

Columbia Missourian

70th Year — No. 189

Good Morning! It's Thursday, April 27, 1978

2 Sections — 20 Pages — 15 Cents

**U.S. slashes
trade deficit**
Story on Page 5A

Insight Laetrile controversy continues

Report questions
drug's effects, value

Cancer is such a frightening disease that the controversy over Laetrile has become an emotional and political issue rather than a medical one. Medical evidence, however, is beginning to show Laetrile is not only useless but may lead to death.

The main ingredient of Laetrile is the chemical amygdalin which is derived from apricot pits. Some people believe Laetrile can be used to prevent and also to cure cancer, but opponents of the drug say it is a "quack cure" and may even have harmful side effects.

The main danger of Laetrile use is cyanide poisoning, say the drug's op-

This report on the value of Laetrile as a cure for cancer was written by Bill James and Craig Horst of the Columbia Missourian's special reporting team on science.

ponents Cyanide poisoning may occur when amygdalin combines with natural foods such as celery, peaches and bean sprouts. A series of enzyme reactions between these foods and amygdalin produces toxic cyanide.

In a report obtained by the Columbia Missourian, University of California researchers concluded people using Laetrile "... will suffer acute toxicity and perhaps even death."

The study was conducted on 10 dogs, six of which died of cyanide poisoning after being fed Laetrile and sweet almonds. Other dogs suffered "marked" respiratory problems and nervous system disorders. The report was prepared for publication in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"Indeed, one animal study and two human studies can be interpreted as indicating that Laetrile, when used in cases of advanced cancer, shortens, not lengthens, life," the report concluded. "In short, Laetrile is toxic; for the cancer patient, its toxicity is of even higher order."

Authors of the report say cancer patients are more susceptible to (See POSSIBLE, Page 10A)



Tom Dodge

Water works

Steve Whitaker, a meter reader for the Columbia Water and Light Department, draws water from a tile intake in a lawn on West Ash Street Tuesday afternoon. Water from

recent heavy rains has collected in tile intakes and must be removed before meter readings can be made.

City's lowered salary bid enflames firemen

By Gene Barton
Missourian staff writer

The salary dispute between city negotiators and representatives of Columbia Fire Fighters Local 1055 intensified Wednesday when the city reduced its offer of a 6.5 percent package raise.

The city is still offering 6.5 percent, but is now basing the increase on a lesser figure, reducing the city's total offer by \$26,000. Personnel Director Nick Smeed said the 6.5 percent raise originally was based on a \$2 million figure that included not only the firefighters' payroll, but also operating costs and capital expenditures.

Smeed said the raise should have been based only on the firefighters' \$1.6 million payroll. He said that a mistake

had been made. The firefighters, who think they are being "cheated" in the negotiations, were angered by the city's latest move.

Lt. Bob Stanley, president of Local 1055, called it "ridiculous. We feel we're persecuted. We're not treated the same as anyone else. It is discrimination."

The firefighters came to the meeting with a proposal costing \$182,900 and the city disagreed with them on every point except one. The proposal includes:

- Time and a half for constant manning — probably the most controversial issue of the negotiations. The city refuses to pay overtime for constant manning which would cost the city an additional \$15,000.

Stanley hinted that stations may have to close when they are shorthanded if the firefighters' demand for overtime

compensation is not met. "Constant manning is a hell of a lot cheaper than more manpower," Stanley said. "The only reason we have constant manning is because we're undermanned. We're not all that satisfied with constant manning in the first place. People may refuse to do it. It is a possibility and it has been discussed."

Constant manning allows the city's fire stations to remain open 24 hours a day by calling in an off-duty fire fighter to fill in for a sick, injured or vacationing firefighter. Firefighters already are on duty an average of 56 hours a week with no overtime compensation.

The City Council has allocated \$30,000 for constant manning and Smeed said he does not think the council will

allocate anymore. He said the extra money will not keep the stations open any more than they are now.

"There are enough people who want that money to keep the stations open," Smeed said. Firefighters are paid approximately \$110 for a day of duty.

A 40-cent-per-hour across-the-board wage increase costing \$109,900 — more than the city's total package offer. This is a sharp reduction from the 75 cent raise requested initially and Stanley said it is the "absolute minimum" the union will accept. The city's offer would amount to about 27 cents per hour.

Full funding by the city for individual and family Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance at a cost of \$33,000 — a maximum figure according to local secretary Ken Owens. The city is

willing to continue paying for individual coverage, but will pay no more than an additional \$5 for family coverage which will cost the city \$900, according to Owens.

Increased compensation ranging from \$30 to \$45 a day for firefighters who have to step up a rank to fill in for absent officers. The city is offering 50 cents per hour.

A meal allowance, which is a substitute for a night shift differential, of \$4.10 per day. This is down from the \$5 originally requested. The city wants to keep it at the current \$3.

Seniority education points to be awarded after 10 years of service. Currently firefighters receive one education point for each year of service up to 10 and the city wants to keep it that way.

Group again to oppose building street in park

By Kimberly French
Missourian staff writer

Representatives from the Northland Parker Neighborhood Association will restate their opposition to the realignment and extension of Parker Street through Albert Oakland Park when the Columbia Planning and Zoning Commission meets tonight, association president Harold Anderson said Wednesday.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the City Council chamber on the fourth floor of the County-City Building.

The commission postponed review of developer Richard Guill's Kitty Hawk subdivision plat at its meeting two weeks ago to avoid approving a plat before considering the rezoning on which it is based.

Consideration of rezoning parts of the property from commercial to residential and vice versa also is scheduled for tonight. The proposed subdivision is located northwest of Vandiver Drive and Parker Street.

The street is sketched on Guill's plat as a main thoroughfare with a 66-foot (20-meter) right-of-way.

The commission's approval of the plat would encourage the City Council to make the extension, according to City Planning Director Michael Bathke.

The planning department will present a special report on the history of the plans for realigning and extending the street. In 1971 the commission recommended adoption of the Parker Street plan line, which subsequently was adopted by the City Council.

Paul Albert, 708 E. Lyons St., who donated 20 acres (8 hectares) for the park, told the commission two weeks ago that his preliminary contract with the city in 1964 restricted use of the land to recreational purposes only, which would not include a street.

City Counselor Rhonda Thomas told Albert, though, that since the deed was prepared without the restriction, the

(See REZONING, Page 10A)

Inside today

Scholars honored

Three Columbia high school seniors have been awarded prestigious National Merit Scholarships worth \$1,000 each. They include Kim Cartwright and Charles Littrell of Hickman High School and Donald Fleming of Rock Bridge High School. Details appear on Page 11A.

Gays lose rights

Voters in St. Paul, Minn., Tuesday rejected, by a 2-1 margin, an ordinance barring discrimination in jobs, public accommodations and education because of "sexual or affectional" preferences. Predictably, that made some people very happy and others very mad. Details on Page 12A.

Diabetes in youth

Children can be diabetics, too. The impact this has on their emotional development is the subject of a story in today's People section on Page 1B.

In town today

9 a.m. Boone County Court meeting, County-City Building.

10 a.m. Candlelighters' Runathon/Walkathon, Brewer Fieldhouse.

7 p.m. Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Ann Hawkins Gentry Building, 1 S. Seventh St.

7 p.m. Environmental and Natural Resources Commission hearing on solar energy, County-City Building.

7 p.m. Columbia Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, County-City Building

7:30 p.m. "Low Gehrig Did Not Die of Cancer," play, Studio Theater, Gentry Hall.

Movie listings on Page 11A

Index

- Classified 8-9A
- Comics/TV 7B
- Opinion 4A
- People 1B
- Record 10A
- Sports 6-7A
- Stocks 5A

Egyptians smash plot to thwart peace talks

CAIRO, Egypt (UPI) — Egypt announced Wednesday it smashed a terrorist ring that planned to sabotage Israeli-Egyptian peace talks in Cairo in a plot orchestrated by the late "godfather" of Palestinian terrorism, Wadie Haddad.

Egypt's chief prosecutor, Ibrahim Al-Kalyoubi, said Wednesday that 24 members of an international terrorist team that planned to hit the Mena House hotel peace negotiations last December are in custody. The alleged plot never materialized.

The terrorist team was composed of three Swiss nationals, a West German student, 10 Palestinians, eight Jordanians of Palestinian origin, one Omani and one Egyptian, Kalyoubi said.

He said the group had links to the Italian Red Brigades, kidnappers of former Premier Aldo Moro.

The outline of the plot was obtained in a confession by Sergio Mantovani, 24, an Italo-Swiss student who has been in Egypt since 1957.

Mantovani said the Haddad faction "planned a terrorist operation against members of the Egyptian-Israeli committee" and had obtained drawings and detailed plans of the Mena House hotel at the foot of the Great Pyramid of Giza where the first round of talks began last December. The talks broke off in January.

Kalyoubi also quoted Mantovani as saying Al-Moussa proposed "a terrorist operation inside Switzerland which would have a big impact in the Arab world" but he did not specify its nature.

A Zurich bookshop owner named Giorgio Bellini, a Swiss national, was the intermediary between the Cairo group and the Red Brigades and Wadie Haddad group, he said.

Bellini came to Cairo last year with a woman named Ellena and himself took pictures of Mena House hotel and the roads leading to it.

Later he sent another Swiss woman and a journalist who took another series of pictures of the hotel.

Columbia supermarkets short on Passover foods

By Joyce Barnathan
and Jill Jacobson
Missourian staff writers

A local shopper easily can find Lebanese bread, Chinese eggrolls, Viennese coffee and other exotic delicacies at almost any grocery store in town.

But it's almost impossible for a Jew celebrating the Passover holiday to find a box of unleavened bread — or matzo — in Columbia supermarkets.

During Passover, Jews commemorate the exodus of their ancestors from Egypt where they were held as slaves. As they escaped through the desert, there was no time to wait for bread to rise, so Jews were forced to eat unleavened bread.

So, during the eight days of Passover, which began last Friday, many Jews observe the holiday by substituting the symbolic matzo for bread.

But, in Columbia this year, Jews may have found Passover to be less of a celebration and more of a fast since hardly any of the specially prepared Passover food — egg matzo, macaroons, Passover cakes — are available in local stores for the duration of the holiday.

Rabbi Paul Saiger of the University's Hillel Foundation estimated that there are 1,200 to 1,400 Jewish students in Columbia as well as 120 Jewish families. Students observing the holiday eat at the Hillel Foundation, he said. Some local Jewish families have formed carpools to St. Louis where they did their Passover shopping.

For the feast of Passover, Hillel is the only place in town where matzos are for sale, and they're two years old. The rabbi said Hillel had purchased 800 pounds (362 kilograms) of matzos in 1976, and it still has 50 pounds (22.6 kilograms) left.

Schnucks, 101 S. Providence Road, traditionally sells a wide variety of Passover foods, but Wednesday only four boxes of matzo, marked not-for-Passover-use, adorned its shelves. Larry Coleman, the store's grocery manager, said, "There was Passover food, but the store ran out in the first part of the week. Last year, we had a big surplus. This year we just ran out — that's all I know — sooner than we should have."

When asked why the shelves were almost entirely bare of Passover foods at Nowells, 1005 W. Worley St., assistant manager Frank David replied, "We did have a display of it, until Passover was over." He was surprised to discover that Passover wasn't over for another two days.

Another assistant manager, David Wells, said Nowells simply didn't order enough matzo to meet the demand. "We gauged our order on what we had or-

dered last year," he said. "Also, last year Schnucks had a large supply of Passover food, but, this year didn't have it."

He said that on the Tuesday or Wednesday before Passover, the store ran out of the 15 to 20 cases of matzo it had ordered. It takes a week to reorder them, he said, and by the time the shipment reached Nowells, Passover would be over — leaving the store with a product that wouldn't sell.

Manager Jack Mirts of Kroger Store, 201 Stadium Blvd. N., acknowledged the store didn't buy enough matzo. "This has probably been the biggest year we've had on it and we just got cleaned out," Mirts said.

Mirts' supply was gone in two weeks. "I'll go by experience for next year," he said.

Jerry Palmer, manager of Eastgate

IGA Foodliner, 206 E. Broadway, said he tried stocking Passover food one year but became discouraged when he learned the food must be purchased in large quantities.

"I ended up getting hung with 75 percent of what I bought," he said. Nevertheless, Palmer said he has received two or three requests per day this week from customers wanting to buy Passover food.

Manager Jim Offman of Gerbes Supermarket Inc., Broadway Shopping Center, said he would have ordered Passover food if there had been any requests, despite his already crowded shelves. "No customer asked for it. I could have a company bring it in but no one specifically asked."

Schulte's IGA Foodliner, 4 Business Loop 70 E.; Columbia Specialty Food Center, 802 Business Loop 70 E.;

Waytt's Super Foods, 1217 Rogers, and Grocery Supply Co., 2508 Paris Road, didn't order Passover food this year.

Rabbi Saiger said that even though Schnucks had an inadequate supply this year, "The store has been very cooperative with the Jewish community." He said that it was difficult for Schnucks to know what to buy, without being left with a surplus of Passover goods.

"Schnucks does not have an obligation to lose money," he said. "I wouldn't wish that deciding to serve the Jewish needs would be disastrous for business."

The rabbi ascribed the lack of Passover food in local stores as being "an inconvenience Jews have to live with when they move to a rural area. If I were in New York, where you could make money selling it, it would be discriminating."