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# Columbia Missourian

69th Year — No. 210

Good Morning! It's Tuesday, May 24, 1977

14 Pages — 15 Cents

## In town today

7:30 p.m. Association for Children with Learning Disabilities meeting, Fairview Elementary School Cafeteria.

Exhibits  
See Sunday's Vibrations magazine for continuing exhibit schedule.

Movie listings on page 13



Islands such as this are creating confusion among Columbia drivers. Debi Savva

## Re(signed) Loop design dizzies downtown drivers

By Betty Conner  
Missourian staff writer

Ray Beck knows some downtown drivers are going the wrong way on one-way streets, thank you, but the city public works director says the problem just needs a little time.

"There's going to be problems with re-signing the streets during business hours," Beck said.

As construction continued on the downtown loop Tuesday, traffic in the 16-block area slowed considerably. An army of trucks slowed some, but other drivers were just confused.

During a five-minute span in evening rush hour traffic more than a dozen northbound drivers on Ninth Street made illegal right turns to Ash Street or swung around the traffic island and continued straight.

"It just makes you feel so foolish."

Mrs. Helen Strawn, 2601 Nellwood Drive, said as she and Mrs. Wandalee Riley, 1109 Agan St., watched drivers crawl through the intersection, the women compared problems getting through the loop.

"I've been here dreading to go into the post office," Mrs. Strawn said.

Drivers leaving the post office must travel away from the business district with a circuitous return route.

Unrelated construction on Eighth Street between Elm and Cherry streets adds to the problem. In addition, workers are laying video transmission lines across Sixth Street between the University's Electrical Engineering Building and the Engineering Building, cutting off traffic just south of the loop from Elm Street to Stewart Road.

Until the loop's first full day Thursday.

(See AD, page 14)

## Insight Scientists study uses of radiation University reactor largest of its kind

By Mark Ingebretsen  
Missourian staff writer

Just off Providence Road, on the south side of Columbia, there's a pool of water that glows a deep, rich blue, so striking as to be almost hypnotic.

The pool is man-made. It acts as a secondary cooling system for the University's research reactor (MURR), the largest university reactor in the U.S. The blue glow comes from high speed electrons discharged from the reactor that collide with atoms in the water. This unnatural phenomenon is the only tangible evidence that 10 million watts of energy are being generated around the clock, four days a week.

MURR's 45 staff members have grown used to the blue glow in the same way they have grown used to working with the reactor. Both are taken for granted.

"It's like working with a threshing machine. You learn where to put your hands and where not to," says Larry Walker, a reactor operator who learned his trade on the Navy's submarine fleet.

"You cannot work with it and be afraid of it, but you damn well better have a healthy respect for it," he says.

The control room where Walker works is just outside the glowing pool. While he is talking, another worker, wearing plastic boots and gloves, searches the pool with a long pole for samples that have absorbed radiation.

Using radiation in this way is the main purpose of the 12-year-old MURR says Robert Brugger, director of the facility. The reactor discharges a steady flow of neutrons, which are used in research and in the manufacture of specialized products. The neutrons are channeled through "beam" tubes, where they come into contact with the samples which travel to and from the labs surrounding the reactor by way of a series of pneumatic tubes.

Last year scientists from 22 University departments, along with researchers from other universities, government and industry, used the \$3.5 million facility.

Jon Meese, a research scientist, is one example. He is working with Monsanto, Inc., producing special grades of silicon by exposing the element to radiation. The silicon will be used in the manufacture of semiconductors, electronic components found in a variety of home and industrial electronic equipment.

Services done for private industry, such as Meese's work for Monsanto, pay about half of MURR's yearly bills, or \$500,000, Brugger says. Another half-million dollars is paid by the University and about \$100,000 comes from federal grants.

Work with industry has an added advantage, Brugger says. "We feel that to be a first-class scientist, a person has to have contact with the outside world."

Scientists such as Meese work in highly specialized fields. When explaining their jobs, their language is unavoidably technical and often baffling to a layman. One thing they do make clear to an outsider is the lack of

(See NUCLEAR, page 14)

## 'Maximum security' for mid-Missouri

# Senate committee votes funds for prison

By Mark Ulven  
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — The Senate Appropriations Committee Monday voted 9 to 1 to approve funding of \$21 million for construction of a maximum security prison to be located in central Missouri.

The decision, if adopted by the Senate, would conflict with a House-approved appropriation for a medium security facility to be built in the Kansas City area. The Senate com-

mittee decision provides for the facility to be built on state land in Cole or Callaway county.

The need for another prison has been recognized for some time. Money was appropriated last year but was not spent because a site was not found.

The state Division of Design and Construction wanted a medium security prison built near a metropolitan area so inmates could be released for jobs in the city.

Some members of the Senate committee, following testimony by Donald

Wyrick, warden of the main prison in Jefferson City, decided the state needed a maximum security prison to separate more serious offenders from first-time or youthful inmates.

Committee member Sen. Warren Welliver, D-Boone County, favored the maximum security prison.

"We need a honest-to-God maximum security prison in Missouri," he said.

Committee members also wanted the Senate to go on record in favor of some kind of prison facility.

"We've toyed with this thing for

several years. I would like to spend the money, enough to do it, then walk away," said Sen. Norman L. Merrell, D-Monticello.

William H. Moon, acting director of the Division of Design and Construction said he was "a bit surprised" by the action. His division had been proceeding on the belief a medium security facility would be built in either the eastern or western part of the state.

Sen. Paul L. Bradshaw, R-Springfield, said since the committee decided on a maximum security

prison, there was no need to build it in either St. Louis or Kansas City because prisoners would not be released for jobs by building the maximum facility on land owned by the state. Bradshaw said the state could save some money.

If the Senate adopts the committee recommendation, the differences between the House and Senate versions will have to be worked out in conference committee. If the differences are not resolved by the legislature's final day, June 15, Missouri may be without additional prison space for another year.

## Fire inspectors may not be bogus

By Phil Randall  
Missourian staff writer

Columbia's suspected phony fire inspectors may not have been phony at all, Columbia Fire Marshall George Hughes said Monday.

The fire department received complaints about several men inspecting local stores last week. The men said they were fire inspectors but offered no identification, explanations, and wore no uniforms. It was feared the men might be scouting the buildings as targets for burglars.

However, the fire department learned Monday the men may have been fire inspectors for Insurance Service Offices, a St. Louis-based firm that inspects buildings to aid insurance companies in setting fire insurance rates.

"We don't know all the inspections were legitimate, but we're in the process of verifying which stores they (Insurance Service Offices) actually were in, and if they coincide with those reported by the citizens," Hughes said.

One of the inspectors, E.V. Snyder

of the Hannibal office of Insurance Service Office, said he was in Columbia last Wednesday and inspected two of the businesses that made complaints: Best Tapes and Records, 25 S. Ninth St., and King Arthur's Hairstyling Salon, 23 S. Ninth St.

Among others that Snyder inspected were Barth's Clothing Company, 827 E. Broadway; G & D Steak House, 122 S. Ninth St., and Tiger Barber Shop, 118 S. Ninth St.

Several businessmen recognized Snyder from Insurance Service Offices, and called the fire department when they learned Snyder's credibility was in question.

"We don't want to get confused with the fire department or an insurance company, because we aren't either one," Snyder said. "These are fire inspections that insurance companies ask for."

Hughes said that the fire department hoped to avoid similar unexpected inspections. "We're in the process of writing Insurance Service Offices a letter asking that next time they're in Columbia they give us a call first," Hughes said.

## Route B may be replaced

By Mason Smith  
Missourian staff writer

The dangerous and long-standing traffic problems on Route B (Paris Road) may be alleviated by a Missouri Highway Department decision to build a new road between Columbia and Hallsville.

Keith Hassler of the department's survey and planning bureau in Jefferson City said the plan, which places Route B construction on the department's five-year program, is largely the result of the high accident rate on the present road.

Hassler said the road is not adequate

for the volume of traffic it carries or for the speeds allowed.

The highway department will hold a prelocation hearing at 3 p.m. June 7 at Oakland Junior High School to discuss the route of the new road.

In the prelocation stage, state engineers hold a public hearing to uncover any major conflicts affecting the route of a new highway, such as historic buildings, cemeteries or valuable archeological sites.

Hassler said, "A prelocation hearing is a discussion with the people about getting their ideas on things that could affect the location of the road."

The highway department has held

prelocation hearings for only a year. "This may be the first prelocation hearing in this district," Hassler said.

After the prelocation hearing, the survey engineers prepare a reconnaissance report, which outlines the road's general corridor and takes between a year and a year-and-a-half to prepare, Hassler said.

The engineers try to lay out the most economical and least difficult route to build. They also prepare an alternate route in case conflicts develop.

A second public hearing, called a design hearing, allows the public to discuss the private property that will be taken for the new road, Hassler said.

## Gas plant draws local dissenters

By Larry Katzenstein  
Missourian staff writer

A citizens group opposed to the mid-Missouri coal gasification project announced its formation at a press conference Monday afternoon at the Guitar Street Community Center.

Members of the Missourians for Responsible Energy Development said they plan to question, investigate and publicize what they see as the project's "serious technological, economic, social and environmental deficiencies."

Co-chairman William M. Wiecek, University professor of history, said the

12 members include scientific experts, Columbia residents and persons from outlying Boone County areas. Together, he said, they represent "a broad base of concern" about coal gasification.

The project calls for two coal gasification plants, one in mid-Missouri and the other in the northern part of the state.

Each plant is estimated to cost at least \$260 million.

Wiecek said formation of the group was prompted by a request from Columbia Water and Light Director James Lundsted, who is chairman of an advisory committee promoting the project.

At an advisory committee meeting Thursday in Kansas City, Lundsted said his committee was seeking recommendations and participation from concerned citizens.

Wiecek listed the primary goals of his group as education of the public and citizen participation in energy planning.

"Energy planning has to take place in a democratic context with extensive citizen involvement," he said. So far, planning for coal gasification has ignored "the serious concerns of local experts as well as nonexperts," he said.

Some type of coal development is (See OPINIONS, page 11)

# Court paves prison path for Nixon aides

From our wire services

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court virtually cleared the way Monday for former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell and ex-White House aide H.R. Haldeman to go to prison for their part in the Watergate cover-up.

The justices, without explanation and with no recorded disagreements, refused to hear the appeal of Mitchell, Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, another top aide to former President Richard M. Nixon.

Ehrlichman has been an inmate at a federal prison camp in Arizona since October. But Mitchell, once the nation's top law enforcement official, and Haldeman have remained free pending appeal since their convictions more than two years ago.

Mitchell, 63, and Haldeman, 50, could be in prison within a month. They have 25 days in which to ask the

court to reconsider the decision and attorneys for all three indicated that they probably will seek reconsideration.

However, such requests are routine and the vast majority of them are rejected. The court usually acts promptly on such requests.

If no rehearing request is made or if one is denied, the justices will send the case back to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica, who presided over the Watergate cover-up trial, for ordering Mitchell and Haldeman to prison.

Mitchell will be the first former Cabinet officer to go to jail for conduct in office since Interior Secretary Albert Fall was imprisoned for his role in the Teapot Dome scandal of the 1920s.

The three Watergate defendants each were sentenced to 30 months to eight years in prison for conspiracy, obstruction of justice and giving false

testimony under oath in what prosecutors said was an attempt to conceal government misconduct in the Watergate scandal.

That scandal, which mushroomed to involve numerous clandestine operations, began to unfold when seven burglars were caught trying to bug the Democratic National Committee's headquarters in the Watergate office complex during the 1972 presidential election.

Ehrlichman, 51, earlier had been convicted of conspiracy in connection with the 1971 "plumbers" burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. He chose to begin serving his prison terms pending appeals of both convictions. Both appeals now have been rejected.

The justices had discussed the Watergate cover-up case for more than a month.



John Ehrlichman  
Already serving sentence



H.R. Haldeman  
Former presidential adviser



John Mitchell  
Former attorney general