teachers who are willing to go outside tradition to make sure kids learn. That's the kind of teacher I consider Cissy Lacks to be. And that's why I was pleased to see her win a jury award of \$750,000 from the Ferguson-Florissant School District. The district fired Lacks last year by the district from her teaching job at Berkeley High School for letting students use profanity in a creative writing assignment. Most high school students have		
Man Has An Unrewarding Experience Dealing With Officials In City Program, Gregory Freeman, 771 words, :	Tue., 11/19/1996	JOHNNY INMON could hardly believe it when he looked out the back window of his north St. Louis home in May and saw four men in his alley, shoveling out refuse from a pickup truck onto a vacant lot. "Just a few weeks before that, a bunch of us in our neighborhood had cleaned up a bunch of old roofing materials that someone had dumped in the alley," Inmon said. "I couldn't believe it was happening again." Inmon called police. Within minutes, three of St.		
Shameful Tape From Texaco, Gregory Freeman, 726 words, :	Sun., 11/17/1996	FOR MOST OF us, what goes on in the executive suites of major corporations is a mystery. We're never in those suites, and what we usually hear are the bland platitudes that come from official spokesmen for those companies. Generally, we hear them discuss their firms' commitment to Mom, apple pie and the American flag. Seldom do we have the chance to hear any of the actual conversations that go on in those corporate boardrooms. So the revelation of a secretly tape-recorded,		
Decrease In Welfare Benefits May Trigger Increase In Abuse, Ex-Victim Who Was On Welfare Fears, Gregory Freeman, 685 words, :	Fri., 11/15/1996	GERI REDDEN THINKS she's seen the future, and it scares her. Redden fears a future where a decrease in welfare benefits could result in an increase in child and domestic abuse. As executive director of the National Center for Violence Prevention, Redden has seen and dealt with plenty of cases of abuse over the last 20 years. A former abuse victim herself, she knows what she's talking about. And what she's talking about these days is the welfare act, passed by		
Teen Violence Nothing New, Expert Says, But There Are Ways To Break The Cycle, Gregory Freeman, 799 words, :	Tue., 11/12/1996	VIOLENCE AMONG today's young people is hardly surprising, says Dr. Alvin Poussaint. What is surprising is how little is being done to prevent it, he says. Poussaint is no stranger to this subject. The noted clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School is an expert on violence in America and a longstanding supporter of violence prevention programs. Poussaint says he is disturbed by much of today's youth violence, and attributes part of the problem to today's		

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Following The Path Of Our True Heroes; A Mexican-American Community Honors Soldiers Who Didn't Come Marching Home, Gregory Freeman, 1201 words, :	Sun., 11/10/1996	GUADALUPE "SONNY" SOLIZ will never forget the patriotism he felt as a boy as he watched the young men come home on leave during World War II. "Like all the boys on our street, I was overwhelmed," he said. "We were so proud of those guys. Our goal in life was to be like them. We could hardly wait to turn 18 to serve our country. To us, they were the heroes of our street." That street - today known as Hero Street USA - has been a very special street, indeed.		
This Election Was A 'Moderate' Success, Gregory Freeman, 734 words, :	Fri., 11/8/1996	I JOKINGLY REFER to myself as a screaming moderate. More liberal on some issues, more conservative on others, I've been accused of being both by various readers. Moderates are sometimes ignored by politicians. In many election years, politicians go out in search of conservatives or, to a much lesser extent these days, liberals. This year was different. Some may say that there was no mandate as a result of this year's elections, but I hereby declare 1996 as the Year of the		
Ballot Fare May Not Be Enticing, But Voting Remains Our Duty, Gregory Freeman, 560 words, :	Tue., 11/5/1996	IT'S EASY TO BE lulled into staying at home today. The oft-repeated mantra of those who never vote - "my vote won't matter anyway" - can be hypnotizing at times like these. It shouldn't be. The most important reason: Voting is a right. Look around the world at the nations where people can't vote. Or simply look south to Mexico, where people can vote but where the same party has mysteriously held the presidency since early this century. Americans		
Topic Where Head And Heart Collide, Gregory Freeman, 760 words, :	Sun., 11/3/1996	WHILE THE REST of America is trying to decide whether Bill Clinton or Bob Dole should sit in the White House for the next four years, my wife and I are still torn over another race: the one on minimum wage. Proposition A, on the ballot Tuesday in Missouri, would raise the state's minimum wage to \$6.25 on Jan. 1, to \$6.50 in 1998 and to \$6.75 in 1999. The minimum wage would increase indefinitely, up 15 cents every year. When we first heard about this earlier this year, my		
Immigrant Cooks Up Plan To Succeed, Gregory Freeman, 742 words, :	Fri., 11/1/1996	LIFE has taken Binh Vien La on a long journey in six years. Binh has gone from a tough life in Vietnam, where he and his family were frowned upon by the government, to a much better life in St. Louis, where on Monday he met and prepared lunch for the president. For Binh, the head chef at Brandt's Market & Cafe in the University City Loop, it was a dream come true. Binh, his mother and sister migrated to St. Louis after enduring hard times in Vietnam. They were		
Suburbs Don't Measure Up; OK, The Lawns Are Nice, But City's Streets Hold Treasures, Gregory Freeman, 745 words, :	Tue., 10/29/1996	I'VE GOT to admit to occasional yearnings for suburban living. Regular readers know I'm a proud city dweller, so this is no small confession. I'd be less than honest if I didn't say that there are times when I'm tempted by those green lawns, two-car garages and open spaces that suburbia offers. It doesn't help that the folks I know in the burbs regularly try to seduce my wife and me to live there. For me, though, the pluses of city living outweigh		
Is The Story Real? The Problem Is, Gregory Freeman, 783 words, :	Sun., 10/27/1996	IT'S BECOME THE talk of African-Americans. From barber shops to cocktail parties, from soul-food restaurants to black talk-radio programs, a series of articles by the San Jose Mercury News has been on the tongues of black people across the country. St. Louis is no exception. The series reported that two Nicaraguan emigres raised millions of dollars during the administration of President Ronald Reagan by allying themselves with drug traffickers who helped introduce crack to Los		
Voice In Wilderness Challenges AIDS Apathy, Gregory Freeman, 686 words, :	Fri., 10/25/1996	FOR YEARS, Erise Williams Jr. has pictured himself as a Paul Revere of sorts, a lone figure in the darkness, telling African-Americans that AIDS is coming, AIDS is coming. Today, Williams, executive director of Blacks Assisting Blacks Against AIDS, knows that AIDS is here. But he still finds his his a voice in the wilderness among African-Americans, and he's frustrated that black organizations and community leaders continue to ignore the problem. The silence isn't just local.		
Voters Want Some Straight Talk On Crime, Gregory Freeman, 767 words, :	Tue., 10/22/1996	AS THE PRESIDENTIAL campaign drags into yet another day, Juanita Mason still finds herself wanting. The University City grandmother of three keeps waiting for the candidates to discuss what they're going to do about issues that concern her, but the discussion never comes. Mason wants some straight talk about crime and drugs. She's fed up with Bob Dole branding Bill Clinton "liberal, liberal, liberal." She's tired of Clinton bragging about how		
A Parody Of Stamps, Gregory Freeman, 680 words, :	Tue., 10/22/1996	THE large brown envelope came to me in the mail. I didn't give it much thought until I looked closer. There I saw something quite extraordinary. Five stamps were pasted in the upper right hand corner. All of them were the same size and color, and celebrated 1996 as the Year of the Rat. But the three stamps in the middle included the names of Clinton, Dole and Perot. Those stamps caught my eye, and when I looked even closer I read the words "Year of the Rats." And there,		
Black Newspaper Loses Final Battle, Gregory Freeman, 784 words, :	Sun., 10/20/1996	IN NINE YEARS, Sylvester Brown Jr. has learned some painful lessons. He's learned that in the eyes of many businesses here, African-Americans are seen as monolithic. He's learned that action always speaks louder than words. And he's learned that sometimes good work is its only reward. Brown is the publisher and editor of Take Five. If you're not one of the 20,000 or so St. Louisians who saw the paper each month, you may never have heard of it. But in its		
The Million Man Movie In 'Get On The Bus' Director Spike Lee Tells The Tale Of A Group Of Men Who Attended The Million Man March. Here's A Preview From One Of The Men Who Was There., Greg Freeman, 861 words, :	Fri., 10/18/1996	IT'S BEEN a year since I boarded a bus with members of the Central Baptist Church in St. Louis and headed for the Million Man March. Like the nearly 100 men who left Central Baptist, I had no idea what to expect, what would happen, how things would turn out. What I knew was that this was something pretty historic, that an attempt was being made to get African-American men from all over the country to come together and, in effect, resolve to do what we could to better our		
Campaign Sets Sights On 40 Days Of Peace, Gregory Freeman, 800 words, :	Fri., 10/18/1996	WHEN THE "40-Day Mobilization For Peace" campaign kicks off here today, its organizers will have some good news: Figures released this week indicate that, nationwide, murders, robberies and assaults committed with guns dropped faster than overall violent crime last year. The FBI's annual crime survey shows that the number of murders in 1995 fell 7.4 percent from 1994, while the number of murders committed with a gun dropped 11.6 percent. Meanwhile, the number of		
Some Lessons I Have To Teach My Son Even If They Drive Him Away From Me, Gregory Freeman, 655 words, :	Tue., 10/15/1996	AT THE RIPE old age of 15 1/2, my son is entering the sacred rite of passage known as driving. I desperately wanted to drive the minute my legs were long enough for my feet to hit the pedals. I even remember once trying to do that while waiting in the car for my father, who'd dashed into the bank. I found out, in swift order, what the brake release was for. I also found out, also in short order, what fathers were for. As it turned out, my first driving lessons were given to		
Americans Must Get Over Our Fear Of 'Them', Gregory Freeman, 699 words, :	Sun., 10/13/1996	SOME AMERICANS are afraid. They're afraid that "they" are taking over. "They" are people who don't look like them, who come from other cultures, sometimes from other countries. It can be felt in much of the anti-immigration legislation that has gone through Congress. Congress was prepared to push out a bill that would have allowed states to deny public education to children of illegal aliens. That bill also would have made even legal immigrants		

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Clinton Answers Vashon Students . . . Sort Of, Gregory Freeman, 719 words, :	Fri., 10/11/1996	I RECENTLY WROTE a column in which I reprinted letters that students at Vashon High School had written to President Bill Clinton. The students were miffed that the president had chosen to visit Gateway Middle School, instead of Vashon, on a visit to St. Louis. Their argument was that Gateway Middle is a dream school; that it has everything a student or parent could want. The magnet school places an emphasis on science, mathematics and technology. Vashon, on the other hand, is in bad		
City's Mayoral Election Should Not Be About Race - But It Is, Gregory Freeman, 811 words, :	Sun., 10/6/1996	WHAT DO YOU DO if you're running for mayor and a good amount of your support doesn't live in the city? Clarence Harmon may be faced with that dilemma as he seeks the city's highest office. Over the years, Harmon has cultivated many friendships and developed countless admirers from all over the St. Louis area. In addition to being chief of police, he's also been involved in a variety of regional civic organizations, such as Leadership St. Louis, where he once served		
Fuhrman's Slap On Wrist For Perjury Is Really A Slap In The Face For Justice, Gregory Freeman, 707 words, :	Fri., 10/4/1996	THE QUESTION, "Where were you when you learned the O.J. Simpson verdict?" is one that's been heard time and time again since a jury a year ago found the former football player not guilty of the murder of his ex-wife and another man. For a generation, it will probably replace the old "Where were you when Kennedy was shot?" question. For me, the answer was the newsroom of the Post-Dispatch. Reporters and editors here crowded around a bank of television sets near		
Equal Housing Council Bias Busters Go Undercover To End Discrimination, Gregory Freeman, 699 words, :	Tue., 10/1/1996	A YOUNG WHITE woman considers renting an apartment. She's greeted by a rental agent who smiles, gladly shows her an apartment and hands her an application. A young black woman considers renting an apartment. She's greeted by the same rental agent, who again smiles, shows her an apartment and hands her an application. Nothing unusual, right? Wrong. Turns out, the application for the black woman listed rent and sewer fees higher than those on the application given		
Farrakhan, GOP Running Parallel On Message Of Religion, Gregory Freeman, 731 words, :	Sun., 9/29/1996	AS LOUIS FARRAKHAN addressed several thousand people who had assembled Saturday night at the Trans World Dome, I was struck by the similarities between his words and those of former Republican presidential candidate Alan Keyes. You might think those two would be an odd couple to compare. Keyes is the black former Republican candidate and radio talk show host who unsuccessfully sought his party's nomination for president; Farrakhan is the often-controversial, fiery leader of the		
Ceremony Marks 'Scenes of Horror', Gregory Freeman, 740 words, book: harmony	Sun., 9/29/1996	THE TEMPERATURE WAS a chilly 46 degrees at 7 a.m. Saturday as about 100 people gathered near the East St. Louis riverfront. Poet-critic Eugene B. Redmond pointed to the Mississippi River as he recited a poem about the "river of bones and flesh and blood." A spirited group of men in African garb pounded drums with their hands at speeds that made them impossible to follow. Bishop Michael Bates, pastor of the Word Harvest Full Gospel Baptist Church in St. Louis, told the		
Leadership Summit Is Just A First Step For The Future Of Black Americans, Gregory Freeman, 760 words, :	Sat., 9/28/1996	ONE NEEDN'T LOOK HARD this year to realize that the concerns of African-American voters are barely being addressed by Bill Clinton, Bob Dole and Ross Perot. While GOP vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp has made a few overtures to black voters, their concerns are not very high on this year's political totem pole. Benjamin Chavis, head of the National African American Leadership Summit, hopes to change that between now and Nov. 5, when voters go to the polls. Beyond that, he		
Expect Surprises At Black Political Convention, Gregory Freeman, 764 words, :	Fri., 9/27/1996	A NATIONAL black political convention would be expected to attract the nation's biggest-name black politicians, right? Wrong, if you're talking about the convention this weekend at the Trans World Dome, scheduled by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and former NAACP executive director Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. The convention starts today and runs through Sunday. Most of the chief black honchos are staying away in droves, both nationally and locally. Don't look for		
Laying Blame For Epidemic Of Crack Use, Gregory Freeman, 713 words, :	Tue., 9/24/1996	FOR YEARS, POLITICIANS have pushed a "war on drugs" that has done little more than punish those who have sold crack cocaine while virtually ignoring those responsible for bringing the drugs into this country. The result has been devastating to poor black males who have turned to drug sales, often because other money-making opportunities have not been available to them. Now, an investigation by the San Jose Mercury News suggests that the Central Intelligence Agency was		
Vashon Students Make Plea: Don't Forget Us, Mr. President, Gregory Freeman, 763 words, :	Sun., 9/22/1996	SOME STUDENTS at Vashon High School have five words for President Bill Clinton: Come back to St. Louis. Vashon is in the heart of the city. Many of the city's have-nots live in this neighborhood, mere blocks from Grand Center, where many of the haves attend concerts at Powell Hall and the Fox Theatre. This neighborhood is tough, and those who live here have to be tougher. And then there's Vashon, the 69-year-old deteriorating high school at North Grand Boulevard and		
For Youths, Depressing Lyrics Reflect Society, Gregory Freeman, 806 words, :	Fri., 9/20/1996	MUSIC ALWAYS HAS given us an excellent lens for peering into the thoughts and feelings of a generation. Songs of the '40s, for instance, provided a view of the optimism that Americans had about winning World War II. Songs of the late '60s and early '70s painted a picture of a generation optimistic about the future. Even much of the anti-war music expressed a belief that young people could change the world for the better. Many of the songs popular with younger people		
Those Hoping For Reform In St. Louis Will Discover You Can't Right City Hall, Gregory Freeman, 759 words, :	Tue., 9/10/1996	I ASKED A FELLOW who's worked at City Hall since the days of former mayor Al Cervantes about the recommendations of a panel of area leaders to city government. He looked at me, smirked, and responded with two words: "Yeah, right." City government hasn't changed since 1914, when the current city charter was written. The only changes that ever occur, he says, are the players. "By the time this place changes," he added, "I'll be pushing up		
Woman 'Willing To Get Involved,' Help Neighbor, Gregory Freeman, 863 words, :	Sun., 9/8/1996	The following is one of "Greg's Winners," an occasional column spotlighting St. Louisans overcoming odds to make a difference. AROUND Christmastime two years ago, Renie Tuffli decided she wanted to do something nice for someone. The season reminded her of her mother, who had died six months earlier. And in honor of her mother, Tuffli set out to help someone. Figuring that you usually don't have to look too far to find someone you can help, she chose Bettye		
Scattered Neighbors Find Solace In Reunions, Gregory Freeman, 843 words, :	Fri., 9/6/1996	TODAY THEY CALL it "Ghost Town." It's the area roughly following Interstate 70 that includes the Trans World Dome north to about Tyler Street. When I-70 was built in the 1950s, it plowed through the heart of this community, scattering neighbors, friends and relatives, many of whom had lived here since the turn of the century. For many years, those who grew up here saw one another infrequently, often only at funerals and during other tragic circumstances.		
Neighbors Teed Off At Plan To Construct Golf Course, Gregory Freeman, 735 words, :	Tue., 9/3/1996	VICE PRESIDENT Al Gore likes to tell the joke that if you look at the vice presidential seal just the right way, squint your eyes and turn your head at a certain tilt, it almost looks like it says "president of the United States." I tried doing the same thing Monday as I walked through an area bounded roughly by Jefferson and St. Louis avenues, 20th Street and Martin Luther King Drive. I squinted mightily. I turned my head this way and that. But no matter how I looked at it, I		

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Tax Abatements Hamper Schools, Gregory Freeman, 734 words, :	Sun., 9/1/1996	WHEN ST. LOUIS Public Schools Superintendent Cleveland Hammonds Jr. last week proposed a \$6 million cut in the 1996-97 budget, it should have come as no surprise. For some time, School Board members have been telling anyone who would listen that the system is not in the best financial shape. They're trying to run a school district of 40,000 students, many of whom aren't doing that well, in a city where property values are declining, along with revenue. They're		
Change Of Scenery Helps Urban Families Learn, Gregory Freeman, 765 words, :	Fri., 8/30/1996	TANYA JONES TOOK IN the view around her, land and trees as far as the eye could see. "This is so peaceful," she commented. "No traffic, no shootings, just peace." Jones and her two youngsters were among 11 families that participated this week in the Sherwood Forest Camp for Families. The four-day program, sponsored by Sherwood Forest and the city of St. Louis, was held at Orchard Crest Camp in Fredericktown, about 90 miles south of St. Louis. For some, this		
No Thanks, Bob Dole, But Thanks For Asking, Gregory Freeman, 736 words, :	Tue., 8/27/1996	FOR YEARS, black political observers have pushed the importance of competition between Republicans and Democrats for the votes of African-Americans. Democrats, they have argued, take black voters for granted. Republicans, they've suggested, ignore them entirely. This year, Bob Dole has decided to change all that and make what he calls "a serious challenge" to the Democratic Party for black votes. Dole signaled that last week in Nashville, Tenn., at the annual convention		
Democrats Hope Chicago's Their Kind Of Town, Gregory Freeman, 773 words, :	Sun., 8/25/1996	NOW, IT'S Bill Clinton's turn. Clinton and the Democratic Party will have their opportunity to shine this week during the Democratic National Convention. While Clinton remains ahead of Bob Dole in most polls, the Republican nominee has closed the gap somewhat. Clinton needs to get some bounce out of this week's convention, much as Dole did by combining the selection of Jack Kemp as his vice presidential candidate, the announcement of his economic package with its 15		
Mastering 'Man's Work' Helped Mother Escape Welfare, Build Brighter Future, Gregory Freeman, 680 words, :	Tue., 8/20/1996	AT 25, SIKINA LEE knows she's made some mistakes in her life. She's the mother of four children. She's on AFDC. She was a high school dropout. And she's one of "Greg's Winners." That's because Lee has refused to give up. She's gone back to school and gotten her diploma. She plans to get off of public assistance in the very near future. She's got serious ambitions, and she's taking steps to achieve them. Only three years		
On An Age-Old Problem, I Find I'm Somewhere In The Middle, Gregory Freeman, 705 words, :	Sun., 8/18/1996	I'VE BEEN dreading this day. I knew it would come. I'd hoped it would be longer in coming, but it's here. Sunday. August 18. Today, I turn 40. I wanted it to come, of course, because it beats the alternative. I graduated from Beaumont High School 22 years ago with 500 kids. As many as two dozen have since died. So I should just be happy that I'm still alive, right? But that's not enough. I'm still alive, OK, but I'm 40. Middle-aged.		
Parents' Love Is Undiminished As Son, Dying From AIDS, Takes His Own Life, Gregory Freeman, 780 words, :	Fri., 8/16/1996	MILLIE JOHANNINGMEIER showed me several photos of her son, Bob, on the wall of the Overland home she shares with her husband, Lee. "He's the all-American kid," she said proudly. With dark hair, sparkling brown eyes and good looks, Bob looked like a son any parent would be proud of. Millie and Lee described him as tall and gangly, with a sharp sense of humor. Growing up, he was like any other kid. "He liked tennis a lot and he liked to tell jokes," Lee		
Carrying The Torch For Olympics Here, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Tue., 8/13/1996	BASED ON THE letters and e-mail I've received, it looks like I got a few people talking when I suggested in a recent column that St. Louis should go for the 2008 Olympics. Unfortunately, quite a few of them were talking about whether I'd lost my mind. Here's a sampling: Dear Greg: What were you thinking? I'm a regular reader of your column and I usually find you to be thoughtful and possessing a great deal of common sense. That's why		
'The Real Bob Dole' Needs To Make Memorable Convention Appearance, Gregory Freeman, 719 words, :	Sun., 8/11/1996	IF BOB DOLE HOPES to get another chance with the American public, this is the week for him to strut his stuff. Dole is desperately in need of another chance. So far, if polls are to be believed, he hasn't impressed the public, and President Bill Clinton continues his wide lead. After George Bush's defeat at the hands of Clinton four years ago, Dole's been touted as the candidate to beat the pants off the man from Hope. From the outset of the GOP primary season, Dole was		
Runners In Mayoral Race Keep Eyes On Corridor, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, :	Fri., 8/9/1996	ALTHOUGH NONE OF their candidates was on Tuesday's ballot, you can be sure that political operatives for Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr., Alderman Marit Clark, Alderman Sharon Tyus and former Police Chief Clarence Harmon kept a close eye on the results. In some ways, Tuesday's city primary was a preview of next spring's mayoral election. For Bosley, the results were good. The mayor invested considerable effort into electing Darlene Green comptroller, the office he had appointed		
In Facing Olympian Task, Remember Naysayers Have Been Wrong Before, Gregory Freeman, 785 words, :	Tue., 8/6/1996	ST. LOUIS HAS its share of naysayers, people who are always ready to say something can't be done here. When the concept of building the Gateway Arch was first revealed, some St. Louisans scoffed immediately, saying the proposed monument looked more like a giant hoop than anything with any redeeming value. Today, of course, it's the city's No. 1 tourist attraction and has become an icon for St. Louis. When the "Meeting of the Waters" fountain by Carl Milles -		
Worrying About Welfare Reform, Gregory Freeman, 800 words, :	Sun., 8/4/1996	THE DAY AFTER President Bill Clinton announced that he would sign the welfare bill, I stopped into a dry cleaning store to pick up some clothes. As I walked in, I ran into an older black woman, impeccably dressed, who recognized me and asked, "Are you going to write something about the welfare bill?" I told her I was pondering the issue, and before I could share my thoughts she said, "It's about time somebody did something about this welfare mess." I had		
Neighbors, City Team Up To Change Direction Of Forest Park Southeast, Gregory Freeman, 790 words, :	Fri., 8/2/1996	The following is the first of "Greg's Winners," an occasional column spotlighting St. Louisans overcoming odds to make a difference. A FEW SHORT years ago, the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood was written off for dead. Parts of the neighborhood - bounded by Highway 40 on the north, Kingshighway on the west, Vandeventer Avenue on the east and the Missouri Pacific railroad tracks on the south - were among the city's hottest crime zones. Drug dealers thrived, and		
Pill To Fight Terrorism May Be Too Hard To Swallow, Gregory Freeman, 766 words, :	Tue., 7/30/1996	MY WIFE AND I FELL asleep with the television on Friday night, and I awoke about 5 o'clock Saturday morning. Still hazy, I thought I was dreaming at first: words of an explosion, Olympics, people hurt, deaths. I rubbed my eyes and realized it wasn't a dream. Once again, a terrorist had penetrated a happy occasion to create havoc and fear. My thoughts first went to those in Centennial Olympic Park early Saturday morning, relaxing, enjoying themselves, reveling in the		
Volunteers Make Game A Classic, Gregory Freeman, 857 words, :	Sun., 7/28/1996	THERE AREN'T MANY volunteers as determined as Helen White. White, who is paralyzed from the waist down and gets around in a wheelchair, doesn't let that stop her from doing her volunteer work with the St. Louis Gateway Classic Foundation, which produces the Budweiser Gateway Classic football game each year. This year's game is set for Sept. 21 at the Trans World Dome. White sometimes makes the trek three or four times a week downtown from her home in south St. Louis to		

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St. Louis Needs Unity, Not Polarization That The New 'Black Slate' Would Cause, Gregory Freeman, 760 words, :	Fri., 7/26/1996	CHESTER HINES Jr. didn't know what was going on when he heard from people he knew who were insulted by phone calls they were getting. The calls - recorded messages, actually - urged voters to elect a "black slate," and listed him among the black candidates running for office Aug. 6. Hines, who is black, is the Democratic committeeman in the city's racially mixed 28th Ward. His committeewoman, Rosemarie Story, is white. Both are seeking re-election. The calls, he said,		
Cleveland's Comeback Provides St. Louis With Shining Example, Gregory Freeman, 742 words, :	Tue., 7/23/1996	DeBALIVIERE PLACE is a thriving community in the city's West End. The neighborhood of apartments and condos is filled with students, yuppies and seniors. A refreshing fountain beckons visitors to sit and chat. Those who live here are black and white and Asian. They're older Russian immigrants and younger American schoolteachers. This area is diverse, and it's one of the city's assets. But only a few blocks northwest of this area, on Delmar Boulevard, storefronts are		
Harmon Learns From Experience, Gregory Freeman, 879 words, :	Sun., 7/21/1996	CLARENCE HARMON stabbed bites of melon from his fruit plate as he discussed his job with United Van Lines, a job he's held since stepping down as the city's police chief late last year. He explained how he'd adjusted in the private sector after working most of his life as a police officer. He talked about how he'd worked as an executive with the company to help develop a computerized management information system. The system's designed to take stock of the		
Interracial Couples Not The Curiosity They Once Were - Thank Goodness, Gregory Freeman, 787 words, :	Fri., 7/19/1996	WHEN MY WIFE and I married 17 years ago, we'd often encounter something most married couples never had to deal with: Stares. I'm black; Elizabeth is white. For some people, our union was considered unusual, and we'd often find people staring at us. In restaurants, on planes, at the Zoo, people would stare. Some would be subtle, glancing at us only when they thought we weren't looking. Others would be more overt, gazing upon us as if they expected us to develop		
Mary Ross Takes Up Cause Of Kids On Brink, Gregory Freeman, 784 words, :	Tue., 7/16/1996	FOR NEARLY 20 years, Alderman Mary Ross has been an independent voice at City Hall, fighting for causes she's believed in. Over the years, her independence has gotten her into scrapes with politicians like former Mayors Jim Conway and Vince Schoemehl, Rep. Bill Clay, state Rep. Louis Ford and others. Her causes have ranged from tighter gun control laws in the city to her opposition to the closing of Homer G. Phillips Hospital in 1979, a move she felt limited access to health care		
Time For Dad To Change Tunes, Gregory Freeman, 802 words, :	Sun., 7/14/1996	THE MORE I hate to admit it, the more I find I'm turning into my parents. I see it happening more and more each day, brought on, mainly, by our 15-year-old. Recently, Will got in the car with me. As I started driving, he jammed a tape into the cassette player. Out came something like fingernails scratching over a chalkboard. I thought the tape player was broken. "What's that noise?" I asked, horrified. "It's Bjork," he said,		
Dennis Hill's History As Assessor Is Filled With Odd Little Moments, Gregory Freeman, 786 words, :	Fri., 7/12/1996	A PUBLIC OFFICIAL secretly tape-records conversations in his office. He refuses to turn over documents, despite a subpoena from an agency investigating him. We're not talking about Richard Nixon, the only American president forced to resign from office. We're talking about Dennis Hill, the first city assessor in recent memory to cause such a stir at City Hall. (Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. placed him on administrative leave Thursday.) The only thing missing here is Rosemary Woods		
Superheroes, Schools Fill Columnist's Mailbox, Gregory Freeman, 773 words, :	Tue., 7/9/1996	ONCE MORE IT'S time to go through the old mailbox: Greg: You got it wrong again. "Independence Day," the movie, does not celebrate American diversity. If it did, the Americans would roll over and let the aliens take over. After all, the aliens only want to immigrate and take over. That's what all immigrants want: To come in and get power, whether it's the Irish, Germans, Hispanics or Cambodians. Nobody comes here to be without power. They want to grab some,		
Tribute To A Woman Who Left A Legacy Of City Homeowners, Gregory Freeman, 778 words, :	Sun., 7/7/1996	JUSTINE PETERSEN may not qualify for sainthood, but a lot of folks considered her an angel. Petersen, 57, died of a heart attack last month. Many poor people searching for the American dream hope that the enthusiasm Petersen brought to her efforts doesn't die with her. Most St. Louisans never heard of Petersen. But to many poor people in search of that first home, Petersen was a godsend. She attended Bryn Mawr College and graduated from Washington University. Many described		
In Jail, Hacker Warns Parents; He Says Children's Usage Uncontrollable, Gregory Freeman, 616 words, :	Sat., 7/6/1996	A teen-age technical whiz accused of hacking into the computers of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. and other companies tells parents: You can do little or nothing to control what your children do on the Internet. Christopher Schanot, 19, of High Ridge, was arrested in March on charges of hacking into the computers of Southwestern Bell, Bell Communications Research, Sprint and SRI International, a research and development contractor with government contracts. A federal prosecutor in		
Summer's Hot Sci-Fi Thriller Offers Snapshot Of America, Gregory Freeman, 761 words, :	Fri., 7/5/1996	I WENT TO THE movies the other day to see a science fiction film. What I discovered instead was America. I was among the throngs who flocked to theaters this week to see the much-hyped "Independence Day." The film was everything I expected - and more. It had the prerequisite special effects - the explosions and car crashes that make up every action film these days. It also had scenes that don't show up in most action films: the aliens blew up the White House and		
Troubled Schools: Where To Begin?, Gregory Freeman, 749 words, :	Tue., 7/2/1996	AN OPEN LETTER to Cleveland Hammonds Jr.: Congratulations on your new position as superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools. After Monday, your first day on the job, I hope you're ready to start dealing with the problems that plague our schools. The only question is where to begin. ching the clock until it's time to retire, folks who burned out years ago and are merely going through the motions. City schools don't need baby sitters. They need teachers who can be		
Conversation Stirs Memories Of Whites Who Fought For Blacks' Rights, Gregory Freeman, 709 words, :	Sun., 6/30/1996	IN A VISIT to the doctor's office last week, I struck up a conversation with another patient, an older white gentleman with a cane. He proceeded to tell me that he had been active in civil rights, dating back to the 1950s. As I showed interest, he began to talk about how important he felt his efforts had been. With the pride of a war veteran, he discussed some of his trips to the South - sometimes at personal risk - to register blacks to vote or help people stand up for their rights		
Parenting Skills, Responsibility Need Polishing, Gregory Freeman, 753 words, :	Fri., 6/28/1996	MANY OF US who are parents like to think that we're raising tomorrow's leaders, legislators and legends. How many of us are actually raising tomorrow's muggers, maimers and murderers? At a time when more and more people are committing cold-blooded murder and other crimes, it's worth it to examine what may be behind many of them. I'd argue that much of it goes back to how a child is raised. My folks used to call it "home training." That's		
Employment Program That Helped Inner-City Youths Now At Risk, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Tue., 6/18/1996	IN 1989, OFFICIALS at the University of Missouri at St. Louis and Kmart developed a program for "at-risk" youngsters from areas of chronic unemployment and underemployment. The program was called KEY Work Force 2000; KEY for "Kmart Employment for Youth." It was designed to provide and help train inner-city kids in the retail trade, as well as to meet a need for part-time, entry-level workers in that industry. The program featured counseling for high school		

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Fund Drive Challenges Area's Black Community, Gregory Freeman, 809 words, :	Sun., 6/16/1996	JAMES BUFORD is no stranger to tackling some of the toughest issues facing black St. Louisans. In his many years as president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Buford has developed alliances with white-owned businesses that have helped support black advancement through jobs and social programs. Although his organization gets 90 percent of its funding from white-owned corporations, Buford, 51, has never been afraid to speak forcefully and		
Life Gets A Bit Bumpy For Contest Winners, Gregory Freeman, 760 words, :	Fri., 6/14/1996	WHAT WAS I thinking? Last month, I announced in this column the "Worst Pothole Contest." I urged St. Louisans to send me their candidates for worst pothole in the St. Louis area. Fifty-seven people responded. Several people didn't feel they could limit their nominations to one. Some nominated three and four potholes. In all, 73 potholes were nominated. I spent several days last week and this week driving all over the St. Louis area, on both sides of the		
Old Fans Visit This Metropolis For A Super Time, Gregory Freeman, 828 words, :	Tue., 6/11/1996	THE FIRST DEFINITION of "metropolis" in the American Heritage Dictionary is: "A major city, especially the chief city of a country or region." The second definition is: "A city or an urban area regarded as the center of a specific activity." Neither accurately describes this town near the southernmost tip of Illinois, about 165 miles southeast of St. Louis. Most of the time, this town of four stop signs and a population of 7,200 is a quiet place,		
He Doesn't Shun That 'L' Word, Gregory Freeman, 857 words, :	Sun., 6/9/1996	SOME MIGHT CONSIDER Tavis Smiley to be an odd duck, an unabashed liberal in an era where conservatism seems to rule the day. But Smiley - at 30, part of a new generation of liberal thinkers - makes no bones about where he stands on political issues. And while he tosses more than a few grenades at right-wing ideas, he's not afraid to criticize old-line liberals, whites and others. He's equally willing to admonish fellow African-Americans who "too quickly blame racism for		
Grad On Mission To Chronicle Benton School, Gregory Freeman, 782 words, :	Fri., 6/7/1996	WHEN IT COMES to Benton Elementary School, Larry McEwen is a man obsessed. That might not be so unusual if it weren't for the fact that Benton closed 16 years ago, or that McEwen graduated from there 47 years ago. He's gathered all sorts of information about Benton: its history, its student lists, teachers, photographs, you name it. The school was shuttered in 1981, but the building remains at North Kingshighway and Terry Avenue, where it was built in 1894. "I ran		
Politics Muddles The Real Meaning Of Rally - Concern For Children, Gregory Freeman, 769 words, :	Tue., 6/4/1996	WHEN KEN AND SHERRY West first heard of the Stand for Children rally, they knew they had to be there. So the St. Louis couple left their 4-year-old daughter with Sherry's mother and headed for Washington to be among the 200,000 who gathered Saturday to express concern for the nation's kids. "We care about children a great deal," Sherry West said. "We tried for several years to have a child before our daughter was born. We know how important kids are, and I		
Looking For A Father And Finding A Family, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Sun., 6/2/1996	FROM THE FIRST TIME she could remember, Tina Mack felt out of place. It wasn't because she was a biracial child. It wasn't because she was the oldest of her siblings. Her discomfort came from not knowing her roots. "My mother and father were young when I was born," she said. Her father was 17; her mother was 16. Shortly after she was conceived, her father joined the service. Her parents wrote one another for a while, but when he returned, he moved to		
'Disinvitation' Should Come As No Surprise, Gregory Freeman, 789 words, :	Fri., 5/31/1996	WHEN I WAS a youngster, attending all-black schools in north St. Louis, my teachers spent a lot of time teaching us that we could achieve. On the walls of many of the classrooms were pictures of blacks who had made significant achievements and of whom we could be proud. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s picture was there, of course. So were those of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Paul Robeson, Mary McLeod Bethune and others. In later years, Jesse Jackson's picture appeared on many of		
Club's Firing Of Bartender Raises Questions, Gregory Freeman, 784 words, :	Tue., 5/28/1996	TERRY ARTIS still isn't sure if he was fired because of his tiny African-style braids or because he complained that a colleague was making more money than he. The official word from the Racquet Club in Ladue is that Artis was fired last month from his job as a bartender for wearing the braids. A letter he received from the club stated that he was fired for wearing an "all-braided hairstyle." Still, Artis wonders if the steps that led to his firing actually began last		
Feat Of Arms, Place Of Pride, Gregory Freeman, 798 words, :	Sun., 5/26/1996	IT WAS December 1944, and General Dwight D. Eisenhower had given the word to call for black volunteers to be used as replacements in white infantry companies whose ranks had been decreased severely by the Battle of the Bulge. Until then, blacks had not been allowed to fight; instead, they had been shunted to menial jobs far from the front lines. In Germany the decision was considered by some to be a social experiment - to see if blacks could fight in the same outfits as whites. Heading		
Bosley Should Help, Not Hinder, Tax Collection, Gregory Freeman, 793 words, :	Fri., 5/24/1996	AS A TEEN-AGER, I used to watch the show "Chico and the Man." Its star, Freddie Prinze, would make viewers double over with laughter when he would say "it's not my job, man," whenever his boss asked him to do something. Today, Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. is singing that same refrain. But this time, no one's laughing. At issue is the deplorable fact that 1,068 city employees - about one of every six St. Louis workers - owe personal property taxes that		
Alderman Seeking To Overcome Myths About Firearms In Homes, Gregory Freeman, 743 words, :	Tue., 5/21/1996	JIM SHREWSBURY IS NOT surprised by a new poll that says an estimated 10 million young people in grades 7-12 believe they could get to the weapons in their house without their parents' knowledge. The same poll shows that the easiest place for youngsters to find guns is not on the streets but in the home. And it found that despite statistics to the contrary adults and teens believe that guns in the home make them safer. The poll, taken for the YWCA and released Monday, was conducted		
Rams Running Back Should Get Second Chance Carrying The Ball, Gregory Freeman, 734 words, :	Sun., 5/19/1996	MISTAKES. I've made plenty of them, and you've made them as well. I've been fortunate over the years in that when I've made mistakes, I've tried to learn from them. When I've made mistakes involving others, they've sometimes been willing to give me a second chance. I've done my best not to disappoint them. Unfortunately, too many seem to be unwilling to give that second chance to Lawrence Phillips. Phillips, 21, was the Rams'		
Pick Your Favorite (Most Dreaded) Pothole, Gregory Freeman, 718 words, :	Fri., 5/17/1996	MY CAR WAS nearly swallowed by a pothole the other day. Had I not avoided it, my car would have fallen into an abyss, perhaps never to have been seen again. Aren't these supposed to be fixed by now? Most of us are used to winter around here. We get our share of snow and ice, and the city, suburbs and counties dump enough salt on the streets and roads to flavor every kernel of popcorn in America. All that snow, ice and salt causes streets and highways to yawn with potholes		
Advocate Makes Plea: Save Our Children, Gregory Freeman, 740 words, :	Tue., 5/7/1996	MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN pulls no punches when it comes to standing up for children. The head of the Children's Defense Fund is critical of Republicans and Democrats for not spending enough effort on children's problems within the last couple of years. "Our government has been cutting block grants and medical assistance without doing anything to help the children who need our help," she said in a teleconference. "The social safety net is being destroyed. What		

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Honest Discussion Is The Path To A Truly Colorblind Society, Gregory Freeman, 773 words, :	Sun., 5/5/1996	FOR SAM FULWOOD III, adulthood was a real awakening. Fulwood grew up in Charlotte, N.C., the son of a minister and a schoolteacher. His parents successfully shielded him from society's racism, "creating a buppie cocoon for me," he said. He came of age within the post civil rights era. "My parents had great expectations of a colorblind society, one that grew up believing in," he said. "Unfortunately, I don't believe I'll see that colorblind society		
Couple's Marriage Is Match Made Behind Bars, Gregory Freeman, 787 words, :	Fri., 5/3/1996	EDNA SILVESTRI'S MARRIAGE to Donald Harden four years ago wasn't your everyday wedding. For starters, it took place in prison in Potosi, Mo. The ceremony was performed in a small courtroom off the prison's visiting area. A friend of Harden's, doing time on death row, served as the witness. Nine friends and relatives attended, but Harden's mother and sister couldn't be there because of a mix-up on how many people could enter the prison for the ceremony.		
Father, Son Quality Time Decreasing In Quantity, Gregory Freeman, 735 words, :	Tue., 4/30/1996	MY SON AND I took in a Cardinals game last week and watched the Redbirds stomp the Mets, 9-4. I'm not a big sports fan, but I do like the Cards. Will and I usually take in a game or two a year. I wondered, though, as we watched the game, how much longer this simple ritual would last. Gone are the days when he was more interested in who was selling popcorn, soda and ice cream. At 15, he knows the records of some of the players, and he's glad to share his opinions on whom		
'Chan Dan' Is The Right Man, Gregory Freeman, 738 words, :	Sun., 4/28/1996	WHEN I WAS A student at Washington University, William H. Danforth reminded me of a wise, patient and reasonable father. I started college in the mid-70s, at a time when students were politically active. Campuses like Washington University were coping with organizations like the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade and dealing with demands like the Black Student Manifesto. I remember rallies with students yelling slogans such as "We've carried the rich for 200 years, let's		
City-County Merger Is The Right Thing, Gregory Freeman, 808 words, :	Fri., 4/26/1996	SOMETIMES THE RIGHT thing to do isn't the most popular. Whenever any sort of suggestion of city-county merger is brought up, the thought is immediately shot down by people who want nothing to do with it. But fact after fact indicates that a merger is the right thing to do. The best thing would be for the countless municipalities in St. Louis County to dissolve and become part of St. Louis. The duplication of services, the difficulty in planning, the lack of communication - all		
Black Churches Should Increase Role In Aiding Community, Consultant Says, Gregory Freeman, 781 words, :	Tue., 4/23/1996	THE CHURCH has been a social foundation for black communities for centuries. Now, a St. Louisan wants to see the church become an economic foundation as well. E. Lance McCarthy is a business consultant who heads the St. Louis Economic Conversion Project. He has been involved in defense conversion efforts here and was an adviser to St. Louis in its unsuccessful attempt to get a \$100 million federal grant for an "empowerment zone." McCarthy thinks the unemployment problem among		
Police Chief Gets A Running Start, Gregory Freeman, 777 words, :	Sun., 4/21/1996	RONALD HENDERSON is an imposing figure. At 6 feet 3 inches, the presence of the city's 31st police chief is felt whenever he enters a room. He's been entering lots of rooms and making his presence felt in lots of places these days. After four months on the job, he's attended countless neighborhood meetings, met with numerous business associations, dealt with angry crowds of people, battled a barrage of news media and handled seemingly endless internal matters. "All		
Group's Leader Makes Call For More Tolerance, Gregory Freeman, 812 words, :	Fri., 4/19/1996	AMERICA'S GROWN far too tolerant of intolerance and much too accepting of extreme speech, says the president and chief executive officer of the National Conference, formerly known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The official, Sanford Cloud Jr., says there "are forces out there who promote wedge issues for their own gain, including some in talk radio and those who attempt to lift up one people by tearing down another people." Cloud suggests that much of		
Desegregation Praised By Student, Gregory Freeman, 778 words, :	Tue., 4/16/1996	AS U.S. DISTRICT Judge George F. Gunn Jr. ponders the future of school desegregation in St. Louis, a 24-year-old wishes the judge had listened to students who participated in the program. During recent hearings, Gunn declined to hear testimony from parents or students who had gone through the program. Richard Gummels thinks Gunn may have missed hearing something important. "The program did more for race relations than people realize or want to acknowledge," said		
Troubled Youths Can Be Saved, Program Shows, Gregory Freeman, 775 words, :	Sun., 4/14/1996	PEOPLE ARE FED UP with the crime around them, with the street gangs with violence as initiation rites, with the graffiti that never seems to end, with the lack of respect for adults that seems far too prevalent. Don't tell people who've just been robbed that crime is down overall. They don't care. Don't tell people whose loved ones have been hurt or killed that homicides have dropped. They don't want to hear it. The public of the 1990s has hardened its opinion		
Exhibit Here About Gays, Lesbians 'A Real Eye-Opener,' Advocate Says, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Fri., 4/12/1996	WHEN IT COMES TO civil rights, we often look only at those rights sought or achieved by women or racial minorities. The rights gained by lesbians and gays tend to be overlooked. Donna Red Wing wants to change all that. Red Wing is national field director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. She'll be the keynote speaker here Saturday evening at a special benefit showing of "The Long Road to Freedom." Her organization is one of the sponsors of the		
Readers React To Earring Tryout, Gregory Freeman, 819 words, :	Tue., 4/9/1996	TODAY'S A GOOD day to let the readers do the writing: Dear Gregory Freeman: I am a regular reader of yours, but I'm not so sure I want to continue, now that I've read the column about your trying an earring. Have you lost it? When I was your age, I would have been called "sissified" for wearing such a thing. F. Kent, St. Louis Dear F.: Actually, I only wore the earring, which was magnetic, for about three days. After all the response I got to		
Police Brutality Must Not Be Tolerated Under Any Circumstances, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Sun., 4/7/1996	IT SEEMS THE MORE things change, the more they stay the same. Five years ago Americans viewed the atrocious beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles by police officers who, many agreed, clearly overstepped their authority. In January, a state trooper in Columbia, S.C., cursed and threatened to cut the clothes off a woman he had stopped for speeding. The trooper approached the car with his gun drawn and tried to drag her out while her seat belt was on. He later pulled her out of her car,		
Artworks Is Alternative To Summer Jobs, Gregory Freeman, 787 words, :	Fri., 4/5/1996	EARLY LAST YEAR, Raymond Gardner had no idea what he was going to do with his summer. His mother wanted the Parkway West High School student to get a job, but Gardner wasn't sure what he wanted to do. Like many students in his O'Fallon Park neighborhood, Gardner set out to land a position, not sure if he'd have any luck. He stumbled onto St. Louis ArtWorks. The program pays youngsters minimum wage while teaching them various aspects of the arts. Supported by the city of		
Residency Rule Only For Underlings, Gregory Freeman, 747 words, :	Tue., 4/2/1996	MARY ELLIOTT IS an experienced secretary. She's worked for three different companies over her career, and she's always got good evaluations. The last company she worked for folded, so she's in search of a job. She knows of several positions in the city that would be perfect, but she hasn't applied. "I don't live in the city of St. Louis," she said. The jobs Elliott is aware of are city positions. Elliott has lived in her apartment in		

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Black Voters Left In Limbo, Gregory Freeman, 764 words, :	Sun., 3/31/1996	THIS IS A presidential election year, but you'd hardly know if you were looking for candidates to address issues of concern to black voters. In most election years, black voters can count on being courted heavily by Democrats seeking the presidential nomination. And those voters can expect at least a few wanting glances from Republicans. This year, no one's come courting. Part of it has to do with President Bill Clinton having no significant primary opposition.		
Fix For Midlife Crisis Draws Mixed Reviews, Gregory Freeman, 768 words, :	Fri., 3/29/1996	I TOOK ON a new look a couple of weeks ago. I started sporting a small, gold stud in my left ear. Why'd I do it? Well, I think some people think of me as a serious, button-down journalist, and while I suppose I am that, I also have a fun side. The earring was a way for me to say there's a fun side to me, too. Perhaps the other reason had something to do with turning 40 this year. While some people buy sports cars to assure themselves that they're still young when		
Reader's Stereotypes Fan Segregation, Gregory Freeman, 773 words, :	Tue., 3/26/1996	THE HOSTILITY Oozed from an e-mail message I received from a reader recently. The reader, who said he was white, wrote me a lengthy message complaining about blacks in St. Louis. Some excerpts: "A white slob in St. Peters has purchased the two-family across the street and imported blacks of little education or worth into my neighborhood using my tax money. The result? Noise, violence, working on cars on the street day and night, fights, yelling, boom boxes, parties in the front yard,		
Missouri Legislators Inhaling Tobacco Industry's Agenda, Gregory Freeman, 858 words, :	Sun., 3/24/1996	EXCUSE ME for being cynical, but I'm wondering what some legislators in Jefferson City are thinking as they push a tobacco-industry-supported measure that would make it impossible for local communities to get tough on smoking. The bill, which has been recommended by committees in the Missouri House and Senate, bars communities across the state from policing underage smoking. By establishing a uniform statewide standard for cigarette laws, it guts the efforts of cities and counties		
Symphony Reaches Out For Diversity, Gregory Freeman, 778 words, :	Fri., 3/22/1996	WHEN YOU THINK of music and African-Americans, particularly black youngsters, the first thing that comes to mind probably isn't classical music. But a couple of organizations are working here to change that perception. The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra has made inroads in recent years in its efforts to reach out to a more diverse community than that generally associated with symphonies. A couple of years ago, the symphony merged with CASA - the Conservatory and School for the		
Painful Memories Of Segregation Motivate Local Man In School Fight, Gregory Freeman, 815 words, :	Tue., 3/19/1996	WHEN DR. JAMES A. DeCLUE was growing up in the 1930s, he lived near Cottage and Cora avenues, across the street from Cote Brilliant School. But although he lived across the street from the school, he was never allowed to attend. DeClue is black; Cote Brilliant was all-white. "Not only could we not go to the school, we couldn't even play in the yard, even when the school was closed," he said. Once, DeClue and some other children were caught by police playing in		
Giving Sustenance To Those In Need, Gregory Freeman, 815 words, :	Sun., 3/17/1996	LOCATED IN THE bowels of Kingsway Centre - known to most people as the old Sears building on North Kingshighway - is a room that looks something like an old-fashioned general store. People come in and request all kinds of food items, and a person behind the counter gets them and places them in a bag. But this isn't your grandfather's general store. This "store" is the Food Outreach Nutrition Center, and it's for HIV-positive people and people with AIDS.		
Public Outcry That Was Heeded, Gregory Freeman, 764 words, :	Fri., 3/15/1996	JENNIFER ALSTON considers herself a winner today. She was among the teeming masses who made it clear to St. Louis City Hall that they were steaming mad about its plans to tax deferred-compensation plans like 401(k)s. Alston called the mayor's office, the Board of Aldermen, the collector of revenue and anyone else who would listen to her complain. "It wasn't fair at all," Alston said. "I'd been saving money in a 401(k) for years to plan for my		
Some Questions On Crime Are Hard To Answer, Gregory Freeman, 814 words, :	Tue., 3/12/1996	THE MAN ROSE from his chair, a concerned, almost grim expression on his face. Why, he wanted to know, weren't more blacks outraged by the murders of black youngsters and why weren't black leaders doing anything about it? When a young black man was shot by a Hispanic police officer several weeks ago, many blacks spoke out, but when innocent teen-agers are killed by other teen-agers, the outrage seems muted, he said. The pointed question was directed at me, the speaker Sunday		
Talking To One Of The Million, Gregory Freeman, 759 words, :	Sun., 3/10/1996	RICARDO RAMEY is no big shot. In many ways, he's like most people. At 37, he's raising a son and a daughter, and he's engaged to be married to "a wonderful woman who always supports me." He goes to work each day, running a machine for the Acme Battery Co. But in other ways, he's not like most people. He devotes a good amount of his time and effort to helping young people. He doesn't get paid a cent for it, but he feels it's his obligation to help		
NAACP Needs To Restructure, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Fri., 3/8/1996	CAN THE NAACP - scarred and battle-weary from executive director troubles, financial problems and credibility concerns - be saved? Yes, says a former national board member, if it resolves that it really wants to. Gentry W. Trotter served on the board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for three years. He didn't seek re-election after his term expired last month. He also ran the organization's magazine, The Crisis, before retiring. Trotter		
All In The Family: Troubling Statistics About Child Molesters, Gregory Freeman, 762 words, :	Tue., 3/5/1996	NEVER TALK to strangers!" It's one of the first warnings we give our children, from the minute they start going outside the house by themselves. As parents, we worry about child molesters. We envision them as strangers who might first offer our kids candy or other treats and then grab them and assault them. It's every parent's nightmare. But now comes a study from the Justice Department that's likely to change the face of the molester in the minds of many. The		
Churches Reach Out To Help Congregation After Fire, Gregory Freeman, 760 words, :	Sun., 3/3/1996	THE REV. MAURICE Nutt was listening to Deacon Les Johnson giving a sermon about loving your neighbor at an 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass last month when someone handed him a note. Nutt, pastor of the St. Alphonsus Rock Catholic Church on North Grand Boulevard, calmly got out of his seat and walked outside the church. There he saw something that made him shake with alarm. The Leonard Missionary Baptist Church, just down the street, was in flames. Shortly after Nutt stepped back inside the		
Castro, Farrakhan Have To Live With Choices, Gregory Freeman, 811 words, :	Fri., 3/1/1996	FIDEL CASTRO and Louis Farrakhan may never have met each other, but they have more than a little in common. The American court of public opinion has found them both guilty of being extremists. Both have sought mainstream acceptance in recent years. A nd both have taken steps recently that will certainly make sure that they don't get it. Cuba's beleaguered economy, made worse in the last decade by Russia's decision to cut its umbilical cord to the small nation, has caused		
The Incredible Shrinking Man, Gregory Freeman, 740 words, book: love, hope, & survival	Tue., 2/27/1996	A YEAR AGO at this time, I was huge. Not huge in the sense of being famous or popular. No, I mean, I was immense. Immense probably isn't the word. Try the Goodyear blimp. Think about Dumbo, the baby elephant (OK, my ears are smaller). Children thought I was a float in the Macy's parade. I wasn't always so big. Although small has never been an appropriate adjective to describe me, I had been better about watching my weight. But in recent years, I'd		

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Living In City Has Advantages, Gregory Freeman, 775 words, :	Sun., 2/25/1996	IF YOU believed everything you saw and heard, you'd probably think the city of St. Louis was a hellhole. The city regularly takes its hits in the news media including, at times, this paper. Channel 2 seems to get its kicks out of using the term "the mean streets of St. Louis." People who come to this area get warnings about how they shouldn't even consider living in the city from people who have never ventured east of Skinker Boulevard. Some urban experts seem to		
Believe It: Blacks, Whites Have A Lot In Common, Gregory Freeman, 808 words, :	Fri., 2/23/1996	HOW SIMILAR are blacks and whites in this country? How different? A gathering of polls and census data by the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research suggests that while we may differ when it comes to politics, our fundamental values aren't that different at all. The data were gathered from a variety of polling sources and analyzed by race. All of the polls were taken between 1990 and 1995. In all, information from 17 polling sources was used, including the Gallup Organization, the		
Easy Solution To Weapons Debate: Let Voters Decide In Referendum, Gregory Freeman, 784 words, :	Tue., 2/20/1996	LIKE A BAD cough that just won't go away, the annual concealed weapons bill has raised its ugly head again in the Missouri Legislature. Every year the legislation makes an appearance and, despite seemingly successful efforts to beat it back, the special interest dollars of the National Rifle Association bring it back again the following year. This year is no exception. Measures are going through the Missouri Senate and House that would allow people to carry concealed weapons.		
Buchanan Rides Politics Of Hate, Gregory Freeman, 800 words, :	Sun., 2/18/1996	THERE WAS a time when I questioned the adage that anyone can grow up to be president of the United States. But with Pat Buchanan's strong showing in Iowa last week and his increasing fortunes in public opinion polls of Republicans, my doubts have been dispelled. After all, if Buchanan stands a chance at becoming president, anyone does. Does that sound snippy? It's not intentional. But I find myself wondering how a guy like Buchanan, the once-and-future political commentator,		
'The Last Taboo' Splits Nation, Prompts O.J. Hype, Author Says, Gregory Freeman, 738 words, :	Fri., 2/16/1996	"Did you try to keep that Negro from Miss Dalton? Answer yes or no!" "Have you a sister?" "Is she married?" "Would you consent for her to marry a Negro?" EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON begins his book "Beyond O.J.: Race, Sex and Class Lessons for America" with those comments. They're from the book "Native Son," by Richard Wright. In Wright's book, Bigger Thomas, a black man, is accused in the murder of Mary		
Gathering Gives Women A Time, Place To Connect, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Tue., 2/13/1996	I CAN'T IMAGINE what it's like to be a woman. Men ostensibly have various outlets in which we gather - many of which revolve around sports and athletics. In these venues, men have the opportunity to relate with one another and quite often use them to develop a sense of community with one another. While women have various opportunities as well, I suspect they aren't always as readily available as they might be for men. A few years ago, four women who had been longtime		
College Tuition? Start Saving Now, Gregory Freeman, 779 words, :	Sun., 2/11/1996	A COUPLE OF weeks ago, I wrote a column about concerns my wife and I have about how we will ever send our son to college. He's a high school freshman, but we're beginning to worry that despite our savings, we won't have enough money to get him through four years of college because of the constantly rising tuition costs. I learned quickly that we are not alone. Far from it, if the many letters, e-mail messages and phone calls I got from readers are any indication.		
In Teen's Slaying, Facts Of Case Not Cut And Dried, Gregory Freeman, 789 words, :	Fri., 2/9/1996	MAYBE I'M just the suspicious sort. During the O.J. Simpson case last year, I was among those who thought that Simpson just might have been guilty of the murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. Admittedly, I didn't follow the case that closely - I burned out on the hype early on - and my reaction was based on a gut feeling. The jury found him not guilty, but I had my doubts. Now that a grand jury has decided not to indict a St. Louis police officer in the shooting		
After 'Exhaling,' I Feel Much Better About The Plot, Gregory Freeman, 759 words, :	Tue., 2/6/1996	I WASN'T going to see it. I'm a big movie buff, but I'd decided that there was no way I was going to see "Waiting to Exhale," the film based on Terry McMillan's book about the ups and downs of the relationships of four black women friends. I'd heard the talk from plenty of male friends. The film spent most of its time bashing black males, I was told. Here was another movie where black men were the villains. Once more, black men - who are		
Milestones Worth Savoring, Gregory Freeman, 704 words, :	Sun., 2/4/1996	THE PHONE CALL last year took me aback. It was my mother on the line, with some distressing news. "I don't think I'm going to live to see 70," said my mother, matter-of-factly. My God, I thought. Why would she say something like that? She was 69 at the time, the picture of health, in great shape, rarely sick. Had she become ill? What would make her say something alarming like that? It became clearer as she continued. With the exception of two twin		
College Tuition Keeps Us Guessing, Gregory Freeman, 756 words, :	Tue., 1/30/1996	MY WIFE AND I have learned that we both suffer from a serious disease, one that few talk about but one that is affecting more and more Americans. We are each suffering from what is called middle-class parents' lament. Its Latin name is <i>higus collegius tuitionus</i> , or something like that. We are in the early stages of this serious disease now. Our nearly 15-year-old son is a high school freshman. We still are dealing with the normal concerns of parents of teen-age boys, namely how		
Bill Seeks To Fix What Ails Police, Gregory Freeman, 798 words, :	Sun., 1/28/1996	RUSSELL GOWARD didn't like what he saw last year when it came to Chief Clarence Harmon's departure and the St. Louis Police Board's selection of a new chief. Harmon, saying that he was tired of pressure from politicians and members of the Police Board, announced that he was stepping down to take a position with United Van Lines, unrelated to police work. In interviews, Harmon detailed how various entities had interfered with his attempt to run a fair police force by		
City's Crime Rate May Be Dropping,; But So Is Age Of Crack-Selling Kids, Gregory Freeman, 803 words, :	Fri., 1/26/1996	CRIME IN THE CITY OF St. Louis is down 17 percent. The figure's the lowest it has been since 1990. The decline in crime is so significant that President Bill Clinton mentions it in his State of the Union speech. City cops ought to be thrilled, right? Wrong, if you talk with Joe Mokwa and Dave Heath. They're pretty frustrated, they say. Mokwa is chief of detectives for the St. Louis Police Department; Heath is the department's homicide division commander. And		
Kiel Partners Have Promises To Keep In Restoring The Luster Of Opera House, Gregory Freeman, 792 words, :	Tue., 1/23/1996	IMAGINE YOURSELF at a car dealership, in search of a new car to replace your old clunker. You've finally settled on a car that you think will make a good replacement, but you haven't completely made up your mind. To clinch the deal, the salesman tells you he'll throw in an additional set of tires and a free undercoat. This sounds good to you, and you sign on the dotted line. Then, when the time comes to pick up the car, you're told that the dealership's not		
Retiree Helps Youths 'Grow Right', Gregory Freeman, 738 words, :	Sun., 1/21/1996	ASK LEROY MILLER what he gets the most pleasure out of now that he's retired from business and he'll gladly tell you: Helping youngsters become strong, responsible men. No, Miller's not an Army sergeant and he's not a religious leader. At 79, though, he's in his fifth year of volunteering with the St. Paul Saturdays program. The program, now in its 12th year, is operated through the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, on the city's North Side.		

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Barbara Jordan: Confidence, Conviction Personified, Gregory Freeman, 796 words, :	Fri., 1/19/1996	BARBARA JORDAN knew who she was. While some politicians move back and forth across the political spectrum depending on the direction and velocity of the wind, Barbara Jordan planted her feet firmly in the sand of the Democratic Party. And eventually, she became the party's conscience. For Jordan, the Democratic Party stood for the principle of helping the little person. It was the party that allowed her to achieve numerous firsts: In 1966 she became the first black		
Asian-Americans Deserve Fair Share In Business Contracts With City, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, :	Tue., 1/16/1996	SOME SEVEN years ago, a group of African-Americans here became squeaky wheels over the construction of a new football stadium, arguing for increased black participation in the project. Their complaints drew grousing from some who argued that minorities didn't need any special efforts to be included in stadium construction or other city projects, even though minority firms were rarely included in major construction projects and rarely got any city business at all. Despite the		
Keeping Alive King's Dream, Gregory Freeman, 786 words, :	Sun., 1/14/1996	TO MANY, Monday - the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. - means little more than a day off. To others, however, including me, the holiday serves as a reminder of King's vision of America as a land where people would someday be viewed as individuals and not as colors, a place where blacks, whites and others would learn to get along with one another and not be fearful of working, learning or living next to one another. To King, the concept of integration was a positive		
Love Of Singing 'Good Music' Set Tempo For Baritone's Life, Gregory Freeman, 782 words, :	Fri., 1/12/1996	WHEN I TOLD SEVERAL people that I was going to interview Robert McFerrin, the first response - to a person - was, "Ah, the 'Don't Worry, Be Happy' guy!" No, not him. Long before Bobby McFerrin made Americans whistle to his feel-good hit, his father, Robert McFerrin, was breaking barriers because he liked to sing. McFerrin, the first black to be signed to the Metropolitan Opera in New York, lives in St. Louis with his wife, Athena, these days - and continues to		
Letter From Killer Notwithstanding, A Life Sentence Means It's For Life, Gregory Freeman, 817 words, :	Tue., 1/9/1996	BACK IN NOVEMBER, I wrote a column about Robert Toney. In March 1972, Toney was part of a group of armed men who burst into Cousin Hugo's tavern in Maplewood and declared a holdup. Everyone was ordered to lie on the floor. By the end of the evening, an off-duty police officer and a chemist had been murdered, a lawyer had been shot, and a barmaid and a pet dachshund had been stabbed. It was the kind of dreadful event that is everyone's worst nightmare. In my column, I		
Next Year, Let's Ring Out The Old, Gregory Freeman, 812 words, :	Sun., 1/7/1996	EVERYONE KNOWS THAT what goes up must come down, right? Wrong, if you're among the St. Louisans who thought that firing a gun into the air was a great way to bring in the new year last week. Maybe some folks skipped the lesson on Isaac Newton's law of gravity when they were in school. That's the only way I can explain the countless people who chose firearms as a way to celebrate the new year. Over the years, I've read - and at times written - stories about		
Slain Teen Was More Than A Face, A Name, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Fri., 1/5/1996	TO MANY, the countless deaths of young men that litter the pages of the newspaper each day are little more than statistics. One such "statistic" was Reginald Jamont Wilson. In the "Police/Courts" column of the Post-Dispatch last month, four sentences were written about Wilson: "The body of Reginald Wilson, 16, was found shortly after 8 a.m. Thursday on a vacant lot in the 5000 block of Wren Avenue, in the city's Walnut Park neighborhood. He had been		
1995:				
	139 columns	2 in book		
Embracing The Contributions Of All Our Cultures, Gregory Freeman, 746 words, :	Sun., 12/17/1995	THE LAST we'd heard of Dan Quayle, he was checking his dictionary for the correct spelling of "potato." But the former vice president stirred again recently with a diatribe against multiculturalism. Quayle gave a speech to the Des Moines Christian School in which he argued that multiculturalism was some "extreme" theory that somehow would distort our national memory. Once again, Dan Quayle doesn't get it. The concept behind multiculturalism is the		
The Right Choices: Henderson, Mfume Will Lead In New Posts, Gregory Freeman, 819 words, :	Tue., 12/12/1995	TWO SIGNIFICANT appointments were made last week, one national, one local. The national appointment was that of Rep. Kweisi Mfume as president and chief executive officer of the NAACP. The local appointment was that of Ronald Henderson as St. Louis chief of police. Both are excellent choices. First, Mfume. Mfume comes to the NAACP at a time when it needs him most. The organization has continued its efforts to make a comeback after several devastating turns of events in the last		
Filmmaker Cries Foul Over Movie, Gregory Freeman, 718 words, :	Sun., 12/3/1995	AS AMERICANS head to their local theaters this weekend to see the new film, "White Man's Burden," one St. Louisan already knows he won't enjoy it. Steven Byrd, a young filmmaker here, says that the movie's concept was stolen from him. "They took my movie, plain out and out," he said. "White Man's Burden" stars John Travolta and Harry Belafonte. It's a role reversal film; a portrait of a white man trying to succeed in a world in		
Middle Class Needs To Be 'Sold On St. Louis', Gregory Freeman, 756 words, :	Fri., 12/1/1995	AS AMERICANS head to their local theaters this weekend to see the new film, "White Man's Burden," one St. Louisan already knows he won't enjoy it. Steven Byrd, a young filmmaker here, says that the movie's concept was stolen from him. "They took my movie, plain out and out," he said. "White Man's Burden" stars John Travolta and Harry Belafonte. It's a role reversal film; a portrait of a white man trying to succeed in a world in		
Parole For Murderers Is Mockery Of Justice, Gregory Freeman, 800 words, :	Tue., 11/28/1995	WHILE SWITCHING channels on TV last week, I stumbled upon a parole hearing for Sirhan Sirhan. Sirhan, if you've forgotten, is the man found guilty of the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, minutes after Kennedy had won the California presidential primary. The hearing aired on Court TV. There, an attorney for Sirhan argued that after 27 years, he had served his time and should be allowed to return to society. This was not the first parole hearing for Sirhan. Under California		
Let's Change The Way We Choose Police Chiefs, Gregory Freeman, 762 words, :	Sun., 11/26/1995	BY NOW, it should be clear to everyone that the police system in St. Louis is seriously flawed. For years, this Byzantine system - in which the governor appoints the city Police Board, which in turn selects the police chief - has been defended as a way of keeping politics out of the Police Department. But the resignation of Chief Clarence Harmon and his protests of continuing political interference make it clear that some other system is necessary. From all appearances, the system		
Man Nearing 40 Becomes His Father, Gregory Freeman, 794 words, :	Fri., 11/24/1995	"WHAT ARE YOU watching?" I asked my teen-age son, who was looking at some group or other making interesting sounds on MTV. "That's Better Than Ezra," he said, matter-of-factly. "Who's Ezra?" I asked, "and why are these guys better than him?" My son rolled his eyes, as if an alien from another planet had just asked why humans need oxygen. Better Than Ezra, he told his clearly out-of-touch father, is the name of a rock group. Another		
Like The Beatles? The Temptations?; You Can't Tell A Fan By His Color, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Tue., 11/21/1995	A COLLEAGUE OF MINE here at the Post-Dispatch, Phil Dine, has a real interest in the Temptations, the old musical group. Phil knows the Temptations' songs, can sing quite a few of them and knows all sorts of trivia about them. I like the Beatles a great deal. I like their stuff, like the messages that they sent. I was as sorry as anyone when John Lennon was killed in 1980, and I've been eagerly watching the ABC special about the group this week. That's not to say that I		

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GOP Promises Vs. Practices, Gregory Freeman, 726 words, :	Sun., 11/19/1995	THE "revolution" is over. Newt Gingrich was hoping to be the Emiliano Zapata of a congressional army of Republican hard-liners. This group was going to come in and change America once and for all. Out would go pork-barrel deals that cost Americans billions of dollars a year. In would come a sensible government that would be fair and responsible. That was the talk they talked. It's a different story when you look at the walk they've walked. Time magazine last week		
After Tumble, Chavis Reclaims Leadership Role, Gregory Freeman, 691 words, :	Fri., 11/17/1995	A YEAR AGO, the Rev. Ben Chavis was dead. Figuratively, anyway. Crossing swords with the NAACP, of which he was executive director, Chavis found himself tossed out the door and left for dead. He was, in fact, a man without a country, someone who wanted to make a difference for African-Americans but who had no organizational base from which to do it. That was rough for a man who had been involved in the civil rights struggle for years. He joined the NAACP after heading the United Church		
Writer With AIDS Keeps Fighting, Gregory Freeman, 812 words, :	Tue., 11/14/1995	THERE'S SORT OF an unwritten rule of journalism: Journalists shouldn't write about other journalists. I'm breaking that rule today. If I didn't, you might not know about Thomas Morgan III. He's a native St. Louisan who's made a difference. On Friday, Morgan received the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism, awarded by the University of Missouri School of Journalism. If you haven't heard of Morgan, it's OK. He's never		
Chief Harmon's Resignation: People Lose, While Politicians Win, Gregory Freeman, 758 words, :	Sun., 11/12/1995	POLITICIANS: 1; People: 0. That's the score after Clarence Harmon's decision to step down as police chief. Harmon, clearly the most popular and perhaps one of the best chiefs St. Louis has had in a long time, is leaving. We can blame the politicians for it. We can blame Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. His desire to micro-manage the St. Louis Police Department was a factor in Harmon's decision. We can blame Sen. J.B. "Jet" Banks. Banks is an effective senator in		
Powell Rejects Primrose Path To Presidency; America Loses, Gregory Freeman, 780 words, :	Fri., 11/10/1995	IT'S REALLY too bad. Colin Powell could have been president. Colin Powell, in fact, should have been president. More than anyone else in the race, in my view, Powell had the ability to bring this nation together. He had that ability on several levels. Clearly, Powell had the ability, on a racial level, to help us understand one another. Because of his many achievements, he commanded the respect of many Americans, regardless of color. But he also had the ability		
Funeral Director Is Making It His Business To Help Poor Families, Gregory Freeman, 704 words, :	Tue., 11/7/1995	WHEN ARTEIZ WILLIAMS first entered the funeral business a few years ago, he saw something he didn't like. Lots of poor people and others without much money trying desperately to bury loved ones. Folks who didn't want to put grandma in a wooden box, but who didn't think they had the bucks to do much more. "I just hated seeing a family coming into an establishment's door with their heads down because they couldn't afford it and leaving with their heads down		
M&M's, Napkins And Bill Clinton, Gregory Freeman, 847 words, :	Sun., 11/5/1995	EVER WONDER what it's like to meet the president at the White House? I found out last week as one of a dozen columnists who interviewed President Bill Clinton on the issue of race relations. Talking to the president at the White House is old hat for our Washington correspondents. But for a scribe like me who does most of his work in St. Louis, such an interview is a special occurrence. Our adventure began at the northwest gate of the White House, where we had been told to		
Clinton Shows He's True Leader On Race Issue, Gregory Freeman, 788 words, :	Fri., 11/3/1995	I WONDER if any other American president has understood the issue of race in this country better than Bill Clinton. That's what came to mind after an 80-minute interview with the president on the issue of race relations. I was among a dozen columnists who met at the White House with Clinton on the issue. All 12 of us are members of the Trotter Group, an organization of about 30 black columnists from across the country. The group is named for William Monroe Trotter, a crusading black		
Bills Unlikely To Fix Welfare, Gregory Freeman, 721 words, :	Tue., 10/31/1995	BEFORE THE YEAR IS over, Congress and the president are likely to approve a welfare bill, something, they will say, that will change "welfare as we know it." Next year's an election year, and every politician in the District of Columbia wants to be able to say to constituents that he or she had something to do with changing the "welfare mess." Few people, including welfare recipients, could honestly say that the current welfare system is a good one. It is		
R-O-T-C Spells Self-Confidence, Gregory Freeman, 772 words, :	Sun., 10/29/1995	TEN-HUT! Left, left, left, right, left . . . The young men and women march in step, backs straight, uniforms crisp, boots shiny. They wear green uniforms, but these young folks aren't in the army. They're members of the army ROTC program at Beaumont High School. Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Edward L. Holmes runs the program. At least on the books. Actually, the students run the program. The system there is like that in the Army. Students have assignments and ranks. StudentsStudents		
For Many, Anheuser-Busch Was The Cards, Gregory Freeman, 764 words, :	Fri., 10/27/1995	I CAN STILL x remember my first baseball game. It was around 1961 and my dad had taken me to the old Busch Stadium, in those days on North Grand Boulevard. Everything's big from the perspective of a 5-year-old, and I remember being astonished by the size of the stadium and all the people. There must have been a gazillion people there on that hot day! My dad bought me a baseball cap, and we watched the game. He bought me popcorn in a red box that could be used as a megaphone		
Effects Of Rally Are On The March, Gregory Freeman, 691 words, :	Tue., 10/24/1995	FOR MICHAEL MATLOCK, it means trying to register voters at his business. For the Rev. Warren G. Blakney Sr. and the members of the West Central Church of Christ, it means organizing a local march to encourage people to base their lives on principles and values. Make no mistake about it. Last week's Million Man March is having an effect on St. Louisans. The fact that thousands of people poured into Harris-Stowe State College on Sunday to talk about what had happened and to decide		
Families Must Teach Values, Gregory Freeman, 724 words, :	Sun., 10/22/1995	HOME training. I've got to say it over and over. Too many of today's kids don't have it. What's home training? Teaching your kids to be polite, to respect adults, to not provoke fights, to not try to resolve their problems through violence. Many of those kids who are resolving their problems with fists today will be among those trying to resolve their problems with guns tomorrow. Too many of today's children are tomorrow's cemetery		
Go Ahead, Black Man, The Magic Can Last, Gregory Freeman, 793 words, :	Fri., 10/20/1995	Go ahead, black man, we got your back! Go ahead, black man, we got your back! THAT'S HOW THE 17-hour bus trip to the Million Man March started off for me, with the chanting of women who had come to send off the men who left in two buses from Central Baptist Church and New Sunnymount Baptist Church. As we looked outside the bus, a couple dozen women clapped their hands and chanted. Someone held up a sign that read "We got your back, Daddy." Thankful for the support,		
From Gang Members To Dignitaries, Spirits Are Lifted, Gregory Freeman, 807 words, :	Tue., 10/17/1995	EVERYWHERE one could look there were wall-to-wall people. From the Capitol almost to the Washington Monument, throngs of people gathered Monday for the Million Man March, mostly black men, some black women, some white men and women gathered here and there. Standing on the Capitol steps and along the reflecting pools. Packed. Jammed. At times, crushed. But they were glad to be there. A sense of pride could be felt among the men at the rally. This rally was theirs. It was for		

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Million Man March: 'I Know That This Will Be Part Of History', Gregory Freeman, 986 words, :	Sun., 10/15/1995	FOR ANTHONY RIVERS, it's a "monumental event" that he feels compelled to attend. For Vincent McKinney, it's something long overdue. For Kevin Banks, it's a chance to be a part of history. And for Willie Nobles, it's an opportunity to make a contribution. The "it" is the Million Man March, scheduled for Monday in Washington. Each of these local men plans to attend. Some are traveling by plane, many more by bus, a few by car. But		
CEO Rolls Up Sleeves, Talks Of Layoffs, Gregory Freeman, 812 words, :	Fri., 10/13/1995	BOB SHAPIRO IS a shirt-sleeves kind of a guy. That was my first impression when I met him for lunch in the employee cafeteria of Monsanto earlier this week. Shapiro's the chief executive officer of Monsanto. I've met a few CEOs in my time as a journalist. Some of them are quite stuffy, some to the point of being pompous. Not Shapiro. I found the guy to be down-to-earth, warm, genuine and thoughtful. What brought the two of us together this week was a column		
A Safe New Year's? That Rings A Bell, Gregory Freeman, 769 words, :	Tue., 10/10/1995	ROLAND "BOB" HARRIS has come up with an idea he hopes will take hold. Harris wants people to pick up bells and ring them at midnight on New Year's Eve instead of firing guns. Over the years, firing guns has become a tradition of sorts in many urban neighborhoods. When the clock strikes 12, people step outside and fire their guns into the air. No harm's meant, of course, but it's a tremendously dangerous tradition. Far too often people haven't		
Whatever Became Of . . . ?, Gregory Freeman, 798 words, :	Sun., 10/8/1995	IT'S UPDATE TIME. Time to bring you up to date on several columns I've written about in recent months. Back in August I wrote about black "Generation Xers" who I suggested St. Louis should keep an eye on. Among them were Joseph Westbrook, Ricardo Carey, Tony Edwards, Kenneth King and Claude Logwood. The five make up a company called the Dark Brothers Cookie Co. Their moist, tender cookies are, if not to die for, at least to gain weight for. The company made cookies		
Letter Writers Have Strong Opinions On City Life, Gregory Freeman, 789 words, :	Fri., 10/6/1995	TODAY, I TURN the column over to you and your letters. Dear Mr. Freeman: I agreed wholeheartedly with your column about why the city needs to hold onto its middle class, and I admire you for sticking to it. But I got tired of the city, with its crime, old buildings and bureaucrats years ago. I live in the county now and I'm not sorry I made my move. Do you really think the city's ever going to get better? I don't. Bob Cisneros Dear Bob: The city		
Fuhrman Lost Prosecution's Case, Gregory Freeman, 809 words, :	Wed., 10/4/1995	RANDOM THOUGHTS on the O.J. Simpson verdict: If ever there was a reason for police departments to root out racist cops from their midst, the verdict in the Simpson case was it. We may never know until the jurors write their books, of course, but I think two words turned the case in Simpson's favor: Mark Fuhrman. Although the jurors didn't officially hear much about Fuhrman - about his bragging and regular use of the "N word" - they surely got an inkling of		
Calling People Names Feeds Anger And Helps Load Guns, Gregory Freeman, 788 words, :	Tue., 10/3/1995	THE FRONT-PAGE story was heartbreaking: A father and his 3-year-old daughter were killed while the father's girlfriend watched in horror. The victims weren't prominent folks: the father was a former employee of a Taco Bell restaurant. The father, Morris Howell, was a man who cared deeply about his daughter; the daughter, Morrisia, was remembered as a little girl who loved to put on high-heeled shoes and smear lipstick on her lips. Howell, Morrisia, his girlfriend,		
Race Relations Report Holds Bad, Good News, Gregory Freeman, 722 words, :	Sun., 10/1/1995	A REPORT THAT came out last month about race relations in St. Louis had bad news and good news: The bad news - though hardly news to anyone - was that St. Louis is a very segregated area, where blacks and whites live very separate lives. The good news was that St. Louisans, white and black, would like to see that change and believe that, individually, they have the power to improve race relations. The report was released by the Metropolitan Diversity Coalition, Confluence St.		
My New Look Is Just Making My Wife Bristle, Gregory Freeman, 786 words, :	Fri., 9/29/1995	WITHIN THE LAST couple of months, I've taken on a new look. I've added a beard. Don't glance at the picture that runs with this column to see what it looks like. The paper's still running my old picture. To get an idea of what my beard looks like, though, I'd suggest that you get a No. 2 pencil and shade in the area of my face where a beard would be. Then use the eraser to erase major chunks of the shading. That's the gray hair - to be		
City Must Halt Exodus Of Middle-Class Residents, Gregory Freeman, 834 words, :	Tue., 9/26/1995	A FRIEND of mine a fellow city dweller - recently gave me the news that he's moving out of the city. Regular readers of this column know that I'm constantly trying to get people to move into the city. I still find it a good place to live, and I'm an enthusiastic city recruiter. So, after my friend gave me his news, I had to know why. He was glad to tell me. He lives in a neighborhood with good folks, where people keep their lawns kept and barbecue on warm		
Unthinkable? Not Any More, Gregory Freeman, 740 words, :	Sun., 9/24/1995	WHEN I WAS a senior in high school, our paper - the Beaumont Digest - had a section called "senior superlatives." In that section, a story was written about what many of us would be doing 20 years after graduation, based on our own hopes. Mine said that I was going to be the first black president of the United States. Clearly, in retrospect, the closest I ever got to that was covering a few presidents for news stories. But after that item appeared, I remember some kids at my		
Black Men Preparing For March Toward History, Gregory Freeman, 793 words, :	Fri., 9/22/1995	I REFUSE to buy the Richard Nixon postage stamp. I've got problems with many of the things that Nixon did, Watergate not being the least among them. At the same time, I acknowledge that Nixon did some good things as well. Like establishing the Small Business Administration. Or normalizing relations with China. In a similar vein, many black Americans are ignoring disagreements they may have with Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, to support the Million Man		
Director Wants To Make Gateway Classic A Classic, Gregory Freeman, 769 words, :	Tue., 9/19/1995	AT 63, MOST people are making plans for retirement, trying to figure out whether their pension and investments are adequate, considering a cruise, planning to relax after a lifetime of work. Not Earl Wilson Jr. In the last couple of years Wilson - a retired executive who spent 28 years with IBM - has devoted most of his energies to the St. Louis Gateway Classic, a charity football game. This year's game will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at Busch Stadium, pitting two predominately black		
The Mayor Is Vulnerable, Gregory Freeman, 759 words, :	Sun., 9/17/1995	AS THE FIRST elected official to announce her candidacy for mayor of the city, Alderman Marit Clark has officially opened the 1997 political season. She's far from the first candidate to ever kick off her campaign for mayor so early. Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. and the current mayor's father, Freeman Bosley Sr., both announced candidacies early on. And, of course, Bill Haas - a lawyer who once worked for Cleveland Mayor Dennis "The Menace" Kucinich - has already said		
Black Homosexuals Here Feel 'More Closeted', Gregory Freeman, 837 words, :	Fri., 9/15/1995	ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY, in a recent issue, declared the '90s as the gay decade. Gays are coming out of the closet, it reported, and are suddenly being represented in all sorts of media, from television to movies, from music to literature. While that may be true for white gays, however, it's far from the case for blacks, say several black gays and lesbians here. African-American culture, they say, is much more conservative and much less accepting of gays and lesbians than		

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Schools Fumbled Ball In Shannon Case, Gregory Freeman, 762 words, :	Tue., 9/12/1995	IF I WERE A RESIDENT of East St. Louis today, I'm sure I'd be looking skeptically at members of the East St. Louis School Board, wondering where their interests lie. For surely if their interests really were with the students of that city, they wouldn't have voted unanimously last week to accept the resignation of Bob Shannon, the head football coach at East St. Louis Senior High School. Shannon resigned to protest conditions in East St. Louis schools. Upset because		
A Marriage As Good As Gold, Gregory Freeman, 865 words, :	Sun., 9/10/1995	WHEN LUERELEAN SAMUEL looks at her husband, James, there's love in their eyes - a love that's been there for more than 50 years. "We've always loved each other," he said, "and that's what I guess has kept us together for so long." So while many others this weekend are hoping to celebrate a victory by the Rams in their first home game here in St. Louis, the Samuels will be celebrating something that to them is much more significant - their 50th		
Sen. Bond, Listen To Bridget, Bill, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Fri., 9/8/1995	BRIDGET JUDGE'S EYES sparkle as she talks about her efforts to buy a new home. She and fiance Bill Esterline are hoping to close on the house shortly - something she may not have been able to do had it not been for an organization of church-related groups representing 65 local congregations. The groups - Churches Committed to Community Concerns, Churches United for Community Action and Congregations Allied for Community Improvement - make up the St. Louis Reinvestment Corp. The		
Playing Race Card Is Easy Way Out For Reynolds, Gregory Freeman, 780 words, :	Tue., 9/5/1995	LIKE MANY AMERICANS, I watched and listened intently Friday night when Chicago Congressman Mel Reynolds announced his plans to step down. It was sad to watch the end of his political career. Only three years ago, Reynolds had been a man with so much promise. He had a stellar background: A Rhodes Scholar. A masters in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. An assistant professor at Roosevelt University. The executive director of the Community Economic		
Blacks Need To Get On-Line, Gregory Freeman, 754 words, :	Sun., 9/3/1995	WHEN IT COMES to the information highway, it's clear that the car of African-Americans is stalled on the side of the road, smoke pouring from under the hood. A recent government survey showed that blacks are the least likely to have computers in their homes. With 11 percent computer ownership, they lag behind Asians, at 39 percent, whites at 28 percent, Native Americans at 21 percent and Hispanics at 13 percent. No one really knows why the percentage among blacks is so low. Some		
Gift Of Love May Help The Hopeless, The Addicts, Gregory Freeman, 781 words, :	Fri., 9/1/1995	BEHIND THE DOOR of an unpretentious two-story brownstone on the Near North Side, miracles are happening every day. Men on whom many have given up are learning to shake their addictions and become productive members of society at the Agape House Outreach Center. The program is for homeless and low-income men addicted to drugs or alcohol. The families of many of these men gave up on them a long time ago. Others might classify some of these men as "bums." But the Rev. James		
Does Anyone Really Care About The Little Guy?, Gregory Freeman, 749 words, :	Tue., 8/29/1995	McDONNELL DOUGLAS Corp. is laying off 44 workers at its main manufacturing complex today, and will issue notices to 30 others in St. Charles on Monday" MCI Communications Corp. said Wednesday it will cut its work force by 2,500 to 3,000 over the rest of the year" Monsanto Co. will dismiss 200 employees from offices in the St. Louis and Chicago areas - and more employees can expect to lose their jobs within 18 months" It's		
Streets Can Set Tone For Cities, Gregory Freeman, 725 words, :	Sun., 8/27/1995	The streets are filled with students, young people, tourists and others. On this afternoon they fill the streets of Cambridge, this home to five major educational institutions, including Harvard and Radcliffe. Guys with baggy shorts, earrings and blond hair with auburn roots. Women who've adopted the Sinead O'Connor buzz look, complete with T-shirts, jeans and sweaters tied fashionably around their waists. A street vendor selling a dozen types of smoked wurst. The streets are		
One-Word Labels Can't Do The Job, Gregory Freeman, 833 words, :	Fri., 8/25/1995	I DISLIKE labeling. Maybe it's because I'm not sure how to label myself. These days, labeling seems to be the thing to do, especially where politics is concerned. Are you a liberal? If so, I don't trust you because you're not conservative. Are you a conservative? If so, I'm not so sure about you because I'm liberal. A moderate, you say? You're lying. You must be a liberal who's afraid to face up to it. I honestly am not sure where I'd		
'Preference': Word Inflames Debate On Affirmative Action, Gregory Freeman, 759 words, :	Tue., 8/22/1995	DO YOU THINK blacks and other minorities should receive preference in hiring, promotions and college admissions to make up for past discrimination?" "Do you favor or oppose favoring a well-qualified minority applicant over an equally qualified white applicant when filling a job in a business that has few minority workers?" The first question was published in March as part of a Washington Post/ABC News poll. The second question was published the same day in USA Today as		
African-American Or Black - Either Term Acceptable, Gregory Freeman, 742 words, :	Sun., 8/20/1995	I REMEMBER a comic I used to watch on television when I was a teen-ager. His schtick was to talk about what he could be called. "My name is Ray Jay Johnson Jr.," he'd say. "But you can call me Ray. Or you can call me Jay. Or you can call me Ray Jay" He'd go on and on with names that were OK to call him. Then he'd end it with, "but you doesn't has to call me Johnson!" That old routine came to mind the other day when I read		
Blacks Must Ignore Taunts, Speak Proper English, Gregory Freeman, 712 words, :	Fri., 8/18/1995	AN OLD FRIEND of mine is exasperated with her son. A widow, she's not sure what to do about her 12-year-old son. When I spoke with her recently, my friend, an African-American woman, was at her wits' end. His grades have begun to drop, she said. "It's as if he's decided to shut down his mind." It's all puzzling to her. His father died when the boy was 2. The boy has always been very bright. His grades were always good, and he has always loved		
Here Today, Leaders Tomorrow, Greg Freeman, 1277 words, :	Thu., 8/17/1995	THEY'RE the future leaders of St. Louis. They're the ones who will help decide which direction this area follows, who will be our artistic and cultural leaders, who will direct our culture for years to come. They're among the African-American leaders of the X Generation of St. Louis. Still in their 20s, some of them have achieved far greater than some people twice their age. It's probably a safe bet that they will be among those running the offices and running for		
Clinton's Proposal Is No Smoke Screen, Gregory Freeman, 766 words, :	Tue., 8/15/1995	PICTURE THIS: Vending machines all over the place - quick shops, service stations, supermarkets - selling a product that hasn't been sold in machines before: long-neck bottles of beer. Beer by the bottle, available wherever and whenever you wanted it. Such a deal, huh? What? You have a problem with this idea? Concerned about how available the beer would be to kids? Actually, most people probably would be outraged at such a suggestion. While the idea of a cold one		
Thankless Jobs That Are Crucial, Gregory Freeman, 813 words, :	Sun., 8/13/1995	I HAVE ALWAYS felt that two of the most thankless jobs were those of school teachers and police officers. The first, I must concede, may be a personal bias. My mother was a school teacher for many years. As a child growing up I watched her spend hours each evening checking papers, planning assignments and cutting out letters and designs for her bulletin boards. I know that for a society that supposedly places a great deal of value on education, we don't act like it when you look		

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Volunteers Reach Out To Needy In Unheralded Program Here, Gregory Freeman, 795 words, :	Fri., 8/11/1995	CAROLYN MILES still remembers that early morning in May. It had been raining when she awoke and she went to the window to see how bad it was. She saw something she had never seen in the 10 years she had lived in the small house in Baden. "Water was coming down the street like I'd never seen it," she said. "It was like it was rolling toward us." Indeed, it was like a bad science fiction movie about water that terrorized a community. The area suffered		
Program Helps Youth Aim High, Gregory Freeman, 718 words, :	Tue., 8/8/1995	What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore - and then run? Does it stink like rotten meat? Or crust and sugar over - like a syrupy sweet? Maybe it just sags like a heavy load. Or does it explode? -Langston Hughes STANFORD SCOTT wants to see to it that the dreams of many Metro East youngsters aren't deferred. That's why he helped found and runs the Adventures In		
Teen Pregnancy Problem Being Ignored, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Sun., 8/6/1995	BEFORE RETIRING and moving to St. Louis, Dorothy Jackson spent years doing social work in New York. Jackson worked with families and children. "I must have worked with thousands," she said, many of them black. As a result of her work, she's reached a conclusion: African-Americans - as a group - have done too little thinking about the problems of teen-age pregnancy and their often devastating results. Jackson, who is black, says she believes the issue hasn't		
Welcome To St. Louis? Not This Group Of Visitors, Gregory Freeman, 695 words, :	Fri., 8/4/1995	DEAR MEMBERS of the American Coalition of Life Activists: As you meet in St. Louis this week, I have a few words for you: I hope you don't find our city to your liking, and I can't wait for you to leave. Those words aren't particularly welcoming, I know. That may surprise you, because we St. Louisans are a pretty welcoming bunch of folks. We love to show off our assets. We know that this city is perhaps one of the nation's best-kept secrets. This is a good place to		
New Booklet Caters To Black Tourists, Gregory Freeman, 816 words, :	Tue., 8/1/1995	IT WAS JUST a few years ago when some of my black colleagues and I sought to bring the annual convention of the National Association of Black Journalists to St. Louis. The convention draws more than 2,000 journalists nationwide each year, and it's somewhat prestigious to have the convention in your city. Various cities compete for the honor, and St. Louis was up against New York City. The local journalists hustled, working with St. Louis officials, preparing packets of information		
Politics Is Making Americans The Losers In Affirmative Action Debate, Gregory Freeman, 777 words, :	Sun., 7/30/1995	SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, I suggested in a column that this nation could benefit most from a pure, intellectual consideration of affirmative action. It was my thought that cool heads ultimately would prevail, and my hope that affirmative action - in some form - would remain. It is becoming increasingly clear, however, that politics, rather than cool heads, is becoming the winner in this debate. And the American people are the losers because of the lack of any real examination of the		
A Memorable Collection Of Memorabilia, Gregory Freeman, 820 words, :	Fri., 7/28/1995	FROM THE OUTSIDE, the house of Robert and Mary Brent looks like any other home in this quiet, south St. Louis neighborhood: neat, well-kept, painstakingly maintained. That's where the similarity ends. A visit inside reveals a virtual museum of political memorabilia, dating back to the days of George Washington. The Brents - who have asked me not to use their real names because they don't want to encourage burglars - have been collecting this kind of stuff for more than 40		
On 'Beam Street,' Vengeance Lurks While Witnesses Cower, Gregory Freeman, 808 words, :	Sun., 7/9/1995	BEN HOLDEN is 2,000 miles from St. Louis. But he's afraid that unless something happens - and soon - some major trouble will go down on the city's "Beam Street." Holden's no psychic. He's a lawyer and a reporter for the Wall Street Journal in Los Angeles. But he's also a native of St. Louis who grew up here. And he was the uncle of Konin Norful, 20, who was killed a couple of weeks ago in a drive-by shooting that police say was gang-related.		
String Of Setbacks For Blacks Induces Unease, Gregory Freeman, 804 words, :	Fri., 7/7/1995	Even a paranoid can have enemies. Henry Kissinger IF I WERE paranoid, I might think the federal government had it in for African-Americans these days. I don't consider myself paranoid. I'm not one of those people who thinks everyone's out to get me. I don't believe there's someone lurking behind every door, someone conspiring to make my life miserable. I don't dismiss people who believe in conspiracies. I guess I'm just too skeptical or		
How Girls 10-12 Can Learn To Avoid Sexual Involvement, Gregory Freeman, 761 words, :	Tue., 7/4/1995	MY FRIEND GREG wants to kiss you." "No, I'm not interested." "He's really good looking." "I don't care. I said no." "He says he'll buy you a ring, if you let him kiss you." "Can't you hear? N-O spells no." "Stop acting like a baby." "You don't understand English. I said no, and that's it." It wasn't an actual incident but a role-playing		
As We Chew Barbecue, Congress Gnaws At Freedoms, Gregory Freeman, 825 words, :	Sun., 7/2/1995	AH, FOURTH of July weekend. A time for barbecue. Baseball. Getting together with friends. Giving thought to our constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. OK, the last one isn't what most of us do over this holiday period. But it's certainly appropriate to consider those freedoms - and how the government these days seems to be leading the charge to gnaw at those freedoms, nibbling away like termites. Freedom of expression is clearly under attack.		
When Your Son's Killer Drives By . . ., Gregory Freeman, 864 words, :	Fri., 6/30/1995	IN SOME WAYS, Dossie Edwards may always be a victim. She tries to fight it. She stands up for her rights. But a victim she remains. Her 18-year-old son, Steven Edwards, was killed in 1989 by a man with whom he had been friends for years. The man, Winston Burnett, was 19. The two had grown up together, and Burnett's family lived in a house across the yard from the Edwards home in University City. On May 27, 1989, Burnett stopped by to visit Steven and had with him a		
Injustice: End Of Equal Justice, Gregory Freeman, 733 words, :	Tue., 6/27/1995	Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Martin Luther King Jr. THE WORDS HANG proudly on the wall outside of Richard Teitelman's office. Teitelman, a lawyer and executive director of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, is reminded of their meaning each day as he and his staff work on cases for poor Missourians who might not otherwise be able to afford any sort of legal help. On the fifth floor of a building in the city's Central West End, Teitelman and his		
When A 'Hero' Isn't: Tyson Forfeits Respect, Credibility, Gregory Freeman, 837 words, :	Sun., 6/25/1995	TWO ENTITIES sought redemption last week. One asked for forgiveness. The second claimed to have nothing to be sorry for. At their convention in Atlanta, Southern Baptists apologized for the sins of their slave-owning founders and for more than a century of condoning racism, and asked African-Americans for their forgiveness. Meanwhile in Harlem, former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson was the guest of honor at a celebration called "Day of Redemption" in which he refused		
Is The Death Penalty Justice For All?, Gregory Freeman, 710 words, :	Fri., 6/23/1995	AFTER BEING OUT of town for a day, I returned to my office on Wednesday to hear a message on my answering machine from a man whose call I couldn't answer. The call came from Larry Griffin. He'd called me Tuesday afternoon. Griffin was executed by the state of Missouri at 3:45 a.m. Wednesday by lethal injection at the Potosi Correctional Center. Griffin and I never met, but we had a connection. About a month ago, I took an interest in his case and began looking into it.		

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Group Conceived In '70s Still Pursues Peace, Justice In '90s, Gregory Freeman, 808 words, :	Tue., 6/20/1995	THE YEAR WAS 1970, and America was in the throes of the anti-war movement. At college campuses across the country, students and professors were protesting the war in Vietnam, and St. Louis University was no exception. Particularly vexing to many was the university's decision to keep its ROTC program. Jim McGinnis, then a part-time faculty member, was among those perturbed by the university's decision. In search of something to balance the military studies program, he and		
The Man Who Raised Me Right, Gregory Freeman, 752 words, :	Sun., 6/18/1995	The column below first ran on Father's Day 1992. Since that time I've received numerous requests to rerun it. Here it is, and happy Father's Day. IT WAS ONLY a small item in the Post-Dispatch that ran on June 1, 1971. A man was killed in an accident at the Main Post Office. Frederic W. Freeman, 44, a postal clerk, was crushed to death Sunday by a trailer on the parking lot of the Main Post Office, 1710 Clark Avenue. Lamont Houston, 2424 Gaty Avenue, East		
Fatherly Wisdom, Gregory Freeman, 4478 words, :	Sun., 6/18/1995	Few pleasures compare with the joy of fatherhood. Like fatherhood, those pleasures can be both profound and ephemeral: the sound of an ocean's waves crashing against the sand, or the smell in the air just before a rainfall. But they can't begin to compare. I've known that for 14 years, since the birth of my son, William. Will and I have a good relationship. When I go somewhere, chances are excellent that he'll be with me. Ever since he was a little boy, he's		
Army Is Front Line Of Opportunity, General Says, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Fri., 6/16/1995	WHILE POLITICIANS and judges squabble over affirmative action, the commanding general of Fort Leonard Wood and the Army Engineer Center says the Army is the nation's best example of affirmative action. Maj. Gen. Joe N. Ballard should know. He's the only black two-star general in Missouri, and the only one to ever head Fort Leonard Wood. "The fact that blacks are well-represented in the Army is the premier example of affirmative action in this country," said Ballard,		
Readers' Letters Flood My Mailbox, Provoke Thoughts, Gregory Freeman, 818 words, :	Tue., 6/13/1995	TODAY'S COLUMN comes from you, the readers. I enjoy receiving your letters. I find many of them thought-provoking. Like most people, I continue to grow, and such letters help me grow. But letters are just like people: some are helpful, some are insulting, some are kind, and some are downright nasty. That's life, I suppose. As long as you keep writing them, I'll keep reading them. Here's a sampling of some of the mail I've received recently: Dear Mr.		
Colin Powell For President, Gregory Freeman, 833 words, :	Sun., 6/11/1995	THE MORE YOU think about it, the more sense it makes. A thoughtful man who seems to be the very portrait of common sense. A leader who has proven his abilities to the nation. A man who doesn't appear to be caught up in the partisan battles that seem to divide us more and more each day. Why not Colin Powell for president? The bickering these days - once seemingly limited to Congress - now spills over into our daily lives. Steaming letters to the editor, nasty		
Theft Cripples Couple's Work For Children, Gregory Freeman, 684 words, :	Fri., 6/9/1995	THE REV. MATTHEW CARTER got up Wednesday morning, poured himself a cup of coffee and looked out the window. "Where's the van?" he asked his wife, Julia. "It's parked across the street," she said, a sinking feeling beginning in her stomach. She looked out, and - sure enough - the white, 1990 Chevy van was gone. Someone had stolen it overnight. A stolen vehicle is no fun for anyone. But for the Carters, it means major problems. The Carters		
'Sankofa' Children Claim Their Story, Gregory Freeman, 765 words, :	Tue., 6/6/1995	AN UNDERGROUND movement of African-American moviegoers is causing a film about the physical and mental shackles of slavery to be the talk of St. Louis these days. The film is "Sankofa." It is being kept alive by a movement made up by individuals who have seen the movie and are making concerted efforts to spread the word about it. With only a limited budget, virtually no money is being spent on promotion. Instead, people push the film by word of mouth, and others take groups to		
Colleges Promote Diversity, Ideas, Gregory Freeman, 847 words, :	Sun., 6/4/1995	YEARS AGO, WHEN I was a student at Washington University, I occasionally wondered if I were attending school in the Midwest. Washington University had a large contingent of students from the Northeast in general, and from New York in particular. I don't know how many kids I met who told me that they were from "Loong Guy-land," but the number was significant. Most of the students at Washington University at that time were from places other than St. Louis. In fact, to		
Black People Can Be Racists, Too, Gregory Freeman, 795 words, :	Fri., 6/2/1995	THE WOMAN was clearly upset. She and her daughter had moved into a new neighborhood. Now, every day when the daughter walked home from school, she found herself taunted by other youngsters because her skin color was different from theirs. At times the girl came home in tears because of the hateful words and racial epithets that had been tossed at her by youngsters who enjoyed little more than getting her goat. She was different, and that was enough for the other kids to tease her.		
Best To Be In For An Ounce, In For A Pound, Gregory Freeman, 797 words, :	Tue., 5/30/1995	THE YOUNGSTERS were all so thrilled. About 40 of them in all, all excited because they were about to become graduates. These youngsters, between the ages of about 7 and 16, were finishing a program called Drug Awareness Resistance Education, commonly known as DARE. These students, all participants in the Edgewood Children's Center, were enthused. They had learned something they believed to be important. And they had learned it from a St. Louis County police officer who had		
Not Everyone In The City Wants To Get Out, Gregory Freeman, 820 words, :	Sun., 5/28/1995	WHILE USING ONE of the online computer services recently, I found myself chatting with a man from New York who asked me if St. Louis was completely flooded out. I live in the city and, while we got a little rain in our basement, everything's fine with us, I told him. Well, he responded, he had been watching the national news and saw water lapping at the legs of the Arch and thought the city was underwater. I assured him that was not the case, that while some parts of the		
Innocent Man On Death Row, His Family Says, Gregory Freeman, 800 words, :	Fri., 5/26/1995	LARRY GRIFFIN is no angel. But his family, his attorney and others are convinced that he's not good for the 1980 murder of a drug dealer either. Now they're hoping they can convince Gov. Mel Carnahan of that. Griffin, 40, is scheduled to be executed June 21. The Supreme Court earlier this month denied a petition to stay his execution. But some still question whether Griffin actually committed the murder. To understand any of this, one has to go back to Jan. 2,		
Some New News On Old Subjects, Gregory Freeman, 730 words, :	Tue., 5/23/1995	FROM TIME to time I hear from those of you who ask me for the latest about someone or something that's appeared in my column. So today's column is devoted exclusively to updates. After rap singer Eazy-E - whose real name was Eric Wright - died of complications from AIDS, there was a flurry of interest, particularly by teen-agers, in the disease and methods of prevention. Wright, who had admitted to being the father of seven children by six women, was a rapper who		
Trying To Change Attitudes On The City And City Living, Gregory Freeman, 779 words, :	Sun., 5/21/1995	WITH A MONTH as president of the Board of Aldermen under his belt, Francis G. Slay is giving a lot of thought these days to the city's potential. He thinks there's a great deal of it that's gone untapped. And he says he plans to aggressively help tap it. That might sound like a lot of wind from yet another politician. But Slay sure sounds serious when he says it. And he points to some of his accomplishments in his 10 years as alderman of the city's 23rd Ward as		

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Time To Stop All The Punks With Weapons, Gregory Freeman, 708 words, :	Fri., 5/19/1995	HOW LONG WILL we have to put up with punks like the person who shot Travis Charleston? Time and time again, these interlopers pop up in our neighborhoods, fire indiscriminately, and wound or kill innocent people. This time the innocent person was a 16-year-old high school student with a promising future. Charleston was shot several times and killed early Sunday as he was sitting in a friend's car on a service station lot at North Grand Boulevard and Natural Bridge Avenue, two		
Group Leader Urges Missouri To Continue On Right Track, Gregory Freeman, 847 words, :	Tue., 5/16/1995	WHEN MEMBERS OF the local chapter of the American Association of Railroaders learned about congressional efforts to take a chunk out of Amtrak's budget, they did what any lover of trains would do: They held a bake sale. The event took place at the Kirkwood Farmer's Market earlier this month to celebrate Amtrak's 24th anniversary. The group chose to have the event on May 1 - May Day - to call attention to its "distress-signal bake sale." The proceeds went to the		
NAACP Chooses A Fitting Leader, Gregory Freeman, 762 words, :	Sun., 5/14/1995	IT SOMEHOW SEEMS fitting that Myrlie Evers-Williams is being installed Sunday - Mother's Day - as the national chairwoman of the board of directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Evers-Williams, after all, is one of the mothers of the civil rights movement in this country. That movement has several mothers, actually, among them Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her seat on a bus to a white man resulted in the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott in		
A Crime And An Assumption: Why This Black Man Is Angry, Gregory Freeman, 754 words, book: harmony	Fri., 5/12/1995	AS I WATCHED the news unfold about the Washington University student who was abducted and killed, I found myself making a familiar plea: Oh God, don't let the suspects be black. As time went on, I found that God had chosen not to answer my prayer; the suspects are, indeed, black. I don't know the suspects. They don't work with me. I know that they're not my neighbors nor are they my relatives. But I also know that every time a black person is involved in		
Cigarette Ads Anger Black Ministers, Gregory Freeman, 799 words, :	Tue., 5/9/1995	THE ST. LOUIS Clergy Coalition isn't known for being radical. In fact, the organization - made up of black ministers from throughout the area - has been criticized at times for being too conservative. So I was intrigued by a news release the coalition sent me last week, announcing a press conference its members were holding to criticize tobacco companies for targeting African-Americans in their ad campaigns. The ministers argue that black communities are more heavily courted		
Killings Teach Painful Lesson, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Sun., 5/7/1995	A MURAL PAINTED by students covers a wall along a stairwell at New City School. The mural is multicultural, covered with paintings of Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Thurgood Marshall, Harry Truman and others. The diversity of the wall is like the school, which values and takes pride in its diversity. Its sensitivity to the concerns of others is among its strengths. Our son is a graduate. I wasn't surprised, then, that the school held a meeting to talk about the shooting		
Doctors Who Studied Under Foster Call Abortion Issue Politics, Not Medicine, Gregory Freeman, 744 words, :	Fri., 5/5/1995	THREE ST. LOUIS DOCTORS say they just don't get it. They don't understand why there's all the fuss surrounding the confirmation of Dr. Henry Foster as surgeon general. They don't understand the efforts by some Senate Republicans to tear down Foster's reputation and career of 40 years as an obstetrician - all for political gain. They don't understand why they haven't seen the Foster they know portrayed in the news media. All three		
Survivor Credits Activities, Mentors, Gregory Freeman, 790 words, :	Tue., 5/2/1995	JESSIE DAVISON HAS SEEN his life and those of 14 others - pass before his eyes. It happened recently, when Davison was at the Mathews-Dickey Boys' Club in north St. Louis. A lifelong love - boxing - had brought him to the club: the Gateway Classic boxing tournament was being held there, and Davison, 39, was there to watch. That's where he saw it. The picture of his old neighborhood baseball team, the Pruitt-Igoe Indians, back in 1969, hanging on the wall of the		
Not All The Good Cops Are Found In Movies, Gregory Freeman, 876 words, :	Sun., 4/30/1995	A TOUGH-GUY COP with a "heart of gold" travels the streets of his beat, urging street kids to straighten up, helping alcoholics kick their habit, fighting for the rights of ordinary citizens. It's the stuff Hollywood dreams are made of. Countless tons of popcorn were devoured by Americans in the 1930s and 1940s as they watched such heroic cops on the big screen tackle the bad guys and stand up for the good guys. In 1995 St. Louis, though, the concept is more than		
Violence Against Homosexuals: A Hate Crime We Cannot Tolerate, Gregory Freeman, 740 words, :	Fri., 4/28/1995	JANET HAD always been a friendly, easygoing person. A natural athlete with a positive outlook, she attracted friends like a magnet. Her leadership abilities led her to become president of a lesbian and gay group on her college campus in Illinois last year. That's when her troubles began. Janet started receiving hate mail, threatening letters. One letter read: "Please stop propagating your deviant sexual activities or we will make you stop." She also		
Are Black Areas Prime Targets For Waste Sites?, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Tue., 4/25/1995	THE 25TH observance of Earth Day is over. For the most part, much of the attention over the years has been paid to areas like water, streams and wildlife - areas that affect all of us but which have been perhaps of lesser concern to inner-city residents, who've often found themselves faced with more pressing problems. If your biggest problems are making sure that you stay alive and keeping people out of your house who'd love to take the few possessions that you own, it's		
Virvius Jones Is Good At His Job, Gregory Freeman, 804 words, :	Sun., 4/23/1995	VIRVIUS JONES has had his share of embarrassing personal problems, ranging from his money difficulties in the 1980s with his investment in the now-infamous Cabanne-Cabanna apartments, to his being less than honest when it came to his college credentials, to his Purple Heart that could never be found. The city's comptroller has never failed to have a trail of critics, his chief one now perhaps being the U.S. attorney's office, which is believed to be investigating his use of		
Terrorism Once Meant 'Somewhere Else', Gregory Freeman, 729 words, :	Fri., 4/21/1995	IT WASN'T SUPPOSED to happen in the Heartland. The Oklahoma City explosion was a shock - and an affront - to our Midwestern sensibilities. In this part of the country, we're used to being hospitable, friendly, open. We trust people unless they've given us a reason not to be trusted. We know that the bad guys are out there, but we expect even them to be sensible when it comes to innocent children. After all, we think of the stories we've heard about men in		
'Blackthink': False In Life Or On Jury, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, :	Tue., 4/18/1995	DEAR MR. FREEMAN: With all of the black jurors in the O.J. Simpson case, do you honestly think that the jury would remotely consider finding Simpson guilty? If you do, I think you're kidding yourself. A reader sent me that e-mail message last week. It was yet another letter about the effects of race in the Simpson case that I've received since the football player-turned-actor has gone on trial. I've generally avoided writing much about the Simpson case. It's		
Slain Youth's Mother Knew How To Pass Along Life, Gregory Freeman, 634 words, :	Sun., 4/16/1995	PATRICIA FEDRICK'S family has always been one to pass things along from one person to the next. Whether it was a shirt that one person had grown too big for or a pair of pants that someone could no longer use, Fedrick has always believed in passing it along to someone else. "We were a close family and we were poor," she said. "I'd rather give things to someone who could use them than throw them out." So when Fedrick's son was murdered two years		
This Team Is 12-1 And More, Gregory Freeman, 720 words, :	Fri., 4/14/1995	A SEMIPRO FOOTBALL TEAM disguised as an effort to help young men develop their lives? Or a program to help young men develop their lives disguised as a semipro football team? That was my question for Lee Brown, coach of the St. Louis Bulldogs. The Bulldogs are a Mid-Continent Football League team, part of a 24-team minor league that spans 19 cities and eight states in the United States and Canada. Members of the team range in age from 18 to 24. Brown's answer to my		

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Despite What NRA Supporters Say, Gunslingers Won't Help Solve Crime, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Tue., 4/11/1995	WITH ALL the weapons in the hands of American people at this point - 220 million in private hands at last count - you wouldn't think there would be calls for putting more weapons in more hands. After all, nearly enough guns are in private hands for every man, woman and child in this country to have one. The United States is the most heavily armed nation on Earth. But even that's not enough for the National Rifle Association and its supporters. The association, one of the		
Mixing And Mingling On MetroLink, Gregory Freeman, 758 words, :	Sun., 4/9/1995	Sparrows were feeding in a freezing drizzle That while you watched turned into pieces of snow Riding a gradient invisible From silver aslant to random, white and slow. There came a moment that you couldn't tell. And then they clearly flew instead of fell. - Howard Nemerov I DIDN'T FIND the words of the late poet laureate and Washington University professor in a book. I found them on a sign aboard one of the MetroLink trains. No		
Rapper's Aids Death May Teach Others, Gregory Freeman, 790 words, :	Fri., 4/7/1995	THERE'S A CLEAR message from the death last week of rap singer Eazy-E, and the message came from the "gangsta" rapper himself. Shortly before his death from complications of AIDS, Eazy-E - whose real name was Eric Wright - issued a statement: "I'm not religious, but wrong or right, that's me. I'm not saying this because I'm looking for a soft cushion wherever I'm heading. I just feel I've got thousands and thousands of young fans that		
Marriage: Try It, Your Kids Will Like It, Gregory Freeman, 795 words, :	Tue., 4/4/1995	IN THE NEW film, "Bye Bye Love," Paul Reiser, Randy Quaid and Matthew Modine play three divorced guys who are miserable because they're no longer with their wives or children. The men all work mightily, however, to spend as much time with their kids as possible. The character played by Modine explains that he enjoys his children and doesn't want them to end up "screwed up." But even that might not be enough to prevent kids from being "screwed		
Readers Respond On Child Abuse, Gregory Freeman, 827 words, :	Sun., 4/2/1995	OVERWHELMED. That's how I felt last week as more than 150 of you responded to my column of last Sunday. For those who missed it, I explained how I had been on the parking lot of a grocery store and witnessed a mother, furiously spanking her toddler and cursing at her with language that would make several sailors, Andrew Dice Clay and Martin Lawrence all blush. I explained how I had wanted to intervene but didn't know what to say or do, so had driven home, frustrated by		
Researcher Connects Liquor Stores, Crime Rate, Gregory Freeman, 792 words, :	Fri., 3/31/1995	A LOUISIANA STATE University Medical Center researcher has found what some have long suspected - that the number of liquor stores in a community has a direct relationship to the rate of violent crime. Richard A. Scribner, a criminologist at the university in New Orleans, bases his conclusion on a study of 74 cities in Los Angeles County in which he and other researchers calculated the number of liquor outlets and the numbers of murders, rapes, robberies and assaults in 1990. According		
A Man Is Killed, A City Is Dying, Gregory Freeman, 776 words, :	Tue., 3/28/1995	SLOWLY BUT SURELY, St. Louis is being killed. It's being murdered, little by little, by people like those who killed Jeffrey Krewson last week. Everyone's heard of Krewson by now. He's the architect who was returning to his home in the Central West End with his family in the car when he was met with a would-be carjacker with a shotgun. The carjacker killed Krewson in front of his family. His was only the latest of the brutal murders that we've seen lately.		
Stop And Listen: A Child Is Crying, Gregory Freeman, 802 words, :	Sun., 3/26/1995	I WAS GETTING into my car after doing some grocery shopping one evening recently when I heard a child wailing. I looked around, to find a little girl who couldn't have been more than 3 years old, crying her heart out, tears pouring down her cheeks. Then I saw why she was crying. Spanking her on her behind and cursing at her throughout was a woman I assumed to be her mother. "You get your little a- over here and don't let me see you doing that again," the		
Temporary Jobs, Lasting Effect, Gregory Freeman, 715 words, :	Fri., 3/24/1995	EAGER YOUNGSTERS file into the cafeteria of the Wohl Community Center on North Kingshighway, eyes bright and full of hope. They're here for interviews for the summer jobs program in the city. Some 4,000 young people ages 14 to 21 have applied for 1,200 summer jobs slated for this year, jobs for the poor and working poor that will exist if Congress doesn't cut funding for the program. That may be a big if. The House has approved cutting \$1.7 billion from summer jobs programs.		
Buchanan's Bark Has Biting Edge, Gregory Freeman, 774 words, :	Tue., 3/21/1995	GOP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE Patrick Buchanan was mouthing off again. "It should have been painfully clear to President Clinton that if he tried to make his Cabinet 'look like America,' he was going to get saddled with a lot of incompetent minorities, crooked blacks and untrustworthy women," he barked last week on NBC's "Today Show." "Isn't it obvious that affirmative action has created a situation where this president has been burned by situations		
Fear Departs A Neighborhood, Gregory Freeman, 797 words, :	Sun., 3/19/1995	IMAGINE LIVING in a neighborhood where 20-30 people stood on the street corner, harassing people who lived on the block, throwing beer bottles at them and cursing at them. Imagine living in a neighborhood where people regularly stood on the street, serving as a sort of "drive-up service" for people who wanted to buy drugs. Imagine living in a neighborhood where prostitutes regularly frequented and where "johns" regularly had sex in cars right on the street.		
'Big-Boneded' Columnist Tackles Weighty Matters, Gregory Freeman, 760 words, book: wit & wisdom	Fri., 3/17/1995	I'M A BIG MAN. Oh, I don't mean big in importance or anything like that. In the pecking order of things, I'm probably somewhere near the bottom of the food chain. But in size, I'm what someone once called "big-boneded." I don't know how big my bones actually are. But there's quite a bit of meat to go around those bones. Enough meat to fill a meat locker if I were a cow. I've always been a big guy. It's just that I'm		
Residents, Police Team Up To Fight Crime, Gregory Freeman, 716 words, :	Tue., 3/14/1995	THE RESIDENTS of Hamilton Heights, in the city's West End, were fed up. They wanted to do something to fight crime in their neighborhood. They'd seen a successful anti-crime effort in the Soulard neighborhood and wanted to duplicate it. The Soulard Restoration Group has been taking aggressive steps against crime. The group there has formed a mobile patrol, made up of more than 100 residents concerned by crime in their neighborhood. The group works closely with police;		
Teaching Youths To Shun Violence, Gregory Freeman, 686 words, :	Sun., 3/12/1995	THE STUDENTS sit quietly at attention in Mildred Lewis' fifth-grade class at Carver Elementary Community Education Center. Lewis introduces a visitor, and the students respond: "Good afternoon, Mr. Cunningham. I respect you and I respect myself." This is no ordinary visitor. He's Robert Cunningham, founder and executive director of a group called Organized Men Against Juvenile Crime. And he's at Carver to help teach youngsters about resolving conflict in a		
After Vote, Blacks Vent Anger Against Mayor, Gregory Freeman, 720 words, :	Fri., 3/10/1995	CALLERS BURNED UP the wires to black radio talk shows Wednesday, the day after election day. Many were angry with the mayor. Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. endorsed Francis G. Slay for president of the Board of Aldermen, and Slay won in a slam dunk of his opponents. Many of those who called in resented that the mayor, who is black, had endorsed a white candidate over Velma Gene Bailey, who is black. Another black candidate, Jimmie Matthews, also ran, but Matthews has become a perennial		

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Teaming Sex, Responsibility, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, :	Tue., 3/7/1995	I TOOK A CALL Monday from a reader who had just finished reading a piece by Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey. In the piece, Bradley discussed strengthening the American family by "recoupling" sex and parental responsibility. "Rolling back irresponsible sexual behavior is best done by holding men equally accountable for such irresponsibility," Bradley wrote. "Policy should send a very clear message - if you have sex with someone who becomes pregnant, be prepared to		
'Contract' Isn't A Done Deal, Gregory Freeman, 726 words, :	Sun., 3/5/1995	IT SEEMS AS IF every time someone in Congress votes differently from what House Speaker Newt Gingrich would like, he breaks into the same refrain: Those individuals are voting against the wishes of the voters in November. The Republicans, he argues, have a mandate from the voters. But a New York Times/CBS News poll released last week ought to give pause to Gingrich and others who are so certain that the Republican agenda is America's agenda. The Republicans may have no more of a		
The Long And The Short Of It Is, Fatherhood Is A Hairy Task, Gregory Freeman, 694 words, :	Fri., 3/3/1995	I'm aware that some stare at my hair. In fact to be fair, some really despair at my hair. But I don't care. 'Cause they're not aware. Nor are they debonair. They see hair down to there, say beware and go off on a tear. Do I care? Au contraire. - George Carlin - I FOUGHT IT. I battled it every step of the way. But it happened anyway: Somewhere along the way I turned into my parents. This has become crystal clear to me in recent		
Don't Get Rid Of A Good Thing, Gregory Freeman, 735 words, :	Tue., 2/28/1995	BACK IN THE 1980s, when I covered St. Louis City Hall as a reporter, I used to follow then-Mayor Vince Schoemehl around to various sites as he held town hall meetings. In doing so, I grew accustomed to a ritual. When the meetings were held in north St. Louis, residents grumbled that all of the city's money was going to the South Side. When they were held in south St. Louis, residents complained that the money was going to the North Side. And when the meetings were held in the		
The NAACP's Biggest Task Is To Unify A House Divided, Gregory Freeman, 730 words, :	Sun., 2/26/1995	DON'T BELIEVE the hype. That's the word today, eight days after the board of the NAACP ousted its controversial chairman and replaced him with the widow of civil rights activist Medgar Evers. The fighting among the board's 64 members apparently continues. Some board members have divided the organization into factions, and the organization continues to tear itself apart. The vote to oust longtime board chairman Dr. William Gibson was close - 30-29 - and the fighting		
Racial Protest Is Misguided, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Fri., 2/24/1995	AT FIRST I thought about ignoring this topic. I mean, how ridiculous can you get? But the more I thought about it, the angrier I got. The angrier I got, the more I wondered why we even need lawyers. There oughta be a law about lawyers. I'm talking about the flap at A.G. Edwards Inc., the investing firm. A group of black employees there has filed a petition complaining about a picture of a bottle displaying the words "A.G. Edwards Pure Vanilla" on the cover of its		
Good Teachers Take Chances, Gregory Freeman, 710 words, :	Tue., 2/21/1995	I'LL NEVER forget Larry Mitchener. When I was a sophomore at Beaumont High School in north St. Louis, he was my English teacher. Mitchener was unlike any other English teacher I'd ever experienced. He had a way of getting his students to think. He was able to get thoughts out of us like others couldn't. While some teachers would grumble about how their kids didn't want to learn, most of us who were Mitchener's students couldn't wait to get to his		
St. Louis Police Have Trouble Recruiting Enough Minorities, Gregory Freeman, 771 words, :	Sun., 2/19/1995	I CERTAINLY wouldn't want the jobs of Lt. Col. Raymond B. Lauer or human resources director Larry L. Brockelsby these days. Those two work with the St. Louis Police Department. Their job? Recruiting people to become part of the city's finest. These days they're focusing on recruiting more minorities to the police force. That effort's a noble one. In a city where the population is approximately 50-50 black-white, minorities make up 31.4 percent of the force.		
Making Sense Out Of Violence, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Fri., 2/17/1995	THERE'S A phrase that irks Geri Redden. It's "senseless violence." Redden contends that there's no such thing. Every act of violence, she says, has its roots. Those roots often date back to childhood, she says. Redden knows about such roots. Not only is she the founder of the Educational Center on Family Violence, she has been the victim of family violence. The phrase "senseless violence" seems to raise its head more and more in		
Mercy? Sure, But Justice Is Needed Here, Gregory Freeman, 718 words, :	Tue., 2/14/1995	I CONSIDER COMPASSION to be a good trait. It's something I try to exhibit and that I try to pass along to my teen-age son. But I think it takes much more than compassion to figure out what happened in the case of Apolimar Gonzalez, who killed a 60-year-old man last year in a drunken-driving accident. St. Louis Circuit Judge Evelyn Baker sentenced Gonzalez on Friday to three years' probation in the accident that killed Lloyd Creasman. Creasman had been driving his		
Foster Exposes Big-Tent Myth, Gregory Freeman, 709 words, :	Fri., 2/10/1995	SOMETHING SINISTER is going on in Washington. That in itself is probably not surprising. Seems something sinister's always going on in Washington. But this seems more sinister than most. It looks as if a perfectly fine nominee for surgeon general is about to get the shaft because of the efforts of some right-wing zealots. By all accounts, Dr. Henry Foster Jr. would seem to be a good choice for surgeon general. He has a wealth of experience. He's a former dean and		
GOP Stance On Wage Irks Working Widow, Gregory Freeman, 725 words, :	Tue., 2/7/1995	BARBARA A. IS HAVING second thoughts about her votes in November for the "Republican revolution." Back in November, Barbara voted for John Ashcroft for senator and Jim Talent for Congress. She was thrilled election night when she learned that Republicans had taken over the House and the Senate. "I was tired of the same old thing," Barbara said. "Lots of promises, nothing getting done. The Democrats fighting the Republicans. The Republicans fighting the		
Founder's Spirit Drives Program, Gregory Freeman, 758 words, :	Sun., 2/5/1995	BILL HARRISON WOULD have been proud. The program that he founded and nurtured to help young black men is going strong. Harrison started St. Paul Saturdays 11 years ago through St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church. An associate dean at Forest Park Community College, Harrison didn't limit his teaching to the campus. He met on Saturday mornings with youngsters from the age of 6 on up to help them gain self-esteem and strong academic skills. Through his efforts, St. Paul		
Why Bar Two White Singers?, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Fri., 2/3/1995	AS A COLUMNIST, I find it's not always easy to decide which topics to write about. I get three shots at it each week, but usually so much is going on that it's difficult to choose. That means I hear from readers who wonder why I didn't write about this or that. So, today's column is devoted to this and that. A couple of weeks ago, a Grammy Award-winning composer, Hannibal Peterson, tried to ban two women from singing in his work with the St. Louis Symphony		
Loss Of Student Is Blind To Color, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Tue., 1/31/1995	WHAT IS IT that makes people so quick to search for racial causes for our problems? The question arose again last week as Bruce Bradley, who had been host of "Common Sense?" on KETC (Channel 9), chose to react to the murder of a high school girl in a most visceral and accusatory manner. It was as if the situation had not been tragic enough: Fifteen-year-old Christine Smetzer, a white student at McCluer North High School, was found dead in a girls' restroom. A 15-year-old		

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U. City High Should Give ROTC Program A Chance, Gregory Freeman, 715 words, :	Sun., 1/29/1995	PEOPLE VIEW LIFE through their own prisms. No better example of that exists right now than the controversy over whether a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps ought to be allowed at University City High School. The controversy has drawn a line between many whites who oppose the program and blacks who favor it. A little University City history is probably in order here. Unlike residents of some other parts of St. Louis County, many University City residents - particularly its white		
National Customer Makes A Plea To Bosley, Gregory Freeman, 686 words, :	Fri., 1/27/1995	KATHERINE HEINZE has some advice for Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr.: "Don't let Schnucks close any National stores in the city." Heinze is worried about Schnuck Markets' decision to buy 57 National supermarkets and to close some of them. If the Federal Trade Commission approves the deal, Shop 'n' Save will become the No. 2 chain here, with 29 stores, and Dierbergs Family Markets will rank third with 14 stores. Heinze shops at the National supermarket in the		
Fear, Apathy Make Violence 'The Way It Is', Gregory Freeman, 714 words, :	Tue., 1/24/1995	THE CRIME WAS bad enough. Police said a 14-year-old girl had been shot by a 17-year-old boy because he thought she belonged to the Crips street gang. Something surely worth dying over, right? The girl, Anna Jaree Satchell, was shot while she and others were at an apartment in Wellston. According to police, an argument broke out over whether Anna and a friend were members of the gang. At that point, they say, the 17-year-old pulled out a long-barreled gun and shot Anna. That		
Residents Revive Their Troubled Block, Gregory Freeman, 736 words, :	Sun., 1/22/1995	PEOPLE OFTEN SEEM ready to dump on the city as a place where no one would willingly live. Don't say that to the folks in the 5800 block of Maffitt Avenue. The people who live there believe that they have gone through hell - but that their block is on the way back. That is so because residents of that neighborhood chose not to give up. That, in itself, was hard. I sat down and talked with several residents of the block and learned how far they had come. The		
Anything Possible In Plot Involving Farrakhan, Gregory Freeman, 725 words, :	Fri., 1/20/1995	IT'S A conspiracy, man!" Those were familiar words from a friend when we were in college together. He thought there was a conspiracy behind everything. When he got a bad grade in a course, he'd say it was "the white man's conspiracy to keep the black man down." When I'd remind him that he'd cut almost every class, he'd tell me that was beside the point. In this business, I've heard lots of rumors of conspiracies, many of		
Klan's Visit Is Exciting - In Strange Way, Gregory Freeman, 707 words, :	Tue., 1/17/1995	IT WAS as if the circus had come to town, bringing with it animals many people had never seen. People came from all over to see the strange beings flanked by odd flags and lots of music. Yes, on Monday, the Ku Klux Klan came to town. All 12 of them. The St. Louis Police Department arrived early, setting up a barricade around the Civil Courts building, on whose steps the Klansmen would later speak. To prevent trouble, the police escorted the Klansmen from Interstate 55 and		
Don't Let Change Take Us Backward, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Sun., 1/15/1995	A FRIEND approached me the other day, outraged by the actions of Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon. The friend was furious that Nixon has taken to the Supreme Court the issue of whether the state should continue to fund Kansas City's school desegregation program. She was particularly angry that Nixon has taken the position that the academic achievement of school children in Kansas City is irrelevant to whether the desegregation plan has eliminated the effects of segregation		
A Group That Works Quietly But Effectively, Gregory Freeman, 743 words, :	Tue., 1/10/1995	GET READY TO HEAR more from the St. Louis Black Leadership Roundtable. Haven't heard of the group? It's been around for several years, but many of its efforts have been behind the scenes. It was activated a few years ago, largely through the work of Ronald Thompson, who headed the GR Group, a railroad equipment company here. Over the years, the group quietly involved itself in a variety of issues, including the efforts of St. Louis Comptroller Virvus Jones to get more		
Ethics And Connie Chung, Gregory Freeman, 700 words, :	Sun., 1/8/1995	I JUST GOT BACK from the post office, where I mailed a "thank you" note to Connie Chung. Thanks to her, my job as a journalist just got harder. It's not as if it was so easy before. Let's face it: I don't work in America's favorite profession. Surveys generally show our profession as being somewhere below politicians and buffalo toes. Why? People think journalists are slimy. They have impressions of us going through trash in search		
Clinic Shootings Should Forge Church Bond, Gregory Freeman, 743 words, :	Fri., 1/6/1995	FIRST THERE WAS Michael Griffin, who killed a doctor outside an abortion clinic in Pensacola, Fla., in 1993. Then there was Paul Hill, who killed an abortion doctor and his bodyguard in Pensacola last July. Now comes John Salvi, a student hairdresser, accused of killing two people and wounding five at two abortion clinics outside Boston last week. All three men are believed to have committed murder based on their religious and moral belief that abortion itself is murder and that		
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When Ends Don't Meet; Being Poor Hurts All Year Long, But It's Especially Heartbreaking At Christmas When The Other Kids Have Something New, Gregory Freeman?, 52 words, :	Tue., 12/13/1994	Graphic/sketch of a child - The 100 Neediest Cases files show that being poor hurts all year long, but it's especially heartbreaking for children at Christmas. EVERYDAY (PAGE) 1		
How One Man's Life Was Saved, Gregory Freeman, 720 words, :	Sun., 12/11/1994	HAD YOU suggested to Jack Gadson four years ago that he would be alive today, he probably would have laughed in your face. As Gadson recalls his life then, he "was going through turmoil with my family." "I would drink a lot and use cocaine a lot, just whenever I felt like it." He became a drifter, leaving his native Philadelphia, traveling from city to city. "I'd get a job and make enough money to go to another city and then leave," said Gadson,		
GOP Proposal For Orphanages Is Nothing But Mean-Spirited, Gregory Freeman, 698 words, :	Fri., 12/9/1994	THERE'S A SCENE early on in Charles Dickens' classic story "A Christmas Carol" in which the ever-tight Ebenezer Scrooge is approached by some people collecting money for poor children during the holidays. Instead of either contributing or turning down the solicitors, Scrooge snarls and asks the question: "Are there no orphanages?" The scene brings to mind incoming House Speaker Newt Gingrich's suggestion that orphanages are the solution to the		
A-Bomb Stamp Tests Sensitivity, Gregory Freeman, 735 words, :	Tue., 12/6/1994	THE UNITED STATES government is about to make a decision that will determine how sensitive this country really is when it comes to the concerns of other nations. Japan has asked the United States to reconsider issuing a postage stamp marking the nuclear bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II. The stamp features a composite of mushroom clouds formed by wartime bombings and nuclear tests after the war. Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Foreign		
Working For Free And Fair Elections, Gregory Freeman, 714 words, :	Sun., 12/4/1994	IT'S BEEN ONLY eight months since Chris Lee took over the St. Louis Election Board as chairman. But it's probably been the busiest eight months in Lee's career. Unlike some election chairmen, Lee has neither run for public office before nor has he electoral ambitions. Lee, an area manager for community relations with Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., has a reputation for honesty, one he's enhanced during his brief tenure with the Election Board. Lee is low-key,		

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We Shouldn't Let Strength Become Liability, Gregory Freeman, 765 words, :	Fri., 12/2/1994	THE SCHOOL BOARD is winding down a lengthy session. After a heated discussion, the board has voted to allow prayer in its schools. From now on, three minutes will be set aside for tefilah, the Hebrew word for prayer. Oh, I forgot to mention that the majority of the school board members are Jewish. So the kids in the district, which is about 55 percent Jewish, will recite Hebrew prayer each morning. Without a doubt, some of the Christian parents will be upset that their		
He Got Flu; She Got Headache, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Tue., 11/29/1994	I'VE DECIDED. I'm a 38-year-old, 6-foot-1 baby. It's the only conclusion I could reach after being knocked out recently by a 10-day bout with the flu. Oh, it started off OK, I guess, as far as these things go. A fever and a slight cough. Not feeling that great, I took the day off. A day or two in bed ought to take care of it, I thought. I'll be fine. So after that, I carried myself in to the office and went back to work. But it wasn't to be for		
Team Approach Kicks Off Race For School Board, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Tue., 11/22/1994	ONLY TWO WEEKS have gone by since we voted in national elections and candidates are already lining up for the St. Louis School Board. In past years, the city school elections have been considered crucial. That dates back to 1987, when three anti-busing candidates won election to the board. The single-agenda trio - later joined by two other members - caused gridlock throughout the late '80s and early '90s, making it difficult for the School Board to get things done. The 12-member		
'The Bell Curve' Rings Hollow, Gregory Freeman, 756 words, :	Sun., 11/20/1994	IN THE MUCH-talked-about book, "The Bell Curve," Charles Murray and Richard Herrnstein assert that IQ at birth determines one's fortunes in life. But can self-perceptions - based on stereotypes - affect how well or how poorly people perform on those tests and others? That is so without a doubt, says Claude Steele, a professor of psychology at Stanford University who finds the book fatally flawed. Steele has put together an essay called, "Race and the Schooling of		
Unreal Stereotypes Keep Real Individuals Divided, Gregory Freeman, 748 words, :	Tue., 11/15/1994	WHEN SHE first reported to police that she had been carjacked, Susan V. Smith told police that her car - along with her two young boys - had been taken at gunpoint by a black man. After she finally admitted that she had killed her sons herself, it became obvious that Smith, a white woman, had thought that her story would be more feasible if she blamed the crime on a black man. The notorious crime touched off racial tension in Union, S.C., and angered many blacks in that small city when		
Wheat Lost The Election, But He's Far From A Loser, Gregory Freeman, 718 words, :	Sun., 11/13/1994	ALL IN ALL, Democrat Alan Wheat probably never stood a chance this year. Oh, he had a chance when he first announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat being given up by Missouri icon John Danforth. He's young, attractive and has experience in Congress. He's also a good "crossover" candidate. Let me explain. Politics can be compared to music. Some tunes cross over. They appeal to broader numbers of people than just their own genre. Some country and rhythm		
Like Him Or Not, We All Have To Accept Thomas, Gregory Freeman, 698 words, :	Sun., 11/6/1994	I COULDN'T HELP but be amused by comments by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in a recent issue of the Washington Afro-American, a black weekly newspaper. "I am not an Uncle Tom," Thomas was quoted as saying. The comment was reminiscent of Richard Nixon's famous declaration of "I am not a crook." The fact that Thomas actually felt a need to declare that he was no "Uncle Tom" amuses me. Thomas' far-right opinions and views on civil		
2 Officers Really Care About Kids, Gregory Freeman, 715 words, :	Fri., 11/4/1994	MEET A COUPLE of unsung heroes. They're not flashy. They don't make the news. They aren't holding press conferences. But the work of St. Louis police officers Ronnie Robinson and Jill Taylor surpasses that of most. Robinson and Taylor have taken on the task of working with kids whom many would describe as "troubled." On their own time, the two spend as many as 32 hours a week working with 34 kids ages 12 to 16, trying to keep them off		
How You Can Give A Helping Hand To A Woman Who's Given So Much, Gregory Freeman, 776 words, :	Tue., 11/1/1994	WHEN IT COMES to St. Louisians who have gone elsewhere to achieve fame and fortune, few have given back to this community like Jackie Joyner-Kersey. A native of East St. Louis, Joyner-Kersey has achieved fame through a winning athletic career. She owns the top five marks on the all-time list in the U.S. Women's long jump competition and has competed in every Olympics since 1984. She's won two Olympic gold medals. She's set more than 18 records in various events and has		
Buying A Pig In A Poke Has Never Been A Good Idea, Gregory Freeman, 764 words, :	Sun., 10/30/1994	IF YOU'RE ONE of those voters who's confused by all the furor over Hancock II, the constitutional amendment on the Nov. 8 ballot, here's a news flash: You're not alone. The proposal, which promises to limit state and local taxes, is confusing at best and frightening at worst. Proponents of the measure say that it's a good thing, summing it up simply as: "It will allow voters to have a say in tax increases." That sounds all-American. I've yet to		
Don't Discard All The 'Rascals', Gregory Freeman, 765 words, :	Fri., 10/28/1994	DEMOCRATS ARE bracing to lose House seats in this midterm election year, worried about polls and pundits who tell them that President Bill Clinton is dragging them down to major defeat next month. The president's popularity has dwindled this fall. In many places, Democratic congressmen are keeping an arm's distance from the president, fearful that angry voters will take revenge on them as well. (Locally, Democrats Bill Clay and Dick Gephardt seem to be exceptions to the		
Frustration With Those Who 'Cause Nothing But Trouble' Knows No Color, Gregory Freeman, 724 words, :	Tue., 10/25/1994	I COULD HEAR the frustration in her voice. "Mr. Freeman," she began on my answering machine, "you write all this stuff about the races getting along and everything, but I am getting so tired of what black people are doing." That was enough to catch my attention. From her voice and by her comments, I assumed that she was white. I listened, as she proceeded to tell me how her son's car had been vandalized by two black men and how her son would now have to spend a		
IQ Controversy: The Other Side, Gregory Freeman, 735 words, :	Sun., 10/23/1994	A 51-YEAR-OLD man who apparently gets his jollies from looking down his nose at people is getting quite a bit of notoriety these days because of his book, "The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life." The author, Charles Murray, concludes in his book that IQs are inheritable, and that we as a society should not waste efforts on the dumbest among us and instead focus on the brightest Americans. He argues that smart people almost always marry smart people		
Ancestors May Be Different Than You Think, Gregory Freeman, 709 words, :	Fri., 10/21/1994	TO MANY, Shirlee Taylor Haizlip has become the Alex Haley of the '90s. Haley authored "Roots" in the 1970s, and sent Americans everywhere searching for their ancestors. Haizlip's book, "The Sweeter the Juice," is doing the same thing in this decade. But this time, Americans are looking for something deeper than who their relatives were and where they lived. Thanks to Haizlip's book, countless people are asking about the race of their		
Of Real Guns, Toy Guns, Boys And Parents, Gregory Freeman, 709 words, :	Tue., 10/18/1994	WHEN OUR SON was born, my wife and I made a conscious decision: We would not buy toy guns for him. We didn't want him looking at guns as a way to resolve his problems. Toy guns did just that, we felt. That decision might be considered by some as an odd choice, since kids will eventually be exposed to guns anyway, if not in person, then at least in television, movies and books. While we knew that would be the case, we didn't want to encourage gun use by reinforcing it with		

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Novel Ideas Try To Bring Races Closer Together, Gregory Freeman, 1029 words, :	Sun., 10/16/1994	WHEN IT COMES to issues of race, St. Louisans are incredibly thoughtful. That was my impression after going over more than 150 entries in my St. Louis Connections contest. In my column, I asked readers to submit ideas individuals could pursue to help reduce racial polarization here. I got ideas, lots of them, from readers across the region - from schoolchildren to a 92-year-old woman in Webster Groves. They poured in by mail, by fax and by Internet. More than anything, the		
Being Heavy, But Still Cute As A Button, Gregory Freeman, 699 words, :	Fri., 10/14/1994	A FEW WEEKS ago, fellow columnist Bill McClellan wrote about reactions to a promotional ad that the Post-Dispatch had begun running of him. In that ad, Bill, a sensitive guy, mentioned how he did the laundry at his house. After that, he won praise for being a cool, '90s kind of guy. As with Bill, a young woman from our promotions department asked me to come up with things about me that readers didn't necessarily know. I briefly played with the idea of faking it, saying		
Setting Record Straight About The Welfare System, Gregory Freeman, 694 words, :	Tue., 10/11/1994	THIS NATION has done many things of which we can be proud. We have fed the needy and poverty-stricken around the world. We've sent men to the moon and continue to learn volumes through space exploration. Even now, our country is helping Haiti return to democracy. But when it comes to the way we think of and treat our poor - particularly those on public assistance - we should hang our heads. Politicians - dating at least to Ronald Reagan and his fictional "welfare		
Racist Views In High Office, Gregory Freeman, 687 words, :	Sun., 10/9/1994	EDDIE MURPHY once performed a "Saturday Night Live" skit in which makeup artists made him up to appear white, in a spoof of the book, "Black Like Me." Murphy purported to travel around New York to gather insights into life as a white man. He visited a newsstand where a black person had just bought a paper. As soon as the black person left and Murphy tried to pay for a paper, the white vendor insisted that he take it, at no charge. Murphy hopped on a bus. When		
Are Black Officials Being Unfairly Targeted?, Gregory Freeman, 735 words, :	Fri., 10/7/1994	THE FEDERAL investigation of St. Louis Comptroller Virvus Jones and the resignation of Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy have raised questions of whether black and white public officials are treated under a double standard. Many blacks who have achieved success were told somewhere along the line that race in America being what it is, they must work twice as hard and be twice as good as their white counterparts to make it. An extension of that saying, directed at black politicians, would		
Where Were The Parents On Saturday?, Gregory Freeman, 696 words, :	Tue., 10/4/1994	MAYOR FREEMAN BOSLEY JR. is venturing out again in efforts to get young gang members to consider giving up their guns and changing their ways. A daunting task for anyone, to be sure. But when dealing with young people, Bosley's "got that vibe." More than almost any other politician I've seen, Bosley can sit down with youngsters, drop all the pomp and circumstance that goes with being mayor of St. Louis and get them to talk about what's on their minds. Time and		
The Best Thing I've Ever Done, Gregory Freeman, 766 words, :	Sun., 10/2/1994	I WATCHED MY son as he slept the other night and couldn't believe how he's grown. From the tiny baby I held in my arms in the delivery room to the strapping eighth-grader he's become, it's been quite a journey. My wife and I read many of the books about parenting when he was born, but I really had no knowledge of what to do to be a good father to him. My own father was killed in an accident when I was 14, so I had no man around to teach me how to raise a son.		
Residency Rule Has Benefits Within Bounds, Gregory Freeman, 739 words, :	Fri., 9/30/1994	AMID THE HUBBUB about whether St. Louis police officers should be required to live in the city, I guess I still don't get it. Much is being made of the request by some officers that the city's Police Board rescind its residency requirement. The rule, set up in May 1973, says that all police officers must live within the city's boundaries. The exceptions to that rule were officers who already lived outside the city limits at that time. The requirement then is hardly		
Race Remains A Big Factor In Elections, Gregory Freeman, 687 words, :	Tue., 9/27/1994	THE TELEVISION commercials say what John Ashcroft cannot: that his opponent, Alan Wheat, is black. The ads never mention Wheat's race, of course. But they feature pictures of him, along with words suggesting, among other things, that he's weak on crime. It's not so unusual for candidates to picture their opponents in their ads in an unflattering photograph. But Ashcroft's photos of Wheat don't even bother to do that. They simply show his face. In		
City Has One Chief Blessing, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Sun., 9/25/1994	ST. LOUIS IS always losing something. In the 1960s and 1970s, we lost two basketball teams. In the 1980s, we lost our football team. So far in this decade we've lost the corporate headquarters of Southwestern Bell to San Antonio, the headquarters of General Dynamics to Washington, and Leonard Slatkin to the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington. We St. Louisans have a tendency to let our institutions slip away, like water through our fingers. And, unless things		
Diversity Can Cut Two Ways, And Still Count, Gregory Freeman, 736 words, :	Fri., 9/23/1994	"I'VE GOT REAL problems with the paper's editorial," said the voice on the other end of the line. I recognized the voice. It was that of a man whose opinion I respect a great deal, a longtime observer of St. Louis politics. I asked him what he was talking about, preparing to tell him what I tell others, that columnists here have nothing to do with the editorials that appear in the paper. He surprised me by referring to an editorial that had run about aldermanic President		
Here's Thanks To The Klan, Gregory Freeman, 740 words, :	Tue., 9/20/1994	I'M HERE TO OFFER a word of thanks to the Ku Klux Klan. Unusual words from a black man? Read on. The Klan chose Clayton as the site for a rally Saturday. And the Klansmen showed up. All 14 of them. Some 300 people showed up for that demonstration, but most of them were there to jeer the Klan members. But the more significant rally didn't feature a single Klansman. It was the unity rally, held at 8:30 a.m. Sunday in Clayton. What made it more significant? Well,		
Judge Puts Price On Fatal Mistake Of Living In Fear, Gregory Freeman, 730 words, :	Sun., 9/18/1994	A FEW MONTHS AGO, someone came knocking at our door at about 9:30 at night. My wife and I looked at each other, with a "who-could-that-be-at-this-time-of-night?" look on our faces. We hadn't been expecting company, and we get few visitors at that time of the evening. I looked out but didn't recognize the person who was there. Imagine now that I had gone for a gun - a .44-caliber Magnum revolver. Now imagine that I opened the door and, out of fear of someone I		
Barry Backers Hoping They Won't Be Sorry, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Fri., 9/16/1994	WAS MARION BARRY'S phoenixlike win of Washington's Democratic primary on Tuesday a sign of forgiveness or naivete on the part of the residents of the District of Columbia? It depends on with whom you talk. For many people, Barry's nomination - which in a city where Democrats outnumber Republicans 9-1 is tantamount to election - is a travesty. Some Washingtonians believe it's an outrage that Barry should once again be given access to the district's highest		
Forest Park: It Ain't Broke, So Don't Fix It, Gregory Freeman, 764 words, :	Tue., 9/13/1994	A LITTLE STORY in Monday's paper noted that some 80 percent of those attending a public meeting Sunday about what changes are needed for Forest Park don't think changes are needed for Forest Park. Heck, the city could have saved all kinds of time and money by asking me about that. I would have suggested that city officials follow the adage: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Or, if it is broke, then go ahead and fix it, but don't turn it into something else		

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Help End Bias, Win a Prize, Greg Freeman, words, :	Sun., 9/11/1994	IT'S BEEN NEARLY five years since a task force of Confluence St. Louis issued a report on race relations in St. Louis. The task force reported what was obvious to some but invisible to others: that racial polarization was a serious problem here, one detrimental to blacks and whites alike. While that was interesting, it wasn't new; other reports had been written previously pointing out the segregation within this area; many of them collect dust on bookshelves to this day. What was new was that the report recommended various ways to reduce the polarization here.		
TV Can Change The Channel On Hispanic Roles, Gregory Freeman, 727 words, :	Fri., 9/9/1994	THERE'S AN OLD SONG that goes, "If I didn't have bad luck, I wouldn't have no luck at all." But for Hispanics concerned about their portrayal on television, the words could be easily modified to say, "If I didn't have bad representation, I wouldn't have no representation at all." Regular readers know that I've complained before about Hollywood's failure to provide a well-rounded portrait of African-Americans. Blacks are rarely the		
Two-Wheeled Scofflaws Get What's Coming, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Tue., 9/6/1994	IT ALL HAPPENED so quickly. My light was green as I drove along DeBaliviere near Lindell Boulevard, right at Forest Park. Without warning, a guy on a bicycle darted out along Lindell. The guy had looked neither left nor right. I slammed on my brakes, causing a huge screeching sound, doing all I could to muster the power to stop the heavy machine I was operating. The biker appeared startled at first as he pedaled along, then glared at me as if I had somehow violated his right to		
Putting Trash On The Screen, Gregory Freeman, 757 words, :	Sun., 9/4/1994	I CAN'T HOLD my tongue. Oliver Stone's "Natural Born Killers" is the worst piece of trash that's hit the screen in a long time. I'd heard about the film before it came out, but I didn't want to judge it without seeing it for myself. I saw it at a theater with a huge screen, state-of-the-art sound system and plenty of seating. I sat right in the middle, where I'd be sure to see and hear everything clearly. That was a		
Would I Talk To The Lead Temptation?, Gregory Freeman, 707 words, :	Fri., 9/2/1994	THE CALL came in. Would I be interested in meeting Dennis Edwards? The name brought back memories. Papa was a rolling stone, wherever he laid his hat was his home. And when he died, all he left us was alone. Edwards was the lead singer of the Temptations back when I was in high school. I don't know how many times I sang along with my 45s to those songs, pretending I was the lead singer. Back in the '70s, Dennis Edwards was an icon to teen-age		
Metal Detector: The Idea Held Danger In '93, Gregory Freeman, 717 words, :	Tue., 8/30/1994	LIFE IS FULL of little ironies. Take, for example, the St. Louis public schools. When St. Louis high school students start school on Thursday, many of them will find something besides new paint and brightly decorated bulletin boards. The first thing they'll be met with when they enter their school buildings will be newly installed, walk-through metal detectors. A sad sign of the times, the detectors are being placed at the entrances of each of the city's 12 high		
On Cuba, Let's Try Talking, Gregory Freeman, 699 words, :	Sun., 8/28/1994	I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED that talk - good old sit-down jawboning - is the best way to resolve your differences with others. If you can understand how the other side feels, and the other side can understand where you're coming from, it's a lot easier to deal with problems that you face. So, for the life of me, I can't figure out why Bill Clinton refuses to sit down with Fidel Castro and talk about the differences our nations face. Actually, I can. Cuban-Americans		
Time Will Tell If Chavis Has What It Takes, Gregory Freeman, 721 words, :	Fri., 8/26/1994	CAN BENJAMIN CHAVIS lead a coalition of black organizations in finding solutions to the problems of African-Americans? Participants in the African-American Leadership Summit in Baltimore this week felt he could, giving him a unanimous vote of confidence by naming him chair of the coalition. That was a real boost for a man who 72 hours earlier had been booted out as executive director of the NAACP. The summit, the second since June, got off to a rocky start on Sunday. Chavis had		
Interim Leader Seeking To Lift Spirits Of Beleaguered NAACP, Gregory Freeman, 665 words, :	Tue., 8/23/1994	EARL THEODORE SHINHOSTER may turn out to be just the elixir that the ailing NAACP needs. Shinhoster, national field director of the country's oldest civil rights organization, was selected by its board of directors as interim administrator, replacing the Rev. Benjamin Chavis. The board fired Chavis Saturday night after the news broke that he engineered an agreement last year that committed \$334,400 in NAACP funds to settle a sex discrimination complaint against him. The commitment		
Chavis' Exit Creates Gap, Gregory Freeman, 680 words, :	Sun., 8/21/1994	The board of directors of the NAACP decided Saturday evening to oust the Rev. Benjamin Chavis as executive director, officially for committing \$332,000 of the organization's money to settle a sexual harassment suit. But his firing was based on much more than that, and board members - and a crowd of Chavis' supporters assembled outside the NAACP's headquarters, where the meeting was held - knew it. Chavis' first offense - obviously - was committing funds for the		
Separatist Road Called Dead End, Gregory Freeman, 705 words, :	Sun., 8/21/1994	THE INCREMENTAL progress made by African-Americans has caused some blacks to throw up their hands at ever achieving the goal of a fully integrated society, as envisioned by those who led and were part of the civil rights movement of 30 and 40 years ago. Frustrated at what at times has seemed like a snail's pace in integrating our society, some blacks have chosen, instead, to go the separatist route - all-black schools, churches, cultural institutions and so on. While there's		
Black Groups, Causes Serve Good Purpose, Gregory Freeman, 710 words, :	Fri., 8/19/1994	THOMAS R. BAILEY Jr. was surprised by the letter. "As I was eating lunch with my children at a Taco Bell here in St. Louis on South Kingshighway," it began, "I couldn't help but notice the large billboard right outside the window. I found it very disturbing. It's a promotional advertisement for an exposition coming to St. Louis of which you sponsor. In large, bolder letters it screams 'The Power of the African American Woman.' "Obviously I'm not		
Living In City Is Much Better Than Advertised, Gregory Freeman, 738 words, :	Tue., 8/16/1994	IT'S NOT EASY being a city dweller. Not because city living is so terrible. I rather enjoy it, to be honest. It's nice having easy access to Forest Park, MetroLink, downtown and most of the area's cultural institutions while rarely having to worry about traffic tie-ups. It's the perceptions that people have of city life that make it rough; a couple my wife and I know even refuse to visit us because of their fear of the city's "mean streets." I		
If Not Heroes, They Helped, Gregory Freeman, 687 words, :	Sun., 8/14/1994	HE WASN'T an activist. He wasn't an organizer. He was just a white New York college student who wanted to do the right thing when he decided to travel to Mississippi to register blacks to vote in what was called "Freedom Summer." David Goldman said he felt a strong sense of injustice about the treatment blacks were receiving in the South. So he boarded a bus and ended up in Mississippi, joining with about 1,000 other northern whites who traveled to the South		
Elderly, Teens Harvest Ideas, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Fri., 8/12/1994	WHEN IT COMES to teen-agers, seniors are often wary. Why not? The two seem to come from opposite ends of the spectrum. Teen-agers are loud, seniors think, they're wild, they're . . . well, they're downright dangerous. Meanwhile, seniors, teen-agers will tell you, are slow, they're boring, they can't get around. What could these two groups possibly have in common? Jahi Bakari and Ollie Mae Stewart have found a common denominator: gardening.		

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Fighting Crime Takes More Than Building Jails, Gregory Freeman, 713 words, :	Tue., 8/9/1994	THE ADAGE about an ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure comes to mind when I consider the country's No. 1 concern: crime. Americans are calling for the construction of new prisons and the imposition of tougher sentences. Last week, Missouri voters approved a \$250 million bond issue that will, among other things, finance new prisons for men and women. The crime bill now going through Congress calls for stiffer sentences and would provide more than \$10 billion to build		
Missouri Voters Make History, Gregory Freeman, 712 words, :	Sun., 8/7/1994	FOR BLACK VOTERS in Missouri and St. Louis County, last Tuesday will be remembered as a very special day. Statewide, of course, it will mean the day that Alan Wheat became the first black in either major party to win a statewide nomination. Other blacks have tried in past years to break that barrier, but until Wheat came along none was ever able to do it. And in St. Louis County, Northwoods Mayor Charlie Dooley, a Democrat, became the first black candidate ever to win his		
20 Years Later: A Little Bigger, Grayer, Wiser, Gregory Freeman, 742 words, :	Fri., 8/5/1994	MY 20-YEAR high school class reunion begins today. It's too late for me to lose weight; even starvation won't help me hide my non-beer belly now. There's nothing I can do about my much-too-rapidly graying hair. Oh, I've got it. It's hard to see the gray in the drawing of me that runs with this column. That's one of the joys of black-and-white. But, unfortunately, I'll be in living color at my reunion. And too many people know that I have		
Journalists Hopeful That Unity Can Help Tear Away Stereotypes, Gregory Freeman, 726 words, :	Tue., 8/2/1994	WHEN 6,000 JOURNALISTS of color got together in Atlanta last week to discuss our individual problems and goals, we found out something we had suspected: We have a lot in common. A joint conference called Unity '94 brought together four groups - the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Asian American Journalists Association and the Native American Journalists Association. For the first time, the four combined their annual		
Cleanup Effort Shines Brightly, Gregory Freeman, 704 words, :	Tue., 7/26/1994	WHEN ST. LOUIS began Operation Brightside a dozen years ago, it got support from those who felt the project - especially its summer youth component - helped clean up the city. But it also had its critics, those who felt that the youngsters involved were using only their brawn and not their brains. When Betty Thompson tried to come up with a similar program for St. Louis County youngsters a few years ago, she remembered the criticism. The result was the Hollywood Youth Corps, a		
Amendment Coalition's Petition Aims Beyond Homosexuals, Gregory Freeman, 720 words, :	Sun., 7/24/1994	WE CAN ALL breathe a collective sigh of relief - at least temporarily - now that the Amendment Coalition has failed to submit the 121,000 signatures needed to place an anti-gay initiative on the ballot. The goal of this group was to allow voters to decide whether the rights of gays should continue to be protected under the Missouri Constitution. Among the changes the Amendment Coalition's initiatives would have made were the removal of protections that homosexuals have in three		
No. 1 Mystery: Kustra's Opting For Anonymity, Gregory Freeman, 703 words, :	Fri., 7/22/1994	ILLINOIS LT. GOV. Bob Kustra has become the ultimate mystery man. It's not that he decided a couple of weeks ago to become a radio talk show host in Chicago. The new position was a high-profile one on WLS-AM, one of the most popular talk-radio stations in Chicago. It would have paid more than the \$75,000 a year he receives as lieutenant governor. He had announced that he would resign effective Aug. 1. The move would have put him in a strong position to use his		
Cliches: What Folks Say About What Folks Say, Gregory Freeman, 735 words, :	Tue., 7/19/1994	WHEN I WROTE a column last week about words that drive me up the wall, I had no idea how many of you have your own lists of words, phrases and cliches that make you cringe. But after more than a week of letters and telephone calls, I realize I'm far from alone in my hatred of bureau-babble and overused words and phrases. Thanks to you, the readers, I have dozens of new entries for Gregory Freeman's Words & Phrases That Should Be Outlawed. Below is just a sampling of the		
Include Asians, Native Americans In City Contracts, Gregory Freeman, 731 words, :	Sun., 7/17/1994	IT'S BEEN FIVE years since St. Louis Comptroller Virus Jones, attorney Eric Vickers and others became squeaky wheels over the construction of a new football stadium, arguing for increased black participation in the project. Their efforts led to a \$325,000 study by a Washington firm headed by Andrew F. Brimmer. The results of that study were no surprise: They indicated that companies here owned by blacks and women did not get a fair share of government contracts. The study showed		
Remember? We Believed The Feds Once, Gregory Freeman, 700 words, :	Fri., 7/15/1994	AMERICA HAS COME a long way since the 1940s and 1950s, when rallying around our government was considered the patriotic thing to do. Especially during World War II and afterward, Americans generally went along with what the government said. After all, this was the government that had won the war and brought us peace and prosperity. This was the greatest nation on Earth. To many, this nation could do no wrong. It all seems so naive today. Americans are willing to criticize their		
Victim's Mother Makes Plea To Witness-Help, Gregory Freeman, 733 words, :	Tue., 7/12/1994	A WOMAN'S FEAR of reporting a murder she witnessed has caused a mother to reach out to her. In a column last week, I told the story of "Tina," a woman who said she witnessed a murder last summer but is too afraid to report the murder to police. She fears the murderer or others associated with him might retaliate. Her fear is so great that she refused to give me her real name. She carries the guilt of doing nothing to solve the crime. Tina refused to be specific about the		
Sick Of Cliches Irregardless Of Meaning, Gregory Freeman, 698 words, :	Sun., 7/10/1994	IN THE Post-Dispatch newsroom, my desk is next to that of Harry Levins. Regular readers of the paper know the self-described grumpy old man as a jack of all trades. He writes a weekly column, he compiles the People column that runs on Page 2A and he writes fascinating stories about the stuff of war. But what most readers probably don't know is that he also critiques the writing in the paper each day for the staff. He points out double meanings, improper word usage and other such		
Murder Witness Still On Edge, Gregory Freeman, 764 words, :	Fri., 7/8/1994	THE MYSTERIOUS VOICE on the other end of the line said that she needed to talk to me in person. We made arrangements, and met over lunch. She called herself Tina, but quickly told me that that wasn't her real name. She didn't want me to know her real name for reasons that were to become obvious. She said she had been "touched" by a column I wrote earlier this year. It was about Linda Matlock. Although I hadn't known Linda well, we had been acquainted in high		
Keeping Klan Off The Road To Recruiting, Gregory Freeman, 708 words, :	Tue., 7/5/1994	I HAVE A SOLUTION for Gov. Mel Carnahan, state Sen. J.B. "Jet" Banks and others troubled that the Ku Klux Klan wants to adopt a stretch of Missouri highways to keep clean: Consider ending the program. It may be the only way to keep the Klan's filthy paws out of the Adopt-A-Highway program. The Klan has applied to adopt a stretch of Interstate 55 between Utah and Gasconade streets as part of the program, designed to clear roadways of litter. Carnahan and Banks are		

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Amid Glitter, Solid Deeds, Gregory Freeman, 742 words, :	Sun., 7/3/1994	I'M NOT SURE I can recall a time when St. Louis was busier. The VP Fair, the U.S. Olympic Festival, Cardinals baseball games, major concerts, all taking place here in the first part of this month. And coming on the heels of President Bill Clinton's recent visit are such luminaries as Janet Jackson, Bob Costas, Willie Nelson, Florence Griffith Joyner, Tammy Wynette, Salt 'N' Peppas, the Eagles, among others. With all the activity and all the celebrities, chances are		
Truth Detector Or Man Behind Reign Of Error?, Gregory Freeman, 699 words, :	Fri., 7/1/1994	THE BAD BOYS OF KMOX - Kevin Horrigan and Charlie Brennan - scored a coup last week when they landed an interview with President Bill Clinton, who lit into talk show host Rush Limbaugh. On the program, the president asked for fairness by conservative talk show hosts. He asked for a willingness to present the entire picture, not just their points of view. At one point, the president remarked: "After I get off the radio today with you, Rush Limbaugh will have three hours to say		
Crying Wolf On Racism In Simpson Case, Gregory Freeman, 713 words, :	Tue., 6/28/1994	IT'S A CONSPIRACY, they say. The whole O.J. Simpson case is a conspiracy to pull down the black man and to promote stereotypes of black males as violent people. So say some blacks who are worried about Simpson's treatment by the news media and the legal system. Some of them, including some who held a press conference in Los Angeles last week, say that portrayals of Simpson as a jealous wife beater have reinforced stereotypes. "You have a person who was trusted by		
Theater Puts Out Cigarette - And Smoker, Gregory Freeman, 701 words, :	Sun., 6/26/1994	VANCEAL SMITH had been looking forward to the Isley Brothers' concert for some time. She was excited when her husband got tickets for it, and when that Sunday came, a couple of weeks ago, her outfit was ready. She had worn a special, sleeveless dress and special jewelry. At 4 feet 11 inches, Smith accompanied her ensemble with 5-inch-high heels. But it was cigarettes that caused her to leave the Fox Theatre the night of the concert with a bad taste in her mouth - a taste that		
How We Turned Peeping Tom, Gregory Freeman, 707 words, book: wit & wisdom	Fri., 6/24/1994	SO WHAT WERE WE last week? Voyeurs or mere news consumers who wanted to be kept up to date? Americans scrambled to their radios and TV sets last Friday night, the minute they heard that O.J. Simpson was trying to flee justice. Sensing the public's interest, the stations quickly switched to the slow-motion "chase," often abandoning their regular programming. KMOX radio - the voice of the baseball Cardinals - interrupted the ballgame. NBC interrupted the National		
Harrison Helped Others Out, Up, Gregory Freeman, 719 words, :	Tue., 6/21/1994	IF THERE were ever a person for whom the phrase "walk your talk" was made, it was Bill Harrison. Harrison, who died Thursday of a heart attack while exercising, walked his talk constantly. As associate dean of academic support and continuing education at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, Harrison could easily have sat back, enjoyed a comfortable life and said, "I got mine, you get yours." But he wouldn't have been Bill Harrison if he said		
Mayor Vs. Chief Feud Hurts City, Gregory Freeman, 729 words, :	Sun., 6/19/1994	I THINK I'D rather take a job stoking the furnaces in hell than be the police chief of St. Louis. Since last year, it's been one battle after another as politicians and political cronies have sought to either have the city's straightforward chief removed or to make his life as difficult as possible. If it wasn't Jim Conway calling special meetings of the Police Board to try to embarrass Chief Clarence Harmon, it was other politicians condemning him for doing his job		
Real Solutions, Not Farrakhan, Should Be News, Gregory Freeman, 698 words, :	Fri., 6/17/1994	IF I WERE putting together a summit of African-American leaders in this country, I would be remiss if I did not invite Louis Farrakhan. Not because I necessarily agree with his point of view but because I would have to be oblivious to everything going on around me not to realize that he has a strong following among African-Americans. To ignore him, then, would be to leave out a significant segment of the black population. But if I were an observer of the African-American Leadership		
Land Of Free And Home Of The Divided, Gregory Freeman, 704 words, :	Tue., 6/14/1994	IT HIT ME in a cemetery like a bolt of lightning. Last Monday, my son and I visited Arlington National Cemetery, site of the graves of JFK, Bobby Kennedy, Jackie Kennedy Onassis, Thurgood Marshall and others. It was while visiting this cemetery - and attending some special D-Day festivities there that day - that I began to understand. Will and I had entered the cemetery's arena, where vice president Al Gore praised, along with Strom Thurmond and others, the contributions of those		
Girls Get Boost Toward Goals, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, :	Sun., 6/5/1994	PUBLIC HOUSING ACTIVIST Bertha Gilkey told the girls in the room to hold hands and sing her version of the old spiritual "Kum Bah Yah," sung as "Come By Here." The first verse was as expected: "Come by here, my Lord, come by here, oh Lord, come by here." But the next verses departed from that pattern. "We're in a war, my Lord, come by here," "stop the drugs, my Lord, come by here," "save the babies, my Lord, come by here,"		
This Fair Has Focus: Saving Young Lives, Gregory Freeman, 697 words, :	Fri., 6/3/1994	COMPLAINING about young people has probably always been the pastime of older generations. It's no different these days than it was decades, maybe centuries, ago. Older people sit back and talk about how much better young people were in the "good old days" when they were young, forgetting their own parents were complaining about them and talking about their own "good old days" years ago. But while today's older generations complain about the problems often		
Color Of Money Overshadows Color Of People, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, :	Tue., 5/31/1994	AFTER LAST WEEK'S \$46 million settlement by the Denny's restaurant chain following 4,300 complaints of racial bias nationwide, I decided to pay one of the restaurants a visit. I walked into the Denny's on Hampton Avenue and was greeted immediately by a friendly woman behind the counter who quickly seated me at a table and handed me a menu. Amid the pancakes, omelets and soups were some unusual words: "Denny's is committed to providing the best possible		
Ask The Students About Beaumont, Gregory Freeman, 786 words, :	Sun., 5/29/1994	SOME STUDENTS AT Beaumont High School made one thing very clear to me last week: In this day and age of school desegregation, it's not always easy going to a non-magnet, all-black school. It's not because the facilities are bad or the teachers are lousy or anything like that. In fact, the youngsters I talked with had high regard for their school, the facilities and other parts of high school life that most teen-agers enjoy. But when it comes to what others say about them -		
Club's Been Like Family' For Boys, Gregory Freeman, 737 words, :	Fri., 5/27/1994	FOR MANY AMERICANS, the 1930s and 1940s were tough years. They were especially tough for the poor, who suffered through the Great Depression even more than those who had been middle-class before the 1929 stock-market crash. Paul J. Simon was born into a poor family in 1933. His father died when he was 4, and his mother had to raise young Paul and his sister. She wasn't always around when her youngsters were at home. But Simon discovered the Boys Club of St. Louis, which was		
Generosity Still Exists, Teacher, Students Learn, Gregory Freeman, 724 words, :	Tue., 5/24/1994	IRL SOLOMON is a history teacher in one of the nation's poorest school districts: East St. Louis. Solomon, 55, joined the East St. Louis school system in 1964 and has taught at East St. Louis Senior High School for 22 years. He is challenged daily by his students and by his school. His school has little equipment, and much of that is broken. He can't show videos he tapes off of TV at home because there's no VCR. His un-air-conditioned classroom has six windows,		

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Putting A Face On An Epidemic, Gregory Freeman, 749 words, :	Sun., 5/22/1994	I CAN PUT a face with the virus. The face is that of Darrell McWhorter, a former reporter and feature writer for the Post-Dispatch, who died last year. The virus is AIDS, McWhorter's killer. I couldn't put a real face with the virus a few years ago. Sure, AIDS was hitting famous people, like Rock Hudson and Liberace, but I obviously didn't know them. Until Darrell's death, it never hit home with me. The AIDS Foundation of St. Louis will hold its annual		
Can You Give A Teen A Job This Summer?, Gregory Freeman, 745 words, :	Fri., 5/20/1994	SUMMER'S ALMOST at our door, and the area's teen-agers are about to get out of school. For some, summer employment awaits: some youngsters will work at fast-food restaurants, others will work behind store counters, still others will do lawn work. But for many, summer will offer no possibilities at all. Those are the kids who are most likely to get into trouble. Police will tell you that crime increases in the summer. That's partly because of the warmer weather, of		
An Opportunity To Get Beyond Race, Gregory Freeman, 708 words, :	Sun., 5/15/1994	WHEN I WAS 9, I was bused into a whole new school and a whole new world. My all-black neighborhood school was overcrowded, and I was bused to an all-white school - Walbridge. While I had been used to walking to school, now I walked a block from home and caught a chartered bus. Suddenly, most of my fellow students were white, a real change for me. I didn't experience culture shock. The biggest surprise, I think, was in the last names of students. Used to people with last		
An Advocate For Black Youth, Gregory Freeman, 787 words, :	Fri., 5/13/1994	WHEN NEW YORK STATE Assemblyman Roger L. Green looks at young black people these days, he doesn't like what he sees. It's not that he doesn't like kids. Quite the contrary. Green worries about the violence that they are faced with - and involved in - more and more these days. "I don't like to use the term 'crisis' indiscriminately," Green said. "But when it comes to African-American youth, there's no question that we are facing a		
In Fairness, Judge Selection Panel Should Recommend A Black, Gregory Freeman, 699 words, :	Tue., 5/10/1994	A SPECIAL PANEL meeting in St. Louis today has an opportunity to make the state's court system more equitable. The Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission, headed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Ann K. Covington, began meeting here Monday to interview lawyers and judges who are applying for a vacancy on the Missouri Court of Appeals. A vacancy on the bench was created by the death in February of Judge Albert J. Stephan Jr. There's no politically correct way of saying this, so		
Mom's Day Gifts Are Repayments, Gregory Freeman, 766 words, :	Sun., 5/8/1994	ANOTHER MOTHER'S DAY. Again, I've asked my mother what she wants for Mother's Day and again she has told me not to worry about it. It's almost a game that we have, of course. She tells me not to worry about a gift; I know that she would be disappointed without one. I know that it would bring her happiness just to see me and my son, her oldest grandchild, now 13 and stretching out as a plant does in spring. And of course, we will visit her today. But I		
Harris-Stowe Thrives On Challenge, Gregory Freeman, 769 words, :	Fri., 5/6/1994	SLOWLY, ALMOST methodically, Harris-Stowe State College has been carving out its niche among the colleges and universities in St. Louis. The same school that 10 years ago was battling efforts to fold it into the University of Missouri at St. Louis is today growing, thriving and recreating itself as an urban campus alternative for those who could not otherwise attend college. Henry Givens Jr., who has been president of Harris-Stowe since 1979, has all the energy and fervor of a		
Suit Seeks Service For Disabled, Gregory Freeman, 708 words, :	Tue., 5/3/1994	THE ST. LOUIS BREAD CO. restaurant on Maryland Avenue is a fixture in the Central West End. Its muffins, rolls and bagels make it a favorite stop for many of the city's yuppies, who like to pop in for a cup of coffee and a pinch of gossip. The aroma of freshly baked bread wafts through the air, inviting all passers-by to enter and enjoy the goods. All, that is, but those who use wheelchairs to get around. Or so says Stuart Falk, one of three people with disabilities		
Def Comedy' Goes Too Far, Gregory Freeman, 771 words, :	Sun., 5/1/1994	I'VE GOT TO admit to having tuned in to "Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam" on HBO more than once. I first watched it because the show offered exposure to many black stand-up comedians, exposure they don't often get elsewhere. But after tuning in, I'm tuning out. It's not because the show doesn't have its funny moments. It does. But I've had it up to here with women-dissing, race-mocking, gay-bashing, crotch-grabbing,		
Board President Targets Turmoil, Gregory Freeman, 735 words, :	Fri., 4/29/1994	ANNE-MARIE CLARKE and her husband have a tradition of public service at no cost. Her husband, Richard K. Gaines, is a former president of the St. Louis School Board, a position that carries with it no money but lots of responsibility. Now Clarke, who's been president of the St. Louis Police Board for little more than three weeks, knows how he felt. She's turned down the \$1,000 annual salary for the position, not to mention a gun and a car, normal perks that go with serving on		
Danger Faces The Innocent, Gregory Freeman, 716 words, :	Tue., 4/26/1994	LAQUITA ADAMS and Jonelle Fury have seen more deaths in their 17 years than most people see in a lifetime. The two inner-city teen-agers have their own acts together. Both are seniors at the Central Visual and Performing Arts High School and plan to attend college next year - Adams at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Fury at Harris-Stowe State College here. Both have walked straight and narrow paths in their high school years. But that hasn't prevented them from		
African Envoy: Trade, Not Aid, Gregory Freeman, 711 words, :	Sun., 4/24/1994	AFTER THIS WEEK, things will change. So says Warren "Bud" Day, director of the Southern Africa Regional Program for International Voluntary Services. Day is referring to this week's elections in South Africa, signaling the official end of apartheid in that nation. Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and F.W. DeKlerk's National Party will face off this week in elections for control of the South African government. Elections will be Tuesday through		
Anointed Voice Declines Post, Gregory Freeman, 711 words, :	Fri., 4/22/1994	WILL SOMEONE PLEASE tell me when I became the spokesman for every person of color on Earth? Somehow some readers have concluded that I speak for black people everywhere. So that you understand what I'm talking about, let me share a few letters. Letters like this always come unsigned - something that baffles me. Although I may bark from time to time, I rarely bite. Dear Mr. Freeman: You always write about black people and white people living and working together,		
Dilemmas Facing Parents, Voters, Gregory Freeman, 751 words, :	Sun., 4/17/1994	I THOUGHT I'D use today's column to share with you some musings of the last week. My wife and I are facing a dilemma that I'll bet countless other married, two-income parents are facing right now. What shall we do with our 13-year-old son this summer? It's the first time we've been faced with this problem. My wife's employer has a children's program, where the youngsters of employees spend the day with leaders who take them on field trips,		
Official Guards Treasure Of Past, Gregory Freeman, 713 words, :	Fri., 4/15/1994	THE TOWER IS no longer there, the windows and doors on the first floor are boarded up, the ornate roof is gone and the glass is missing from all of the second- and third-floor windows. But the building at 3615 Martin Luther King Drive - like many of those in St. Louis - carries with it a history that could never be replaced. The building once was home to the Prince Hall Masons, the black Masons' group here. Built in 1908, the building was the site of countless social affairs and		
Adoption Gauge Should Be Love, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Tue., 4/12/1994	THE DEBATE is intense, at times heated. Should children be adopted only by parents of the same race, or are they done more harm by longer waits for same-race adoptions? The issue has been a heated one at least since 1972, when the National Association of Black Social Workers denounced mixed-race adoptions, dubbing them a form of racial "genocide." In a speech here just a couple of years ago, a past president of the social workers group denounced transracial		

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Reformers Need Welfare Input, Gregory Freeman, 725 words, :	Sun., 4/10/1994	AS POLITICIANS and bureaucrats in Washington debate her fate, Marianne Brooks wonders why the government keeps throwing roadblocks in her way as she works to get off welfare. Brooks, 25, receives Aid to Families with Dependent Children and food stamps. But forget all the stereotypes you may have about people on welfare sitting back and watching TV all day, collecting big government checks for doing nothing. Brooks is trying to do something with her life, and if the government would		
A Lesson To Be Learned In Vote, Gregory Freeman, 696 words, :	Fri., 4/8/1994	AS PROPONENTS of riverboat gambling decide what to do now, they should consider that many people may have voted against the issue because public officials and others were involved as rented citizens for gambling interests. It took me a while to decide which way to vote on this issue. When I learned a couple of months ago about all the political types and their associates who had become rented citizens or otherwise were finding ways to personally benefit from gambling, my initial reaction		
Bright Days, Joy At Son Dim To Mother's Pain, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Tue., 4/5/1994	ERIC HAD BEEN a difficult birth. He was his mother's first child, and she was in labor for 26 hours before Eric made his first appearance. But she and her husband loved him so. They were proud of their progeny. Like most parents, they sought only the best for him. They didn't have much money - he worked at a steel company, she did domestic work - but they wanted to give their son the best they could afford. So when Eric was 2, they moved from their tiny apartment to the		
Ordinary Joe Finds A Duller Fiscal Forecast, Gregory Freeman, 699 words, :	Sun., 4/3/1994	LIKE A LOT OF people, I suspect, Joe Applegate is scratching his head. Economists are telling us month after month that the economy is improving, that we're getting out from under the recession that led to the defeat of George Bush a year-and-a-half ago. But Applegate, who was laid off from his assembly job at McDonnell Douglas a couple of years back, can't figure out how that can be when companies continue to lay off employees. In the last 10 days alone: Lockheed		
In A Fashion, To And 'Fro; Style Recalled, Not Rekindled, Gregory Freeman, 768 words, :	Fri., 4/1/1994	I ALMOST DIDN'T get a haircut last week. I know, you look at the Denzel Washington lookalike at the top of this column and wonder, why would he want to change a hair on his head? But my hair had grown a bit bushy and since, as I often say to friends, the '70s are gone, I needed a good trim. I briefly thought, however, about not getting a haircut at all. I'm not one to follow fashion much, as most people who know me are quick to point out, but I have picked up		
Remembering Life, Efforts Of Homer Phillips, Gregory Freeman, 708 words, :	Tue., 3/29/1994	ROBERT TABSCOTT is a man obsessed. Tabscott, who heads the Elijah P. Lovejoy Society here, is obsessed these days with Homer G. Phillips. He's not talking about the once vibrant hospital that sits dormant in the city's Ville neighborhood. Rather, he's concerned about the black civil rights leader after whom the institution was named. Tabscott is an enthusiast of history. ("We're going to make the same mistakes over and over until we start paying attention		
Gun Control Is Shot Down, Gregory Freeman, 747 words, :	Sun., 3/27/1994	I'VE SAID IT before and I'll say it again: When the Missouri Legislature is in session, none of us is safe. In fact, considering the actions of the state Senate last week, I'd go as far as to say that all of us are in danger. At least those of us in Missouri who live in major urban and suburban areas. In fact, I'm beginning to wonder if St. Louis wouldn't have done better to secede from the state instead of from St. Louis County more than 100 years ago. The		
Political Quest Is Chance Affair, Gregory Freeman, 728 words, :	Fri., 3/25/1994	EUGENE WALLACE WANTS to be a politician. Well, he is a politician, in a way. He's running for political office. State representative, to be exact. Wallace, 40, has wanted to hold office for a long time. Even in high school, when most kids were thinking about girls, boys and grades, Wallace was thinking politics. At 16, Wallace was traveling around the state with then-Sen. Stuart Symington's campaign as a volunteer. In his high school yearbook, his nickname reads		
The Deane Gets His Just Reward, Gregory Freeman, 725 words, :	Tue., 3/22/1994	REP. BILL CLAY calls Fred Weathers "the dean of black politics" here. Significant words, considering that Clay has been a political fixture in St. Louis for more than 30 years. "I give him a tremendous amount of credit for keeping black politics in focus," said Clay, who still calls on the 88-year-old Weathers for advice. So do others. Weathers spent more than 40 years in St. Louis politics and was a major force in improving the quality of life for blacks		
Shocked Parents Find Truth Hurts, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Sun., 3/20/1994	THE SCENE IS REPEATED every night, at homes across St. Louis. A couple of police officers show up at the door. When the homeowner answers, one of the officers explains that police believe their youngster is a member of a gang or involved in crime, and asks if they may search the home for weapons. They have no warrants, they say. But they politely ask if it might be OK for them to search. The homeowner believes her son has done nothing wrong, and invites the officers in. Johnny's		
Principal Proves Old South Relic, Gregory Freeman, 617 words, :	Fri., 3/18/1994	IT'S BEEN ALMOST 31 years since George Wallace, then the governor of his state, stood at the door of the University of Alabama, blocking efforts by the federal government to integrate the school. In those days, Wallace won election to office on a platform of "segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever." Much has changed since 1963. The South is much more integrated - and seemingly much more at peace with itself on the matter of race - than many other		
Who Will Fight Good Fight Now?, Gregory Freeman, 720 words, :	Tue., 3/15/1994	BLACK WOMEN in this country have a reputation for being strong, dating back at least to the days of slavery, when many of them had to fend for their families after their husbands had been taken away, beaten or sold to others. Yet Marian Oldham displayed a special strength that all too many of us took for granted during her lifetime. Oldham, who died Saturday at the age of 66, could easily have settled back and left the civil rights battles to others. A real estate saleswoman with A.K.		
Letter Writers Reflect Problem, Gregory Freeman, 776 words, :	Sun., 3/13/1994	A WEEK AGO I wrote about a survey conducted for the National Conference, a human relations organization formerly known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Among the results of the nationwide survey of 3,000 people, conducted by Louis Harris of LH Research, was that the nation's most populous minorities hold a negative view of whites. According to the poll, an overwhelming majority of African-Americans, Latinos and Asian-Americans think whites "believe they are		
Who Has Dahmer As Pen Pal?, Gregory Freeman, 682 words, :	Fri., 3/11/1994	I SHOOK MY HEAD as I read the story in the Milwaukee Journal. Why would anyone send money to a serial killer? I puzzled over that while reading the piece that said that Jeffrey Dahmer had received thousands of dollars since his imprisonment. Dahmer is serving 15 consecutive life terms at a prison in Portage, Wis., for a decade of murder, necrophilia and cannibalism that took the lives of 17 boys and young men. There was never any doubt as to Dahmer's guilt. He confessed and		
Resisting Change In Dollar Coins, Gregory Freeman, 709 words, :	Tue., 3/8/1994	WITH METROLINK having been around now for some eight months and who knows how many thousands of St. Louisans jamming dollars into ticket machines, you would think most people around here would have gotten used to Susan B. Anthony dollars by now, right? Wrong. The coins were first minted in 1979 - the year the hostages were taken in Iran, the year Pope John Paul II made his first papal visit to the United States and the year that President Jimmy Carter presided over the Egyptian-Israeli		

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What Minorities Think Of Whites, Gregory Freeman, 700 words, :	Sun., 3/6/1994	THINK THERE'S NO unity in America anymore? Guess again. There is unity among the nation's most populous minorities in their negative view of whites, according to a poll released last week by the National Conference, a human relations organization formerly known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews. According to the poll, conducted by Louis Harris of LH Research, two-thirds of African-Americans, Latinos and Asian-Americans think whites "believe they are		
Oz. Of Prevention In Aluminum Can, Gregory Freeman, 724 words, :	Fri., 3/4/1994	MAVIS JACKSON will never forget the date: June 25, 1993. The day had been a warm one. Her youngest daughter, LaKeesha, 7, was jumping rope double Dutch with her older sisters and some other girls in front of their home on North Euclid Avenue. Suddenly, LaKeesha's leg got caught up in the rope and she went sailing to the pavement. As she fell, her left hand caught the jagged edges of a broken, 40-ounce beer bottle. "It was just horrible," said Jackson, who had been		
Farrakhan Gives Mixed Messages, Gregory Freeman, 704 words, :	Tue., 3/1/1994	GEORGE JACKSON knows what the Nation of Islam can do. Jackson, who now lives in St. Louis, hails from Chicago, where he lived in a housing complex that was besieged by crime. "It was dangerous, man," he explained. "Bullets were flying all over the place. You had to watch your back all the time. There were drug dealers and junkies everywhere you looked." But much of that ended after a security agency founded by the Nation of Islam was hired. "It's a		
Congress Needs Smoke Alarm, Gregory Freeman, 719 words, :	Sun., 2/27/1994	THE LATEST REPORT to Congress by the surgeon general should provide cause for alarm by any right-thinking American. The report, from Dr. Joycelyn Elders, says that most smokers are hooked by the time they are 20, and adds that quitting can be just as hard for teen-agers as it is for adults. It adds that more than 3 million adolescents in the United States smoke cigarettes and 1 million use smokeless tobacco. Any parent with a teen-ager should be concerned by those findings.		
Police Recruiter Seeking Quality, Gregory Freeman, 697 words, :	Fri., 2/25/1994	AS MEMBERS OF the St. Louis Police Board quarreled last year over whether the department should reduce its requirements as it tried to recruit more black officers, Lt. Col. Ronald Henderson was busy recruiting with something different in mind. Henderson, who heads the department's Bureau of Professional Standards, was asked in June to oversee recruitment efforts. "What I found was that we had not been doing any recruiting in the last two to three years," he said.		
Voices Echo The Pain Of Women In Slavery, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Tue., 2/22/1994	I MET MY great-great grandmother last week. Not in body. She died long before I was born. But certainly in spirit, in a play performed by the Holy Roman Repertory Company. For an hour and a half, I was transported to the days of slavery, and listened intently to the words of 50 black women who had been slaves in the 1800s. And I was spellbound. The production was performed in reader's theater but was brought to life by the four actresses - Glynnis Brooks, Peghee		
Man Keeps Busy Changing World, Gregory Freeman, 733 words, :	Sun., 2/20/1994	RUDY NICKENS is one busy man. In addition to serving as co-owner of the Sunshine Inn restaurant, he spends a significant amount of his time fighting discrimination. He conducts anti-racism workshops locally and nationwide, designed to help people feel better about themselves and those around them. He conducts workshops on sexual responsibility and gender conditioning for Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region. He works with Linda Holtzman, a lecturer at Webster University, in an		
After Disability, A Good Life, Gregory Freeman, 716 words, :	Fri., 2/18/1994	IT'S BEEN 12 years since Dietrich Smith was riddled with bullets as he sat in a car at a drive-in bank, attacked for court testimony he had given in another shooting. Paralyzed from the waist down, Smith was fortunate to have a family that supported him. "They told me, 'You're the same person you always were - you just can't walk any more.' " Smith, now a field researcher for the criminology department at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, credits		
Homicides Spur Call To Action, Gregory Freeman, 692 words, :	Tue., 2/15/1994	A ST. LOUIS organization wants to change the public's attitudes toward murder, partially by patterning itself after groups like Mothers Against Drunken Driving. Members of the organization, People Against Murder, believe that the public has become too accepting of homicide and other violence. "Take a look at so many of our movies, our music, our entertainment," said James H. Buchanan, a former St. Louis police sergeant and former Pagedale police chief who is executive		
Wheat Revs Up Senate Campaign, Gregory Freeman, 796 words, :	Sun., 2/13/1994	CAN A BLACK congressman from Kansas City win a statewide contest in Missouri and find happiness in the U.S. Senate? That's the question Alan Wheat's hoping to get answered this year. Although he's already crisscrossed the state to build support, Wheat's expected to announce at a press conference this week his candidacy for the Democratic nomination. In terms of fund raising, at least, Wheat's already the frontrunner. According to a story last week by		
Big Bucks Draw Many Politicians To 'Self-Service', Gregory Freeman, 692 words, :	Fri., 2/11/1994	THEY'RE KNOWN AS public servants. Service to the public, therefore, is implied when an individual holds public office - not service to one's self. Unfortunately, self-service seems to be the way of politics, at least when it comes to St. Louis. We've had plenty of examples of self-service recently. Let's start with state Rep. Louis Ford's request for free passes to the Fox Theatre and Powell Symphony Hall, not only for himself but for the entire St.		
Big Brothers Need Minority Volunteers, Gregory Freeman, 719 words, :	Tue., 2/8/1994	WHILE SOME African-Americans carry on a seemingly endless debate over whether whites should be allowed to adopt black children, Manuel Chatman Jr. is facing a problem that he feels is more pressing. Chatman is in charge of minority recruitment for the Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Greater St. Louis, a position one might consider a thankless job: as of December, the latest date for which figures are available, of the 283 youngsters who have been paired with big brothers or big		
This Passport Opens Up Doors, Gregory Freeman, 791 words, :	Sun., 2/6/1994	VERLEEN "NAJWA" HENDERSON of the 4-H Youth Development Program sits in a small room as a group of youngsters ages about 9 to 17 listens intently to her every word. Henderson, trying to encourage the young people to get involved in 4-H, describes it as a "dynamic, non-formal program for youths." She discusses field trips, camping and double Dutch jump-rope competitions, and several in the group start asking questions. When Henderson tells them that the program		
Crime Witnesses Carry Big Burden, Gregory Freeman, 714 words, :	Fri., 2/4/1994	DEE JOYCE-HAYES is frustrated. The St. Louis circuit attorney and her staff have been searching high and low for witnesses in the senseless death of Linda Matlock. To date, they've come up empty-handed. Matlock, 39, was killed when someone fired a shot through her kitchen window a week and a half ago as she was helping her daughters with their homework. A week ago, Joyce-Hayes and the St. Louis Police Department announced they had a suspect in custody. Their investigation		

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Stopping Killing Before It Starts, Gregory Freeman, 729 words, :	Tue., 2/1/1994	WHILE EVERYONE these days seems to be worried about homicide and what to do about it, Scott Decker and Richard Rosenfeld have some possible solutions. Decker and Rosenfeld are professors of criminal justice at the University of Missouri at St. Louis. They have developed a concept they call "assault crisis teams," designed to tackle problems before they turn into homicides. Their work dates back to 1989, when they were part of the St. Louis Homicide Project, a study of		
Cities Manage Integration, Gregory Freeman, 693 words, :	Sun., 1/30/1994	HOW DOES AN integrated community prevent itself from becoming resegregated? It's a question that Ferguson residents - along with their mayor and City Council - hope to get answered this year. Ferguson will be host to this year's meeting of the Oak Park Exchange Congress. There, residents of Ferguson will get a chance to listen to representatives of suburban communities from throughout the country discuss what steps they have taken to integrate their cities and to keep them		
Woman's Killing Evokes Anger, Gregory Freeman, 696 words, :	Fri., 1/28/1994	I AM ANGRY today. I am distraught by the senseless death of Linda Matlock, and I wonder what the world is coming to. Matlock, 39, was shot in the head about 6 p.m. Monday when someone fired a bullet through her kitchen window. She had been helping her daughters with their homework when the bullet struck her. I knew Linda Matlock. I didn't know her well and, in fact, hadn't seen her in years. But we attended Beaumont High School together. I knew her as a		
One Month Is Not Enough, Gregory Freeman, 699 words, :	Tue., 1/25/1994	IT'S ALMOST that time again. From Feb. 1 through 28, a bevy of schools will pull out the stops for Black History Month, complete with special programs, speakers and videotapes on blacks from Booker T. Washington to Malcolm X. Every year, around this time, I get requests - as do many other blacks - to give talks at schools all over town. This year I considered saying no to all of them. I broke down and agreed to do a couple. But I see some serious problems with Black		
White Or Black, Racism Is Wrong, Gregory Freeman, 693 words, :	Sun., 1/23/1994	RACISM IS NOT a one-way street. I was reminded of that after reading a New York Times commentary piece earlier this month by Roger Wilkins, a professor of history at George Mason University. Wilkins recounted a recent visit to Kean College in Union, N.J., by Khalid Abdul Muhammad of the Nation of Islam. In a speech there, Muhammad had talked about "Columbia Jew-niversity" and "Jew York City" and had suggested that Jews brought the Holocaust on themselves.		
Nation Healed; Cities Starved, Gregory Freeman, 671 words, :	Fri., 1/21/1994	IT'S A SHAME that it had to be this way. Urban areas suffered throughout the 1980s, from the elimination of Urban Development Action Grants to deep slashes in the Community Development Block Grant program. While much of the country seemingly prospered during that decade, the federal government put inner-city areas on a starvation diet. Without the necessary nutrition, countless urban areas are now trying to fight the disease of crime. If only they had listened		
Scientists Try To Lure Young Blacks To Field, Gregory Freeman, 718 words, :	Tue., 1/18/1994	MYRA MCKENZIE perused the information at several booths of the St. Louis Science Center, and one could imagine the cogs in her head whirling around as she asked questions of the scientists there. Myra, 16, fired her questions to the scientists in rapid succession, like bullets from a machine gun: Is this a good career for blacks? What are the best courses to take if you consider science as a career? What was your major in college? Which areas of science are the best		
Racial Harmony Requires Effort, Gregory Freeman, 724 words, :	Sun., 1/16/1994	WHEN IT COMES to race in America, I suspect that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. - borrowing from Charles Dickens - would find this to be the best of times and the worst of times. We have made tremendous strides on matters of race since the mid-1950s when King first burst onto the national scene. Restrictions no longer exist that prevent African-Americans from going to the polls and making decisions about what types of individuals we want representing us on city councils, the		
The Politician Who Got 4,000 Youths To Listen, Gregory Freeman, 733 words, :	Fri., 1/14/1994	TUESDAY WAS THE first time I'd noticed it, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Awareness Day at Powell Hall. Some 4,000 students from across the metropolitan area had filed in to celebrate the legacy of the civil rights leader. The crowd had warmly greeted the speakers, politicians of all stripes. But none received the reception that the students saved for Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. When Bosley stepped out on the stage and said, "What's up, St. Louis?"		
Take A Bite Out Of Crime Now, Gregory Freeman, 693 words, :	Tue., 1/11/1994	TIME FOR a reality check. That's what I thought as I saw and read about the three-day summit of black leaders in Washington. The summit, to push for ways to fight violent crime, was called by Jesse Jackson's National Rainbow Coalition. In a speech, Jackson called for investment in low-interest loans to blacks, more jobs and training, less emphasis on building more prisons, welfare reform, putting more police on the streets and other anti-crime efforts. Many of the		
It's About Time For Condom Ads, Gregory Freeman, 650 words, :	Sun., 1/9/1994	A DOOR CLOSES. Bright city lights shine outside an apartment window. A man and woman kiss passionately and start to disrobe. WOMAN: Did you bring it? MAN: Uh-oh . . . I forgot it. WOMAN: Then . . . forget it! She pulls away and reaches for a lamp. FEMALE ANNOUNCER: Next time, don't forget it and every time make it part of the relationship. MALE ANNOUNCER: A latex condom, used consistently and correctly, prevents the spread of HIV, the virus that causes		
If Clinton Follows Plan, Many Elderly Face 'Eat Or Heat' Choice, Gregory Freeman, 751 words, :	Fri., 1/7/1994	MARY BOWLES IS at her wits' end. Even though she's on a budget plan, she can't afford to pay her heating bill, plus her medicine and food. At 71, she's got to make a decision. Stepping out of her door to get her mail and feeling the cold breath of another St. Louis January, she makes a decision: this will be a month that she will go without her medicine, despite her fragile heart condition. Mary Bowles isn't a real person. But her attitude is very real		
1993:	138 columns	8 in book		
Best Gift Would Be Some Praise, Not Humiliation, For This Shopper, Gregory Freeman, 668 words, :	Fri., 12/24/1993	DEC. 24. Only one more day and the hassle commonly known as Christmas Shopping will be over. And not a moment too soon, as far as I'm concerned. Don't get me wrong. I'm no Scrooge. I really do love Christmas. I enjoy being with my family and friends. I love opening gifts and watching the faces of those who receive them. I even enjoy decorating our house for Christmas, and I'm willing to spend the time to do it right (I spent two hours over the		
Time Pummels A Neighborhood, Gregory Freeman, 774 words, :	Tue., 12/21/1993	JIM LOOKS out his living room window and sees a neighborhood that has changed dramatically in more than four decades. Oh, the rows of small houses and two-family flats are still there. Jim's city-size back yard still blossoms each year with the various flowers he plants in his garden. The rose bush that his wife planted when his oldest son was born in 1952 still flowers in the spring. But something's changed: the neighbors. When Jim and his wife bought their		
Responsibility Prevails Over 'Gangsta Rap', Gregory Freeman, 712 words, :	Sun., 12/19/1993	ON THE DAY that New York radio station WBLS announced that it would ban songs that advocate violence or have hateful lyrics toward women, a St. Louis radio station was doing the same thing. Station KMJM announced two weeks ago that it would no longer play so-called "gangsta" rap that glorifies gangs, drugs or defames women. In a follow-up memo to its staff, the radio station said, "Songs that we were playing like Snoop (Doggy Dogg), Dr. Dre, Ice Cube and Eazy-E are not to		

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We Must Protect Our Children, Gregory Freeman, 746 words, :	Fri., 12/17/1993	OUR CHILDREN ARE our most precious commodity." How many times have we groaned upon hearing some cliché-filled official give this response after being asked about day-care centers, or public schools, or the nutritional value of school lunches? Yet cliché or no, the statement is packed with truth. A community that cares little about its children cares nothing about its future. Time and again, St. Louisans have shown that they care about their future. The parents of Angie		
Legalizing Drugs Worth Studying, Gregory Freeman, 734 words, :	Tue., 12/14/1993	I'VE ALWAYS admired the League of Women Voters. I've always thought there was something noble about volunteers who stay on top of the issues and try to keep the public informed about - and involved in - their government. They're not included in the Constitution, but you'd almost think they should have been. So I was honored last week to be the luncheon speaker for the League. I gave my talk, and at the end came the time for questions and answers. That's		
A Policewoman Who Shows What Hard Work Can Do, Gregory Freeman, 748 words, :	Sun., 12/12/1993	ASK ANTOINETTE FILLA about her job, and her eyes light up. "I like what I do," she says. "I got into this kind of work because I like working with people." That may be so, but not everyone chooses Filla's profession when they like working with people. Filla is a policewoman with the St. Louis Police Department. More to the point, she's a police captain. More than a dozen years ago, the Police Board developed policies to attract and promote more		
Racism Column Ruffled Feathers, Gregory Freeman, 678 words, :	Fri., 12/10/1993	A RECENT COLUMN that I wrote about the indignities that African-Americans sometimes suffer resulted in a barrage of letters. In the column, I cited various anecdotes from blacks who had been faced with these, including a well-to-do man who was asked by an older white woman to park her car, a prominent man who experienced a fearful white woman at a store who clutched her purse when she saw him, and others who had been routinely followed in stores. The letters varied, and I thought		
Bosley Connects North And South, Gregory Freeman, 713 words, :	Tue., 12/7/1993	IF ANYONE THINKS that the rift between whites and blacks in St. Louis is healing, I'd recommend following the actions of the city's Board of Aldermen for a sober awakening. During last week's meeting, black and white aldermen argued over how city money was being spent. Some black North Side aldermen argued that money for road repairs often goes to south St. Louis while north St. Louis is neglected. Some white South Side aldermen retorted that some of them have waited for		
New Film Changes U.S. Color Scheme, Gregory Freeman, 742 words, :	Sun., 12/5/1993	WHAT IF America's history were reversed, if blacks had been the first to arrive in this country and whites were brought here as slaves? That's the concept behind a film being pushed by filmmaker Steven Byrd. Byrd, executive producer of "2012," says he hopes the role-reversal movie will make blacks and whites think about the relations they have with one another. "I think role reversal is one of the best ways for blacks and whites to understand one		
It's Up To Whites To Find Sensitivity In Color Reaction, Gregory Freeman, 1240 words, :	Fri., 12/3/1993	A BLACK ACQUAINTANCE recently described an incident that made him cringe. He and his wife had agreed to meet for lunch at a fancy hotel here. Arriving before his wife, he decided to wait for her at the hotel's entrance. As he waited for his wife, another car pulled up. Out stepped an older white woman. What happened next, he said, irked him tremendously. "She asked me to park her car," he said. "She thought I was handling valet parking." He said he		
Handgun Ban Needed To Put Teeth In Law, Gregory Freeman, 700 words, :	Tue., 11/30/1993	CONGRESS HAS PASSED the Brady bill and laws for gun ownership are about to become stricter. But, in the eyes of many - not just liberals, not just Democrats - the bill is not nearly strict enough. Just Sunday, New York Mayor-elect Rudolph Giuliani and Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan - both Republicans - said on NBC's "Meet the Press" they favored even tougher handgun laws. But rather than continue incrementally toughening gun laws, why not cut to the quick?		
Only Clinton Could Say It, And Only Now, Gregory Freeman, 685 words, :	Sun., 11/28/1993	TEN OR 15 years ago, it would have been difficult - impossible really - to imagine a white president of the United States doing what Bill Clinton did earlier this month. The president took the pulpit in Memphis where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his last sermon and told a black congregation that blacks needed to take more responsibility for the troubles that plague them. In the past, that would have caused a wave of outrage throughout the church and throughout black		
Frank Question About Taste, Gregory Freeman, 693 words, book: wit & wisdom	Fri., 11/26/1993	JACK RANDALL can't understand why the city's so concerned about a hot dog. Seriously. As Dave Barry would say, I'm not making this up. Randall is thinking about opening a small restaurant at Seventh and Olive streets and wants to erect a giant, vertical weenie on the corner of the building. The city's Heritage and Urban Design Commission is wary of the weenie. It's leaning toward a horizontal one rather than a vertical one. So what's going		
Alderman Tries To Fight Arms, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Tue., 11/23/1993	ST. LOUIS Alderman Mary Ross has seen it escalate. Like weeds, the gun violence and homicides have crept into our lives and now threaten to choke out the humanity in many of us. Ross has seen that firsthand. Her ward is among those that feel the pain homicides bring. Ross, whose own daughter was murdered two years ago, feels the pain as much as anyone. To combat the epidemic of firearm deaths, Ross has taken action. She's successfully pushed a resolution urging state		
Chill Lingers After 30 Years, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Sun., 11/21/1993	IT HAD BEEN raining that November day, and my fellow second-graders and I had spent the lunch hour inside instead of ripping and running as usual on the playground at Emerson School. When lunch hour was over, we returned to our classroom, where Miss Nance was sitting at her desk. I remember walking up to her desk and asking if I could get a book to read from one of the bookshelves. She told me no, an unusual response from a teacher who always encouraged her students to read. As she put		
Echoes Of That Giant Sucking Sound, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Fri., 11/19/1993	TWO DAYS and counting, and I'm still waiting to hear that giant sucking sound. I'm exaggerating, of course. The Senate hasn't yet approved the North American Free Trade Agreement, although that's very likely. Most senators are expected to go along with the trade pact. But Ross Perot was exaggerating as well, when he suggested that NAFTA would be the downfall of American life as we know it today. A campaign of misinformation based on protectionism nearly led to		
Father, Son Try To Stop Crime, Gregory Freeman, 762 words, :	Tue., 11/16/1993	JUST ANOTHER letter from a friendly reader: Dear Mr. Freeman: Why do you black people cry and whine all the time about crime? It's black kids that are doing all this stuff. Why don't you get off your lazy butts and do something about it? The unsigned letter, presumably from a non-black reader, suggests that no one is doing anything about crime (and implies that black youngsters are all engaged in criminal activity, something far from the truth). While all sorts of		
Media Bias? Let's Try For Sensitivity, Gregory Freeman, 787 words, :	Sun., 11/14/1993	DO THE news media pay as much attention to black murder victims as they do to white ones? The question is being raised - and answered - by Families Advocating Safe Streets, a support group for friends and relatives of black homicide victims. The answer, says the group, is an unequivocal "no." In a news conference last week, members of the group were sharply critical of the news media for what the group considered to be less concern about black murder victims. As a test,		

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Many Mexicans View NAFTA As Good Deal, Gregory Freeman, 688 words, :	Fri., 11/12/1993	MEXICO IS ONE of our family's favorite haunts. Having been an exchange student there 20 years ago, I've developed close friendships with several Mexicans over the years. So it came as no surprise to us when we visited Mexico City over the summer that some friends had us over for drinks and appetizers. The surprise was the appetizers - and where they had come from. Instead of homemade guacamole - which I'd grown accustomed to eating there - our friends served		
Olympic Panel Offends Wilson, Gregory Freeman, 709 words, :	Tue., 11/9/1993	IF THERE'S ONE thing that Earl Wilson Jr. has learned in his 61 years, it's not to use the term "racism" lightly. "I don't throw that word around for the fun of it," said Wilson, who last week announced his resignation as vice president of sales and marketing of the U.S. Olympic Festival '94. The festival's top black employee, Wilson cited racism and mismanagement by the group's two top officials. Four other blacks also resigned		
What You Pay For Is What You Get, Gregory Freeman, 780 words, :	Sun., 11/7/1993	I OFTEN HEAR from African-Americans who are disturbed by the way that we are portrayed on television and on the big screen. The complaints are similar. Blacks are regularly portrayed as funny people or buffoons - witness such television programs as "Martin," "Hangin' With Mr. Cooper," or movies like "Livin' Large" (why is it that producers feel the need to drop the "g" if a film or show is about African-Americans?). If we make it into more		
New Boys Choir Strikes Chord, Gregory Freeman, 703 words, :	Fri., 11/5/1993	I THINK THE term "YMCA" will forever be linked in my mind with music. I came of age in the '70s, you see, and I must confess to disco-dancing in those days to "YMCA," the Village People's hit tune. I suspect the song is something officials of the YMCA would prefer that we all forget, much as I wouldn't mind forgetting about my attempts at disco-dancing. But the YMCA - at least the local Y - is about to be associated with music again, though of a		
Body Politic Loses Civil Tongue, Gregory Freeman, 760 words, :	Tue., 11/2/1993	CAN AMERICA return to a point where issues can be discussed at length in a civil manner? Must we always discuss issues loudly, broadly painting key figures as either heroes or villains? The question was raised over the weekend by Sen. John C. Danforth, who addressed the Founders Day dinner of Washington University. Danforth, of course, is no stranger to public discourse, having been involved in politics since 1968, when he was elected Missouri attorney general. He has a long		
The Homeless Are Still With Us, Gregory Freeman, 776 words, :	Sun., 10/31/1993	ASK MICHAEL BUCKNER if he thinks the plight of homeless people here has improved over last year, and he'll shake his head forcefully. "I don't know how many people were made homeless by the river," he says. "There are a lot of people without homes. Some even have jobs and no homes. It's a real problem." Buckner is the "good samaritan" for the homeless in St. Louis. He's not affiliated with any shelter. Several nights a week he		
Snub Steams Urban Dweller, Gregory Freeman, 738 words, book: city life	Fri., 10/29/1993	GLORIA ROSS was still steaming when I returned her call. "I'm really upset about this," she said. "It's as if I'm being redlined." The object of Ross's ire was not an insurance company, though. Instead, it was Stanley Steamer Carpet Cleaner. Ross, who needed her carpets and sofa cleaned, had seen a commercial for the company and had called to find out more about it. "The woman who answered the phone told me all about the		
Tyson Case Treats Victim Unfairly, Gregory Freeman, 740 words, :	Tue., 10/26/1993	IT'S BEEN MORE than a year since a jury found heavyweight fighter Mike Tyson guilty of the rape of a Miss Black America contestant. But that hasn't stopped those who continue to believe that the contestant, Desiree Washington, was actually the guilty party in the case; that she somehow set up Tyson to take the fall that wound up with him being sentenced to six years behind bars. For some, it wasn't a case of whether Tyson was innocent or guilty. For them, it was the		
A Father Asks: 'Where Was I?', Gregory Freeman, 799 words, :	Sun., 10/24/1993	MEET James Hardy. Hardy's only son, Charles, was killed in a drive-by shooting in Chicago two years ago. Hardy's wife died when his son was an infant, so he raised Charles alone. By all accounts, he did a good job. His son got good grades and was a high school track star. At 16, he was on his way to a positive future, his father thought. And then it happened. Hardy thought about telling his son no when the teen-ager asked to go with some friends to a party on that		
Justice Should Be Colorblind, Gregory Freeman, 756 words, :	Fri., 10/22/1993	I RECALL THE first time I saw the Rodney King videotape and the anger that I felt as I saw him on the ground, beaten, kicked by Los Angeles police officers. I felt King's pain as I watched, helplessly, as he was savagely attacked by officers who could have cuffed him and put him into a squad car. The saving grace, I thought, was that the event was captured on videotape. That wasn't the first time a person was ever beaten by police, and it wouldn't be the last. But it		
Lawmakers Must Rescue MetroLink, Gregory Freeman, 793 words, :	Tue., 10/19/1993	JOAN BRAY WOULD like St. Louisans to know one thing: Funding for MetroLink, she says, is not stalled because of an urban-rural split in state government. For those of you who came in late, MetroLink, the area's new mass transit system, is one of the few such systems in the country that receives no funding from the state. And Bi-State, the public agency that runs it, says the bus and light-rail system may have to shut down next year if Bi-State receives no funding. Now,		
Thomas' Backers Feel Betrayed, Gregory Freeman, 801 words, :	Sun., 10/17/1993	THE COVER strikes you immediately. It's a side view of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, wearing his judicial robes. Nothing unusual about that. But atop Thomas' head is a handkerchief, tied around his head, Aunt Jemima-style. It's the latest issue of Emerge magazine, with a lengthy story about the man who succeeded Thurgood Marshall. The piece, written by Detroit News reporter Trevor W. Coleman, quotes critics such as film director Spike Lee, who says that		
Take Hands Offering Help, Gregory Freeman, 614 words, :	Fri., 10/15/1993	To tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of the world. - Aeschylus AND NOW they come. All of them, pouring down upon our heads like rain. The ideas, the suggestions, the ways to deal with the youth crime epidemic that's turning our streets into the Wild West, our schools into the Blackboard Jungle, our homes into prisons with brick or siding. Many of them are good ideas. Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. has developed a program to deal with this plague that		
Busing Helps Whites, Too, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, :	Tue., 10/12/1993	AS PUBLIC OFFICIALS bicker and battle over the merits and methods of school desegregation, Michele Banderet sits and wonders what all the noise is about. While most of the people discussing the issue these days never participated in the St. Louis school desegregation program themselves, Banderet has first-hand knowledge of how it works. And Banderet, a white South County resident, thinks it works pretty well. The issue of school desegregation has come to a head recently, after a		
Gun Buyback: Good Idea Again, Gregory Freeman, 715 words, :	Fri., 10/8/1993	WHEN I WAS a young boy, I had a game to amuse myself in church as the minister gave his sometimes lengthy sermon. Instead of fidgeting, I imagined that I had some sort of giant magnet that could hover above the church and snatch all the wigs off the women who were wearing them that Sunday morning. How funny it would be, I thought, if all those bewigged women found their store-bought hair floating to the ceiling. The game came to mind as I read about yet another street homicide		

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Professional, Taxpayer, Homeowner And Target For Discrimination, Gregory Freeman, 708 words, :	Tue., 10/5/1993	DAVID IS 38 and lives in west St. Louis County. A professional man, David has worked for a downtown firm for 11 years and holds a management position within his company. David is a taxpayer and homeowner who says he always pays his bills on time. He's never gotten into trouble - not even a parking ticket. He takes care of his home, and his lawn is the envy of his subdivision. Despite all that, however, a group is now eager to make it easier for people to discriminate against		
A Balanced Look At School Busing, Gregory Freeman, 760 words, :	Sun., 10/3/1993	TWO POWERFUL voices - those of the mayor and the president of the St. Louis School Board - have spoken out clearly on busing to desegregate schools: They want it stopped. And while I have no doubt that these men have given the issue considerable thought, I'm not so sure that we should be too hasty in ending the program. School desegregation began years ago because the School Board refused to equalize the city's schools. To change that, the city-county		
Jones, Mayor Part On Busing, Gregory Freeman, 660 words, :	Fri., 10/1/1993	WHEN VIRVUS JONES was growing up in the late 1950s, he attended Hempstead School, a black school in northwest St. Louis. When Hempstead became overcrowded, Jones was bused to Gratiot School, a white school in south St. Louis. He found things much different at Gratiot. The key difference was that while young Virvus and the other black students were attending a white grade school, they rarely saw the white students. Gratiot had separate classrooms, separate recesses and separate		
Social Security Called Good For Boomer Business, Gregory Freeman, 794 words, :	Tue., 9/28/1993	HE INTENSITY of the debate struck me. "Social Security is a complete and abject failure," one comment read. "It was just another way for government to put its hands in our pockets." "People should have been encouraged to invest instead of allowing Big Brother to get in the picture and set up the failed Social Security program," another chimed in. "Social Security is robbing us blind and the ones who will feel the pain most will be those of us		
Mayor Reaches Out To Youth Gangs, Gregory Freeman, 744 words, :	Sun., 9/26/1993	TOUGH LOVE. That's what Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. is offering young gang members in St. Louis. The offer comes as the result of the mayor's decision to venture out and talk to youths about violence and drug dealing on the streets. The young people wanted to talk to the mayor about police harassment. The mayor wanted to talk to the young people about obeying the law. "If you're dealing drugs, the police will continue to harass you," Bosley said.		
Highlighting What's Missing, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Fri., 9/24/1993	COULDN'T HELP but notice. Bright pink signs with the words "missing" on them, posted along Delmar Boulevard. What's missing? I wondered. Who's missing? It became clear as I stopped at a stoplight and was handed a flier. "Missing from north St. Louis," it said. "Can you help us locate them?" After that was a list of 43 major retail stores, ranging from Dillard's and Dierbergs to Schnucks and Steak 'n Shake. And		
Health Plan Must Be Sold, Gregory Freeman, 745 words, :	Tue., 9/21/1993	FOLKS ARE clearly worried. After saying last year that they wanted change and that they favored health-care reform, Americans are now hotly debating the prospect of that becoming reality. Sign on to any computer bulletin board and you will read impassioned comments from doctors who fear that the quality of health care will be reduced to working-class people who are concerned that they could end up paying much more for much less. Listen to any radio talk show, from Rush Limbaugh		
Business Booms With MetroLink, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Sun., 9/19/1993	ASK PAUL HELD what he thinks of MetroLink and he'll tell you - without hesitation - "it's fantastic." That opinion isn't unique, if you look at the new light-rail system's ridership numbers. But for Held - who's with Casa Gallardo at Union Station - MetroLink's arrival has been nothing but good news. "Starting at 11 every day, about 200 people rise from a hole in the ground every 15 minutes," Held said. "And a lot of them are		
Now Come On, Be Nice, Folks!, Gregory Freeman, 706 words, :	Fri., 9/17/1993	NOTICE: St. Louisans are asked to be on their best behavior Sunday through Friday. Failure to do so may result in the loss of jobs by 49,000 St. Louis-area residents. THAT NOTICE hasn't actually appeared anywhere, but if the people at the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission could post it - and thought it would do any good - they'd probably do it. The staff is on pins and needles as a result of a major convention coming here that, perhaps more than any		
An Idea Whose Time Has Come: Let Ex-Military Officers Teach In Urban Schools, Gregory Freeman, 747 words, :	Tue., 9/14/1993	ROLE models. The term is tossed around with abandon these days. What troubled and potentially troubled kids need are role models, so many say. There's no question that black children have too few male role models. According to a recent story in Newsweek, two out of three first births to black women under 35 are now out of wedlock. That's a devastating statistic. Out-of-wedlock pregnancies often are a prescription for poverty. The statistic means that a tremendous number		
Growing Up And Going Out, Gregory Freeman, 768 words, :	Sun., 9/12/1993	HE'S growing up. That was my thought as my son went off to junior high school. Maybe "went off" is too strong a phrase. He's not gone away; the school is two blocks away from home. Still, I keep thinking these days about how he's growing up. And I guess I'm a little sad about it. He's becoming more and more independent as he grows older. That's as it should be, of course, but somehow it saddens me a bit. He's also growing		
Update Is Upbeat On 'Mr. Natural', Gregory Freeman, 823 words, :	Fri., 9/10/1993	FROM TIME TO TIME, I get letters from readers wondering whatever happened to various people who popped up in this column. Here's an update: Let's start with Gregg L. McIntosh. Remember him? His house was torched earlier this year. The perpetrators used red paint to smear racial epithets on one of the outside walls of his home. McIntosh is black; he lived in a largely white neighborhood in southwest St. Louis, right near Maplewood. Though devastated by the fire,		
Racial Diversity Is In The News, Gregory Freeman, 778 words, :	Tue., 9/7/1993	I WORRY AT TIMES that some have no idea what diversity is all about. My worry was brought home to me recently, as I learned of the resignation of one of the regional directors of the Society of Professional Journalists. The society is made up of journalists from across the country. Services it provides to its members include a magazine, access to information on sunshine laws and the Freedom of Information Act, and some legal support on journalistic matters. In recent years,		
Ads Get Recruits In War On Drugs, Gregory Freeman, 749 words, :	Sun., 9/5/1993	Get tough! Call 621-4333. Give us a name. A face. A time. A place. - From a print ad put together by the St. Louis Police Department and the Advertising Club of Greater St. Louis. WHEN CAPT. GARY PERKINS, then-commander of the narcotics and vice division of the St. Louis Police Department, first approached the Advertising Club last year, he had a problem. The police had established a "Get Tough Narcotics Hot Line" two and a half years before. The hot line was		
Nepotism Purge Is All Relative, Gregory Freeman, 720 words, :	Fri., 9/3/1993	THANK YOU, Governor Carnahan! Thanks for discovering the evil that exists in state government - nepotism - and getting rid of it. I'm talking, of course, about your firing of Jeanette McCrary, who was director of the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. You fired her because she had referred her sister, Sharon McIntosh, to fill the job of state child labor inspector for the St. Louis area. Thanks for not simply reprimanding McCrary and releasing McIntosh.		
Gun Violence: Moving Target, Gregory Freeman, 752 words, :	Tue., 8/31/1993	IT'S TIME FOR a frank discussion about gun violence. It's time to check our attitudes, our political stances, our egos at the door and look at the issue from an objective point of view. I know it's not easy. I know because it's difficult for me. Regular readers of this column know I've favored increased gun controls. So, as a human being, it's easy for me to dismiss other ideas out of hand. But the only thing that's really getting out of hand		

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Gaslight Square's Hopes Grow Dim, Gregory Freeman, 797 words, :	Sun., 8/29/1993	Help save one of America's most remembered landmarks. Call 645-0059. Sign handpainted on a board on a window of one of the buildings in the old Gaslight Square. LIKE A DROWNING man in a pool who fears the end may be near, members of the Gaslight Square Historical Preservation Society are frantically flailing their arms - but no one seems to be paying attention. Its members are battling to save and restore the once internationally known entertainment district. It's		
Dream Needs Wake-Up Call, Gregory Freeman, 759 words, :	Fri., 8/27/1993	THIRTY YEARS ago Saturday, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave a speech for which he would be remembered, long after his death. King's "I have a dream" speech became the inspiration for an entire movement toward integration and equality in America. The speech was only 19 minutes, and King had given several versions of it in previous settings. But it was during the march on Washington, which drew a crowd of a quarter-million people and live coverage by all		
Towing Fiasco: No-Fault Ride, Gregory Freeman, 722 words, :	Tue., 8/24/1993	"IT'S NOT my job." The late Freddie Prinze got tremendous mileage out of that line in the 1970s in the television series "Chico and the Man." Prinze used it to signify that whatever had happened wasn't his fault. Prinze is long gone, but several others seem to have picked up the mantle. On Friday evening, various motorists - as many as 100 or as few as 21, depending on with whom you speak - found their cars had been towed from a gravel parking lot		
'Anytown' Opens Eyes And Minds, Gregory Freeman, 751 words, :	Sun., 8/22/1993	WHEN KEVIN WATTS was 18, he participated in Anytown, U.S.A. - a 34-year-old program of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. It changed his life. "It taught me so much," said Watts, now 22. "I learned a lot about the subtle prejudices that we all have, how to recognize those prejudices and how to deal with them." "The program hit me so hard that I just carry with me everything I learned." In fact, it brought Watts to St. Louis from his		
Making History In Journalism, Gregory Freeman, 768 words, :	Fri., 8/20/1993	HE DIDN'T CONSIDER it that big a deal at the time. He was just happy to get a job in journalism. But when John H. Hicks joined the staff of the Post-Dispatch in 1949, he didn't just make a career move. He made history. Hicks was the first black reporter at the Post-Dispatch, joining the paper at a time when the number of black reporters at white-owned daily papers could be counted on two hands. "But I never even gave it any thought," he said. Hicks is		
Expo Highlights Black Businesses, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Tue., 8/17/1993	FOR YEARS, Tom Bailey had the idea of putting together a major trade and cultural show for African-Americans. But he wasn't certain how to do it. Then he met Geri Kroon, producer of the annual Working Women's Survival Show. He told her about his idea. She told him he should have his head examined. But she gave him some ideas and directions, and out of those came the Missouri Black Expo, a three-day event that will begin Friday at the Cervantes Convention		
Do You Know Where Your Children Are?, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Sun., 8/15/1993	I'M SICK OF the violence among youngsters. I'm sick of kids killing kids and kids killing adults. As I continue to watch the ongoing carnage, a question keeps popping in my mind: Where are the parents? When I was a kid, I never saw the kind of violence we see today. Drive-by shootings? Unheard of. McCoy vs. Hatfield-like revenge killings? Extremely rare. Kids going to school with guns? Hardly ever. I didn't grow up in idyllic times. Far from it. I grew		
Sandy Hayes, On The Road, Gregory Freeman, 713 words, :	Fri., 8/13/1993	SO YOU THOUGHT you had it bad? Talk to Sandy Hayes. Think about her the next time you're down in the dumps. In drier times, Hayes lives in a one-story house near Alabama Avenue and Germania Street in south St. Louis, near the River Des Peres. She's lived in the house 20 years and raised her family there. She remembers the flood of 1973. Water seeped into her basement that year. She got a whole lot more water this time. Hayes was among many people who were		
Others Do It; Why Not Us?, Gregory Freeman, 740 words, :	Tue., 8/10/1993	HOME ALONE" was shot in Chicago. "Sleepless in Seattle" was shot in Seattle and Baltimore. "Meteor Man" was shot in Baltimore. How many times have you watched films shot in cities other than St. Louis? Probably most of the time. Film studios do a lot of on-the-road shooting these days, and cities such as Portland, Atlanta, Kansas City and others have benefited. Hollywood can travel to other cities to shoot films, so why not St.		
Commuting Gets On Track, Gregory Freeman, 781 words, :	Sun., 8/8/1993	Well, it's finally arrived. MetroLink is here, giving St. Louis more of a big-city feel than it's had in a while. But I've got to confess to being one of the early skeptics. I figured we'd never see light rail here. When I joined the Post-Dispatch 13 years ago, Bi-State officials were busy yakking it up about light rail and its potential. They talked about how it would be a real boon for the St. Louis area, how it would help businesses along the route, how it		
Boats Fought Upstream Battle, Gregory Freeman, 811 words, :	Fri., 8/6/1993	THIS IS A TALE about several towboats that helped save St. Louis. That may sound like an overstatement. But without the help of towboats like the Mary Burke, Dominique You and the Tom McConnell, St. Louisans may have awakened Monday morning to find the Mississippi River rushing into the area just south of downtown. The Nooter Co., Monsanto Co., Anheuser-Busch and such fixtures as Soulard Market could have been affected. The water could have gone to Broadway and then on down to the River		
Mr. Rodgers' Neighborhood Inspired Play, Gregory Freeman, 708 words, :	Tue., 8/3/1993	BENNIE S. RODGERS thinks he can change some lives. He's changed some already - including his own. Rodgers, 30, grew up in Los Angeles, the son of a minister and a missionary. Despite a strong family background, Rodgers joined a street gang. "There are certain elements that draw people to the streets," Rodgers said. "It doesn't matter what your background is or where you come from. Gangs aren't just an inner-city problem, they're a suburban		
Diversity Comes To Black Caucus, Causes Eruption, Gregory Freeman, 766 words, :	Sun., 8/1/1993	IT WAS BOUND to happen. As the Congressional Black Caucus grows larger, it only makes sense that its members will become more diverse. That diversity in the caucus caused an eruption last week, as Rep. Bill Clay, a Democrat from St. Louis, suggested that Rep. Gary Franks, a Republican from Connecticut, resign from the caucus. The caucus voted to exclude Franks from its business meetings and to only let him into luncheon meetings. He says he's being illegally excluded, and		
Great Issues: Potato Salad, Ribs And Beer, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, book: family	Fri., 7/30/1993	CALL IT THE potato salad faux pas. That's what I call a "debate" concerning an upcoming family reunion. I'm a member of a small committee of family members putting our reunion together. It's a big deal in our family, since the last one of these we held was about eight years ago. At a recent meeting, we began a discussion about the menu for this event, for which we're expecting as many as 100 people. One person made the mistake of volunteering		
Lack of Balance is Real Menace, Gregory Freeman, 767 words, book: harmony	Tue., 7/27/1993	TRUE CONFESSION time. When I was a youngster, I enjoyed watching reruns of "Amos 'n' Andy." Although I knew no one like Amos, Andy or their scheming comrade, the Kingfish, I would often sit in front of the big, boxy TV set that we had in those days and watch the show on Channel 11. I'd often smile, chuckle or outright guffaw at some of the things the characters said and did. And then, one day, it wasn't on anymore. I didn't know it at the time,		
Not Trying Is Not The Answer, Gregory Freeman, 781 words, :	Sun., 7/25/1993	CAN WE GET beyond the bitterness? I ask that question as I think about some of the people I know - African-Americans who are so bitter about the hand that life has dealt them that they can hardly function. Racism is an ugly, painful obstacle to achieving success for many blacks in this country. It often stands in the way, daring anyone of color to jump over it. Some make it over, drawing on their inner courage. Others manage to go around it, finding alternative methods of succeeding.		

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Black Cites Plus Of Segregation, Gregory Freeman, 778 words, :	Fri., 7/23/1993	WHEN IT COMES to blacks and economic development, Jack A. Kirkland is blunt: Desegregation, he says, was perhaps the worst thing to happen to African-Americans. While Kirkland is not critical of the opportunities that desegregation has provided, he notes that along with them have come other problems. "With segregation, there were parallel opportunities," he said. "If there were white doctors, there had to be black doctors. If there were white lawyers, there had to		
Flood Help Cuts Across Racial Lines, Gregory Freeman, 782 words, :	Tue., 7/20/1993	I PULLED THE postcard from my mail slot and could tell immediately that it was going to be one of those pieces of correspondence. There was no name or return address on the card. As I read it, I was right: Dear Gregory Freeman, Where are all your black buddies now that the flood is here and the volunteers are needed? I guess no one's paying minimum wage for these jobs. What a nasty remark, I thought. Why would someone choose to be so snippy at a time like		
Summer Advice: 'Listen To Kids', Gregory Freeman, 805 words, :	Sun., 7/18/1993	WHEN IT COMES to working with young people, few in St. Louis have the experience of Martin L. Mathews. Mathews is executive director of the Mathews-Dickey Boys' Club, and he's been working with youngsters for 35 years. Some 40,000 kids - boys and girls - go through the club each year. So as we go through the annual ritual of wondering whether this will be a "long, hot summer," Mathews offers this advice: "Listen to the kids." Mathews believes that		
State Has Loans For Sale Of Flats, Gregory Freeman, 758 words, :	Fri., 7/16/1993	WALTER MCKINNEY knows all about the problem of absentee landlords who are apathetic. McKinney and some of his fellow neighbors in the 5800 block of Maffitt Avenue wage a constant battle with landlords who own buildings in his neighborhood but live nowhere near them. "It's a big problem," McKinney said. "In fact, in this neighborhood, it's probably the problem. "When landlords don't live in the buildings - especially two- and four-family		
Program Plants Vegetable Seeds, Seeds Of Hope, Gregory Freeman, 796 words, :	Tue., 7/13/1993	THE YOUNGSTERS in his program hope to harvest a garden, but Jahi Bakari hopes to harvest a generation. Bakari, 28, is a former teacher with the St. Louis public schools system. The East St. Louis native said he saw a problem in getting poor urban youngsters motivated. "But what I found when I was teaching was that the best way to motivate kids was to spend time with them on Saturdays," Bakari said. "A lot of the kids didn't do anything on weekends. They just played		
Building Bridges; Solutions Offered To A Black-And-White Problem, Gregory Freeman, 780 words, :	Sun., 7/11/1993	ONE MAJOR THING readers say they want is dialogue in black and white. That's among the conclusions I reached after reading responses to the "St. Louis Connections" contest. A little more than a month ago, I asked readers to submit their best - and most practical - ideas to help people here overcome racial polarization and help us better understand one another. I offered no prizes. The implicit reward was the hope that your ideas might make a difference. Letters		
Curbing Fraud In Food Stamps, Gregory Freeman, 799 words, :	Sun., 7/11/1993	IT'S A PROBLEM found in inner-city areas across the country: food stamp recipients selling their stamps to get more cash. It goes on all the time. Someone getting food stamps sells them for 50 cents or 75 cents on the dollar. Because the stamps can be traded in for cash at banks, their sale is a brisk business. Drug dealers eagerly accept food stamps in lieu of cash. But starting in a couple of years, such fraud will be ending. A bill passed last year by the Missouri		
An Apology To Readers Of This Column, Gregory Freeman, 417 words, :	Fri., 6/11/1993	JOURNALISM IS a tricky business. We write about a variety of subjects. We write about similar topics. But the words we use are expected to be our own. In that, dear readers, I have failed. On Tuesday, the Post-Dispatch ran a column I wrote about Lani Guinier, who was nominated by President Bill Clinton to lead the Justice Department's civil rights division. The point of the column was that the president needed resolve - that he needed to stake out a position and stick with		
Wind-Blown Clinton Needs Resolve, Gregory Freeman, 679 words, :	Tue., 6/8/1993	WHEN IT COMES to facing the wrath of critics, Bill Clinton is mere putty in their hands. Once again, Clinton has sacrificed a woman in the mistaken hope of somehow landing in the good graces of those who didn't want him to be president in the first place. Reality check, Mr. President. Clinton can do absolutely nothing that will make him the poster boy for the nation's right wing. The president's problem is that he wants everyone to love him. And, in the		
Racial Barriers Hobble Society, Gregory Freeman, 804 words, :	Sun., 6/6/1993	IT'S A PHENOMENON that you'll find on almost every high school campus these days where there are both black and white students. Take a walk through many high school cafeterias these days and you will find one of the greatest cases of de facto segregation that you'll ever encounter: Black students will be sitting in one area and white students will be sitting in another. While a few will mingle, for the most part, the students will be segregated. No, it's not		
U.S. Can't Afford Snake Oil, Gregory Freeman, 734 words, :	Fri., 6/4/1993	AM I THE ONLY American who's tired of Ross Perot? The little man with the big ears, the Texas twang and billions of dollars is back again, once again telling us that everything is as "simple as that." Perot knows that few things in life are as "simple as that." But he also knows that the American people want to think that things are as "simple as that." So, like any other politician, he says them. Never can I recall a defeated presidential		
Taking Fight Against Bias Into Classroom, Gregory Freeman, 807 words, :	Tue., 6/1/1993	You've got to be taught to be afraid Of people whose eyes are oddly made And people whose skin is a different shade You've got to be carefully taught. - Rodgers and Hammerstein, "South Pacific" SINCE THE 1960s, countless attempts have been made at fighting racial prejudice on an endless parade of battlefields - in restaurants, department stores and the workplace. But through it all, one battlefield - the classroom - has been largely		
Tragic Death Shows Need For Gun Laws, Gregory Freeman, 764 words, :	Sun., 5/30/1993	MANY PEOPLE CAN sympathize with Rodney Peairs today. Peairs is the Baton Rouge, La., man acquitted of manslaughter a week ago for killing a Japanese exchange student. Peairs shot Yoshihiro Hattori, 16, last year after Hattori had knocked on Peairs' door looking for a Halloween party. Peairs, 31, shot Hattori after the teen-ager, who knew little English, ignored his command to "freeze." Hattori, who was living with the Haymaker family during his stay in the United		
Recalling A True Inspiration, Gregory Freeman, 758 words, :	Fri., 5/28/1993	I REMEMBER the first time I ever laid eyes on Joseph Pulitzer Jr. It was in 1980, and I was a rookie reporter here at the Post-Dispatch. I saw him in a hallway speaking to someone. He was smartly dressed, tall, slender, very dignified. I remember how in awe I felt at seeing the publisher of the Post-Dispatch, this man who was the heart and soul of the newspaper. On another occasion, I recall eating lunch at a Chinese restaurant downtown one day when I looked over and realized		
Conway: No Plan To Oust Harmon, Gregory Freeman, 807 words, :	Tue., 5/25/1993	THE SELECTION of the president of the Police Board is usually a quiet affair. Rarely is much noise made about who wins because the president is elected among the board's five members, not the voting public. But the collective shrug of shoulders that usually follows the election of a board president didn't happen this time. The election of former Mayor Jim Conway as president by a 3-2 vote last week, coupled with some political maneuvering by Gov. Mel Carnahan, sparked pounds		
An Organization For Progress, Gregory Freeman, 890 words, :	Sun., 5/23/1993	FROM AN IDEA by the Danforth Foundation once considered too far ahead of its time to a vibrant organization often on the cutting edge of the issues of the day, Confluence St. Louis has gone through quite a few transformations. Confluence, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, is a grass-roots organization that looks at public policy and makes recommendations. That sounds pretty dry, doesn't it? It's not. The idea of such an organization intrigued		

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Area Response To Steve, D.C. Shows Progress, Gregory Freeman, 753 words, :	Fri., 5/21/1993	BEFORE LAST WEEK, I had listened to Steve and D.C. once. When they came to town, pictures of them as children were plastered on billboards around the city. That caught my attention, so I tuned in. On this particular show, they were inviting people to call in to discuss their individual sexual habits - in detail. My young son was in the car, and I quickly turned the station off, a bit disgusted that they would air that sort of thing. I'm no prude, but I think certain things		
GOP Defector Questions Vote, Gregory Freeman, 813 words, :	Tue., 5/18/1993	BOB SCHICKENDANZ is beginning to think he made a mistake. Schickendanz, a registered Republican, voted for Bill Clinton for president in November. He thought the GOP had been in the White House long enough, thought that a president near his age would be closer philosophically to himself and thought that "the country was going to hell in a handbasket, to be honest with you." Despite his party affiliation, he said, it seemed to him that the Republican Party didn't care		
Blacks, Jews Team Up, Give Pupils A Boost, Gregory Freeman, 791 words, book: harmony	Sun., 5/16/1993	EXPERTS MAY fret over the state of black-Jewish relations in America, but not so members of the Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church and the Central Reform Congregation. The two groups have developed a close working relationship that has resulted in a mentoring program at one of the city's public schools. Since October, 87 members of Cote Brilliante, at 4673 Labadie Avenue, and Central Reform, at 77 Maryland Plaza, have met once a month with 87 first-grade students at Cote		
Amerasians Struggle In U.S. Culture, Gregory Freeman, 799 words, :	Fri., 5/14/1993	DUC MINH NGUYEN longs for his father. At 27, Nguyen carries with him a sense of loss each day. He's never known his father, an American soldier in Vietnam. His mother was killed by Viet Cong when he was 2. Tears well up in his eyes as he thinks about what might have been. Having grown up in a culture where family is everything, Nguyen says he would do almost anything to meet his father. "Sometimes I go around on the streets and see Americans who were in Vietnam and I		
Race At Core Of U.S. Crises, Author Says, Gregory Freeman, 796 words, :	Tue., 5/11/1993	CORNEL WEST refuses to be branded. He's not liberal; he's not conservative. He is someone with a great deal of new thinking on issues of race. West is a professor of religion at Princeton University and director of its Afro-American studies program. He's collected accolades from such notables as Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Children's Defense Fund President Marian Wright Edelman and Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., who says "few Americans speak about race		
NAACP Chose Wisely, Well, Gregory Freeman, 714 words, :	Sun., 5/9/1993	THE NAACP couldn't have made a better choice than the selection last month of the Rev. Ben Chavis Jr. as executive director of the nation's oldest civil rights organization. Chavis is a no-nonsense, few-frills, determined individual who gets things done. He has experience in working with egos, personalities and power plays, something that will help him as he deals with the 64-member board of directors. Since its beginning as the Niagara Movement in 1905, the NAACP has been a		
After Five Years, Program Is Making A World Of Difference In St. Louis, Gregory Freeman, 760 words, :	Fri., 5/7/1993	ANGELA MORTON CONLEY thinks that A World of Difference is making a world of difference. Conley, project director of the anti-prejudice and multicultural-awareness program that began here in 1988, believes that her organization is helping to change the thinking of St. Louisans. Among the program's goals are to: Persuade people not to apply stereotypes based on misinformation or no information. Teach people that their differences are external and that it's OK to be		
Clinton Should Back NAFTA, Gregory Freeman, 721 words, :	Tue., 5/4/1993	BEING PRESIDENT of the United States can be a tough job, as Bill Clinton has surely learned in his 3 1/2 months in office. But when it comes to the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement, it's time for Clinton to take a side, and that side should be in favor of the pact among the United States, Canada and Mexico. The president has waffled a bit on this issue. He criticized it at one point, at another said he favored it and on yet another occasion favored it with certain, unspecified		
Two People Who Made A Difference, Gregory Freeman, 842 words, :	Sun., 5/2/1993	IT'S NOT UNCOMMON for people to leave St. Louis, but some departures represent more of a drain on this area than others. The absence of Ronald and Cynthia Thompson is a true loss to the St. Louis area. They've had impact here, often moving behind the scenes to make this area a better place to live. The Thompsons are in the process of moving to Bowling Green, Ohio, taking their company, the GR Group, with them. Their firm is buying the Midwest Stamping & Manufacturing		
Daring to Mess with Superman, Gregory Freeman, 712 words, book: our life & times	Fri., 4/30/1993	WHAT'S THE super deal? First, DC Comics announces its plan to kill off Superman, causing serious consternation at my home. Not only is my son the world's biggest Superman fan, with comic books, games and figures galore, but his old man is no slouch either. When I was a kid, you'd find me around the television set every afternoon at 5 p.m., waiting for my favorite hero to come on. Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap		
'93 Elections: A Tale Of Three Cities, Gregory Freeman, 769 words, :	Tue., 4/27/1993	BEFORE WE completely forget this year's city elections, Lana Stein and Carol Kohfeld have a few postscripts. Stein and Kohfeld are political science professors at the University of Missouri at St. Louis. Together, they have examined the results of last month's primary election. Because no one can know exactly how individuals voted in any election, the two used what's called a statistical probability model to examine the results. The model is used in voting rights cases		
Republicans In The Senate Deserve Scorn, Gregory Freeman, 722 words, :	Sun., 4/25/1993	THE REPUBLICANS in the U.S. Senate have proven that mean-spiritedness is alive and well. In a period of mean-spiritedness not seen since the Reagan-Bush days, the Senate Republicans singlehandedly killed President Bill Clinton's \$16.3 billion jobs bill, approving on a voice vote only \$4 billion for jobless benefits. Stripped from the bill were \$3.2 billion for road building and \$8.2 billion for job training and related programs. Senate Republicans - including Missouri's own		
Ham-Handed Decisions In Personnel Damage Election Board's Credibility, Gregory Freeman, 766 words, :	Fri., 4/23/1993	TO THE VICTORS belong the spoils, the old saying goes. But are the victors spoiling the system? That question comes to mind when you look at what is going on right now at the St. Louis Election Board. It's no secret that St. Louis hasn't had a strong Republican Party in 40 years. This is a very Democratic city. If you don't believe me, ask yourself: who was Aloysius P. Kaufmann? He was the city's last Republican mayor, and you've got to be at least		
Best Of Luck To You, Mr. Mayor, Gregory Freeman, 798 words, :	Tue., 4/20/1993	An Open Letter to Freeman Bosley Jr.: GOOD MORNING and welcome to your first day as mayor of St. Louis. You managed to beat all conventional wisdom and a bevy of challengers in two elections to get to this point. It must be a very heady experience to be the center of everyone's attention, the focus of national news articles and programs, the recipient of telephone calls from President Bill Clinton and the person every reporter in town wants to interview these days. After all		
Justice Has Now Been Served, Gregory Freeman, 737 words, :	Sun., 4/18/1993	THE NIGHTMARE that was known as the Rodney King case is over and justice, at long last, has been served. The verdicts of guilty against Sgt. Stacey Koon, the supervisor at the beating scene, and Officer Laurence Powell, who delivered the most baton blows on the videotape, restore faith in the criminal justice system that was lost last year when the police were acquitted of all charges. Koon and Powell face up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to \$250,000. Their careers are over.		

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'60s Idealism Can Still Inspire, Gregory Freeman, 757 words, :	Sun., 4/18/1993	THE 1960s were filled with hope. Society was beginning to change in regard to race relations. The political system started to open up as we saw the beginning of the end of anti-democratic boss rule, and the nation was starting to live up to its ideals. The "one man, one vote" decision was followed by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the equal opportunity programs of the Great Society. Solving one set of problems did not end all of the		
'Mr. Natural' Gives Area Lift, Gregory Freeman, 791 words, :	Fri., 4/16/1993	HIS NAME is John Moore, but you can call him Mr. Natural St. Louis. That's because Moore recently won the title in a bodybuilding championship. The word "natural" is important, and is part of a growing trend of "natural" bodybuilding championships. The word means that the contestants use no drugs and no steroids - their bodies are muscular without chemical enhancements. That's especially important to Moore. At 26, he feels strongly about the dangers of		
Rodney King Would Hate Riots, Gregory Freeman, 719 words, book: harmony	Tue., 4/13/1993	WHEN THE VERDICT came down a year ago acquitting the four police officers who had been charged in the beating of Rodney King, I wrote that I understood the reactions of those who rioted because they were outraged at what had happened. Many people - especially Los Angeles' poor - had put their faith in the justice system. They, as we, had all seen King on videotape beaten beyond belief. There could be no verdict other than guilty, many had assumed. The system will work and justice		
Bosley Targets Neighborhoods For A Change, Gregory Freeman, 768 words, :	Sun., 4/11/1993	FREEMAN BOSLEY JR. was elected mayor on the promise of "a change at City Hall." Making the kinds of changes he hopes for may be one of his hardest tasks. Bosley campaigned on a platform of changing the city's focus from downtown to its neighborhoods. There is much to be said for that concept. When Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. became mayor in 1981, St. Louis was getting national media attention as a dying city with an old, crumbling downtown. Over his dozen years		
Bosley's Win Should Help Race Relations, Gregory Freeman, 695 words, :	Fri., 4/9/1993	NOW, THINGS have changed. The election of Freeman Bosley Jr. as the city's first black mayor bodes well for the future of race relations in St. Louis. Throughout his campaign, one of Bosley's chief themes was a reduction in racial polarization here. "Just as it takes the black keys and the white keys to play the 'Star-Spangled Banner,' it's going to take black and white residents of St. Louis working together to make St. Louis a better city," Bosley said		
As Economy Sputters, GOP Filibuster On Jobs Creation Reeks Of Hypocrisy, Gregory Freeman, 707 words, :	Tue., 4/6/1993	THE REPUBLICANS in the U.S. Senate are flexing their muscles these days - and a great deal of that flexing is at the expense of us, the American people. The filibuster against the spending part of President Bill Clinton's economic program - the job creation part - could not have come at a worse time. With an economy that seems to be sputtering along, an unemployment rate for March stuck at 7 percent and a net loss of 22,000 jobs, Senate Republicans seem to be getting some sort of		
Blacks Can Find Source Of Pride In U.S. History, Gregory Freeman, 791 words, :	Sun., 4/4/1993	WHERE DO WE come from? It's a question that tugs at most of us from time to time. Some of us are fortunate in that we have researched our family tree or our family has kept excellent records through the years. But for others of us, we have just a vague notion of our heritage. We have Irish names or German or Greek or whatever, and we know of stories that have been passed down along generations. For African-Americans, well, some of us have names that our ancestors took for		
Group Wants A New Vashon, Gregory Freeman, 687 words, :	Fri., 4/2/1993	A NEW HIGH school for St. Louis? That's what members of a high school alumni group in the city are hoping for. Members of the Vashon High School Alumni organization are pushing for the demolition of the school that now stands and for building a new Vashon on its site. The idea's not far-fetched. In fact, the St. Louis School Board already has its share of the money - \$10 million - for the project. It was included in a bond issue approved by city voters a couple of years		
Teens Need To Learn About Consequences Of Single Parenthood, Gregory Freeman, 786 words, :	Tue., 3/30/1993	THERE'S NO QUESTION that poverty affects a significant number of African-Americans. But just as evident, there can be no question that teen-age pregnancies and female-headed households are serious problems in black communities as well. Make no mistake about it - teen-age pregnancies and female-headed households are a major factor, not only in creating poverty but in continuing its nasty cycles. That's the case in all populations, but the problem's more pronounced		
African-Americans Want What All People Want From Life, Gregory Freeman, 737 words, :	Sun., 3/21/1993	HOW MANY TIMES have I heard the question over my nearly 37 years on this Earth? At times, the question's been addressed to me. Often it's been asked of black civil rights leaders and politicians. At still other times, it's been more rhetorical, not asked of anyone in particular. The question itself is insulting, and those who ask it rarely seem to be aware of that. It's absurd, in fact, that anyone would even ask it at all. I'm tired of being asked it,		
10-Year-Old Girl Has Singing Voice That Is Mature Beyond Her Years, Gregory Freeman, 687 words, :	Fri., 3/19/1993	WHEN I WAS about 12 years old, I used to sing around the house for fun. Like most parents, I suspect, my mother thought that her only son had real talent, and was fond of asking me to sing "The Lord's Prayer" when adults came around. She once took me to sing for a woman named Martha Cromwell. She was the grandmother of famed singer Donny Hathaway, and had been one of the first to recognize his talent and to help him start his career. The late Hathaway, if you		
Aiding Homeless Is Rewarding For Volunteer, Gregory Freeman, 770 words, :	Tue., 3/16/1993	MICHAEL BUCKNER brings light to the dark places of St. Louis several nights a week. Distributing blankets, clothing and food to homeless people who are not living in shelters, Buckner knows much more about them than those who assume that they are all lazy bums or mentally disturbed. And he realizes that shelters are not always the answer for them. "People sometimes forget that homeless people have choices, like anyone else," Buckner said. "It may just be which		
Good Neighbor Does Good Work, Gregory Freeman, 826 words, :	Sun., 3/14/1993	THE THREE-STORY edifice looks like any other building in the city's Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. Several small businesses occupy part of the ground floor of the building, at Pershing and DeBaliviere avenues, and the top two floors look like apartments, at least from the outside. But that's where the similarity between this building and the many others in this neighborhood end. This building is owned by Archway Communities Inc., an organization designed to help		
Amid Violence, Family Keeps Its Standards, Gregory Freeman, 718 words, :	Fri., 3/12/1993	TIFFANY SHARP'S ROOM looks like that of a typical 16-year-old. On her pink walls are pictures from fan magazines of teen-age actors and singers. Over in a corner is a shelf, covered with stuffed animals. Her bedroom windows are dressed up with lace curtains. But when the lights go out and Tiffany goes to bed, she sometimes wonders whether she will wake up the next day. Tiffany goes to sleep to the chorus of gunshots most nights. She puts her head under the blanket and		
His First Game Of Hockey, Or, Who's On Ice?, Gregory Freeman, 718 words, :	Tue., 3/9/1993	OK, I'VE GOT TO ADMIT it: I'm not much of a sports fan. When I was a kid, I hated it when my father insisted that I sit in front of the television and watch football or basketball. I wasn't really interested. There is one exception: I like baseball. Especially Cardinals baseball. Ozzie Smith's my favorite player, and I've been watching the Cardinals ever since I can remember. But if it's not the Cardinals, I'm not watching it. Until		

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Mixing Politics And Marshals, Gregory Freeman, 844 words, :	Sun., 3/7/1993	WILLIE GREASON JR. would like to see politics not get in the way of a smooth operation. Greason, 42, is U.S. marshal for Missouri's eastern judicial district, the eastern half of Missouri. He's held that job for two years, after being selected by a nonpartisan panel. But, thanks to Bill Clinton, Greason may be about to lose his position as U.S. marshal. Some background is helpful here. There are 95 judicial districts across the country. The position of U.S. marshal		
Bosley Backers Need To Face Fact That Change Will Take Some Time, Gregory Freeman, 819 words, :	Fri., 3/5/1993	THE ENTHUSIASM was there at the beginning and never waned. The crowd of supporters arrived early at Boilermakers Hall, the scene of Freeman Bosley Jr.'s soon-to-be victory party. And they were there in full force. Black people. White people. Professional people. Grass-roots people. Corporate types. Street types. Straight people. Gay people. The tension - and what politicians like to call "cautious optimism" - was in the air early on. The volunteers and supporters		
Do U.S. Blacks Feel A Duality? It's Complicated, Gregory Freeman, 763 words, :	Tue., 3/2/1993	"After the Egyptian and Indian, the Greek and Roman, the Teuton and Mongolian, the Negro is a sort of seventh son, born with a veil, and gifted with second-sight in this American world - a world which yields him no true self-consciousness, but only lets him see himself through the revelation of the other world. It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a		
Jesse Jackson And The NAACP, Gregory Freeman, 849 words, :	Sun., 2/28/1993	JESSE JACKSON as executive director of the NAACP? It's difficult to imagine. Jackson comes with an armload of negatives. The question to the NAACP's board of directors is whether his positives could somehow outweigh those negatives. The issue has arisen because New York activist and former NAACP board member Percy Sutton has suggested that Jackson apply for the soon-to-be-vacated post. Benjamin Hooks, who has been executive director for 15 years, will retire		
4 Candidates For Mayor And Their Quirks, Gregory Freeman, 757 words, :	Fri., 2/26/1993	I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY to question the Democratic candidates for mayor in four debates this month, as well as to see some of them individually on the campaign trail. Each candidate has his own style and phrases, from St. Louis Circuit Clerk Freeman Bosley Jr.'s comments about "the black and the white keys to play the Star Spangled Banner," when asked about racial polarization, to Aldermanic President Thomas Villa's self-effacing mannerisms; from former alderman		
Black History Deserves More Than a Month, Gregory Freeman, 769 words, book: harmony	Tue., 2/23/1993	I'M EAGERLY awaiting the day when there is no longer a Black History Month. That's right. I'd like to see the special celebration done away with. That's because I'm looking forward to a time when we no longer need a special month to study black history. The whole idea of Black History Month - which actually began as Negro History Week - was developed in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson. He developed the concept and promoted the week because at that time,		
Overlooking Wrongful Acts, Gregory Freeman, 811 words, :	Sun., 2/21/1993	WHAT IS IT in the psyche of some African-Americans that makes us sometimes all too unwilling to punish those who are deserving of it? The question came to mind the other day as I was talking to a friend about the Texas Southern University fiasco. He was concerned about an earlier conversation he had held with a group of blacks. You've surely heard of the Texas Southern case. The Houston-based university's marching band turned a shopping trip into a shoplifting spree in		
Gay Rights Surge To Forefront, Gregory Freeman, 766 words, :	Fri., 2/19/1993	A GREAT DEAL of attention was paid two years ago to civil rights, when President George Bush insisted that he would not sign the civil rights bill because he said it was a quota bill and then signed it after all, claiming that it had somehow changed. Mandy Carter thinks this year's hot issue will involve human rights, particularly those of lesbians and gays. Carter, one of the nation's leading lesbian activists, is a public policy advocate with the Washington-based Human		
Facing Up To New Face Of U.S., Gregory Freeman, 725 words, :	Tue., 2/16/1993	I'VE GOT A strong feeling that many people are bewildered by the increasing challenges of a multicultural society. The feeling comes from news events, from letters that I receive from readers and from comments that I hear from people. Consider: Controversy continues to rage in Detroit after the school district decided last year to open the virtually all-black Malcolm X Academy, using a closed school building in the virtually all-white, working-class neighborhood of		
Time To Bury The Civil War In Georgia, Gregory Freeman, 731 words, :	Sun., 2/14/1993	NEARLY A YEAR ago, I wrote a column suggesting that the state of Georgia should change its state flag. Now the issue's coming to a head. Since I last wrote on this topic, Georgia Gov. Zell Miller has proposed to rid the Georgia state flag of its Confederate battle symbol. He's run into strong opposition. The issue has been bubbling for some time, as various people, black and white, have called for a new design for the flag, a symbol both of honor and hatred inspired by		
Handguns Kill Their Owners, Gregory Freeman, 828 words, :	Fri., 2/12/1993	CAN ANYTHING REALLY justify most Missourians carrying concealed weapons? Sen. Steve Danner of Kirksville seems to think so. Danner has introduced legislation in the Missouri Senate that would allow people to carry handguns and other weapons, as long as they're concealed. Just who is this bill supposed to be protecting, anyway? Surely not the people of Kirksville. I've been to Kirksville. It's a nice, quiet community where people often leave their cars		
Black History On Voice Mail, Gregory Freeman, 787 words, :	Tue., 2/9/1993	BLACK HISTORY meets the 21st century! That's what came to mind after I got a computer message from our newsroom clerk, Brian Nehring. "Someone called and left me a number to call for black history," his message read. "It's very informative." I dialed the number: 522-4636. "Thank you for calling KXOK, NAACP Region Four, United Negro College Fund Black History Month hot line, sponsored by Anheuser-Busch," said a recorded male voice at		
Marge Schott Got Just What She Deserves, Gregory Freeman, 730 words, :	Sun., 2/7/1993	BASEBALL'S RULING executive council acted wisely in its decision to banish Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott for one year, saying that racial and ethnic slurs will not be tolerated. Their decision had nothing to do with "political correctness," as critics of the decision claim, and everything to do with making it clear that the use of slurs is wrong, period. Some critics say that Schott should be able to say whatever she wants to say in private, and few would disagree		
No Farewell For Bugel 3, Gregory Freeman, 782 words, :	Fri., 2/5/1993	PROBABLY WITHOUT intending to do so, three members of the St. Louis School Board have done the area a favor by announcing that they will not seek re-election this April. The three - Thomas Bugel, Shirley Kiel and Louis Fister - are all members of a so-called white rights organization called the Metro South Citizens Council. The council has a background that can be called, well, questionable at best. Before 1987, the most contact that the group had with most South St. Louisans was through		
Education Is Key To Success Of Any Free Immunization Program, Gregory Freeman, 776 words, :	Tue., 2/2/1993	EBBY KNEBEL is glad to hear that President Bill Clinton is considering a plan that would make sure that all children are properly vaccinated. But she hopes he also will consider an education campaign to go with it. Under the proposal, the federal government and the states would buy up all childhood vaccines, then distribute them free to public clinics and private doctors' offices. Knebel calls that a generally positive move for health care. Knebel is director of nursing for		

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Gay Ex-Soldier Offers His Side Of The Story, Gregory Freeman, 794 words, :	Sun., 1/31/1993	GEORGE SMITH wants to know what all the uproar is about. Smith just got out of the Army after a dozen years. Like most of his colleagues, he's especially proud that he served in the Persian Gulf War. Unlike most of his colleagues, Smith is gay. Smith called me last week to talk about the ongoing controversy about gays in the military. George Smith isn't his real name. He asked me not to use his real name because of his parents. They know that he's gay, he said, but		
Abuse Leaves Psychic 'Holes', Gregory Freeman, 746 words, :	Fri., 1/29/1993	CAN IT BE TRUE that almost all violent criminals were abused in childhood? Can homelessness often be traced back to abuse - not only physical but emotional and verbal as well? Does verbal or emotional abuse cause more damage than physical abuse? You might be likely to say "no" to each of those questions. Not Geri Redden. Redden is the director of the Educational Center on Family Violence, and she is concerned about the relationship between abuse as a child and		
Marshall: At Head Of The Class, Gregory Freeman, 816 words, :	Tue., 1/26/1993	I CAN STILL remember the wall in my seventh-grade classroom at Yeatman School. Our teacher, Dwanna Darden, thought it was important for us to know black history. All around the room, above the blackboards, above the bulletin boards plastered with signs about alarms for air raids, she had placed pictures of black Americans who had made a difference. And there, alongside the pictures of Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman and W.E.B. DuBois, was the photograph of a black		
Racial Incident Elicits Response From Community, Gregory Freeman, 751 words, :	Sun., 1/24/1993	IT'S HARD not to feel good about St. Louisans after the response that I've received to a column that ran nine days ago. The column told about Gregg L. McIntosh, a black man living in southwest St. Louis whose home was set ablaze. The fire was apparently started by whites who were disturbed by McIntosh's color. A racial slur was painted in red on the house. McIntosh lost much of what he owned in the fire, including photographs that his late mother had taken and pictures		
Clinton Must Go Beyond Symbolism To Prove He Believes In Diversity, Gregory Freeman, 793 words, :	Fri., 1/22/1993	PRESIDENT Bill Clinton went a long way during his inauguration activities this week to send a message that this is an administration that cares about diversity. The symbolism was unmistakable: From the many African-American performers who participated in the inaugural balls and receptions to Clinton's decision to hold his morning prayer service before his swearing-in ceremony at the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church (the first president ever to hold that service at a		
Another Kind Of Candidate, Gregory Freeman, 800 words, :	Tue., 1/19/1993	HIS NAME IS Bill Haas. And he's one of the most unusual candidates I've ever met. Haas is running for mayor as a Democrat. Or at least he was Monday. He says he plans to withdraw today from the Democratic primary. Does that mean he won't be running for mayor? Not at all. Right now, he's trying to gather 1,500 signatures to get his name on the April 6 ballot so that he can run as an independent. Last year, he announced that he would seek the Democratic		
Honoring Dr. King: A Proposal, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Sun., 1/17/1993	IN THE mid-1980s, when the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became a holiday, the holiday's advocates knew what they didn't want the birthday celebration to become. Their greatest fear was that the holiday would become commercialized. They were worried that the holiday would be exploited. They feared such things as department stores holding Martin Luther King Day sales or television ads featuring companies that announce that while their products may not be		
Burned Out, Home Defaced, Man Won't Pass Along 'Baton Of Hatred', Gregory Freeman, 724 words, :	Fri., 1/15/1993	GREGG L. MCINTOSH is a remarkable man. McIntosh's home was torched last week, presumably by someone who didn't approve of the color of his skin. McIntosh is black; he lives in a largely white neighborhood in southwest St. Louis, right at Maplewood. When McIntosh arrived home last Thursday morning, he found a crowd standing around the house and lots of smoldering embers. While he had been away, someone had set fire to his home. That would have been enough for most		
The Readers As Writers, Gregory Freeman, 723 words, :	Tue., 1/12/1993	IT'S TIME TO LET you, the readers, do the work. Today's column comes strictly from some of the letters that I've received from you, gentle readers. I've condensed some of them. Dear Freeman (I'm not going to give you a Mister because I don't think you deserve it): You make me sick. I'm so tired of reading about how racist I am. I am racist, but it's because of colored people. I'm sick of what you people have done to this		
Public Policy, Private Schools And Chelsea, Gregory Freeman, 787 words, :	Sun., 1/10/1993	AT LAST, the long wait is over. The Clintons have made their decision about where soon-to-be First Daughter Chelsea will attend school. The winner is the private Sidwell Friends School in Washington. After touring the school, the Clintons felt that it would be the best place for their daughter. But for some odd reason, some critics have decided to jump on Bill Clinton, suggesting that he is a hypocrite because he campaigned as an advocate of public education. In		
Dunham Asks To Meet With Clinton, Hoping To Change Attitude On Haiti, Gregory Freeman, 711 words, :	Fri., 1/8/1993	NEARLY a year ago, former dancer and choreographer Katherine Dunham decided that she had to do something. Thousands of Haitians had fled their homeland since Sept. 30, 1991, when Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was toppled in a military coup. They had fled political terrorism, caused in part by the U.S. government's history of supporting Haitian dictatorships. Many Haitians who had stayed behind had been terrorized, and 1,500 people had been murdered. Meanwhile, the		
'This Killing Has Got To Stop', Gregory Freeman, 737 words, :	Tue., 1/5/1993	DIANA DAVIS has yet to get over the tragedy - and she supposes that she never will. Her teen-age brother was killed last year as a gang of youths sought to steal his Los Angeles Raiders jacket. Davis wiped away the tears on New Year's Eve as she told me about her younger brother. "I think it's worse at this time of year," she said. "I just keep thinking about him and asking myself why this had to happen and what could I have done to prevent it."		
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Honor For Movie Revives Old Battle, Gregory Freeman, 841 words, :	Tue., 12/29/1992	WHEN FILMMAKER D.W. Griffith released his film "The Birth of a Nation" in 1915, the racist epic was widely hailed in many white circles. The movie, based on Thomas Dixon's book, "The Clansman," portrayed the Ku Klux Klan as the savior of the South during the Reconstruction period after the Civil War. When the film came out, the then-young National Association for the Advancement of Colored People put together an effective black boycott of the film, though it		
The Best Gift Never Changes, Gregory Freeman, 680 words, :	Fri., 12/25/1992	LIKE I SUPPOSE it is with many people, Christmas always takes me back to a simpler era, when my only concern was which toys Santa Claus would bring. Thanks to my parents, I had a great childhood. I was happy, secure and comfortable in the arms of my mother and father. But there was that situation with Mister Machine. Few people probably remember Mister Machine. It was a toy robot that walked when you wound the key in its back. I still remember the song that advertised it:		
It's A Slippery Slope From Slang To Slur, Gregory Freeman, 789 words, :	Tue., 12/22/1992	AFTER TODAY, don't look for "bubba" when reading this column. I used that word in a recent column about President-elect Bill Clinton in which I referred to the votes of white Southern, blue-collar males as the "bubba vote." The word's hardly original. In fact, "bubba" ran in the Post-Dispatch 55 times this year alone. But when I used it in the column, I received several calls protesting my use of the word. One caller, who said he was a		

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Even The End Is A Busy Time For Schoemehl, Gregory Freeman, 774 words, :	Sun., 12/20/1992	VINCE SCHOEMEHL may be a lame duck mayor, but he's apparently not going quietly in the night. Schoemehl, who announced nearly two months ago that he wouldn't seek a fourth term as mayor, says he's as busy as he's ever been. I sat down with him in his oversized City Hall office last week, with the idea of writing a column about how life was a lot less busy for Schoemehl these days as he watched things slow down a bit. But my presumption was wrong.		
These Mentors Are Also Friends, Gregory Freeman, 746 words, :	Fri., 12/18/1992	ASK TROY MILES about mentoring, and the expression on his broad face becomes passionate. "It's so important," "it makes a difference," "it goes a long way" are some of the comments that he makes. Miles, himself a mentor as well as project director of the Friend-to-Friend Mentoring Program, sees the value in adults working with young people. And, he says, it makes a tremendous difference in his program, designed for young people between the		
No More Talk; It's Time For Some Walking, Gregory Freeman, 770 words, :	Tue., 12/15/1992	IF YOU WANT credibility, you've got to walk your talk. That's a rule of thumb that anyone should follow. People won't believe you if you give lots of lip service and very little follow through. For a while, I was beginning to wonder if we were only getting talk from President-elect Bill Clinton. He's finally named a black to his Cabinet, selecting Democratic Party chairman Ronald H. Brown as commerce secretary. Frankly, it seemed an eternity in coming.		
Christmas Past: A Tale About Some Grinches, Gregory Freeman, 810 words, :	Sun., 12/13/1992	SOMETIMES THINGS happen that remind you of events long past. Take Christie Dease. Dease, you'll recall, is the woman from South Carolina who was demoted after two stints as Santa Claus because she is a woman. The company that hired her is Santa Plus, a company based in St. Peters that provides Santas to many different stores. Dease was originally hired to be a Santa's helper, the person who takes the pictures of the youngsters who sit on Santa's lap. But the		
Race And The Region's Future, Gregory Freeman, 797 words, :	Fri., 12/11/1992	WHAT HAPPENS WHEN the minority becomes the majority? It's a question that America will find itself asking more and more over the next several decades. So says the U.S. Census Bureau, which has just released predictions that groups now considered to be minorities - blacks, Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans - will make up nearly half of the nation's population by the year 2050. The bureau predicts that by then, the nation's white population will be 53 percent,		
U.S. Forces Serve Proudly In Somalia, Gregory Freeman, 771 words, :	Tue., 12/8/1992	IT'S GOT TO get to you. When you turn on your television set and look at the Somalis - adults as thin as reeds, eyes bulging, knobby knees connected to bony legs, not to mention the emaciated children with heads that look too big to be carried on their tiny bodies - you can't help but feel a pretty hard tug at your heartstrings. It's pretty difficult to ignore that sort of misery and suffering night after night. Somalia is far away, but it's been brought home to us		
Homeless Find Help In Scouts, Gregory Freeman, 744 words, :	Sun., 12/6/1992	LITTLE DARRIANA looks up and tells the group that she knows a Chinese song. "Sing it!" insist the other girls in this small room. "Yes, why don't you sing it?" says Rhayma Blake, the leader of this small Girl Scout group. The shy Darriana, her eyes twinkling like stars, begins crooning the little tune as the other girls try to join in with her. The song isn't a very long one, but it keeps the attention of the 11 other girls in the room, on the		
Reds Owner Should Get Out Of Baseball, Gregory Freeman, 734 words, :	Fri., 12/4/1992	YOU'VE GOT to wonder whether Marge Schott would feel more comfortable in Moelln, Germany, than in Cincinnati, Ohio. In Moelln, as in many other parts of Germany these days, German skinheads are physically beating foreigners and apparently see nothing wrong with their actions. In Cleveland, Marge Schott is verbally beating blacks, Jews and Japanese, apparently seeing nothing wrong with her words. If you've somehow missed the news, Schott is the owner of the Cincinnati		
Candidates For Mayor Need Lots Of Drive, Gregory Freeman, 823 words, :	Tue., 12/1/1992	WITH THE RACE for mayor now about to go full throttle, St. Louis voters have about three months to closely scrutinize the candidates. And voters should think along the lines of consumers who are about to buy a car. There are some car dealers out there who would be happy if we would buy what they're offering because they have a catchy jingle, a witty slogan or promise to give us something free in return for our purchase. But that doesn't guarantee that the motor will		
Guardian Angels Played On Fears To Gain Fame, Gregory Freeman, 803 words, :	Sun., 11/29/1992	REMEMBER Curtis Sliwa? He's the head of the New York-based anti-crime group known as the Guardian Angels. He made a big splash here a decade ago when he brought the Guardian Angels to "clean up crime in St. Louis." Well, now it turns out that Sliwa, having been shot a few months ago, has decided to confess his sins. And among those, it seems, were lots of hype and lots of whoppers. The hype we knew about. The news about Sliwa coming to St. Louis arrived here		
Guns In School: Deadly Issue, Gregory Freeman, 727 words, :	Fri., 11/27/1992	KIDS AND GUNS. Two nouns that should never come together are colliding more and more these days. And the results are tragic. A recently released report by the Senate Judiciary Committee notes that the number of guns confiscated from schoolchildren nationwide has risen sharply over the past four years. Of 32 large cities surveyed by the panel, Indianapolis led the nation with a 322 percent increase from 1989 to 1992, followed by a 213 percent rise in St. Paul, Minn. Two cities		
Crying Wolf About Racism, Gregory Freeman, 825 words, :	Tue., 11/24/1992	SOMETIMES A BANANA is just a banana. Ask Tim Person. His son, Timothy Person III, 13, was waiting for a school bus Friday morning near Woodward School, 725 Bellerive, when three youths, about 17 or 18, approached and made a threat. The three youngsters went around the block and returned with a metal pipe. The three approached Timothy, said to him, "What's up, cuz?" and hit him in the head with the pipe. When he was down, they kicked him in the head. Timothy is		
New Standard For Schools: Boon Or Bust?, Gregory Freeman, 802 words, :	Fri., 11/20/1992	IF YOU WANT to get state Rep. Charles Quincy Troupe riled up, talk about school requirements. Troupe, D-St. Louis, is angry with the St. Louis School Board for eliminating a foreign language requirement last summer and lowering the number of credits needed for graduation. The number was dropped last semester to 22 from 24. Troupe believes the problems that young people face today probably require them to study more, not less. "I'm still hoping that they'll		
'X'-Ploitation Is Overwhelming Message Of Man, Gregory Freeman, 739 words, :	Tue., 11/17/1992	I WONDER how many of those fashion-conscious folks who are in a mad rush for others to see them in their "X" caps, "X" T-shirts and other clothing with the letter on it plan to see Spike Lee's new movie on Malcolm X, which opens Wednesday. I strongly suspect that many of the people wearing the letter on their clothing really have no idea what Malcolm X was all about. Malcolm has been stereotyped in a couple of different ways since his assassination in		
Our Divisions Must Be Faced, Gregory Freeman, 804 words, :	Sun., 11/15/1992	NOT TOO LONG ago I had a brief conversation with a young black professional woman who had recently moved to St. Louis from the East Coast. Being a native of this city, I was curious about her perceptions of St. Louis. "I think it's a very beautiful city, and there's lots to do," she said, as my chest filled with pride. Then she added: "I also think it's very racist." My chest deflated somewhat, realizing		
Widening Highway 40: A Dissent, Gregory Freeman, 767 words, :	Fri., 11/13/1992	IF YOU WANT TO SEE Mollie Walters' blood boil, mention the proposed expansion of Highway 40. Walters lives on Oakland Avenue in the Hi-Pointe neighborhood, known to some as Dogtown. Her home faces the highway and was directly across the street from Forest Park before Highway 40 was built. Walters, like many in this neighborhood, lives in a solid, middle-class home. The houses here, many of them two-story dwellings, are well-kept. For-sale signs here rarely go up, and when		

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Mother's Grief For Slain Son Will Not Cease, Gregory Freeman, 774 words, :	Tue., 11/10/1992	A mother's heard breaks today. The death of Gary Cannamore earlier this year still haunts Deborah Jones. In a metropolis like this one, murders happen daily, and many of them - like Cannamore's - receive only scant attention. When Cannamore died, only a few paragraphs were written in this newspaper: "A teen-ager who was hit with a wrench last week at a suspected drug house in Berkeley has died at Christian Hospital Northeast, authorities said		
'92 Elections Appear To Plug Generation Gap, Gregory Freeman, 795 words, :	Sun., 11/8/1992	"Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans - born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage, and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world." - John F. Kennedy, in his		
The Diversification Of Congress, Gregory Freeman, 697 words, :	Fri., 11/6/1992	AMONG OTHER THINGS, voters struck a blow for diversity on Tuesday. In addition to electing Carol Moseley Braun the nation's first black woman senator and Ben Nighthorse Campbell as the country's only Native American senator, voters increased the number of blacks, Hispanics, Asian-Americans, Native Americans and women in the House. The result is that women and minorities will hold considerably more power within the Democratic leadership in the House. But they could		
Why Voting Is An Obligation, Gregory Freeman, 799 words, :	Tue., 11/3/1992	Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them. . . . The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress. Frederick Douglass ON AUG. 18, 1974, I did something that, to me, was akin to reaching manhood: I registered to vote. Before I was of voting age, I had been a volunteer for various candidates. As a kid, I would sometimes be paid by the ward		
Weird Year In Politics, Gregory Freeman, 828 words, :	Sun., 11/1/1992	SO YOU THOUGHT this was a strange political year nationally? Take a look at what's happening in Missouri. In the race for Missouri attorney general, for example, R.D. Barron, the president of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.'s Missouri division, has written a letter to current and retired employees, asking them to support Republican candidate David Steelman. That's because Steelman's Democratic opponent, state Sen. Jay Nixon, is responsible for the death		
Hizzoner Won't Be Forgotten, Gregory Freeman, 803 words, :	Fri., 10/30/1992	SOURCE: By Gregory Freeman FOR NEARLY 12 years, he's been Mr. Mayor, Hizzoner, Mayor Vince. And now, after more than a decade of battling, Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. is not seeking re-election, stunning news to the city's political world. Schoemehl's dominance of the political landscape here is legendary. Schoemehl took a "weak mayor" system by the tail and made it work for him. As a former alderman, his legislative skills and		
County's Juvenile Court Would Rather Teach A Lesson Than Punish, Gregory Freeman, 775 words, :	Tue., 10/27/1992	IT'S NOT LIKE the old days. That's what Judge Martin Schiff and Marie Dargan will tell you if you ask them about what they've seen over the years. Schiff is a St. Louis County juvenile court judge. Dargan is the court's chief deputy juvenile officer. Both say the times are changing, and definitely for the worse. "We're seeing a lot more violence than we used to," Dargan said in an interview. "We're seeing		
Black Aviation History Mural At Lambert Is Too Important To Lose, Gregory Freeman, 738 words, :	Sun., 10/25/1992	SPENCER TAYLOR says he faces a serious dilemma. Taylor, the artist who painted the 51-foot mural "Black Americans in Flight" at Lambert Field, is still owed a considerable amount of money on the project. And it doesn't look as though the money will ever come in. Taylor is a nationally renowned artist whose paintings are in museums and private collections all over the country. He says that unless something major happens, he will likely remove the mural from		
Trotter, Giving Up NAACP Roles, Calls For Blacks In Boardrooms, Gregory Freeman, 835 words, :	Fri., 10/23/1992	FOR YEARS, Gentry W. Trotter has worked with the NAACP - locally and nationally - in a variety of leadership roles. Now, Trotter has decided to give up all of those positions. Meanwhile, he offers a few words for many in corporate America: Wake up and smell the coffee. Somewhere along the line, you've probably come across Trotter. He is president and chief executive officer of Multimedia Services & Cos. Inc., a successful marketing communications firm. But in previous		
Prison Visit Opens Youth's Eyes, Gregory Freeman, 850 words, :	Tue., 10/20/1992	Q: Where will you be 10 years from now? A: I hope I'll be alive. THE QUESTION was put to a 15-year-old, and the response was one you wouldn't expect to hear from a young man with his entire life ahead of him. But, unless things change, that youngster's life may not be a long one. The life he's leading now, which includes selling cocaine, may be gone tomorrow. Reaching Out Inc., a group of volunteers and organizations concerned with problems faced by		
The Truth Is, Term Limits Are A Cop-out, Gregory Freeman, 797 words, :	Sun., 10/18/1992	IF MOST of the polls I've seen are accurate, voters in Missouri will overwhelmingly approve a term-limitation measure on the Nov. 3 ballot. And that will be a shame. Why? Those who back term limits say that setting them will level the playing field and make it easier for newcomers to take on incumbents, who generally have money and staffs to help them get re-elected. But in fact, term limitations are little more than a cop-out. All of us know of		
Are Abuse, Lies 'What It Takes?', Gregory Freeman, 880 words, :	Fri., 10/16/1992	IS THE RE-ELECTION campaign of President George Bush guilty of dirty tricks? The question arises in light of recent developments. The most prominent of them came earlier this week by way of the Washington Post. The newspaper reported that an assistant secretary of state had instructed U.S. embassies in Britain and Norway to search their files for any information on Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton's years as a graduate student in England. Officials who		
Parent Tackles Issue Of Race, Gregory Freeman, 776 words, :	Tue., 10/13/1992	AT LAST, some good news. While America these days may seem to be a nation filled with racial tension, a new poll says that youngsters not only believe in, but welcome, racial diversity. The Louis Harris survey says 73 percent of children ages 10 to 14 already have a friend of another race. It also says 67 percent of them - two-thirds - would welcome a person of another race as a next-door neighbor. Nearly 80 percent of the children surveyed would like to go to school with someone		
The Way You Did The Things You Did, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Sun., 10/11/1992	HIS WAS the voice of my youth. As I grew up, the high-pitched voice of Eddie Kendricks was a constant. That's why his death last week of lung cancer at the age of 52, after nearly a lifetime of smoking, was particularly distressing for me. I can mark certain times of my growing up by listening to Kendricks' music. As a child, I listened to Kendricks' captivating tenor voice as he grooved with the Temptations on "The Way You Do The Things		
Black MBAs Are Tackling Urban Woes, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Fri., 10/9/1992	HOW MANY PEOPLE do you know who sit around and complain about problems but do nothing about them? Chances are, you know plenty. Our society is filled with armchair quarterbacks - you know, the folks who sit back and complain about everything in the world, yet never vote, never get involved, never do anything to resolve the problems. But no one can count members of the National Black MBA Association among those people. While people are still debating the pros and cons of the		
Club Gives Girls A New Attitude, Gregory Freeman, 866 words, :	Tue., 10/6/1992	WHEN THOUGHTS turn to drugs, gangs and violence, few people think of girls. Instead, they visualize troubled boys and young men as the chief troublemakers. Sherry Shepard-Conner knows that is not true. In her year and a half as director of the Community Youth Initiative Program in the Murphy-Blair housing complex, she has seen girls just as tough as any boy she has ever encountered. Murphy-Blair is just north of downtown. "When I started here, I ran across girls who		

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Ross Perot Running Only For Himself, Gregory Freeman, 826 words, :	Sun., 10/4/1992	WELL, surprise, surprise, surprise. Ross Perot has announced that he's a candidate for president. Is there anyone who seriously doubted, through all of the nonsense, that Perot would be letting his "unpaid" volunteers decide whether he would become a candidate? Is there anyone who really thought that he would do anything else? Perot set up an 800 number for people to call if they thought that he should run. But some callers who wanted to tell him		
Volunteers Man School Project, Gregory Freeman, 785 words, :	Fri., 10/2/1992	A COUPLE of years ago, I wrote a column about the theories of Spencer H. Holland, director of the Center for Educating African-American Males, then at Morgan State University in Baltimore. Holland helped establish in Washington a program called Project 2000. Through it, black men volunteer to serve as role models and work with youngsters from first grade on up. They are in classes on a regular basis and work with children who need the help most, usually black boys. The idea		
Making Youths Entrepreneurs, Gregory Freeman, 783 words, :	Tue., 9/29/1992	ASK RONALD THOMPSON about role models that he had when he was growing up, and he'll quickly point to his father. "My dad was my role model," Thompson says, proudly. "He owned a chain of dry cleaners." Thompson, who is president of the GR Group, is quick to add that members of his mother's family also were involved in business and had owned their own businesses since before the Revolutionary War. That's especially		
Police Chief Sees Progress In A Year, Gregory Freeman, 953 words, :	Sun., 9/27/1992	CLARENCE HARMON has learned a lot in the last year. Harmon was named the city's police chief a little more than a year ago in the midst of a soaring homicide rate and skepticism about what the police department could do about it. The homicide rate today is down from a year ago, although Harmon doesn't take credit for it. "Police universally get the credit when the homicide rate is down and scratch our heads when it's up," he said. Harmon		
Perot's Big Ego Won't Let Him Leave The Race, Gregory Freeman, words, :	Fri., 9/25/1992	WILL SOMEONE please tell Ross Perot to go away? Perot, a little man with a big ego, is busy these days telling television talk show hosts that he might re-enter the race for president, how his many volunteers have been urging him to get back in the race, how he now thinks he made a mistake when he got out of the race two months ago. Perot's ego is as large as the state of Texas, and it should be clear to most people by now that if he does run again it will be for ego, and not		
A Modern Tale Of Two Cities, Greg Freeman, 765 words, :	Tue., 9/22/1992	MEMPHIS, Tenn. CHARLES DICKENS never visited here, but had he, he would have concluded that Memphis is a tale of two cities. It's a city where people flock to a club owned by blues great B.B. King on legendary Beale Street. And it's a place where Elvis Presley's home, Graceland, on Elvis Presley Boulevard is one of the most popular attractions. It's a modernistic city where a glistening, glass-and-steel pyramid greets visitors who cross the Mississippi		
Minority Images Lacking In Ads, Gregory Freeman, 793 words, :	Sun., 9/20/1992	WHAT SORT of messages - directly or indirectly - are ad agencies and magazines sending America when it comes to race? The question came to my mind recently as I listened to a student in a class I teach at Webster University. On this particular day, I was showing the students Ebony magazine, one of the highest-circulation black publications in the country. One of the students in the class noticed a phenomenon. Many, if not most of the black models used in advertisements in the		
Art's Statement Is One Of Hope, Gregory Freeman, 847 words, :	Fri., 9/18/1992	WALTER L. MCKINNEY SR. lives no "Ozzie and Harriett" life. Far from sitcom land, McKinney lives in an area in which apartment buildings and houses where people barricade themselves inside with bars on windows and doors are interspersed with nicely kept properties where much energy is spent on gardening, cleaning and fixing up. McKinney comes home from work each day with a certain sense of dread and trepidation. McKinney, who is chairman of his block unit in the		
Rights Leaders Leery Of GOP, Gregory Freeman, 834 words, :	Sun., 9/13/1992	MEMPHIS, Tenn. BARBARA JORDAN has a few words for civil rights activists who criticize Bill Clinton for not saying more on black issues: Cut it out. Jordan, who gave an eloquent speech on the first night of the Democratic National Convention in July, worries that the criticism may hurt Clinton's efforts to become the first Democrat to be elected to the White House since 1976. "It's important for black people to get registered and get to the		
Nuclear Family Can't Rise Children Alone, Gregory Freeman, words, :	Fri., 9/11/1992	KENT AMOS knows a lot more about raising children than most of us. That's because Amos and his wife, Carmen, have opened their Washington home over the years to nearly 100 young people from throughout the District of Columbia. Amos, a former executive for the Xerox Corp., has put his management skills together with his parental knowledge to form the Urban Family Institute, a non-profit organization that assists "disconnected" children and their		
Anti-Gang Ad Hits The Mark, Gregory Freeman, 796 words, :	Sun., 9/6/1992	OWEN L. THOMAS had no idea what kind of response he and the Evanston Human Relations Commission would get when they decided to run the television commercial. The commercial - which has become controversial in some circles - uses an Olympic theme in getting its message across. It first features a skinhead giving a Hitler-like salute while an announcer says: "If they were giving medals for killing black people, this guy would win a bronze." The scene switches to a		
Injecting Race Was Wrong, Greg Freeman, 765 words, :	Fri., 9/4/1992	I SUPPOSE YOUNG black men in St. Louis should breathe a little easier today. The police aren't busy rounding them up because of some comments made by a selfish and insensitive 19-year-old from Webster Groves. Corey Fondaw, who was reported missing by his family last month, was found asleep Tuesday morning beside a road in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park near Gatlinburg, Tenn. Fondaw, a sophomore at Washington University, disappeared Aug. 21 after withdrawing		
'Family Value' Issue Ignores Real Families, Gregory Freeman, 763 words, :	Sun., 8/30/1992	ONE would think that Margaret Aaron's household would epitomize the typical "all-American" family. She and her husband live in a quiet neighborhood in St. Louis County. They have two golden retrievers who romp playfully in the yard all day. They've raised three sons, all of whom have graduated from college and are now on their own. But Aaron is disturbed by the recent talk among politicians about "family values." She thinks		
Line Forms Here For Mayor Race, Gregory Freeman, 832 words, :	Fri., 8/28/1992	A FORMER COLLEAGUE, Les Pearson of the old St. Louis Globe-Democrat, used to write a column in which he often referred to city politics as "Byzantine." The Globe is gone, and Les isn't writing his column anymore, but his description - Byzantine - still fits the city's rough-and-tumble politics. I've been approached at least a half-dozen times since Mayor Vincent Schoemehl lost the Democratic primary for governor earlier this month by people asking		
Bush Still Wrong On Civil Rights, Gregory Freeman, 821 words, :	Sun., 8/23/1992	IF GEORGE BUSH tried to make it all right with most Americans Thursday night, there was little that he could do to ease the concerns of civil rights leaders, who are disturbed by his record on that issue. Despite efforts to boost his sagging ratings, Bush has made no real attempts to appeal to black voters. In his administration, African-Americans have been like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz. While the wizard had a heart, a brain and some courage for the tin woodsman, the scarecrow and the		

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'Soul Patrol' Is Just Big Bro, Gregory Freeman, 769 words, :	Fri., 8/21/1992	IF YOU'RE black, how black are you? If you're black and a lawyer, are you black first or are you a lawyer first? If you're black and don't live in the so-called inner-city, are you a sellout? The questions were among those raised in a recent four-part series by Associated Press writer Sonya Ross. Ross writes about a "Soul Patrol," which she calls "an invisible force that lurks in the minds of many black Americans,		
Bosley Seeks Shift Toward Neighborhoods, Gregory Freeman, 775 words, :	Sun., 8/16/1992	FREEMAN BOSLEY JR. wants to change the city's focus. While St. Louis in recent years has given a great deal of attention to downtown, Bosley wants to refocus its attention - and its money - on neighborhoods. In a recent interview, Bosley - the St. Louis circuit clerk who announced his candidacy for mayor earlier this month - said he was prepared for the challenge of being mayor. And he said that he planned to provide help to many of the city's neighborhoods.		
The LA Riots Revitalized Urban Policy, Gregory Freeman, 758 words, :	Sun., 8/9/1992	MORE THAN 100 days ago, events took place in Los Angeles that would draw national attention to the problems of urban areas. The riots in Los Angeles - certainly the worst in this century in the United States - broke out, causing Los Angelenos in the South Central area of that city to scramble and causing Americans to give more attention to the problems of the cities. The acquittal on April 29 of four white police officers who beat black motorist Rodney King after stopping him for		
Just The Facts On Welfare Recipients, Gregory Freeman, 808 words, :	Fri., 8/7/1992	BEFORE THE NEXT campaign ad hits the air, before the next television station or newspaper does another piece on welfare, it would do many people some good to take a look at some cold, hard facts. It is tiresome to see and hear stereotypes of people on welfare as being black. The stereotypes bombard us constantly through the media. Don't believe me. Check it out yourself. The next time a television station does a story on welfare mothers, look and see who is featured. Nine times		
Casting A Vote Is Exercising Your Freedom, Gregory Freeman, 771 words, :	Sun., 8/2/1992	A SMALL GROUP of people - virtual strangers - is about to make some major decisions for all of us. The group wasn't selected by us. They weren't even elected. But on Tuesday, they're going to make loads of decisions that will affect us, and most of us will have nothing to say about them. That group is made up of the voters who will go to the polls Tuesday and make major decisions, including who the party nominees will be for governor, who will be selected as		
School Dropout Has Learned A Bitter Lesson, Greg Freeman, 771 words, :	Fri., 7/31/1992	I HEARD FROM an old high school friend the other day under less-than-ideal circumstances. I hadn't seen this guy in years and had wondered what he was doing. I found out when I took his phone call. He was homeless. Actually, he had been working but had been laid off two months ago from his furniture-moving job. "I think I've got another job lined up, but it's not going to start until the end of August," he said. He had called me to see if I		
Some Detect Coded Messages In Political Ads, Gregory Freeman, 744 words, :	Sun., 7/26/1992	ARE SOME of the candidates for statewide office using the issue of race to get themselves elected? That's what Rickey Jamerson thinks - and he's not happy about it. Jamerson, who is black, is a Republican. But he says he won't be voting for Bill Webster, who's seeking his party's nomination for governor on Aug. 4. Jamerson contends that Webster - and to a lesser extent, several candidates running for lesser offices - is sending some clear messages in		
Potholes Ahead For Clinton As GOP Gears Up, Gregory Freeman, 715 words, :	Fri., 7/24/1992	DEMOCRATS ARE clearly buoyed by the reception they received this week and last as Bill Clinton and Al Gore toured America by bus. After being greeted by enthusiastic crowds at almost all of its stops - and an overwhelming throng of St. Louisans at the end of the buscapade - some Democrats can almost taste the victory come November. They were bolstered by one poll this week that showed Clinton leading President George Bush in the polls by 30 percentage points. That tops the		
Police Group Should Halt Its Threats, Greg Freeman, 738 words, :	Sun., 7/19/1992	YOU'VE GOT TO HAND it to the St. Louis Police Fraternal Organization for having a lot of gall. With one irresponsible letter, this group of police officers managed to threaten the city while losing any and all credibility that the organization may have had. Members of the fraternal group, made up of police officers with the rank of sergeant and above, are angry because they are not receiving the pay and pension increases that they wanted. Instead, they are getting the same \$300		
No Easy Road For Democrats, Gregory Freeman, 793 words, :	Fri., 7/17/1992	THIS IS not your father's Democratic Party." That's the message that Bill Clinton and Al Gore tried to send America this week - that the Democratic Party had changed, that it was a new party that was clearly the party of necessary change. But moving a party over to the political center takes much more than nominating two centrists for president and vice president. Winning the Democratic nomination, as Walter Mondale, Michael Dukakis and others have learned		
'Puppy Mills' Truly Aren't Fit For A Dog, Gregory Freeman, 785 words, :	Sun., 7/12/1992	I'M A dog lover. Ever since my parents took my sister and me to the Humane Society when I was 8 years old, I've been a lover of the furry animals. We had our dog, Scrappy, for 14 years, and he was my friend. When I was little, I talked to him and told him my problems. He'd look up at me as if he understood every word. When I was down and out, he seemed to know it instinctively, and he'd lick my face just at the right time. And when our son came along, my wife and		
33 Tackle Tough Problems, Gregory Freeman, 667 words, :	Fri., 7/10/1992	IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY to tackle racial issues - especially when those issues involve your own area of specialty. That's why 33 St. Louisans deserve accolades for their work last week on the problems of schools and race, two problems that are intertwined much too often. The 33 are educators, corporate executives, members of non-profit groups and others. They spent two days at St. Louis University's Fordyce House investigating problems and seeking solutions. In the end,		
We Can Learn A Lot From One Another, Gregory Freeman, 745 words, :	Sun., 7/5/1992	WHEN I WAS 16, I took part in a program that would change my life forever. The program, the Experiment in International Living, was designed to teach its young participants what life was like in other parts of the world. I think I probably applied because a friend of mine had been in the program the previous year and returned to tell me about the wonderful experiences that he had in Mexico. Knowing little about the world outside of my neighborhood in north St. Louis, the		
When Hatred Is Colorblind, Gregory Freeman, 789 words, :	Fri., 7/3/1992	WHEN IT comes to hatred, it should be clear that no one has a monopoly. Take an incident that took place on Monday outside the St. Louis Housing Authority. There, a group of people angered by policies of the Housing Authority and its director, Victor de la Cruz, held a small demonstration. One person held up a sign criticizing the Hispanic director. The sign read: "Victor de la Cruz Wet Back Take Your Back To Texas."		
Soldiers Might ... Help Schools Win A Victory, Gregory Freeman, 800 words, :	Sun., 6/28/1992	WHEN THE WORDS "peace dividend" are used these days, some people blanch. To them, the words are synonymous with unemployment. With the Cold War over, America no longer needs the tanks, missiles and equipment that it once did, and many Americans - working for companies that have been unable to shift to a peace economy - have found themselves without jobs. Even the military is letting people go. But to J.H. Hexter, peace dividend means something		

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Tavern Ruling Represents A Positive Trend, Gregory Freeman, 733 words, :	Fri., 6/26/1992	THE DECISION by the St. Louis excise commissioner not to renew the liquor license of the infamous Shangri-La Lounge is a victory for people who want to take back their neighborhoods from alcoholism, drug deals and violence. And it appears to be part of a trend in the city - a very positive trend - to give residents more of a say in what goes on in their neighborhoods. For those who came in late: The Shangri-La is known to most St. Louisans as the bar whose license was revoked two		
The Most Important Man In The World, Gregory Freeman, 774 words, book: family	Sun., 6/21/1992	SOURCE: By Gregory Freeman It was only a small item in the Post-Dispatch that ran on June 1, 1971. A man was killed in an accident at the Main Post Office. Frederic W. Freeman, 44, a postal clerk, was crushed to death Sunday by a trailer on the parking lot of the Main Post Office, 1710 Clark Avenue. Lamont Houston, 2424 Gaty Avenue, East St. Louis, backed a tractor to hook up a trailer, and Freeman, unseen by Houston, was crushed against a loading dock, police		
Clinton Gets A Bad Rap, Gregory Freeman, 787 words, :	Fri., 6/19/1992	BILL CLINTON deserves praise for his criticism of Sister Souljah, a rap singer whose fiery comments have become the object of the latest political controversy. And Jesse Jackson is equally deserving of scorn for knocking Clinton and acting like a wounded puppy when the Arkansas governor criticized Souljah. Clinton made his comments while speaking before Jackson's Rainbow Coalition, and drew immediate criticism from Jackson, who said Clinton had shown "very bad		
A Window Of Opportunity For Minorities, Gregory Freeman, 747 words, :	Sun., 6/14/1992	WITH THE renewed interest in the plight of blacks brought on by the Rodney King verdict and its aftermath, the Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian has some advice for the NAACP: Take advantage of it. Vivian is no stranger to activities designed to help minorities. For years, he worked side by side with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a member of his personal executive staff. Vivian now chairs an Atlanta-based organization called BASIC - Black Action Strategies and Information Center. So as		
Putting Woman On Ticket Could Bouy Clinton, Gregory Freeman, 720 words, :	Fri., 6/12/1992	HERE'S SOMETHING Bill Clinton might consider as he tries to deal with opposition from George Bush and the dilemma of Ross Perot: Why not select a woman for vice president? Some politicians - particularly men - have shied away from this idea since 1984, when Democrat Walter Mondale made history by selecting Geraldine Ferraro as the first woman ever chosen to be on a major party ticket. Mondale and Ferraro went down in flames, as incumbent Ronald Reagan and his then-vice president,		
Middle Class Blacks Must Help Others, Gregory Freeman, 800 words, :	Sun., 6/7/1992	WHEN I WAS in the second grade, attending an all-black school in St. Louis, a kid in my class named Warren stopped coming to school for a while. I remember that some of us wondered what had happened to Warren - whether he was sick, had the measles or had simply moved away. After a couple of weeks or so, Warren came back to school. When we asked him why he hadn't been at school, he told us that he had been away because he didn't have any shoes to wear. His old pair of shoes		
Bill Targets Neighborhood Liquor Stores, Gregory Freeman, 704 words, :	Fri., 6/5/1992	ANYONE who has lived in certain neighborhoods in north St. Louis knows about the problem of liquor stores. And those who live near those stores are uniquely familiar with the problems. Just ask Gloria Dismuke. "There are so many places in north St. Louis where there's a liquor store on every corner," said Dismuke, a North Side resident who is distressed by the situation. "In fact, north St. Louis has more corner liquor stores than any other		
Invisible Walls Of Mistrust Separate Us, Gregory Freeman, 704 words, :	Sun., 5/31/1992	WHEN IT COMES to race relations, how many of us really sit down and talk with people of other races about what we really think of them - or our thoughts about people of their race? The question came to mind last week while sitting through a meeting last week. Post-Dispatch reporters and editors meet on a regular basis with black readers to discuss our coverage, why stories were covered the way they were and what the newspaper can do to improve its coverage of African-Americans.		
Cities' Problems Need Examining, Gregory Freeman, 785 words, :	Fri., 5/29/1992	NOW THAT THE PLIGHT of the cities is on the minds of official Washington, those in decision-making positions should give that plight careful consideration to determine the proper approach. Both the president and Congress have been quick to develop policies to throw money into the cities. That is far from the best way to approach their problems. The problems themselves must first be examined. Those problems, as we all know, are many. We should first realize that the cities of		
A Frest Face In City Politics, Gregory Freeman, 861 words, :	Sun., 5/24/1992	HE'S CONSIDERING a race for the top office, even though he has no experience in elective politics. Politicians are pooh-poohing the idea of his running. But his business connections may make him appealing to some voters. He's discussing new ideas and he's not part of the regular political crowd. Sound like anyone you've ever heard of? If you guessed Ross Perot, guess again. Bill Young is thinking about running for mayor. Most candidates for mayor who are taken		
Blaming 'Murphy Brown' Is Ridiculous, Gregory Freeman, 718 words, :	Fri., 5/22/1992	GIMME A break- First, the riots in LA are blamed on LBJ, a long-dead president whose policies were set up a quarter of a century ago. Now, "Murphy Brown" is the cause of a breakdown in moral values. Come again? Our illustrious vice president, Dan Quayle, is at it again. This time, he's chosen to use his office to knock a TV program. Quayle says the show, about a television anchorwoman who gave birth to a child in an episode earlier this week,		
Black Voters Too Predictable, Gregory Freeman, 745 words, :	Sun., 5/17/1992	IT CAME UP again last week. Missouri Treasurer Wendell Bailey told a Post-Dispatch reporter that he had campaigned in black areas four years ago when he was running for office, addressed issues of concern to urban blacks and received the endorsements of every black newspaper in St. Louis and still received few votes in black neighborhoods. The lack of black votes wasn't for the lack of trying. It was because Bailey is a Republican. Once again, the point has been		
Voices Of Blacks Have Diversified, Gregory Freeman, 792 words, :	Fri., 5/15/1992	WHO SPEAKS for African-Americans? The question has arisen in the aftermath of the Rodney King case in Los Angeles. In the 1960s, the answer to that question was a simple one. Martin Luther King. Malcolm X. Angela Davis. Huey Newton. But this is the 1990s. King, Malcolm X and Newton are dead. Davis is on the lecture circuit these days. And, thanks to the civil rights movement, blacks have diversified. Despite the many problems that blacks have in this country, some of us		
Georgia Needs New State Flag, Gregory Freeman, 749 words, :	Sun., 5/10/1992	SHOULD AN EMBLEM of the Confederacy be flying high among flags of various nations when the Olympics comes to Atlanta in 1996? That question is being debated right now in the Peachtree State as a coalition of civil rights activists and politicians calls for a new design for the Georgia state flag, a symbol both of honor and hatred inspired by the Confederacy. The Georgia flag now features the Confederate "Stars and Bars" side-by-side with the state's coat of		
Many In Area Worked Hard To Avert Riots, Gregory Freeman, 806 words, :	Fri., 5/8/1992	SO NOW THAT the smoke has cleared and the rioting - for the most part - has ended. St. Louisans are asking themselves whether the kind of rioting that took place in Los Angeles could happen here. The answer, without reservation, has to be a resounding "yes." In many ways, St. Louis was lucky last week. Many people worked hard to prevent violence here. On the day after the Rodney King verdict, Tony Scott, a radio personality at radio station KMJM - known as Majic		

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What Will It Take For U.S. To Wake Up?, Gregory Freeman, 798 words, :	Sun., 5/3/1992	THE VERDICT in the Rodney King case and its violent aftermath have damaged the already strained race relations in America. A verdict that is being perceived as unfair - by a great majority of Americans, according to polls - has caused tremendous harm in a country that has always had a short fuse when it comes to issues of race. All of America saw - again and again - black motorist Rodney King struck 56 times with police batons in 81 seconds. And for the past couple of		
Interpreting A Bewildering Message In LA, Gregory Freeman, 766 words, :	Fri., 5/1/1992	LIKE MOST BLACK Americans today, I am outraged. I want to know what the hell is wrong in America. How could anyone with good sense - any sense whatsoever - acquit four white policemen in the beating of black motorist Rodney King after watching the videotape of the beating? The scene remains in my mind: The police officers surrounding King and beating him, time and time again. I don't know how many times I saw it on television - in regular speed, then in slow motion. So,		
Neighborhood Takes Action Against Crime, Gregory Freeman, 733 words, :	Sun., 4/26/1992	LIVING IN urban areas includes living with a certain amount of crime. Just about anyone living in St. Louis - or Chicago or Philadelphia or Baltimore or Phoenix - will tell you that. It's not always violent crime. Sometimes it's car theft or graffiti or kids throwing rocks at street lights. But it's still crime. And it's still annoying, or worse. In St. Louis, at least one neighborhood has taken aggressive steps to fight crime. And the steps are		
Gun Bill Sends Wrong Message About Crime, Gregory Freeman, 754 words, :	Fri., 4/24/1992	A RECENT COLUMN about a bill before the Missouri Legislature sparked considerable attention among the measure's supporters and opponents alike. By now, you know all about the measure. It would allow people 21 and older to carry concealed weapons in public. At the time, I suggested that the bill made little, if any, sense. After the column appeared, I was flooded with letters and telephone calls from people who thought that I was the devil incarnate for suggesting that it		
City Seeking Black Tourists, Gregory Freeman, 773 words, :	Fri., 4/17/1992	CAN ST. LOUIS attract more black-oriented conventions - and hence, more money for the area's coffers - to this city? Two separate entities say yes - but they are going about it in two disparate ways. Nelson Harvey is a black entrepreneur who was most recently a general manager at the Lismark Distributing Co. Harvey, who has also been involved in promoting riverboat cruises and other types of entertainment to black audiences, says he doesn't think that there's enough		
Let's Face It: Bill Clinton Is The Winner, Gregory Freeman, 680 words, :	Sun., 4/12/1992	NOW THAT the voters of New York have given their support to Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, has the time come for the Anyone-But-Anyone-Who's-On-The-Ballot movement among Democratic voters to come to an end? Let's face it. The dream candidate is not there. Where is that candidate who has been the ideal parent and spouse, one with the oratory skills of John F. Kennedy, the scrapping ability of Harry S Truman and the ideas of Franklin D. Roosevelt? It's time to wake		
St. Louis Area Needs Downtown, Gregory Freeman, 780 words, :	Fri., 4/10/1992	I CAN REMEMBER it, plain as day. The setting was a large, hot, urban studies class at Washington University 18 years ago. It was the kind of day where most students would prefer to be out in the sun, enjoying the good weather. But most of us in the class weren't thinking about the weather that day. We were wrapped up in a discussion with the professor about the survival of metropolitan areas. One point that he made stuck with me all these years. He said that, without a doubt, the		
Blacks Cannot Ignore AIDS, Gregory Freeman, 758 words, :	Sun., 4/5/1992	THE NEIGHBORHOOD is in decline. The street is littered with broken glass. Vacant buildings and lots abound. Two boys break a soda bottle and run down an alley. Amid all this - on the northern edge of the city's Central West End - stands a small storefront a passer-by could easily miss. The sign on the front window reads "Healthstreet - Paving Your Way To Good Health." Despite the nondescript facade at 4624 Delmar Boulevard, the building houses an		
When Parents Fail In Their Responsibility, Gregory Freeman, 795 words, :	Fri., 4/3/1992	WHAT DOES it take for a person to shoot and kill an 11-year-old boy over the color of his sweatshirt? What kind of morals - or lack of them - does it take for someone to commit such a heinous crime? Those questions are surely haunting friends and relatives of Maurice Neal, the young man who was shot to death last week. Maurice was shot in the eye while playing basketball at a playground in Wellston, one block from the workplace of his father, Wellston Police Sgt. Michael		
Angry Voters Are Sending Clear Message, Gregory Freeman, 681 words, :	Sun., 3/29/1992	MAKE NO MISTAKE about it: The voters are angry. They're angry at the White House and at Congress for not being able to straighten out the economy. They're angry about "rubbergate," the check scandal that Democrats and Republicans in Congress have found themselves in and the many perks that officials in Washington are receiving. They're angry about government's seeming inability to do anything about the rising costs of health care. It's		
Vote In House On Gun Bill Is Appalling, Gregory Freeman, 704 words, :	Fri., 3/27/1992	A FEW YEARS ago, a Missouri state representative said to me: "When the Legislature's in session, none of us is safe." I laughed then. I stopped laughing on Monday. I realized that the state representative was right. None of us is safe. On Monday evening, our legislators - in their infinite wisdom - decided that there weren't enough guns on the streets. Oh, that's not exactly what members of the House voted on. But that's		
Young People Pessimistic, Gregory Freeman, 749 words, :	Sun., 3/22/1992	"Deep-rooted prejudices entertained by the whites; ten thousand recollections by the blacks of the injuries they have sustained . . . will divide us." - Thomas Jefferson A STUDY of American youth has found Jefferson's words to ring true today, 200 years after they were first written. Among America's youth, this nation remains the "nation divided - one black, one white" - that the LBJ-ordered Kerner Commission report found 24		
Conference Is Exploring 'Richness Of Black Life Here In The Midwest', Gregory Freeman, 689 words, :	Fri., 3/20/1992	AS AN AFRICAN-American who was born and reared in the Midwest, I know that blacks here suffer from somewhat of an inferiority complex. Many of us feel inferior to blacks in other parts of the country. Blacks in the South take pride in their increasing political power and their greater participation than ever before in the economic structure. Blacks in Atlanta, for instance, have become extremely important to that city's wealth and prominence. Meanwhile, blacks on the East		
Check Scandal Touches Nerve, Gregory Freeman, 780 words, :	Sun., 3/15/1992	THE CALLER insisted on speaking with the political editor, and when I got to the phone, she was irate. "Why won't they tell us who bounced those checks?" she asked, her voice trembling with anger. "The public has the right to know about this coverup. The paper needs to go after these guys." I assured her that our reporters were on the story and would get the information into the paper as soon as it became available.		
Redistricting May Mean Big Black Turnout, Gregory Freeman, 730 words, :	Fri., 3/13/1992	THERE'S NO QUESTION about it: Black voters have not exactly been enamored with this year's crop of presidential candidates. In state after state, the numbers of African-Americans participating in primaries and caucuses have been down. Missouri's caucuses this week were no exception. One major reason for that is obvious. For the first election since 1980, Jesse Jackson has not been on Democratic ballots. And for some black voters who had been accustomed to casting		

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Gun-Lock Bill Could Prevent Tragic Deaths, Gregory Freeman, 757 words, :	Sun., 3/8/1992	MARY DUNNING of north St. Louis County remembers those moments in 1986 like they were yesterday. Her son, then 7, was playing at the house with a friend when she suddenly heard a gunshot. Like lightning, Dunning flew to the family room of the house to find out what had happened. There to her horror she found her son drenched in blood. The boy had taken a handgun out of a drawer in her bedroom to show it to his friend, and the gun went off, striking Dunning's son in the leg.		
Politicians Made Sure Missourians Have Caucuses, Not A Primary, Gregory Freeman, 776 words, :	Fri., 3/6/1992	THESE ARE exciting times in the world of presidential politics. Unless, of course, you live in Missouri. Throughout the country, candidates are stumping all over the place, making dozens of appearances, bringing their wives, their kids, holding debates, pumping millions of dollars into the economy. But not here in Missouri. Why not, you ask? Isn't the Show-Me state good enough for them? Actually, this year, the answer may be a resounding		
Bush Feels Buchanan's Poison Pen, Gregory Freeman, 775 words, :	Sun., 3/1/1992	WHO WOULD have ever thought that President George Bush would somehow be painted with the "L" word this election year? That's right: L, as in wild-eyed, card-carrying, knee-jerk Liberal. Conservative columnist and commentator Patrick Buchanan is the artist stroking the brush as he paints this masterpiece. Buchanan may have never run for office before, but he knows how to paint terribly unflattering portraits of people. Over the years, his golden tongue		
Trend Provides 'Fertile Ground For Hate Groups,' Says Morris Dees, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Fri., 2/28/1992	MORRIS DEES IS a soft-spoken man with a Southern drawl and Kennedyesque features. To look at this thin, curly-headed man, one wouldn't ordinarily think that this is a superman who took a headquarters of the Ku Klux Klan and turned it over to the mother of a young man who was murdered by Klan members, bankrupting the hate group in Mobile, Ala. But Dees, one of the nation's leading civil rights attorneys and a co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, isn't an		
U.S. Policy On Haitians Is Shameful, Gregory Freeman, 709 words, :	Sun., 2/23/1992	IT TAKES a tremendous amount of courage for an 82-year-old woman to go on a hunger strike to protest the policies of the United States toward Haitians. The legendary Katherine Dunham has that kind of courage. The former dancer and choreographer has been fasting now for more than three weeks - against her doctors' advice - to protest the deportation of Haitian refugees from this country. She's now hospitalized at St. Mary's Hospital in East St. Louis, but that hasn't		
'Black History Month' Should Last All Year, Gregory Freeman, 721 words, :	Fri., 2/21/1992	History is a clock that people use to tell their time of day. It is a compass they use to find themselves on the map of human geography. It tells them where they are, and what they are. -John Henrik Clarke THERE'S AN INTRIGUING trend developing in Texas concerning Black History Month. Three prominent university professors and a talk-show host have stood up and asked not to be counted on to speak at Black History Month programs. Their point: They are asked to speak		
Tyson Case Has Revealed Sad Attitudes, Gregory Freeman, 775 words, :	Sun., 2/16/1992	WHEN IT COMES to the issue of sexism - and how women are treated - I'm sorry to say that a lot of African-Americans have a long way to go. Black folks, you know exactly what I'm talking about. There are some of us - especially, men - who see absolutely nothing wrong with what Mike Tyson was found guilty of last week. In testimony, witness after witness painted a picture of Tyson as someone who was used to getting what he wanted. He spent time at the Miss Black America Pageant		
'Roots' Author Alex Haley Moved Blacks, Whites - And 10-Year-Old, Greg Freeman, 666 words, :	Fri., 2/14/1992	THE SAD NEWS of Alex Haley's death earlier this week brought to mind a trip that my son and I took last year to Nashville, Tenn. Actually, I had to go there to attend a journalism conference, and my son, William, 10, had asked to tag along. We decided to make a road trip of it, complete with a promise to stop in Metropolis, Ill., ("Hometown of Superman," signs in the town say) on the way back. We had attended several workshops - with a little time for		
The Debate Is About Sensitivity, Gregory Freeman, 726 words, :	Sun., 2/9/1992	WHAT IS this thing, this "political correct-ness"? The phrase is being bandied about with wanton abandon these days by those who are either opposed to change and increased sensitivity or who are giving little more than lip service to the idea. Let's be honest: The phrase itself is being pushed by those opposed to change. Those individuals criticize those who would suggest that our language be changed to make it less sexist. They criticize those who		
Group Takes Time To Bear Witness To Lives That Were Brutally Ended, Gregory Freeman, 711 words, :	Fri., 2/7/1992	THEY SHOWED UP again on Wednesday. One by one they arrived, black and white, male and female, old and young. Despite the morning's frosty temperatures, they stood on the parking lot in the 6000 block of Goodfellow Boulevard. One of them placed a small white cross on the parking lot, and all who had gathered formed a circle around it. And they prayed. This time, the prayer was for Jerrard Corley. Corley, 20, was shot to death Monday night on Goodfellow. Corley		
Early Mayoral Race Becomes Dash For Money, Gregory Freeman, 803 words, :	Sun., 2/2/1992	YOU MAY want to sit down. This may surprise you. Not one of the candidates for mayor of St. Louis will get a single vote this year. That's right, folks. That's because despite all of the noise being made over the race, that election will not be held until April 1993. You wouldn't know it by looking at all of the bumper stickers, watching the political posturing and examining the campaign finance reports. Put this down on your score card: To date, the		
Clinton Case Embarrasses U.S. Media, Gregory Freeman, 829 words, :	Fri., 1/31/1992	THERE ARE few times when I'm not proud to be a journalist. Despite the criticism that it receives, this profession, I believe, is a noble one. It's our job to go behind the scenes, to dig up information that public officials and others would prefer that we not know. It's a cliché, I know, but our jobs really are to be the eyes and ears of the public. I think that we generally do a pretty good job of that. We're not perfect, but journalism is often an imperfect form of		
Time To Open Kennedy Files For Review, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Sun., 1/26/1992	CAN'T WE end all of the Oliver Stone-bashing on one side and paranoia on the other and try to find out all we can about who assassinated John F. Kennedy? I mean who would have ever thought, on that eventful day - Nov. 22, 1963 - that 29 years later we would still be engaged in heated debate over who shot the president? The question has remained on many minds for years, and Stone's film "JFK" has reignited the flames of the debate. Was Kennedy killed by		
Vince Vs. Virvus: Battle Of City Hall Is Beginning To Get A Bit Tiresome, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Fri., 1/24/1992	AN OPEN LETTER to Vince and Virvus: Here we go again. The two of you, in yet another spat. This one has to do with whether the newly hired budget director, Jeanette Austin, should be paid. Virvus Jones, as comptroller, you say that Austin isn't qualified for the position and shouldn't be paid. Vincent Schoemehl, as mayor, you say that she was legally hired and should be paid. Because of the conflict, you've filed suit against Virvus.		
Cooperation Lends Reality To King Dream, Gregory Freeman, 803 words, :	Sun., 1/19/1992	FOR MANY people, it was like the assassination of John F. Kennedy or, for the older people among us, the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Many of us - especially African-Americans - will not forget where we were when we heard the news in 1968 that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated. Many people were left with a sense of bewilderment that this King could somehow be silenced; in many ways, he seemed superhuman. He had been threatened before and lived; he had been attacked		

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Job-Bias Study Involving City A Positive Step, Gregory Freeman, 744 words, :	Fri., 1/17/1992	THE STUDY THAT has been dubbed "The Brimmer Report" is a positive first step in dealing with the disparities in the way the city handles minority businesses. For those who came in late, the study was ordered back in 1990 as a result of a knock-down, drag-out dispute between Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. and Comptroller Virvus Jones over a plan to build a regional indoor stadium downtown. Jones complained about the minuscule amount of business that minority-owned		
Lessons Needed In Right, Wrong, Gregory Freeman, 811 words, :	Sun., 1/12/1992	"Life is a short walk. There is so little time and so much living to achieve." - John Oliver Killens THE STORIES have become all too common. A nun is shot because she tells someone to stay off of wet cement. Two young men are killed at a McDonald's in front of customers and employees because of a dispute over clothing. There's a whole new world out there, folks, and it ain't pretty. Homicides are becoming more and more commonplace,		
Bush, Car Executives Whine. Skim While American Auto Industry Burns, Gregory Freeman, words, :	Fri., 1/10/1992	INTESTINAL FLU aside, President George Bush, along with the executives he took with him, looked pretty bad on their recent trip to Japan. Bush and company looked like a bunch of whiners when they traveled to Japan and other countries to beg them - hat in hand - to let America sell more automobiles there. Their attempts came on the heels of efforts by others - Rep. Richard A. Gephardt among them - to reduce the number of Japanese imports. The Detroit auto executives are rubbing their hands in hopes that those efforts become reality. Unfortunately, no politician, Democrat or Republican, seems to have the courage to place the responsibility where it lies - in the lap of Detroit automakers.		
High Cost Of Education Limits Access, Gregory Freeman, 725 words, :	Sun., 1/5/1992	"To meet America's growing needs, we must set two goals: A new standard of excellence in education, and the availability of such excellence to all who are willing and able to pursue it." - John F. Kennedy SOME 31 YEARS AGO, President Kennedy used those words in calling on Americans to place a greater emphasis on education than ever before. Education was very important, he told us, as we fought to get ahead of the Soviets in various areas. Higher		
First Night Is A Winner And A Champ, Gregory Freeman, 733 words, :	Fri., 1/3/1992	IT'S GREAT to be a winner. That's a favorite phrase of a fellow Post-Dispatch editor when he's pleased with the work that someone has done. And the people who organized this year's First Night St. Louis celebration must be thinking something like that right now. From all accounts, the first First Night was a winner. The six-hour string of family-oriented, alcohol-free events on New Year's Eve began at 6 p.m. with a convergence of four		
1991:				
61 columns		0 in book		
Both Mentors, Boy Offenders Are Learning, Gregory Freeman, 831 words, :	Fri., 12/27/1991	WHILE MANY OF US were enjoying relatives and friends and stuffing our faces with turkey and all the trimmings on Christmas Day, there were some youngsters who weren't nearly as fortunate as the rest of us. Those are the kids in the St. Louis County Juvenile Center. The youngsters are a diverse bunch, and they're in for a variety of crimes. I spent several evenings with a group of youngsters from there recently as a volunteer in a mentor program. I talked with the boys a		
No Thanks, Cuomo Says, Gregory Freeman, 756 words, :	Sun., 12/22/1991	While many Democrats were waiting, hoping for Mario Cuomo to announce his candidacy, Cuomo chose on Friday to stay out of the race. And in the long run, the Democrats may actually be better off with Cuomo out of the race. Although most polls showed Cuomo as being better known than any of his Democratic opponents, that may not have translated into votes in the final analysis. Much of Cuomo's high identity rating had to do with his being governor of one of the		
How Businesses Can Fight Bias, Gregory Freeman, 762 words, :	Fri., 12/20/1991	JOHN MANDELKER, president of Streetside Records, has a postscript to the Gerald Early and "PrimeTime Live" issues that have developed this year. He says businesses have a responsibility to make sure that their employees neither harass nor ignore black customers. For those of you who came in late, the ABC program "PrimeTime Live" did a segment early this fall in which the show brought two men of similar backgrounds, one black and one white,		
At St. Louis University High School, They Are Reaching Out To Minorities, Gregory Freeman, 679 words, :	Fri., 12/13/1991	AT A TIME when many are retrenching on their commitments to diversity, St. Louis University High School is doubling up on its efforts. The school's board of trustees recently adopted a "Minority Action Plan" to promote the recruitment and education of minority students. In normal times, that might not seem like a big deal. But let's face it, these are not normal times. Efforts to help minorities these days are often attacked by some whites who		
Those Who Seek Path Of Equality Still Need Help, Gregory Freeman, 854 words, :	Sun., 12/8/1991	My FIRST JOB at a daily newspaper was at a small paper in Michigan that hired an entire new staff in the 1970s. Some of those hired were, like me, fresh out of college. Some had worked for one other newspaper. Most of us were pretty green. The last five people hired for the staff were black. All of us, of course, were happy to have reporting jobs. None of us gave it any thought at that time. But when it became apparent that one of the black reporters wasn't a very good		
Youth Move Shows City Is Good Address, Gregory Freeman, words, :	Fri., 12/6/1991	DON'T COUNT the city out. A story earlier this week that the city of St. Louis - or at least south St. Louis - is getting younger is cause to rejoice. The report pointed out what those of us who are longtime residents of the city have known for some time: Despite what some people may think, the city is a pretty good place to live. And more and more people are beginning to realize that. The city's quite alive and doing fine, thank you. If you're not a city		
A Message As Cold As Ice, Gregory Freeman, 780 words, :	Sun., 12/1/1991	RAPPER ICE CUBE drew praise and acclaim earlier this year for his realistic portrayal of a Los Angeles homeboy in the film, "Boyz N the Hood." The film, put together by young filmmaker John Singleton, dealt with the difficulties of growing up in crime-ridden neighborhoods when trouble seems to be waiting at every turn. The film was praised by many who felt that it delivered an important message to youth about the dangers of drugs and the futility of violence.		
Standing Up To Hate Is All Our Jobs, Gregory Freeman, words, :	Fri., 11/29/1991	None of us is free until all of us are free. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. STORE CLERK STEVE Gibson had no idea what was to occur when a man entered his bookstore about a month ago. Gibson works at Our World Too, a Midtown bookstore for lesbians and gays in the St. Louis area. It features all sorts of reading material about homosexuals, but it also serves as a community center of sorts for some gays in the area. People seeking services, businesses seeking to attract members of the gay community here, people having activities for gays, others seeking to learn more about homosexuality - all use the store as a resource.		
It's Not Fair, It's Not Right, Gregory Freeman, 888 words, :	Sun., 11/24/1991	WHAT DOES it take for a black person to gain full respect in American society? The question's not rhetorical. A lot of black people want to know. Gerald Early is among them. Early, a black professor of literature at Washington University and winner of the prestigious national Whiting Writers' Prize, found himself hassled by Frontenac police earlier this month while waiting for his family outside a shopping center in Frontenac. His wife, Ida Early, is director of		
Duke's Defeat: The Battle Is Far From Over, Gregory Freeman, 768 words, :	Fri., 11/22/1991	AS I WATCHED the Louisiana election results come in Saturday night, I felt a sense of relief: The good people of Louisiana had rejected the bitter venom of David Duke that was spewed during the race for governor, and had chosen Edwin Edwards instead. But within 24 hours, another ominous bit of news surfaced: that had the election been left to the white voters of Louisiana, David Duke would have been elected governor of that state. David Duke received 55 percent of the white vote in		

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'The People' And Women, Gregory Freeman, 767 words, :	Sun., 11/17/1991	WITH ALL of the talk about women voters and their anticipated political reaction to the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill hearings, it's surprising that more hasn't been heard locally. After all, St. Louis County has never had a female county executive. Nor has it had more than one woman on the County Council at a time - Geri Rothman-Serot of Frontenac now holds the seat. In the city of St. Louis, there has never been a woman mayor. Nor has there been a female president of the		
Boomers Signal Changes Ahead In Health Care, Gregory Freeman, 756 words, :	Fri., 11/15/1991	BABY BOOMERS - the proverbial pig in the python - are at it again. The boomers, who are now entering middle age, are turning their attentions in new directions, and one of those is health care. Harris Wofford, who once trailed former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh by 40 percentage points in some polls, won a seat in the Senate last week, largely on his push for national health insurance. And you can be sure that a significant number of Wofford's votes came from		
English-Only Plan Ignores Our Past, Gregory Freeman, 656 words, :	Sun., 11/10/1991	THANK GOODNESS we have two congressmen like Bill Emerson and Ike Skelton. After all, without them, we wouldn't know which language to speak. Missourians Emerson and Skelton have decided that the American people aren't sure whether they should speak English, Spanish, French, Italian or some other, non-romance language. So the two have introduced legislation that would make English the nation's "official language." It's nice to		
Approaching The Virus Of Racism In U.S., Gregory Freeman, 815 words, :	Fri., 11/8/1991	WILLIAM R. JONES looks at racism in the same way that a scientist looks at AIDS. "Racism is like a virus," he says. "It will continue to thrive until we diagnose accurately what it is, how it reproduces and perpetuates itself. Racism will multiply like the plague until we correctly decipher the games it plays to stay alive and thrive." Jones, a professor and director of Afro-American studies at Florida State University, is an expert on the		
War On Drugs Needs Troops, Gregory Freeman, 808 words, :	Sun., 11/3/1991	IS ANYONE AS frustrated as I am about the death, destruction and general havoc that crack cocaine is heaping upon the city? I am so tired of reading stories about more drive-by shootings and innocent victims being killed, all because of crack. I shake my head when I turn on the television news and see another grieving family, shocked neighbors and crying kids. And I am tired of writing columns about this issue. But it's an issue that's too important to be ignored. How		
U.S. Reaping The Legacy Of Reagan, Bush, Gregory Freeman, 782 words, :	Fri., 11/1/1991	I AM TIRED OF being the scapegoat. Not me, personally. People are never looked at as individuals when groups are looking for scapegoats. No, I'm speaking of myself as an African-American. And I'm speaking of David Duke. You know David Duke. He's the ex-Klansman and former Nazi who many believe has a serious chance of becoming the next governor of Louisiana. And he is the result of the mean-spirited Reagan-Bush years. Those presidents spent 10 years		
Students Flunk Test On Racism, Gregory Freeman, 805 words, :	Sun., 10/27/1991	WHEN DOES Afrocentrism go too far? The question is being debated in Washington right now, as academics and others ponder an incident that involved a white woman who was hired to teach a course on black history at a community college. The woman, Nina Gilden Seavey, is a specialist in African-American history, and has served as a consultant on a variety of television documentaries on black Americans. She also is director for the Center for History in the Media at George Washington		
Change In Attitude Comes Too Slowly To End Brave Old World's Stereotypes, Gregory Freeman, 861 words, :	Fri., 10/25/1991	IT SEEMS so simple. Someone is offended by something that you're doing. In response, you stop what you're doing, so as not to offend. It's something taught at your mother's knee: Don't go out of your way to do something that offends someone else. Apparently it's not so simple to Atlanta Braves fans, who continue to put war paint on their faces and chop tomahawks in support of their team, despite the protests of some American Indians, who		
Candidate Aims For Diversity, Gregory Freeman, 867 words, :	Sun., 10/20/1991	ANY CANDIDATE running for mayor of St. Louis - a city that is approximately 50 percent black and 50 percent white - has two practical choices if that candidate hopes to win: The candidate can choose to be divisive, and try to split voters along racial lines. The candidate can make efforts to appeal to voters throughout the city by being inclusive, making sure that both blacks and whites are involved in the campaign. Steve Roberts has chosen the latter. Roberts, who		
Now, Let's Look Beyond Ugliness Of The Hearings, Gregory Freeman, 816 words, :	Fri., 10/18/1991	MUCH ATTENTION has been given to the sexual aspects of the Clarence Thomas hearings, and rightly so. But as Americans sat spellbound, mesmerized by their television sets over the weekend and early this week, several racial developments occurred that passed unnoticed by most. And while the sexual harassment aspects of the case are significant, some of the racial developments may also help change this country in the long run. First among the developments, African-Americans were		
The Economy May Beat Bush, Gregory Freeman, 776 words, :	Sun., 10/13/1991	POLITICAL PUNDITS like to consider themselves on the cutting edge of events, and many have taken to using the abbreviation "C.W." - short for conventional wisdom - to describe how they and other political observers expect events to turn out. And these days, the C.W. is that President George Bush has next year's election all sewn up. Bush's popularity ratings are still high, several months after the end of the Persian Gulf War. And more than one Democrat		
The Courage Of Mary Ross, Gregory Freeman, 765 words, :	Fri., 10/11/1991	ALDERMAN MARY ROSS is a strong woman. That was the first thing that came to mind as I read her comments earlier this week about the death of her daughter, Betty Jean Ross. How else could you explain her ability to deal with reporters throughout a terrible ordeal in her life - the murder of her daughter on Sept. 28? The death of a child is always a tragedy. But for that child to be murdered must be even more devastating. Knowing that, friends of Mary Ross urged her not to		
ABC Program Sparks Spirited Views Of Relations Between Blacks, Whites, Greg Freeman, 866 words, :	Fri., 10/4/1991	MAKE NO MISTAKE about it: Last week's airing of ABC's "Primetime Live" touched off a flurry of sentiments among St. Louisans, many of whom felt they had been directly touched by it. A column that I wrote last week sparked numerous letters and telephone calls from people from all over the spectrum. Several radio call-in shows here showed that many people had strong opinions - on all sides - on the television broadcast. The program took a black man and a		
Differences - In Black And White, Gregory Freeman, 835 words, :	Fri., 9/27/1991	MORE THAN ONE white reader has written me to say they believe that black people are whiners - people who exaggerate about how difficult life is for them, presumably to get sympathy from whites. Blacks are treated the same as whites, they say. Why do blacks continue to complain about discrimination? they ask. After all, slavery ended more than 100 years ago, and lynchings are hardly common in 1991. With any luck, many of those readers - and others as well - had an opportunity to watch		
Give Classes For Blacks A Second Look, Gregory Freeman, 731 words, :	Fri., 9/20/1991	WHEN IT COMES to his dealings with African-Americans, President George Bush doesn't usually get high marks. But he deserves an "A" for his recent endorsement of the concept of all-male classes for black students. The concept of single-sex classrooms or academies targeted at black boys is being considered and pushed by more and more African-Americans these days as a way to deal with some of the unique problems that black males face in this country.		
Homicide Rate Threatens City Gains Of '80s, Gregory Freeman, 746 words, :	Fri., 9/13/1991	I DON'T KNOW how many times friends who live in suburbia ask me why I continue to live in the city of St. Louis. The crime in the city is so bad, they say. You can't walk downtown without being mugged, they claim. The homicide rate is going through the roof, they warn. Actually, only one of the three is accurate, I remind them. The overall crime in the city has actually dropped. And downtown St. Louis is one of the safest places to be. There aren't many serious crimes		

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Blacks, Jews Work Together, Gregory Freeman, 753 words, :	Fri., 9/6/1991	RACIAL AND ETHNIC tensions seem to boil over continuously in New York, like soup on a stove with a flame that's much too high. So recent developments in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood should come as no big surprise. Violence and riots broke out there after a Hasidic Jew hit and killed a 7-year-old black boy in a traffic accident. The incident was fueled by bad blood between blacks and Jews in that neighborhood and by false rumors about an ambulance company that		
Harmon's Job: Getting Blacks To Trust Police, Gregory Freeman, 801 words, :	Fri., 8/30/1991	IN ORDER TO fight crime in St. Louis - much of which is black-on-black - new St. Louis Police Chief Clarence Harmon will have to lead efforts to build trust between the Police Department and the city's black residents. It's a tall order for the city's first black police chief. But a greater level of cooperation between African-Americans and the police here is likely to go a long way in fighting crime. As it stands, many black people are unwilling to work with the		
In Early Going In Race For Mayor, Ribaldo Seeks To Cross Color Lines, Gregory Freeman, 746 words, :	Fri., 8/23/1991	THE HORSES in the race for mayor of St. Louis are just lining up at the gate. But at least one horse - state Rep. Anthony D. Ribaldo - is getting a jump on the other candidates in the area of multiculturalism. Multiculturalism - racial diversity - in a race for mayor of St. Louis? The possibility of blacks and whites working for the same candidate? It's something rarely seen here. But Ribaldo, who's seeking the Democratic nomination for the post, appears to be moving		
Rice Making Effort To Cut Murder Rate, Gregory Freeman, 795 words, :	Fri., 8/16/1991	A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, I wrote a column saying that if I were a member of the Ku Klux Klan, I would be filled with delight because of the skyrocketing rate of homicides among black people in the city today. The column took to task a lot of people who I felt were not really paying attention to this problem, including politicians, church leaders and others in leadership positions. It called for people to have some guts and give the problem some serious consideration - and try to come up with		
NAACP True To Its Cause On Thomas, Gregory Freeman, 751 words, :	Fri., 8/9/1991	SAY WHAT YOU will about the NAACP - and everyone seems to be doing so these days - it took a very courageous stance last week when it voted to oppose the Supreme Court nomination of Clarence Thomas. The association - the nation's oldest and largest civil-rights organization - took immediate criticism after making its decision. Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., issued a statement saying that "the NAACP took a nosedive into the credibility gap." He said the organization		
Easy Street: St. Louis For A Klansman, Gregory Freeman, 794 words, :	Fri., 8/2/1991	IF I WERE a member of the Ku Klux Klan, I'm sure that I would enjoy what is going on among many black people in the city today. The skyrocketing number of black-on-black homicides is the sort of thing that would probably make an "imperial wizard" of the Klan smile. Why worry about lifting a finger about black people in St. Louis? I'd ask. Instead, I'll just let them kill each other off. The thought is a bit harsh, perhaps, but no more harsh than		
Buckley's 'Colorblind Society', Gregory Freeman, 776 words, :	Fri., 7/26/1991	WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY wrote a column recently saying, in effect, that there is very little racial discrimination in today's America. "It is certainly now established that the American black, in order to succeed, has, overwhelmingly, only to prepare himself to compete in a world for all intents and purposes colorblind," he wrote. If only what he wrote were true - imagine a colorblind world, one where it really wouldn't be necessary to have affirmative		
Heed The Wisdom Of 'Boyz', Gregory Freeman, 661 words, :	Fri., 7/19/1991	DON'T BELIEVE the hype. I saw the previews of the movie "Boyz N the Hood" and initially decided that I didn't want to see the film. The previews showed lots of violence, guns blazing and foul language, all to the beat of pulsing rap music. I was a teen-ager during the time of the "blaxploitation" films of the 1970s and had long had my fill of stories about black pimps and prostitutes and other such characters. And the		
Thomas' Good News, Bad News, Gregory Freeman, 800 words, :	Fri., 7/12/1991	"SO, IS CLARENCE THOMAS an Oreo?" One of my white colleagues startled me with that question last week, shortly after President George Bush announced that Thomas would be his choice to replace Thurgood Marshall on the Supreme Court. I was a bit taken aback by the question of whether Thomas was black on the outside and white on the inside and didn't respond immediately. Like many African-Americans, I was still weighing the good news-bad news message from Bush		
Deposit Bill Would Help Environment, Gregory Freeman, 741 words, :	Fri., 7/5/1991	SHEENA LOOKED UP at the man asking her a question, squinted at the sunlight and wiped her brow. "See this?" she said, extending her left forearm and showing a long scar that started at her wrist and continued for about five inches. "That happened when I fell from the swing." Eleven-year-old Sheena said she had been on the swing in Fairground Park about a year ago and had fallen when she tried to jump from it. But instead of the dark earth		
Parents, Business, Neighbors, Must Work To Save The City's Next Young Victim, Gregory Freeman, 800 words, :	Fri., 6/28/1991	AN INCIDENT THIS WEEK again points to the need for a comprehensive approach to the problem of crime among youth. Che Howard, a 9-year-old youth league baseball player who was warming up for a game, was shot Monday evening near Fairground Park in the city's O'Fallon neighborhood. Young Che was shot in the left leg by a group of teen-agers, who had been shooting at each other near the park. Fortunately, Che survived the shot and was released from an area hospital Tuesday.		
Freedom Ride Of '61 Holds Value Today, Gregory Freeman, 816 words, :	Fri., 6/21/1991	THANKS TO TV specials like Henry Hampton's "Eyes on the Prize" and to the attention given each year to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, such events as Rosa Parks' decision not to sit at the back of a public bus and the 1963 March on Washington are ingrained in America's collective memory. Such is not the case with the "freedom riders," says Charles Alphin. Thirty years ago, a group of blacks and whites dissatisfied		
Reporter Had Unique Access To The War, Gregory Freeman, 746 words, :	Fri., 6/14/1991	WHEN REPORTERS in the Middle East were clamoring to find out what was going on behind the scenes, one reporter - a native St. Louisan - had the distinction of being the only one there. That reporter - Willard Shepard - is a journalist on the air but during the recent gulf war, he was a war pilot in the air. Shepard grew up in north St. Louis and is now a reporter for WJW-TV in Cleveland. He was in St. Louis earlier this week to visit friends and relatives. If you're a		
A Good Season To Tune Up City Priorities, Gregory Freeman, 802 words, :	Fri., 6/7/1991	RIGHT NOW - just as summer is arriving and the pace for some is slowing up a bit - it might be a good idea for our city officials to consider a priority checkup. Why not? We get physical checkups and dental checkups. And the city certainly seems to be ready for one. Why? Well, take a look at what city officials are considering these days: Reductions in surgery and general medical services for the poor at St. Louis Regional Medical Center and its clinics. Officials are		
Racial Hatred Can Strike All Neighborhoods, Gregory Freeman, 681 words, :	Fri., 5/31/1991	WHAT WOULD HAPPEN if everyone in America turned purple tomorrow? An outlandish thought, admittedly, but what if everyone on Earth were the same color? The thought came to me last week when three separate incidents occurred, all within 72 hours. The first struck me because it affected someone I know: Huel Perkins, formerly a reporter and anchor at KSDK (Channel 5) here, and now an anchor at WJBK television in Detroit. I knew Huel and his wife when they lived here. They		

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Woman Nears End Of Climb From Poverty, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Fri., 5/24/1991	IT HAS BEEN a long, steep climb for Mary Durham to pull herself out of the harsh, rocky cavern of poverty, but she is finally beginning to see sunlight. Durham graduated from Florissant Valley Community College on Saturday with an associate degree in nursing. By August, she should be a registered nurse. But it has taken a long time for Durham to get to this point. Because of financial and other problems, she has been in and out of school over the past five years, and at one		
America Must Lend Ear, Hand To Hispanics, Gregory Freeman, 754 words, :	Fri., 5/17/1991	A LITTLE SENSITIVITY would go a long way when it comes to business and government. So says Manuel Oliverez, president of National Image. Image, an organization committed to improving civil rights, education and employment opportunities for Hispanics, is holding its national convention here this week at the Clarion Hotel. Oliverez said the recent rioting by Hispanics in Washington might have been avoided had the Washington police been more familiar with the culture of Hispanic		
Don't Blame The Cafe, If You Hate Curry, Gregory Freeman, 750 words, :	Fri., 5/10/1991	DEAR MR. FREEMAN," the letter began. "In your 'Urban View' column on Friday, April 19, you stated: 'The fact is that the words 'black' and 'deterioration' are not synonymous. But many whites have stereotypes of blacks that prevent them from looking at other factors.' . . . Let me tell you that this white person is not racist and I do not have any stereotypical beliefs. My views and beliefs are from firsthand		
Home's Namesake A Pioneer, Gregory Freeman, 649 words, :	Fri., 5/3/1991	FOR MANY St. Louisans, the name Annie Malone means an annual parade where African-American individuals and organizations march through the city's North Side in a festive spirit. But for others, the name rekindles memories of a woman who served as president, from 1919 until 1943, of what once was the St. Louis Colored Orphan Home. Malone's name was in the news again this week, when new and expanded facilities at the Annie Malone Children's Home were dedicated in a		
Man Demands Right To Smoke, Gregory Freeman, 701 words, :	Fri., 4/26/1991	EIGHT LITTLE WORDS started a movement in America: Cigarette smoking may be hazardous to your health. The words were ignored by millions of Americans when they were first placed on cigarette packs nearly 30 years ago. But over the years, as Americans have learned more about the harmful effects of cigarette smoke, more people have paid attention to the warnings. Cigarette and cigar advertising was once a staple of television. Jingles like "Winston tastes good, like a		
Stereotypes And Reality, Gregory Freeman, 742 words, :	Fri., 4/19/1991	A MIDDLE-AGED woman was working on her garden Thursday morning in the 4200 block of North Taylor Avenue, an area of neat, ranch-style homes. A group of children was waiting on a corner for a school bus. A man was cutting his lawn while his wife trimmed the hedges. Another man was watering the lawn of his 5-year-old home. Outsiders might think that this was a neighborhood in any suburban area. But this neighborhood is nowhere near suburbia. It's in north St.		
Police Chief Takes Aim At Gun Problem, Greg Freeman, 812 words, :	Fri., 4/12/1991	MANY PEOPLE don't want to admit it, but handguns have gotten out of control - particularly in urban areas. No one less than Louis W. Sullivan, secretary of Health and Human Services, has acknowledged that more teen-age boys die from gunshots than from all natural causes combined. Between 1984 and 1988, the death rate for teens from firearms increased more than 40 percent, surpassing the mortality rate from all natural causes, according to a study released last month by the National		
Effort To Divide City Fails At Polls, Gregory Freeman, 787 words, :	Fri., 4/5/1991	HEADLINE: Effort To Divide City Fails At Polls THE MESSAGE from Tuesday's election was loud and clear: Voters are tiring of candidates who try to divide the city. Voters soundly defeated a slate of candidates that had seemed determined to widen the already yawning gap between blacks and whites in St. Louis. Members of the so-called anti-busing slate, called the Friends and Advocates of Neighborhood Schools, seemed bent on dividing the city from the very beginning. While		
3 Scenarios For A Black Mayor Here, Gregory Freeman, 753 words, :	Fri., 3/29/1991	IT'S HAPPENED all around us. Philadelphia has done it. Chicago has done it. Atlanta, Los Angeles and New York have done it. And now, Kansas City has done it. "It," if you haven't guessed by now, is elect a black mayor. Emanuel Cleaver's election Tuesday probably says as much about Kansas City as it does about the man who will take office April 10 as the city's new chief executive. Kansas City isn't		
Suburbs Get Richer, Cities Get Poorer, Gregory Freeman, 736 words, :	Fri., 3/15/1991	THE NATIONAL LEAGUE of Cities has released some eyebrow-raising information. People in the nation's largest central cities now have incomes only 59 percent as high as those of people in the surrounding suburbs, leaving many cities financially crippled, according to the league's study. In 1980, the per capita income in 62 major central cities averaged 89 percent of their suburbanites' incomes. The bottom line: America's cities - and their dwellers - are getting		
Of Bigotry, Schools Slate, Gregory Freeman, 735 words, :	Fri., 3/8/1991	NOW THAT the city primary election is out of the way, St. Louis voters are turning their sights to the School Board race. And in a racially torn city like St. Louis, the School Board race promises to be like St. Louis summers - hot and sticky. The matter is already threatening to tear apart the fledgling efforts to promote racial progress in construction here. Dick Mantia of the Building and Construction Trades Council touched off the latest controversy by endorsing a slate of		
E. St. Louis Gets A Chance, Gregory Freeman, 791 words, :	Fri., 3/1/1991	THE ELECTION of Gordon D. Bush Tuesday as mayor of East St. Louis may be just the shot in the arm that the long-suffering city needs to begin to find its way back to fiscal responsibility and to plan for its future. There's no question about East St. Louis' potential. Its location makes it an excellent city for development. Its riverfront is the prime location to view the Arch, the St. Louis riverfront and other downtown attractions and should be especially attractive to		
College Students Learning A Lesson To Remember About Homelessness, Gregory Freeman, 763 words, :	Fri., 2/22/1991	GREENVILLE, Ill. MOST OF US think that we have some idea of what being homeless is like. But few of us have actually experienced it. A group of students at Greenville College is experiencing homelessness, or at least a simulation of it. They are spending nights in a hut built for homeless people. And the experience has widened their eyes considerably. The idea stemmed from a visit to the campus by a representative of a group called the Mad Housers. The Mad Housers, an		
Training Tomorrow's Leaders, Gregory Freeman, 704 words, :	Fri., 2/15/1991	BY NOW, MOST PEOPLE who keep up with demographic trends are aware of the U.S. Department of Labor report that says women and minorities will make up most of those entering the work force by the end of the decade. That report has left many scrambling to learn what this new trend will mean for all of us. Who will these new workers be, and what preparation will they need to become the leaders of businesses? One group that is concerned about the trend - and that wants to see to it that		

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Black History Month Needed Year-Round, Gregory Freeman, 724 words, :	Fri., 2/8/1991	QUICK: WHO INVENTED the gas mask? Time's up. The answer is Garrett Augustus Morgan, a black American. Morgan invented the gas mask - which may soon be used to save untold lives in the war in the Persian Gulf - in 1912. Chances are, you never learned about Morgan in school when you were growing up. If not, you're not unlike millions of other Americans, who have very little knowledge of the contributions that African-Americans have made to the United States and to the		
War Is Hell; Just Ask Politicians, Gregory Freeman, 712 words, :	Fri., 2/1/1991	WANT TO CAPTURE the public's attention these days? Don't become a candidate for political office in St. Louis. Candidates for office this year are getting more frustrated by the day with the war in the Persian Gulf. They're finding it increasingly hard to get the public's - and the media's - eye. In St. Louis, voters will go to the polls in March to elect a president of the Board of Aldermen, among other officials. The president's race has often		
The Pros And Cons, Should Bush Weigh Subbing Powell For Quayle, Gregory Freeman, 715 words, :	Fri., 1/25/1991	COLIN POWELL for vice president? A year ago, the idea would have been considered wishful thinking on someone's part. But today, with the U.S. engaged in war in the Persian Gulf, the idea sounds a lot less far-fetched. Powell is one of the key leaders in the war effort, and he has demonstrated himself to be a man who has matters in control and who is at ease with power. During normal times, few Americans even know who the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is. But these		
Citing History, Many Blacks Criticize War, Gregory Freeman, 793 words, :	Fri., 1/18/1991	THE WAR is under way in the Persian Gulf, and while much of America is supportive of President George Bush's actions there, many black Americans remain critical. There's no question that the war effort has considerably less support among blacks than among whites. A recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll showed that while more than 60 percent of whites supported President George Bush's military efforts, less than a third - 31 percent - of the blacks polled supported them.		
Sharp Promoters Aim Empty Solace Of Tobacco, Alcohol At Poor, Blacks, Gregory Freeman, 635 words, :	Fri., 1/11/1991	THE FACTS AND statistics are all there: Each year, more black Americans die from smoking-related illnesses than from AIDS, drug abuse, car accidents and homicide combined. Smoking increases the chance that pregnant women will miscarry, lose their babies soon after they're born, have smaller babies or have premature babies. A higher percentage of blacks than whites smoke cigarettes. Blacks have a higher overall incidence of cancer, particularly cigarette-related		
Westfall Shows Breadth Of Vision For Area In His Inaugural Address, Gregory Freeman, 631 words, :	Fri., 1/4/1991	ST. LOUIS COUNTY Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall went beyond political pablum in his inauguration speech on New Year's Day when he offered his vision for the metropolitan area. Westfall pledged a spirit of cooperation between St. Louis County and the city of St. Louis. "To make progress and to build an even better community, every part of our region must prosper, but we cannot do so if parochial interest is the only interest brought to the		
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U.S. Has To Get Its Services Ready As Number Of People Over Age 65 Booms, Gregory Freeman, 751 words, :	Fri., 12/28/1990	SO YOU THOUGHT the baby boomers were changing America? Brace yourself. You're about to see one of the biggest booms yet. According to a new demographic report by the U.S. Administration on Aging and the American Association of Retired Persons, the number of Americans 65 and older has increased by 21 percent since 1980, compared with an 8 percent increase for the rest of the population. The report projects that by the year 2030, there will be 66 million older people,		
A President Whose Views Are Suspect, Gregory Freeman, 729 words, :	Fri., 12/21/1990	GEORGE BUSH HAS left us out here in the hinterlands scratching our heads. Where does he stand on civil rights issues? During the presidential election campaign, he played to racist undercurrents in society with his use of the Willie Horton ads. After winning election, he courted civil rights leaders last year and this year, hoping to woo them to the Republican Party. Then he changed direction again by vetoing the 1990 Civil Rights Act, claiming that it would have called		
Doing Better By Black Male Youngsters, Gregory Freeman, 747 words, :	Fri., 12/14/1990	DOES A SPECIAL school curriculum aimed specifically at black boys make a difference in the development of those youngsters? Spencer H. Holland thinks so, and he's devoting much of his time these days to proving it. Holland directs the Center for Educating African-American Males at Morgan State University in Baltimore. In recent years, he's developed an innovative program designed to help educational systems reverse the growing dropout rate of black males and provide them,		
'Sensitive' Doesn't Mean 'Colorblind', Gregory Freeman, 724 words, :	Fri., 12/7/1990	WHILE WATCHING television earlier this week, a commercial caused me to sit straight up. The commercial, for a well-known local furniture company, was pushing its broad credit policy. But what caught my attention was not the store's assets. Instead, I was surprised by a man dressed up as a stereotypical American Indian chief - complete with headdress - saying something about customers being able to "get um heap good credit" at that store. I found the		
PRIDE Builds New Dialogue, Gregory Freeman, 677 words, :	Fri., 11/30/1990	ALFRED J. FLEISCHER, chairman of Fleischer-Seeger Construction Co., read the newspaper not too long ago, and his blood boiled. Fleischer, who for years has been a close follower of the Olympics and who has been working with the group that hopes to bring the Olympics here in 2004, read about how Atlanta built a coalition of blacks and whites and successfully wooed the International Olympics Committee. As a result, Atlanta will host the Olympics in 1996. "That Olympics is		
'Real' Men Are Fathers To Their Sons, Gregory Freeman, 811 words, :	Fri., 11/23/1990	I SAT DOWN to Thanksgiving dinner Thursday with my son, wife and other family members and realized that I had something to be thankful for: I was thankful to be able to sit down to a meal with my 9-year-old son - and I was glad that he had a father to sit down to eat with him. I thought about how many African-American youngsters don't have fathers to grow up with; how many have known only their mothers, who are trying to fill the shoes of both father and mother. I thought about		
Blacks Looking To Westfall For Larger Council, Gregory Freeman, 799 words, :	Fri., 11/16/1990	TO THE VICTOR belong the spoils, the old saying goes. And this time, a portion of the spoils may be black representation on the St. Louis County Council. One result of the election Nov. 6 of George "Buzz" Westfall as county executive may be an increase in the size of the County Council. That may allow at least one black person to win a seat on the council. No black has ever served on the seven-member council. A black candidate ran for the council in the		
Black Voters Getting Attention, Gregory Freeman, 724 words, :	Fri., 11/2/1990	LIKE SCARLETT O'HARA being courted by a bevy of gentleman callers, black voters here are finding themselves being wooed by Republicans and Democrats alike in the waning days of the campaign season. The unlikely suitors are St. Louis County Executive H.C. Milford and St. Louis License Collector Steve Doss, both Republicans. Both are targeting black voters in their efforts to hold on to their offices. Both are up for their first elections to their positions: Milford became county		

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Ignore His Lips -- Read Bush's Veto, Gregory Freeman, 703 words, :	Fri., 10/26/1990	WHEN I WAS GROWING up, I heard stories of how my great-grandmother had always voted Republican until Franklin D. Roosevelt came along. My great-grandmother - Big Mama, as she was affectionately known by the family - always had a keen sense of fairness and loyalty. She felt obligated to the GOP, the party that had given America Abraham Lincoln and had supported the Reconstruction efforts of the late 1800s. But after Roosevelt, Big Mama defected to the Democratic Party. She believed		
Group Looking To The Future, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Fri., 10/19/1990	BY NOW, YOU'VE surely read the predictions by the federal government that by the end of the decade women and minorities will make up the bulk of those entering the work force. A lot of ink has been given to that issue within the last year, as many have begun scrambling to learn what this new trend will mean for all of us. In St. Louis, the International Association of Business Communicators has decided not to wait and see. Instead, the group plans to find out what - if		
The Greening Of Atlanta Makes A Point, Gregory Freeman, 649 words, :	Fri., 10/5/1990	WHEN IT COMES to dealing with blacks in business, St. Louis has much to learn from Atlanta. As pointed out by Post-Dispatch reporter Andre Jackson in a series of stories this week, Atlanta has had to confront its racial problems over the years and give blacks there their fair share of the city's economic pie. By doing that, blacks and whites have been able to work together to produce a string of successes that have meant - and continue to mean - big bucks for that city: the 1988		
Do Blacks Use 2 Standards?, Gregory Freeman, 732 words, :	Fri., 9/28/1990	ARE BLACKS SOMETIMES too forgiving of behavior in themselves that they would find unacceptable in others? The question came to mind earlier this week while I was teaching a journalism class at Webster University. The discussion surrounded the question of how blacks are portrayed on television, and the program "In Living Color" came up. "In Living Color" airs Sunday nights on the Fox network. It's a skit-oriented program that takes		
Show To Send 'Mixed' Signal, Gregory Freeman, 757 words, :	Fri., 9/21/1990	JAMES THOMAS HAD no idea that he was coming up with anything controversial when he developed an idea for a local dance show. "The show was going to feature hot dancing and hot fashions," said Thomas, owner of T.J. Productions. His plans were for it to be a "cross between 'Soul Train' and 'Club MTV.'" But what Thomas ran into - when he searched for a nightclub to tape his show - was resistance from some club owners.		
Firearms Need More Controls To Save Lives, Gregory Freeman, 790 words, :	Fri., 9/14/1990	BEFORE YET ANOTHER expert points to smoking, alcohol or myriad other problems that are killing black people, someone had better take a good, long look at guns - and what can be done about them. Guns are killing and maiming black people at an alarming rate. Earlier this week, four people, including two children, were wounded when a man on a street and another in a car began firing at each other through a crowd in front of an apartment building in northwest St. Louis.		
Brochure To Give City Hall Its Moment In The Sun Among Landmarks, Gregory Freeman, 791 words, :	Sat., 9/8/1990	THERE ARE a lot of people who think that if the walls of St. Louis City Hall could talk, they would spew plenty of hot air. But Gail Compton, a public information officer for city government, has found a great deal of history at City Hall worth telling. The nearly 100-year-old structure, on Tucker Boulevard, has witnessed a variety of changes and near-changes over the years. But until very recently, the city has had no real documentation of the massive structure's history.		
The Career And Victories Of Bill Bailey, Gregory Freeman, 726 words, :	Fri., 8/31/1990	ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT but perhaps least prominent city officials retires today. Unless you've been involved in city government or civil rights activities here for some time, chances are you've never heard of Bill Bailey. But Bailey long ago became a fixture in both areas. Bailey, who has worked for the city for 26 years, is retiring today from the recorder of deeds office, as deputy recorder. Bailey is a modest sort. But perhaps as much or more than anyone		
Closed Doors, Closed Minds, Gregory Freeman, 632 words, :	Fri., 8/24/1990	SOON AFTER I graduated from college, a good friend of mine confided in me that he was gay. I was surprised. I had grown up with him, and had no indication about his inclinations. In fact, he had dated several girls in high school. My friend told me that he had wrestled with his homosexuality for some time, but in the end knew that he was indeed gay. He then proceeded to tell me about the pain he faced when he told his parents. His mother cried, and his father refused to		
The Appeal Of Louis Farrakhan, Gregory Freeman, 681 words, :	Fri., 8/17/1990	AFTER LOUIS FARRAKHAN'S appearance here last Monday, I was approached by several of my white colleagues in scenes that most certainly were duplicated at businesses throughout St. Louis where blacks and whites work together. My colleagues were astonished that 5,000 people would show up at Kiel Auditorium to hear Farrakhan speak. "Why would so many people show up to hear a man who preaches hate?" one colleague asked me. The question brought to mind Saddam Hussein and the people of Iraq.		
After 6 Long Years, Mural Is Ready, Gregory Freeman, 685 words, :	Fri., 8/10/1990	IT'S BEEN a long time coming. But after six long years, it will be unveiled on Monday. "It" is a 51-foot-long mural that pays tribute to African-American achievements in aviation, from 1917 to the present. The mural, "Black Americans in Flight," will be on permanent display on the lower level of the Lambert Field terminal, near the TWA baggage claim area. In 1984, Luther Boykins - then a member of the St. Louis Airport Commission		
City In Need Of Nightlife, Greg Freeman, 685 words, :	Fri., 8/3/1990	MARTIE ABOUSSIE, a longtime St. Louis alderman and fixture at City Hall, recently returned from a trip to Chicago. He was struck by the difference between the two cities. Where downtown Chicago is always a hustling, bustling place, St. Louis has a downtown that is often sleepy during the day and comatose at night. Oh, sure, Laclede's Landing usually draws a crowd. There are a couple of avante garde nightclubs. And St. Louisans flock downtown whenever the Cardinals are in		
Weber Lacking On The Defense, Greg Freeman, 732 words, :	Fri., 7/27/1990	AS ASSISTANT STATE'S attorney for Madison County, Don Weber's job was to convince juries that his version of the truth was the whole truth. But Weber did a poor job this week of convincing people that he had no racist intent in his comments about black people - comments that ultimately forced him to resign. Weber contended that he was no racist. That may be true. But you certainly have to wonder what was going through his mind when he made his racially		
Group Aims Efforts At Black Males, Greg Freeman, 761 words, :	Fri., 7/20/1990	MANY PEOPLE TALK about the problems of black males in America. A national group that met last week in Kansas City has decided to do something about them. Some 200 blacks from around the country - scholars, sociologists, ministers, community activists and others - gathered at that conference to exchange research and ideas on the problems faced by black men and to lay the groundwork for an organization dedicated to research and advocacy work for them. The high-powered conference		
Poor Blacks Need A Hand With Self-help, Greg Freeman, 821 words, :	Fri., 7/13/1990	LIKE IT OR NOT, black Americans in general - and black poor males in particular - are facing a serious dilemma, the likes of which we have not seen before. Poverty, drugs and crime are ravaging African-Americans on a daily basis. The stories are put out there for us to see daily, in the newspapers, on television and radio. The statistics are there as well, and the bad news just keeps on coming. According to Fortune magazine: Young black men are ten times more likely to be		

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Marion Barry's Battle For Public Opinion Engrosses Many Blacks, Gregory Freeman, 646 words, :	Fri., 7/6/1990	BARBER SHOPS have long been a place where men gather to talk about sports, politics and women - not necessarily in that order. But at Cobbs' Barber Shop, at Shreve and Carter avenues in north St. Louis, - and, I suspect, at others in black neighborhoods - the chief topic last week was Mayor Marion Barry of Washington. Many blacks are finding themselves glued to their television sets and devouring every word of newspaper stories about Barry's trial on drug and perjury		
Unlikely Help For Nasty Rap, Gregory Freeman, 706 words, :	Fri., 6/29/1990	WHEN I WAS a teen-ager, my younger sister and I used to sneak down the basement of our home and listen to records by comedians Redd Foxx and Moms Mabley. Those records were listened to by my parents and their friends, but they were strictly banned around our house as far as kids were concerned. So the minute the adults left, the albums were the first things that we listened to. It wasn't so much that the comedians were that funny - although some of their material was hilarious.		
History Of Africa: A Past Rediscovered, Gregory Freeman, 797 words, :	Fri., 6/22/1990	UNLIKE MANY WHITES, I cannot trace my family's history to any foreign country. I assume that my ancestors came from some part of Africa, but I have no idea where. As anyone who ever read Alex Haley's book "Roots" or watched the miniseries knows, great pains were taken by slave owners to keep slaves in America ignorant. By doing so, they put cultural shackles on those slaves and their descendants that were more powerful, more devastating than any made of		
City-County Mixing Pot Going Sour, Gregory Freeman, 643 words, :	Fri., 6/8/1990	MOST OF US who grew up here know the story. More than 100 years ago, the St. Louis city fathers - they were fathers then - decided that the city would, in effect, secede from St. Louis County. The city at that time was prospering, and city officials felt that St. Louis was being dragged down by the poor rural towns that surrounded it on the west, south and north. Today, St. Louis is one of only a handful of cities in the country that are independent of surrounding counties. And		
Stereotypes Trigger Harassment, Groundless Fear Of Young Blacks, Greg Freeman, 730 words, :	Fri., 6/1/1990	DWAYNE JACKSON is a black 17-year-old youth who lives in a predominantly white neighborhood in Belleville. Jackson says police have stopped him four times while walking there and asked him what he was up to. George Sanders, 20, is a black college student. While riding his bicycle through the Central West End one evening, Sanders says, he was questioned by police wanting to know whose bicycle he was riding and whether he had proof that he owned it. The officers left him alone		
Party Will Help Pass Ivory Perry's Torch, Gregory Freeman, 736 words, :	Fri., 5/25/1990	IVORY PERRY was a man of conviction. I first met Perry nearly 15 years ago, when I was a reporter for the St. Louis American. At the time, he was a housing specialist with the Union-Sarah Gateway Center, and he was concerned with the problems caused by lead paint. He was far from being a flashy man. I recall that he wore a shirt and a pair of slacks that looked like they could have used a bit of ironing. He didn't speak the king's English. But he was sincere. He knew		
Racial Hatred Grows In Leaders' Silence, Gregory Freeman, 661 words, :	Fri., 5/18/1990	CAN BLACK PEOPLE be racists? The obvious answer seems to be "yes." But a growing minority of African Americans believe that blacks cannot be racists. They argue that to be a racist, one must have power. Because black people in America have little power, these individuals contend, blacks cannot possibly be racists. People who support this theory quickly cite the dictionary definition of racism as "the belief that racial differences produce an		
Goals Take Commitment, Gregory Freeman, 613 words, :	Fri., 5/11/1990	ON A BRISK WALK along the Forest Park bicycle trail earlier this week, I encountered a fellow walker wearing a white T-shirt. Emblazoned on the shirt were the words: "I subscribe to the American dream." By looking at the gentleman, it appeared that his subscription had been a good investment. When someone is walking or jogging, it's not easy to tell what he or she does for a living. But with his silky white hair and fashionable wire-framed glasses, the		
TV: Blacks Are Gaining, Gregory Freeman, 715 words, :	Fri., 5/4/1990	ART IMITATES life, they say. That's probably not true when it comes to television. But while African-Americans continue to struggle with issues such as unemployment, drug abuse, teen-age pregnancy and AIDS, blacks on television continue to make steady progress in the area of entertainment. Largely as a result of Bill Cosby's "The Cosby Show," more blacks are involved in television now than perhaps at any other time in television history. Where		
Poverty: America's Deadliest Health Risk, Greg Freeman, words, :	Fri., 4/20/1990	THERE'S GOOD NEWS and bad news from the New England Journal of Medicine. First, the good news: The majority of black men in the United States are not dying in shootouts, despite what the evening news might lead you to believe. Now, the bad news: Black men living in Harlem - a poor, black neighborhood in upper Manhattan - are less likely to reach the age of 65 than men living in Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world. In Bangladesh, 55 percent of men and 50		
High Marks For Ritter, Gregory Freeman, 779 words, :	Fri., 4/6/1990	PARENTS AT Assumption High School in East St. Louis faced a dilemma last year: The Belleville Diocese, citing low enrollment, had decided to close the school - the city's last Catholic high school. The diocese promised to help send students to other Catholic schools by bus, but the plan - which would have required students to board buses at 5:30 each morning - fell far short of some parents' expectations. One group of parents heard about Cardinal Ritter College Prep in north		
Rate Hikes' Sequel: Calls For Regulation, Gregory Freeman, 703 words, :	Fri., 3/23/1990	PAUL G. BERRA doesn't look much like Peter Finch. Berra is much younger than Finch was at the time of his death. Berra has dark hair, a mustache and a slightly receding hairline. In fact, Berra, the city's cable communications manager, really looks nothing like Finch, the late matinee idol. But that didn't stop Berra last week from doing an imitation of Finch's character in the movie, "Network," where he urged Americans to stand up and		
Old Dream Stuck On New Reality, Gregory Freeman, 617 words, :	Fri., 3/16/1990	TONYA IS pursuing the American dream. But she fears that it has become so elusive that she may never reach it. Tonya, 27, lives in St. Louis public housing, not because she wants to, but out of necessity. Both of her parents are dead, and she has no other relatives here. Her job pays little more than minimum wage. Despite the hand that life has dealt her, Tonya is trying to save her money in hopes of someday leaving public housing. Owning a home, to her, is the American dream.		
Black Officials Increase Clout, Greg Freeman, 628 words, :	Fri., 3/9/1990	IT'S FINALLY happened. A new group has been formed to increase the political clout of blacks in St. Louis County. The group, which calls itself BECO, for Black Elected County Officials, will seek more black representation in the county, especially among judges and County Council members. Currently, there are no black judges or County Council members. When one considers the migration of blacks to the county in the last 20 years, it's surprising that such an		
Wasted Lives: Far Too Many, Gregory Freeman, 849 words, :	Fri., 3/2/1990	A NEW STUDY that says that almost one of every four young black males is behind bars or on probation or parole needs to shake up a lot of people. The staggering figures come from a report by The Sentencing Project, a non-profit group that promotes sentencing reform. The report says that last year, 609,690 black males between the ages of 20 and 29 were under the control of the criminal justice system. The figure represents 23 percent of the entire black male population for that age group and		

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Klan-Destined Media Blew It, Gregory Freeman, 580 words, :	Fri., 2/23/1990	WHEN IT COMES TO HATE groups, it's easy to overreact. The media here did it again with James Betts, who tried to set up a vigilante group here "to protect white people from black crime." Betts had no issue. And, it's safe to say, he had no following. The issue was whether whites really had anything to fear from blacks. Last year, only 5 percent of the nation's 11,000 one-on-one killings involved whites killed by blacks. On the other		
Minorities Take A Major Step, Gregory Freeman, 747 words, :	Fri., 2/16/1990	Politics is the art of compromise. - Anonymous COMPTROLLER VIRVUS JONES and other black politicians won a significant victory last week by doing something that black politicians here rarely do - sticking together. After a flurry of meetings Friday and Saturday, the politicians emerged with something considerably greater than the standard 15 percent minority participation called for in the original agreement on the stadium plan. As part of the agreement, 20 percent of the		
Outlook For The City: Officials View The '90s With Reserved Optimism, Gregory Freeman, 661 words, :	Fri., 2/9/1990	THE DEATH WATCH for the city of St. Louis may soon be over. City officials are keeping their fingers crossed that the end of the 1990s may see not only an end to the decades long trend of population decline in the city, but an actual increase in the numbers. Their cautious optimism is based on: 1988 census figures for the city showing fewer people leaving the city than ever before. The figures show a population reduction of about one percent a year, the smallest decline in the		
Of Minorities, Ads, Health, Gregory Freeman, 598 words, :	Fri., 2/2/1990	THE R.J. REYNOLDS Co. lit up a controversy recently when it tried to push a new cigarette specifically at black Americans. The new cigarette, called Uptown, was roundly criticized, and ultimately the company dropped the idea. But R.J. Reynolds complained that it had done nothing different in creating a new cigarette targeted at a specific audience. Targeted advertising isn't limited to the R.J. Reynolds Co. Many firms push their products in specific areas. McDonald's has		
First, You Get Their Attention, Greg Freeman, 739 words, :	Fri., 1/19/1990	SOMETIMES YOU HAVE to scream at the top of your lungs to get someone to pay attention to what you are saying. Comptroller Virvus Jones had to scream last week - figuratively, of course - to get officials to slow down and pay attention to his concerns with a proposal for a new stadium and convention center expansion. Jones yelled about minority participation in the plans. And - for a brief while, anyway - that stopped people in their tracks. Now that he has their		
King's Friend Remembers, Gregory Freeman, 798 words, :	Fri., 1/12/1990	"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. "I have a dream today." Overa Burnett Glasco knows Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream by heart. Glasco, who lives in north St. Louis now, is a retired teacher. She and her husband, the late Rev. R. James Glasco, worked with King during the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycotts		
Troupe Looks At Street Kids, Gregory Freeman, 814 words, :	Fri., 1/5/1990	State Rep. Charles Quincy Troupe wants to give an education to the St. Louis Police Department when it comes to street crime. Troupe read a recent newspaper story where police discussed an increase in the number of juveniles in the city being involved in crime. "Apparently, they don't understand what's going on or causing this," Troupe said. Troupe has a lot of ideas as to what factors are causing the problem. "These young people are		
1989:	19 columns	0 in book		
St. Louis, Meet Me At The Fair, Gregory Freeman, 757 words, :	Fri., 12/29/1989	Meet me in St. Louis, Louis, Meet me at the fair. Don't tell me the lights are shining Any place but there. . . THERE'S HARDLY A St. Louisan alive who hasn't had to learn at least the first verse of that tune somewhere along the way. The song was the theme for St. Louis during the 1904 World's Fair. It was popularized again some 40 years later by Judy Garland in the movie "Meet Me in St. Louis," and the story has been		
Black Men Facing Crisis, Gregory Freeman, 817 words, :	Fri., 12/22/1989	THE 15-YEAR-OLD grinned at me like a Cheshire cat. "I've got three kids," he explained to me. Two of them were by one girl, he said; the third was by another. His paternity was a fact that he was very proud of, and the pattern was one that he obviously had no intention of halting. To him, having a baby was a right of passage: It told him that he was a man. To him, a child growing up without a father isn't terribly unusual. He's		
City Tightens Tavern Rules, Gregory Freeman, 758 words, :	Fri., 12/15/1989	FOR YVONNE JACOBS, the neighborhood tavern had been a nuisance for some time. But it became more than that earlier this year when a customer was shot to death on the front lawn of a home she owns. "It started out with people leaving the bar drunk," she said. "They'd leave with liquor in cans or cups or what have you, and the trash would end up on people's lawns. It was a real nuisance. "The next thing, people in the bar		
One Unwed Mother Who Beat The Odds, Gregory Freeman, 699 words, :	Fri., 12/8/1989	SOURCE: GREGORY FREEMAN DENISE'S LIFE CHANGED forever one night in 1976. That's when she got pregnant at age 19. Denise, a religious person, had had the traditional "birds and bees" talk with her mother. And being a very religious person, she thought that having sex before marriage was a sin. "I also thought birth control was a sin," she said. "I had always been told that you shouldn't have sex,		
Study On Race Found Lacking, Gregory Freeman, 755 words, :	Fri., 12/1/1989	SOURCE: GREGORY FREEMAN WHILE THE Confluence St. Louis report on racial polarization goes a long way toward generating discussion about racism in St. Louis, it is, in some respects, incomplete. It's always difficult to get 40 people - the number who served on the task force - to agree about anything. But some matters don't appear to be addressed by the report released last week. The committee members appear to start with the premise that racial polarization is a		
Change Moves To South Side, Gregory Freeman, 738 words, :	Fri., 11/24/1989	TIM CROSBY is adjusting uneasily to a neighborhood in transition. Crosby, 35, has lived most of his life in the Shaw neighborhood, in south St. Louis, among white, working-class people. Recently his neighborhood has been browning. And Crosby is chagrined. Since blacks have moved in, Crosby says, "crime has gone up, the neighborhood's noisy as hell and graffiti has sprung up out of nowhere." Crosby notes that in the past, when older whites		
Commitment To The City, Gregory Freeman, 695 words, :	Fri., 11/17/1989	IT WASN'T too long ago that some members of the national press were suggesting that the last person to leave St. Louis should turn out the lights. Much has been done since then, and the city's reputation has risen considerably among the national press. But just to be sure, a Jewish congregation in the city's West End is determined to make sure the city's lights stay on. The Central Reform Congregation, at 5007 Waterman Boulevard, is the only Jewish		
Victories More Than Skin Deep, Greg Freeman, 758 words, :	Fri., 11/10/1989	SOURCE: GREG FREEMAN ST. LOUIS POLITICIANS, black and white, could learn a lot from Tuesday's election results, which proclaimed David Dinkins the first black mayor of New York, L. Douglas Wilder the first black politician ever elected governor of a U.S. state, John Daniels the first black mayor of New Haven, Conn., and Norman Rice the first black mayor of Seattle. All four men campaigned on the politics of inclusion, a belief that a government representative of all - not just		

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Improvements Due Over Race, Gregory Freeman, 724 words, :	Fri., 11/3/1989	SOURCE: By Gregory Freeman H.C. Milford, the new St. Louis County executive, is in an excellent position to make some real changes in race relations in this area. For years, blacks in St. Louis County have gone virtually unnoticed by county government, given little more than lip service. Milford's predecessor, Gene McNary, was not known for his accessibility to blacks. At one time, that might have been fine in St. Louis County, since its black population was		
Rediscovering Human Race, Gregory Freeman, 702 words, :	Fri., 10/27/1989	SOURCE: GREGORY FREEMAN HAVE MOST black Americans accepted what American racists have been telling them over the centuries: That they are less intelligent, lazy and more prone to violent behavior? Are white Americans consumed by guilt when they reflect on the way black Americans have been treated in this country? Two local consultants would answer yes to both questions. The consultants, Billie S. Mayo and Joyce Olinga, are with Self-Evaluation Consultants Inc. Their		
Power Passes To New Hands, Gregory Freeman, 801 words, :	Fri., 10/20/1989	SOURCE: GREGORY FREEMAN IT WAS ONLY a few years ago that U.S. Rep. William L. Clay was the subject of criticism by some blacks here - both those in politics and out - for playing kingmaker. Clay, they alleged, was guilty of being a political hog. He kept all of the city's black political power to himself, they said, rarely sharing it with others. His concerns, they claimed, were all about Bill Clay and not about black St. Louisans. In their minds, Clay was doing nothing to		
Black 'Brain Drain' Colors Area Gray, Gregory Freeman, 766 words, :	Fri., 10/13/1989	SOURCE: By Gregory Freeman I CAN STILL hear my father's voice: "Hey - there's a colored guy on TV-" My mother, sister and I would come scrambling to huddle around the black-and-white television in the hope of catching a few glimpses of Sidney Poitier, or Harry Belafonte, or whoever was appearing on somebody else's TV show. It seems strange now, those days in the early '60s, when seeing a black on television was so uncommon		
Civil Rights Veteran Sees Hate On Rise, Gregory Freeman, 641 words, :	Fri., 10/6/1989	SOURCE: By Gregory Freeman When it comes to the civil-rights struggle, the Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian has seen a lot of action. For years, he worked side by side with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a member of his personal executive staff. Vivian remains active these days - monitoring hate groups, working to resolve racial conflicts and making the lecture circuit. He'll be in St. Louis on Thursday to discuss the status of the civil-rights movement in the United		
North Side: A Defense, Gregory Freeman, 784 words, :	Fri., 9/29/1989	Memo To: The St. Louis media From: Gregory Freeman Re: North St. Louis Well, to quote Ronald Reagan, "There you go again." Once more, north St. Louis is being painted with a broad brush, one much broader than necessary. The latest incidents surround President Bush's drug war. To illustrate the story locally, you have gone to north St. Louis to talk to North Siders about drugs. That's fine. I don't think		
'Ruined Life' May Save Kids, Gregory Freeman, 726 words, :	Fri., 9/22/1989	JACK DUPREE has wasted much of his life. For 19 years, DuPree was involved in the transporting and sale of drugs, not to mention taking them himself. "I went from pill-popping to marijuana to cocaine to heroin," he said. "I had everything I wanted." Everything, that is, until 1969, when he was sentenced to the Missouri Penitentiary for his part in a robbery in which a security guard was fatally shot. Today - after 20 years in the		
Blacks And The Legion, Gregory Freeman, 739 words, :	Fri., 9/15/1989	SOURCE: Gregory Freeman WHEN THE United States entered World War I in 1917, a black man from Georgia named Tom Powell tried to join the Army to fight for his country. He was rejected, because blacks were not accepted in the Army in the South. Undaunted, Powell climbed aboard a freight car and made his way to Chicago. There he enlisted in the Army, was sent to France and assigned to deliver dispatches. Powell was killed in the line of his messenger duties and later was awarded the		
Just Say Yes To Education, Gregory Freeman, 792 words, :	Fri., 9/8/1989	SOURCE: Gregory Freeman LIKE MILLIONS of Americans, Richard sat glued to his television set the other night to watch President George Bush outline his new drug policies. He listened to the president discuss plans for tougher penalties for the sale and use of illegal drugs. Then he laughed. "There's no way that this is going to do anything," Richard said. He should know. Until about two years ago, Richard was addicted to crack		
Tyrone: Case Study In Abuse Of Alcohol Among Blacks, Gregory Freeman, 749 words, :	Mon., 8/28/1989	TYRONE APPEARS to have a substance-abuse problem. He doesn't think so, however. When Tyrone gets up in the morning - usually around 10 - he has a glass or two of vodka on the rocks. Around midday, he usually polishes off a 40-ounce bottle of malt liquor. In the late afternoon, he often can be found smoking a joint or two of marijuana. And at night, Tyrone often has a nightcap of another large bottle of malt liquor. Probably to no one's surprise, Tyrone doesn't		
Of Guns, Jobs And Futures, Gregory Freeman, 797 words, :	Sat., 8/19/1989	SOURCE: Gregory Freeman A RECENT STUDY indicating that the murder rate among blacks here was the highest of any major city in the nation from 1985 to 1987 probably shocked no one in high crime areas here. It certainly comes as no surprise to Kim, a 17-year-old student who lives in St. Louis. Her neighborhood, she says, has plenty of people who carry guns, people, she says, who are willing to shoot others for committing such "crimes" as stepping on their toe or		

1,619 columns 65 in book 1,168,706 words