

## Don't like the weather? . . .

That changeable Missouri weather lived up to its reputation Thursday. Here an unidentified young lady lounges serenely at Hulen Lake, at peace with the elements. The elements were to strike later in the day, in force.



## . . . just wait awhile

Early Thursday evening heavy black clouds swirled through the once quiet sky, reminding residents that nature likes to strike a balance. The lady in the lake had better take cover. (Missourian photos by Randy Miller)

**Insight**  
**TV news:**  
**Inform or**  
**entertain?**

Shape of the news  
 may be changing  
 with eye on rating

By Mary Ann Summers  
 Missourian staff writer

The winds of change are shaking TV newscasting from coast to coast. Some call it a breath of fresh air, others view it as a devastating wind storm. Missouri has experienced little turbulence yet, and the eye of the storm seems to be in San Francisco. Some see it as a conflict between "show biz" newscasting and straight or "old guard" newscasting.

"Happy talk" and a "tabloid" approach for KGO-TV in San Francisco have brought it some of the highest ratings for a local news show in the country, and criticism of newscasters throughout the country. Mike Wallace, with CBS News's 60 Minutes, said KGO-TV's news stories were 55 per cent tabloid subjects, which Wallace defined as "sex, crimes, fires, tear jerkers, accidents and exorcism." Most Missouri news editors and station managers had heard of KGO-TV's technique but had not seen it themselves. Several editorials on KGO-TV ask: should you give an audience what it wants or what it needs.

According to Austin Bridgman, news editor at KSD-TV in St. Louis, you give the audience a "combination of both." Don Shinkle, news editor for KTVO-TV in Jefferson City, says you give the audience a little of what they want and what they need, but "I don't think you're doing a good job if you're just entertaining."

The Radio-Television News Directors' Association standards state that the primary purpose of broadcast journalism is to inform the public of events of importance and appropriate interest. Some journalists see the recommendations of consulting firms as a threat to good reporting. A growing trend in TV news consulting firms often encourage the use of more local news simplification of news, informally, and in general giving the viewer what he likes. The problem in giving the viewer what he likes may be that news is reduced to what reaches the largest common denominator. Richard Townley in TV Guide says, "A good many TV newsmen see the rapid spread of action oriented 'happy-talk' format as a menace—a danger to news integrity, a hindrance to public understanding of complex issues."

Bridgman says KSD has used consulting firms and they have some good ideas. He said the recommendations must be tempered "with our judgment of the situation."

In Columbia, Rod Gelatt, director of public affairs for KOMU-TV, says the type of newscasting KGO-TV is doing is depressing to him and he hates to see TV news become sensationalistic. He says one could find a "happy medium" for interchange between newscasters. Gelatt notes the problem of making news visually stimulating to the viewer. He cites David Brinkley, "How do you take a picture of a tax cut?" Gelatt says he keeps asking himself, "Am I really getting the message across?" There seems to be a trend to more reliance on TV news as a whole, which Gelatt says is "awesome." He says that since 1964 the networks have had a half hour of news instead of 15 minutes.

To be well informed, people should read magazines and newspapers, ac-  
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# Columbia Missourian

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Good Morning! It's Friday, May 31, 1974

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## Open interviews abandoned in planning and zoning posts

By Teresa Carpenter  
 and Cheryl Tevis  
 Missourian staff writers

In a special meeting Thursday night, the City Council reversed an earlier decision to interview publicly applicants for the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Reverting to its usual procedure, the council reappointed Jon Gerardi to the commission without public discussion.

There had been considerable controversy, mostly beyond public view, of Gerardi's being on the board because of a possible conflict of interest. Gerardi is employed in the construction business; the commission recommends public policy regulating that business.

Because of that controversy, Mayor Tom Anderson had recommended the Council publicly interview applicants for membership on the commission.

Bob Pugh, Fourth Ward councilman,

and Phillip Hanson, Third Ward councilman, objected to the public interview and Thursday called for the special meeting under a rarely used provision of the City Charter. They had asked Anderson to call the meeting but he refused.

Pat Barnes, First Ward councilman, said at the meeting he thought "the whole idea of public interviews" was because of pressure from developers themselves to keep Gerardi off the

commission. Barnes contended Gerardi was unpopular because he "comes down hard" on developers in code enforcement.

Clyde Wilson, Sixth Ward councilman, said although he had voted against Gerardi's appointment three years ago because he felt the Planning and Zoning Commission was "dominated by developers," he had never yet seen a council member or commissioner vote in such a way as to "line his own pockets."

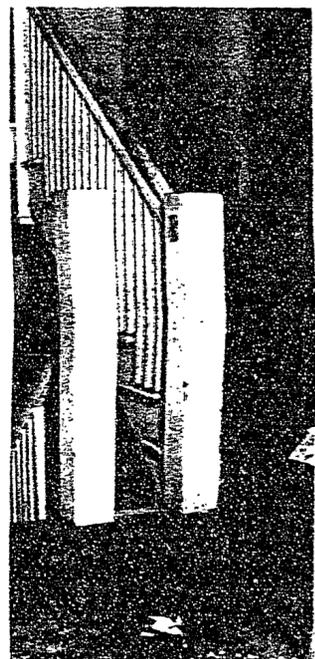
David Davies, University geology professor, was appointed to fill the commission's second opening.

In an open ballot vote, Hanson, Pugh, Barnes and Anderson supported Gerardi.

Hanson, Wilson, Anderson, Pugh and Fran Frueh, Fifth Ward councilwoman, voted for Davies' appointment.

Public vote on the applicants resulted from a motion made by Mrs. Frueh, who, along with Anderson, did not support the council's 5-2 decision to eliminate public interviews of commission applicants.

Sparring with Pugh, Mrs. Frueh said she felt the public vote would "com-  
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A broken bannister is among the apparent safety hazards at 400 Hitt St., a rooming house in which between 15 and 20 tenants lived during the school year. (Missourian photo by Edward Ezell)

## Nixon says, 'I'm not guilty'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — "If I was guilty, I'd get the hell out fast, but I'm not guilty."

Notes taken by Rep. G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., attribute that statement to President Nixon Wednesday evening during a three-hour cruise on the yacht Sequoia with Montgomery and 10 other conservative congressmen.

The lawmakers described the President as elated over the Israeli-Syrian cease-fire agreement, concerned about in-

flation and other economic troubles and a bit reluctant to discuss the impeachment issue.

Montgomery said Nixon did express concern about the impact on future presidents of "such a drastic step" as impeachment, and described his defense in the House Judiciary Committee inquiry as "basically a fight for what the office stands for."

The President cited the "great balance" among the three branches of government, Montgomery said, and feared that "if something

happens now, it would throw that balance off and this could happen to every president who disagrees with Congress."

As for the Mideast peace settlement worked out on Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's marathon mission, Montgomery said of the President's role:

"I got the impression that he did a lot of work himself with Israel and Syria. He was right on top of it. He was in effect behind the scenes right with the whole situation and putting input in it."

## University says its land beyond city tax power

By David Preston  
 Missourian staff writer

The University says it does not have to pay the Columbia city sales tax because University land is not part of the city.

That is one of the University's defenses against a city suit seeking more than \$115,467 in uncollected sales tax.

The city's suit also asks that the University be forced to pay interest and a 10 per cent penalty on the tax.

The University filed its answer to the city's suit Thursday in Boone County Circuit Court. The city had filed the suit after the University refused to collect and pay the city's sales tax which went into effect April 1, 1971.

The University's argument is almost identical to the stand it took in September 1971, when University general counsel Jackson Wright said the University could not legally collect the 1 per cent city tax from customers because "it would be, in effect, a city using its own ordinance to tax the state, which is illegal." Wright was one of four University attorneys who submitted Thursday's response in the name of "the Curators of the University of Missouri."

Ronald E. Small, a Columbia attorney who was hired by the city in January to handle the case, said

Thursday that he noticed no significant change in the University's stand, and that the case will eventually be decided by the Missouri Supreme Court. "I think it will go past the circuit level. That's just the nature of the question."

The University says the state constitution grants it the right to sell property and services and the city "is without the power to prohibit or regulate" that right.

Under Missouri law, the University argues that it is governed by the Board of Curators, an arm of state government.

Therefore, sales by the University's bookstores, snack bars, cafeterias, ticket offices and other agencies are not governed by city ordinances, including the sales tax ordinance.

The University also argues that it receives no services from city government, except by contract, and should not have to pay the taxes that finance those services for the city's property owners.

Small did say, however, that the University uses city sewer services.

The University cites state and city ordinances to show that it is tax exempt as "a charitable institution making sales only in its educational functions and activities."

Attorneys for both the plaintiff and defendant will meet this summer to

## \$8,100 in back taxes due on rooming house

By Jim Vicini  
 Missourian staff writer

An absentee landlord owes the county and city more than \$8,100 in back taxes for a substandard rooming house in Columbia, according to tax records.

Wilfred Wegener, St. Louis, owns the rooming house at 400 Hitt St., which apparently violates numerous housing ordinances, according to inspections conducted by the city.

Garbage is piled in hallways, paint is peeling and the bathrooms are unsanitary. But most of the tenants seem to accept the conditions as part of the low-cost housing situation in Columbia.

Wegener said Thursday that he would prefer not to comment about the rooming house until he comes to Columbia on June 1. But when asked for an interview appointment, he said "not to count on" it.

The Columbia Missourian has learned that Wegener has not paid city property taxes for the past three years. The total owed to the city is about \$1,095.

Wegener also owes back property taxes to the county for the past four years. The taxes and delinquent interest rates owed to the county total about \$7,047.

A spokesman at the Boone County tax collector's office said Wegener's property will be auctioned in August 1975 if he does not pay at least one year's delinquent taxes and interest. Property is not auctioned until the taxes are delinquent for five years.

Thomas Drane, county assessor, said the value of Wegener's property is about \$91,000.

Paul DeHaven, city housing inspector, has informed Wegener that the building will be condemned and all occupants will have to vacate by Aug. 1, unless the following improvements are made:

—Screens must be installed on all ventilation openings except those above the third floor.

—The building must conform to the city health department and fire prevention codes.

—The building must pass an in-

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## Contest designed for fiddling around

For those who are tired of fiddling around for nothing, a chance will be offered to fiddle around for money.

The fiddling will be done in an old time fiddlers contest at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 21, on the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia.

Cash prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 will be awarded to the top three finalists in the contest, which is sponsored by radio station KDRO-AM in Sedalia. The contest is being held in conjunction with the Ozark Music

Festival July 19-21.

The contest is open only to the first 25 entries to arrive by mail at KDRO. Aside from the limitations on the number of contestants, few rules will govern the contest.

Entrants should send their name, address and telephone number to Old Time Fiddlers Contest, KDRO Radio, Box 1306, Sedalia, Mo. 65301. Tickets for the festival are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate and \$10 for Sunday only.