

Columbia Missourian

69th Year — No. 172

Good Morning! It's Saturday, April 9, 1977

16 Pages — 15 Cents

Man releases hostage ending nine-hour siege

By Joe Rassenfoss, Peter de Seiding and David Ramseur Missouri staff writers

A former mental patient ended a nine-hour standoff with police by releasing his 17-year-old hostage at 6 p.m. Friday.

William Lyle, 51, who had held Chris Storvick at knifepoint and more than a dozen police officers at bay, released her at the hour he had agreed upon with negotiators.

Lyle was charged late Friday night with kidnaping and exhibiting a deadly weapon. He was being held in lieu of \$30,000 bond.

Miss Storvick, visibly shaken by her ordeal, came out of the apartment at 309 Waugh St. with only minor cuts and bruises inflicted by Lyle's knife and the scarf he had wrapped about her neck earlier in the morning.

She was treated at the University Medical Center and released to the custody of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Truman Storvick, 2210 Ridgefield Road.

Fifteen minutes after Miss Storvick

was freed, Lyle, weakened by a heart ailment, staggered from the basement apartment into a waiting ambulance under escort of the three men who had served as negotiators through the day.

They were: Mitchell Brown, executive director of the Job Center, Inc., 412 E. Ash St.; George Herndon, a Midwest Book Store employee who had known Lyle, he said, for almost 25 years; and Herndon's brother, Ray.

Lyle, too, was taken to the medical center and released soon after in police custody.

While he was being led to the patrol car, Lyle began screaming at the officers.

"You got these handcuffs on so tight, you about to break my damn wrist off!"

"Why don't you just take the gun and shoot me?"

Police Chief David Walsh had been considering just that all day.

"We were debating for a moment there that if we did have a clear enough shot we'd kill him," Walsh said. "But we never really did have a good shot."

The 6 p.m. deadline was the third such agreement Lyle had made during the day, Walsh said, and he didn't

expect it to be kept.

The series of events leading up to the seizing of the woman began Thursday afternoon at the apartment of John Franzan, 17, of 301 Waugh St. According to Franzan, Miss Storvick arrived at his apartment when he was not home and left her belongings with the intention of moving in.

"I didn't really want her to move in, but I thought she needed a place to stay. She's a good lady, and I wanted to help her get her head together because she gets high all the time," he said.

But Miss Storvick didn't stay long. Thursday evening, Franzan discovered her next door at 305 Waugh St. with Michael Myhre, 27, who started calling Franzan names, according to Franzan.

About 2 a.m., Miss Storvick saw Lyle, who lived in an adjoining apartment which shared a kitchen with Myhre. She joined Lyle in the kitchen where he offered to share some marijuana, she related in a police report at 7:15 a.m. Friday.

After smoking the pot, Lyle propositioned Miss Storvick and began fondling her despite her protests, she told police. Myhre woke up and went

into the kitchen where a long argument ensued between the three, almost ending in a fight, Miss Storvick said.

About 6:30 a.m. Lyle locked himself in his room and Myhre called police to report the incident.

At 7:15 a.m., according to Walsh, Myhre and Miss Storvick filed a complaint against Lyle at the police station, but did not press charges. After filing the statement, the two went back to Myhre's apartment where they sat in bed watching television, Myhre said. About 9 a.m., Lyle broke in, brandishing a knife and swinging a stick at Myhre and Miss Storvick, Myhre said.

After beating Myhre with the stick, Lyle jumped on Miss Storvick and drug her to his room and barricaded them in, Myhre said. Myhre grabbed a pair of pants and ran into the back yard.

Shortly after, rental manager Phillip McCullem arrived with another worker to start painting the upstairs. He knocked at the back door and was told by Lyle that he was holding Miss Storvick, according to caretaker Herschel "Slim" Jones, 309 Waugh St.,

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An exhausted William Lyle, 51, is taken by ambulance Friday evening from 309 Waugh St., where he had held a teen-age girl hostage for nine hours. Lyle was "weak and tired" after the ordeal, Police Chief David Walsh said. Lyle was taken to the University Medical Center.

Insight

VD: 'most democratic' of diseases

Dr. William Galeota, director of the University Student Health Center, calls it "the most democratic disease ever known." Pamphlets and literature note that only the common cold is more communicable. And Dr. William Birkby, a Columbia physician, says it is "a serious problem across the country, and Columbia is in the running with the rest of the country."

One of the most prevalent forms of

This report on the steady increase of venereal disease in this area was written by Tim Sitek, Barry Schneider and Mary Dempsey of the Columbia Missourian's special reporting team on science.

VD is gonorrhea, caused by bacteria known as heisseria gonorrhoea. This bacteria is sensitive, and it is transmitted easily through sexual intercourse.

Gonorrhea usually causes obvious symptoms in men but often goes unnoticed by women. In men, symptoms usually appear three to five days after intercourse. Symptoms include a discharge of pus from the penis and a burning sensation during urination. Although females contract the disease, 80 per cent do not notice the symptoms, says Columbia gynecologist Dr. William Moss.

Syphilis also is transmitted through

(See MANY, page 13)



Chris Storvick, 17, leaves the basement apartment at 309 Waugh St. where she was held hostage at knife-point Friday.

Hostage drama engulfs reporter

By Wayne Davis Missouri staff writer

Mike Lavery, KFRU news director, found himself Friday in a situation many journalists have encountered in the past few months. And like everybody else, it had Lavery confused.

Lavery was called to 305 Waugh St. at about 10:30 a.m. by Columbia Police Chief David Walsh. Lavery was there at the request of William Lyle, the 51-year-old man who held a teen-age girl hostage at knifepoint for nine hours Friday.

Lavery had been asked to broadcast Lyle's demands live to KFRU's radio audience.

"He (Lyle) wanted it broadcast that he was going to be safe and the girl was going to be safe," Lavery said.

Surrounded by policemen and onlookers, Lavery debated what to do if Lyle asked to go on the air personally. The matter, he said, was one of control.

"We kept control of the broadcast, that's why we came," Lavery said during a break between broadcasts. "I was told he didn't want to talk on the radio himself. We probably would have

used a delay if he wanted to go on the air, I don't know."

A delay allows technicians time to intervene in a broadcast.

Last month, in more dramatic, although somewhat similar circumstances, terrorists in Washington, D. C., used live television to report that they would kill their hostages if their demands were not met.

And in Indianapolis — because he had a shotgun tied to a man's head — Anthony Kiritis was allowed the privilege of going on live TV, where he screamed obscenities and religious slurs.

Incidents like these have forced media to reevaluate their cherished role as a detached observer. Increasingly, terrorists are recognizing the power of live media coverage, which can give them the opportunity to use broadcasts for their own purposes.

W. David Dugan Jr., chairman of the University's broadcasting department, and Rod Gelatt, KBIA news director, supported Lavery's handling of the situation.

But broadcasters are confronted with a dilemma: on the one hand, they want such incidents to be handled without

sensation. Yet they want to participate in a bona fide news event.

Gelatt said his only complaint about the handling of Friday's incident was that police did not notify the other media in town to ask for their cooperation.

"I can readily understand the views of the police in calling on KFRU to relay the man's messages, and I think Mike Lavery has handled the situation in extremely good fashion," Gelatt said.

"I just resent the fact that police (See INVOLVEMENT, page 13)

Novak seeks federal funds for gasification study

By Steve Ruddock Missouri staff writer

City Manager Terry Novak and other proponents of a proposed large-scale coal gasification project are seeking federal funds for a \$300,000 in-depth study of the project even though, a smaller feasibility study is not finished.

The in-depth engineering and environmental study would be phase three of the project, which calls for the construction of two gasification plants,

one expected in Boone County and one in the Green Hills region of northern Missouri. Cost estimates for each plant range from \$260 million to \$700 million.

Phase two of the project, now under way, is a \$50,000 feasibility study of coal gasification. The City Council tabled a motion Monday to appropriate \$20,000 for the study so the council and citizens could evaluate the project. The council also voted to reconsider the motion April 18.

Novak said he has "no trouble"

justifying the amount of time he has spent promoting the coal gasification studies. "The City Council expects the city staff to be out front, trailblazing and seeking new options," he said.

Mayor-elect Les Proctor called Novak's actions "perfectly appropriate. Novak was charged by the council to create opportunities for alternate sources of power," Proctor said.

Novak said he is now seeking phase three funding to avoid a long delay after

the completion of phase two.

The consulting firm of Lutz, Daily and Brain is conducting the phase two study. Its members said they are confident Columbia or another source will supply the \$20,000 toward the \$50,000 payment to the firm.

"We have a very positive attitude toward the completion of phase two and the entire project," said Jack Daily, a partner in the firm.

"Assuming phase two is favorable, we will try to fund phase three entirely

from federal agencies," Novak said Friday. Securing that amount of federal funding will require the support of Missouri's congressional delegation, making informal contacts with federal agencies and possibly the passage of special legislation, he said.

Novak met Wednesday with Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton, D-Mo., in Washington, D. C. He said Eagleton was "quite interested" in the project.

On Thursday Novak met with Energy Research and Development Ad-

ministration officials to request their aid in joint federal funding of phase three.

Harvey Weisenfeld, an ERDA official who met with Novak, said an answer to an unsolicited proposal such as this cannot be expected soon and probably not before President Carter's planned energy message April 20.

The citizen task force appointed by Mayor Bob Pugh to formulate questions

(See GASIFICATION, page 13)

Two vie for Rabin's post

N.Y. Times Service

JERUSALEM — Premier Yitzhak Rabin's surprise resignation as Israel's governing Labor party candidate for re-election has stirred the political ambitions of two leading Labor party figures — Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Shimon Peres.

Associates of Allon, who has been an ally of Rabin in the Labor party's internecine squabbles, said Friday night that the foreign minister was "weighing positively" the promptings of friends and politicians that he should seek the nomination and not let it go by default to Peres.

However, other reports circulated to the effect that Allon and Peres were discussing an agreement whereby Allon would have his choice of posts in a Peres administration in exchange for not challenging Peres. At one point in his career, Allon was anxious to be Israel's defense minister.

Peres, who narrowly lost the nomination to Rabin at the Labor party convention a few weeks ago, is the leading contender to replace Rabin.

The central committee of the beleaguered and bewildered Labor party is scheduled to pick Rabin's successor on Sunday.

Israel's politicians were still reeling

Friday in the wake of Rabin's sudden withdrawal from the political arena. Disclosures in Israeli newspapers alleging that he and his wife, Leah, had lied about the amounts they kept in bank accounts in Washington, D.C., that were themselves violations of Israeli currency regulations, forced Rabin's quick retirement.

The premier's dramatic withdrawal was also the subject of much talk among average Israelis Friday.

Israeli officials hastened to caution newsmen that Rabin's departure from office did not mean a shift in Israel's foreign policy.

Writer reflects

Is the "Long Ranger" the greatest American? Not according to Mrs. Blanchard, the tyrannical schoolteacher in a new play at Stephens College. (Gen. Douglas MacArthur is her choice.)

Sunday, Vibrations talks with local playwright Jonathan Holden, whose play "The Remorseless Daydreams of Mrs. Blanchard," will be performed Wednesday to April 17 at Stephens College Warehouse theatre. Holden shares his reflections on teaching and the realities of his creative writing.

A lot of people teach dance, but who teaches the dance teachers? Suellen Wells runs the dancing education program for Columbia College, and teaches her students how to tap talent in their future pupils. In Sunday's cover story, Mrs. Wells explains why there is a better market for dance teachers than for professional dancers.

In town today

Noon Men's college tennis, Missouri vs. Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, Varsity Tennis Courts, University.

7:30 p.m. "The Ultimate Grammar of Life," Gentry Hall, University.

7:30 p.m. University opera class productions of "R.S.V.P." and "The Medium," Hall Theatre.

9 p.m. "Hellfire," a light, sound and mind show, University Theatre.

Movie listings on page 15