

Columbia Missourian

68th Year - No. 247

Good Morning! It's Tuesday, July 13, 1976

11 Pages - 15 Cents

Israel's top Olympic athlete talks about her life on the run

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Democrats smiling as broadly as Carter

NEW YORK (UPI) — Joyful Democrats, reunited by Jimmy Carter after a decade of party-splitting warfare, opened the 37th National Democratic Convention, "hell bent on victory" over the Republicans and a triumphal return to the White House.

As the strains of the Democratic theme song "Happy Days Are Here Again" filled the hall, thousands of happy, cheering delegates and alternates jammed into Madison Square Garden for the ceremonial opening night.

The only suspense of the four-day convention was which one of six senators under consideration would be picked by Carter as his running mate.

The six left on Carter's list are Edmund Muskie of Maine, John Glenn of Ohio, Walter Mondale of Minnesota, Henry Jackson of Washington, Frank Church of Idaho and Adlai Stevenson III of Illinois. Earlier in the day, another candidate, Rep. Peter Rodino of New Jersey, withdrew from consideration. Rodino, the token representative on Carter's list, will nominate Carter Wednesday night.

Carter indicated that three of the six senators are finalists for the vice-presidential spot. Some observers were guessing Muskie would receive the job because as a Catholic he could help Baptist Carter.

Memories of the violence of 1968 in Chicago and the turbulence of 1972 in Miami Beach — conventions which tore apart the party and twice led to the election of Richard M. Nixon — were erased by the new spirit of party unity.

As a reminder of the past, however, barricades patrolled by tense police ringed the Garden, making it an armed fortress. Security was so tight that

More conventional wisdom

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everything coming into the hall was searched.

Carter's nomination as the Democratic presidential nomination was assured. He has, according to UPI's latest count, 2,071 delegate votes on the first ballot, far more than the 1,505 required.

Friends and enemies, liberals and conservatives, women and blacks, delegates from every part of the country pledged their support to Carter, 51, the former Georgia governor they are convinced can recapture the White House after eight years of political exile.

The convention belongs to Carter, the soft-spoken, tough and politically shrewd stranger from rural south Georgia. But the convention's opening

night belonged to Rep. Barbara Jordan, the deep-voiced, eloquent Texan.

Rep. Jordan, the first woman and the first black to give a keynote speech, received a rousing welcome as she came to the podium high above the convention floor. The band played "Deep in the Heart of Texas" and the Texas delegation unfurled its Lone Star flag.

"There is something different and special about this opening night," she said. "I, Barbara Jordan, am the keynote speaker."

"In the intervening years since 1832 (when the first convention was held), it would have been most unusual for any national political party to have asked a Barbara Jordan to make a keynote address — most unusual."

"The past, notwithstanding, a Barbara Jordan, is before you tonight. This is one additional bit of evidence that the American dream need not be forever deferred."

Jordan's 25-minute speech was interrupted by applause 24 times.

The ovation after she finished was so loud and long that National Democratic Party Chairman Robert Strauss called her back to the podium to acknowledge the feelings of the convention.

The atmosphere in the convention hall was so euphoric that Strauss warned the Delegates against

overconfidence, although polls show Carter beating either President Ford or Ronald Reagan.

"We cannot — we must not — take our success for granted," Strauss said. "History teaches us that for the people, and for those who champion people's causes, there are no easy victories."

But Strauss said the Democratic party was in excellent shape — "very good, much better than anyone thought possible a few short years ago."

"Our party, I am happy to report, is organized, vibrant, forward-looking and hell-bent on victory."

Carter, abiding by tradition, stayed away from the Garden where Democrats will nominate him Wednesday night and where he will accept the mandate Thursday.

Carter spent most of the day at his command post — a 21st floor hotel suite above midtown Manhattan — seeking to avert a potentially embarrassing floor fight with women delegates, meeting with black leaders and nearing a final choice on his running-mate.

But Carter and his family, slipped out to have dinner in a private room at an Italian restaurant. He slowly sipped on a glass of red wine and then danced with his wife Rosalynn.

Carter returned to the hotel to watch (See GOV, Page 11)



Members of the Pennsylvania delegation to the Democratic National Convention displayed fancy hats on the convention floor before the opening session started Monday. (UPI telephoto)

Insight

Soft water: Is it less than a help?

Some scientists believe the sodium can be a danger

By Don Holmes
Missourian staff writer

If the water in your tap has been treated by a soft water conditioner, you may want to heed the warning traditionally given to tourists departing for some foreign lands: Don't drink the water.

For several years scientists have been concerned about the possible health hazards related to the use of naturally soft water in public water supply systems, but water softened by conventional home treatment devices may pose different problems, doctors say.

Although soft water may make clothes and dishes brighter after the wash, some doctors feel that the presence of sodium in treated water may result in heart problems.

Sodium is best known as component of common table salt, sodium chloride. The sodium part of salt can be harmful in excess amounts.

"I don't know anyone who recommends drinking water from one of these ion-exchange water conditioners," says Dr. Howard Hopps, curators' professor of pathology at the University. "There's been a growing — and I think convincing — body of evidence that a high sodium intake may contribute to hypertension."

Most soft water conditioners operate through an ion-exchange process, which removes minerals such as iron, calcium, magnesium and hydrogen sulfide and replaces them with sodium. An ion is an electrically charged atom.

Some of the scientific evidence on the possible dangers of soft water were presented June 8 at the University when researchers convened for the 10th annual Conference on Trace Substances in Environmental Health. One researcher, Daniel Greathouse of the Health Effects Laboratory of the Environmental Protection Agency, reported he had found a significant relationship between the lead in the soft water in a municipal water system and the amount of lead in the blood of the people who drank the water.

Another participant in the conference, Dr. W. Ross Cameron of St. Petersburg, Fla., found that a community with predominantly soft water tended to have more plumbing problems and diseases.

One of the main problems with soft water is its tendency to release into the water certain metals found in the pipes. If the pipes are lined with galvanized iron, for instance, the soft water will release the cadmium and the zinc of the pipes into the water. The same is true for copper and copper alloy pipes.

In the Southeastern section of the country, the indigenous soft water has been associated with the high incidence of heart disease, particularly hypertension.

But in the Columbia area, the water tends to be hard. Ron Powell of the Columbia Water and Light Department (See CITY, Page 11)



Les Brown
Bowls up \$120 for MD

Bowling for dystrophy: (sore) thumbs up

By Lynne Butterworth
Missourian staff writer

After nearly 22 hours and 115 games of bowling, Les Brown's thumbs were a mess and he felt "pretty bad" Sunday night. But he had raised more than \$120 for muscular dystrophy.

Les, 14, of 1723 Amelia St., was one of about 125 volunteers, aged 4 to 65, who brought in nearly \$4,000 in pledges in a bowling and rollerskating marathon at Oakland Plaza, 2116 Vandiver Drive. Skaters and bowlers solicited sponsorship prior to the event from friends, family and local businesses for each hour skated and each game bowled.

A Jefferson Junior High School student, Les has been bowling for only two summers. His 140 average dropped to 96.5 as his thumbs wore out and he switched hands during his ordeal.

Les said he had originally planned to quit after bowling 30 games but later decided to continue "just to say that I had done it."

1,000 secondary pupils to lose free busing

By Nora Boustany
and Bill Upham
Missourian staff writers

The Columbia school board Monday night approved a \$14 million budget for next year, including a private busing contract that will cut 1,000 or more secondary school students out of free bus transportation.

The budget includes a five per cent base salary increase for teachers and requires no increase in the tax rate.

The busing contract, with R. W. Harmon and Sons of Kansas City, will save the schools \$161,000 from last year's transportation cost of \$672,000.

Skaters were equally enthusiastic, said Don Stevens, manager of the Skate-R-Bowl roller rink. "It was really good. We had over half the kids that started skate the whole 24 hours." More than 200 bandages were distributed to cover blisters.

Participants in both events are to be awarded prizes based upon the total amounts of pledges collected, said Joleen Downey, district director of the Muscular Dystrophy Assn. of America, Inc. The winners are to be announced after July 24.

But even before this year's winners are announced enthusiasm is high for next year's project, Ms. Downey said. "The kids and (rink) manager are excited about it and making plans for next year."

This is the first of the summer events which lead up to the Jerry Lewis Telethon for muscular dystrophy Sept. 5 and 6.

As for Les Brown, he took the bandages off his thumbs Monday. He said he plans to go bowling today.

The contract provides free bus transportation for all elementary school students living at least one mile (1.6 kilometers) from school, the same as last year. However, free transportation this year will be provided only for secondary school students living at least 3 1/2 miles (5.6 kilometers) from school. The limit has been 2 miles (3.2 kilometers).

About 800 students will be cut off from free busing, Hank Fisher, assistant to the superintendent, estimated. Those students living within the new limit who still want to ride the bus will have to pay a monthly fee of \$10 to \$12.50.

Also losing their free bus transportation will be students who transfer from their home district to another school. Fisher said 200 to 300 students might be affected by that change.

Board member Patsy Garner asked whether that reduction, proposed by board member Jan Fisch, would impose undue hardships.

"We are going to be hurting people anyway. This is something we have to live with," replied Lynn Marine, director of elementary education.

Marine said 471 transfer requests have been received. Transfers are not approved until the first week in August, he said.

County board deplores unfair tax assessment

By Michael Days
Missourian staff writer

"It's a terrible, terrible problem," said County Court Presiding Judge Bob Brown.

"It's about time somebody in this county, city or state took the bull by the horns," said Columbia Director of Finance Mike Scanlan.

Scanlan and Brown are members of the County Board of Equalization which met Monday. They were addressing the problem of taxing inequity between long-time homeowners and new buyers, the issue has been the source of complaints and controversy for years.

James Finnegan, who bought his house at 4008 DeFoe Drive last year, told the board that after he purchased the house the property taxes rose from \$751 to \$1,300 a year.

"For my next door neighbor to pay \$500 less is totally discriminatory," Finnegan said. "I moved in at the wrong time and had a banker with a big mouth."

Scanlan told Finnegan and the board that "this case highlights that the time has come to do something about a general reassessment."

It is the same situation for anyone who has moved into Columbia in the past two or three years, he said. "We're stuck with a system with built in inequities."

"I don't mind paying taxes," Finnegan said. "But just because something's wrong with the system, I shouldn't be penalized."

The board voted to look into Finnegan's complaints, but not to lower his tax.

The county has not conducted a general reassessment of county

property since 1965.

Houses are reassessed only when they change ownership. Anyone who has kept his house since the 1965 general assessment is paying property taxes on 1965 value, which in most cases is far less than 1976 value.

The county depends on lending institutions to report property sales, County Assessor Tom Drane said. However, no law dictates that house sales be reported to the county assessor. Still, Drane said, "We're the second most evenly assessed county in the state."

Council's public hearing: no public and no council

The City Council held a public hearing Monday night but nobody came — not even the council members.

City Clerk Glenn Wood sat in the lobby of City Hall at 6:55 p.m. waiting for the arrival of Mayor Bob Pugh. Wood was relieved to be in the air conditioned building after taking his beagle for a walk in the 92-degree heat. But he was anxious to get to a Midjet League baseball game that had started at 6:30.

At 7:02, Pugh hurried up the stairs in his shirtsleeves. The two men went upstairs to an empty council chamber and took their seats at the council table.

The council's regular meeting date fell on the July 4 holiday. The meeting was rescheduled for Monday and a public hearing on the rezoning of 1000 Tandy Ave was advertised. When it was discovered that a quorum of council members could not be present Monday, the meeting was changed to July 8 but the public hearing could not be because of the advertisement.

Pugh called the meeting to order and Wood called the roll. The mayor declared that "in the absence of a quorum we will meet at a regular time on July 19. The public hearing will be rescheduled for that time."

At 7:07 p.m., Wood locked the door to City Hall. He donned a red and white golf cap and drove off to watch some youngsters play baseball.

Drane speculated that it would cost between \$500,000 and \$700,000 to conduct a general reassessment of the county.

Northern District Judge and board member Rodney Smith agreed that a general reassessment is needed to make the taxing structure more equitable.

Scanlan said he thinks Columbia would agree to contribute its share to conduct a general reassessment. But, he said, there would have to be some means for automatic reassessment of the county's property in future years.

Olson satisfied Funding plan changes

Michael S. Weisberg
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — Although the University did not get exactly what it wanted, interim President James Olson said Monday he is satisfied with the budget formula changes proposed by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education.

The budget formula used to allocate

funds among the state's universities.

John Biggs, chairman of the board's Fiscal Affairs Committee, said a tentative agreement had been reached on formula changes — a "compromise" — different from any of the three plans his committee originally considered.

The key part of the agreement announced by Biggs is the separation of the University's research, public service and hospital operations from the

instructional programs. Each will be dealt with differently, a move which University officials think will treat its interests more fairly.

The changes were not adopted Monday however, because members of the committee wanted to have them typed and checked before they are formally approved by the board.

The University's proposal not only (See SIMPLER, Page 14)

1,000 secondary pupils to lose free busing

transportation will be students who transfer from their home district to another school. Fisher said 200 to 300 students might be affected by that change.

Board member Patsy Garner asked whether that reduction, proposed by board member Jan Fisch, would impose undue hardships.

"We are going to be hurting people anyway. This is something we have to live with," replied Lynn Marine, director of elementary education. Marine said 471 transfer requests have been received. Transfers are not approved until the first week in August, he said.

Supt. Robert Shaw, recommended a tentative list of members for a public relations committee proposed to advise the board on a possible future tax increase vote.

Shaw suggested that a study be conducted of voters' attitudes toward schools and a tax increase before the committee goes on to promote an increase. Tax increases have been rejected by the voters twice this year. The study was suggested by David Leuthold, associate professor of political science at the University.

Budget cuts of about \$400,000 were made to allow for the salary increases. Savings will be the largest in the

following areas, besides transportation:

- Educational travel, \$50,000
 - Reduction in the purchase of library resources, about \$9,600
 - Music program, a savings of \$16,825
 - Driver's education program, \$9,900
 - Reduction of secretarial help, \$13,000
- Shaw said the cuts "are significant and they will be felt," especially in the transportation, driver's training and library funds.