

# Columbia Missourian

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Good Morning! It's Wednesday, January 3, 1979

2 Sections — 30 Pages — 15 Cents

## Insight Trailblazer concerned by walkout

By D. Morgan McVicar  
Missourian staff writer

Labor versus management has a nice ring to it. It provides the two-party conflict Americans are so fond of, and spurs endless debate as to who is right, who wields too much power, who is trying to break whom.

Unfortunately, it is too often the case that people get lost in this confrontation. Management is people, just as labor is people. And Fern Huffmann is a person.

Mrs. Huffmann, 45, is divorced, a mother of four, and a grandmother of one. She also installs telephones.

President of Columbia Local 257 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, she was involved in the walkout of General Telephone employees last month until her vacation began Dec. 23.

Because she is on vacation, Mrs. Huffmann cannot officially participate in the walkout, which resumed Thursday. No employees were on Cherry Street's sidewalks Tuesday but they should be back today. Mrs. Huffmann has joined the protesting employees daily, however, to offer "moral support."

Originally 25 to 30 employees walked out; that number diminished to about 15 late last week. Now, Mrs. Huffman fears that further defections could severely damage their cause and allow the union to be effectively broken.

The walkout is not union sanctioned.

Her determination during the walkout has been characteristic of a woman who has been a trailblazer of sorts at GTE since she began as a \$2.02-an-hour service clerk in 1970. At the time, no women held technical positions with the company, or at any telephone company in the Midwest, she said. The lack of women technicians did not, however, deter Mrs. Huffman.

"I've never backed off from anything — never had any doubts," Mrs. Huffman says.

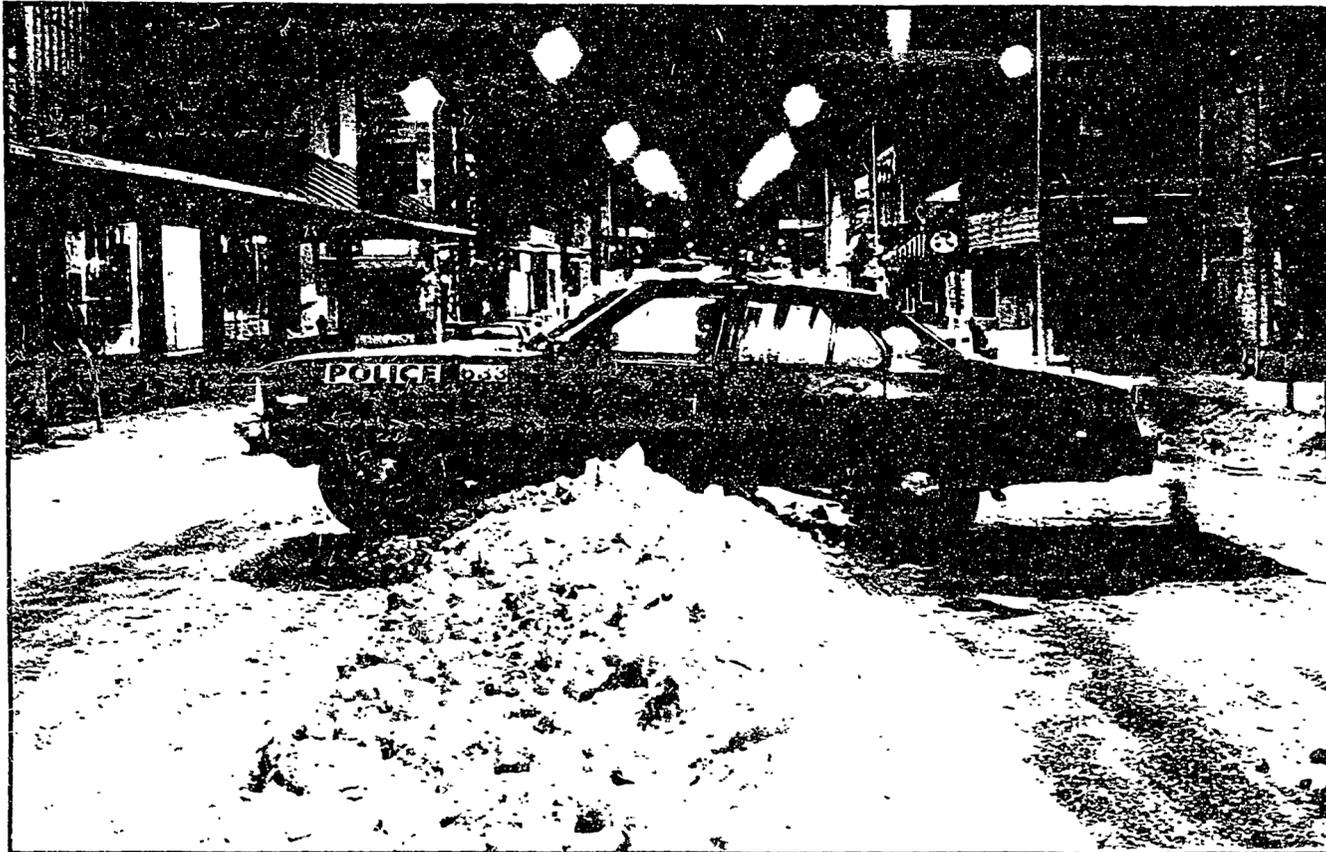
In 1972, Mrs. Huffman became the first woman to work on the frame, where the outside cables are joined to inside equipment at the central office, in 1974 the first woman switching systems technician and in 1977 the first female switching systems installer. She now makes about \$16,000 a year.

In spite of her series of female firsts, Mrs. Huffman is no bra-burning woman's libber. The motivation for her aggressive scaling of the technician's ladder stemmed from her divorce in 1970, prior to which Mrs. Huffman had been a homemaker and worked only occasionally.

In 1970, she found herself with four hungry mouths that no one else offered to feed.

"People have called me several things over the years," she says, "but I needed a job. I was the breadwinner and had the responsibility to my family to do the best I could."

Although co-worker Phyllis Love calls Mrs. Huffman "a pioneer for (See HUFFMANN, Page 16A)



Columbia Police Officer Daniel Buchanan was stranded on a snow peak on Ninth Street Tuesday morning



West German drivers Tuesday tried to dig their cars out of snow that buried the Hamburg to Flensburg highway with 80 hours of continuous snowfall. West German troops were mobilized to help clear the blocked highway, but even the tanks they were using got stuck in the massive drifts.

## City isn't alone; U.S., Europe snow-bound

From our wire services

An onslaught of Arctic air sent the mercury plummeting to record lows from Texas to Minnesota Tuesday. And while the United States was fighting the snow and ice, Eastern Europe was reeling from the winter's worst storm there.

The frigid blast that swept across the United States closed schools, stranded airport travelers and halted motorists returning to work after the New Year's holiday.

Residents of Grand Rapids, Minn., awoke to -50 degrees F (-45 C) temperatures and sub-zero readings stretched as far west as Nevada and

Utah. Snow and ice on runways, coupled with -8 F (-22 C) temperatures, crippled air travel at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, the world's busiest.

Windchills of -50 F (-45 C) hit Milwaukee, which was buried under 14 inches (35 centimeters) of snow during the weekend, stalling school buses and freezing some of their doors.

The Minnesota Automobile Club reported more than 400 calls an hour for assistance in the Twin Cities, where the mercury plunged to -22 F (-30 C), breaking the 5-year-old record by a degree.

Roads in Texas and Oklahoma were (See MOSCOW, Page 13A)

## Columbia endures record low

Residents adapting  
to frigid weather

By Steve Friedman  
Missourian staff writer

Columbians experienced a Jan. 2 temperature of -5 degrees F (-21 C) Tuesday for the first time in 51 years as snow covered streets on the first working day of 1979. Still, for most of the city, it was business as usual.

Columbia's record low was a result of a storm that swept into the Midwest Friday night. That storm has caused at least nine deaths, including four persons who drowned in flash flooding in southeast Missouri Sunday night.

Some Columbians decided not to dig out their ice-covered cars and instead rode city buses. Passenger totals increased Tuesday, said Bob Walter, superintendent of the Columbia Area Transit System.

He said the increased ridership and single-lane traffic on snow-covered streets caused some bus delays in the early morning and afternoon rush hours, including the stranding of a bus for 20 minutes Tuesday morning on South Ninth Street.

Columbia's three taxi companies — Yellow, Checker and Columbia — reported increased calls for service Tuesday.

Public Works Director Ray Beck said his department began snow removal operations Friday night. He said "first-priority" main streets, including Broadway, Walnut, Ash and Worley streets, have been plowed and cleared, and about 2 million pounds (900,000 kilograms) of cinders and 28,000 pounds (12,600 kilograms) of chemicals have been spread.

Maj. Jim Smith of the Columbia Police Department said no weather-related auto accidents had occurred by early Tuesday afternoon, but many of the people who chose to drive ran into trouble.

Don's Midwest Skelly, 1606 U.S. 63 N., and Forum DX Station, 1300 West Blvd. S., said they were three hours behind on responding to calls from people needing tows and battery charges.

"We got here about 7 a.m., and the phones have been ringing ever since. We're swamped with calls," said (See STORM, Page 13A)

## Lathrop to seek state senate nomination

By Tammie Thompson  
and Maureen Burnett  
Missourian staff writers

Carolyn Lathrop, who was sworn in for a second term as Southern District Boone County Court judge Tuesday, said she plans to join the growing list of Democrats seeking the state Senate seat vacated by Warren Welliver.

Her announcement came one day before the Democratic nominee will be chosen by the 12-member 19th Senatorial District Committee. The committee will meet at 6 p.m. today in the Tiger

Hotel, 23 S. Eighth St.

Lathrop's decision brings the number of announced Democratic candidates to five. Others trying to replace Welliver include retired Centralia businessman Charles P. "Cab" Atkins, Fayette Mayor Bill Ayres, Northern District Boone County Judge Dick Farmer and County Collector Roger Wilson.

Bill Crigler, an assistant to Missouri Treasurer James Spainhower, said Tuesday he is not a declared candidate, but will continue conferring with committee members until balloting begins.

Don Stimble, publisher of the Fulton Sun-

Gazette, whose name had been mentioned as a possible candidate, is not expected to return from Colorado until the end of the week.

Norma Robb, chairwoman of the Boone County Democratic Central Committee, said Tuesday she had been contacted by another person interested in the position, but would not reveal who the individual was.

To win the Democratic spot on the Feb. 6 ballot, a candidate must receive seven of the 12 votes cast by the senatorial committee. A quorum must be present for a vote to take place.

As chairwoman of the county with the most

votes, Mrs. Robb will preside over the selection. Six of the 12 votes will be cast by residents of Boone County. The remaining six votes will be cast by party members from Howard, Randolph and Callaway counties.

Who the Democrat will run against became more uncertain Tuesday when state Rep. Larry Mead said the Republican nomination is "not something I'm eagerly seeking."

Jerry Epple, a local contractor, said Mead's decision would affect whether he would try a second time for a seat in the state Senate. Epple lost to Welliver in a close 1976 race.

## Youths can stand trial as adults in connection with Bond slaying

By Marcia Virga  
Missourian staff writer

Two Columbia youths, held for the Nov. 29 shooting death of 25-year-old car salesman Gregory Bond, Tuesday were certified by the Boone County Juvenile Court to stand trial as adults for the slaying.

Shawn Bonuchi, Sylvan Lane Apt. 104, and Mitchell Dean Osborn, 1701 Oakwood Court, have been booked at the Boone County Sheriff's Department on suspicion of murder. Both youths were 16 at the time of Bond's death.

Formal charges are expected to be filed by the prosecuting attorney's office this morning.

Boone County Sheriff Charles Foster said the teen-agers remained in custody after the closed hearing before Judge Ellen Roper.

Bond, who worked for Kelly Pontiac-Subaru in Columbia, took the youths for a demonstration drive in a 1979 Pontiac Trans Am on Nov. 29. His body was found in a creek bed north of Columbia that night.

Bonuchi, 16, and Osborn, 17, were

taken into custody Nov. 30 by El Reno, Okla., police when a routine license check showed the Trans Am they were driving was reported stolen here. Police found a knife and shotgun in the car at that time. The youths were returned to Columbia in December after they waived an extradition hearing in Oklahoma.

El Reno Police Capt. Ray Watson, who talked with the suspects, said apparently Bond was shot when the youths decided they wanted the car but didn't know what to do with the salesman.

## Cable failure throws fans for loss

By David Williams  
Missourian staff writer

Richard Gorden returned to his television about 5 p.m. Monday to watch the last few seconds of the Cotton Bowl but found his set dark and quiet.

Gorden, 4024 Grace Ellen Drive, subscribes to Columbia Cablevision and like many other area residents he missed Notre Dame's game-winning touchdown as a result of isolated signal outages.

The Fighting Irish capped their 25-point rally against Houston on the game's final play, winning 25-24.

"To say the least, I was irritated. I didn't know Notre Dame had won until this morning (Tuesday)," Gorden said.

Cablevision's trouble was a result of the 8 degree F (-13 C) temperatures that made the cable contract and pull loose, interrupting the signal in isolated areas.

A power outage and low temperatures are being blamed for a system-wide malfunction that later interrupted service for nearly 1½ hours Monday night.

The entire cable system malfunctioned at approximately 7:45 p.m. during the Orange Bowl game,

prompting an avalanche of telephone calls to Columbia Cablevision and local media outlets from angry viewers.

James Allen, general manager of Columbia Cablevision, said cold weather caused the cable that travels from the tower to the office to contract and pull loose, cutting all signals.

Allen said it is not easy to find where the problem lies when the system goes down.

"We send all the technical people out to search for the problem. It's one of those things where you have to go out and hunt and find the problem."



A guard at the estate where the Shah of Iran's mother is staying holds a gun on an Iranian demonstrator during an assault on the Beverly Hills, Calif., mansion. More than 1,000 protesters were driven back by police and security guards. Details on Page 16A.

## Inside today USC ranked No. 1

Heralded by their own coach as "one of the greatest teams in USC history," the Trojans edged Alabama by only five points in balloting by the UPI Board of Coaches to capture the national football championship in the closest race staged for the title in 12 years. Details on Sports, Page 6A.

## An invitation

Senior Deputy Premier Teng Hsiao-ping invited Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., an outspoken opponent of America's normalization of relations with China, to visit Peking and discuss the situation. In an apparent effort to allay fears about the future of Taiwan, Teng also told a delegation of congressmen that China was interested in a peaceful resolution of the issue. See Page 2A.

## In town today

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "Responses," photo exhibit by Frederick M. Schreiber, begins today at Columbia Gallery of Photography, 1015 E. Broadway.

7:30 p.m. Music listening and discussion program, featuring works of Haydn and Mozart, Columbia Public Library.