

# Columbia Missourian

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Mark Humphrey, left, and Matt Mayer, friends of drowning victim Pat Kelly, wait disconsolately while rescue units search the lake for the victim's body.

## Teen drowns after dive into lake

By Frank Gerakis and Michael Bold  
Missourian staff writers

A 17-year-old Columbia youth drowned at Finger Lakes State Park Tuesday afternoon after diving off a rock ledge. While the state police helicopter circled above and swimmers continued enjoying the water, members of the Boone County Fire Protection District Rescue Squad dragged the lake trying to find the victim, Pat Kelly, 17, of 607 St. Charles Road. The drowning occurred about 2:10 p.m. By about 6:20 p.m. divers from the University Scuba Club, assisting the rescue units, found Kelly's body. Kelly had been diving from a ledge, about 10 feet (3 meters) above the water, with some friends. "He dove pretty

much straight down, and he didn't come up," said Faith House, 16, a witness. "Everybody swam over and looked for him."

Mark Humphrey, 16, was one of Kelly's companions. "He went down, and mud came up. That's all we seen." Several people at the lake camp inquired about the time it took for rescue units to arrive and about the methods they used to search for the body. But the first unit on the scene, driven by Fire Chief Bill Westhoff, arrived at 2:32 p.m., just nine minutes after the call was received. By that time, the body had been in the water up to 25 minutes, said Westhoff.

## Youth's fighting, temper almost leads to his death

By Wayne Byard  
Missourian staff writer

Eddie Aitkens has a bad temper and a reputation for fighting... and it almost cost him his life. Aitkens' father, Robert Aitkens, who keeps a day-to-day vigil for his 16-year-old son at the University Hospital and Clinics here, said, "Once he got a name for fighting, he couldn't stay out of it." Aitkens' most recent "trouble" occurred in the Wal-Mart Discount Store parking lot, 601 Business Loop 70 W., where he and 30 to 40 "loopers" were "partying down" on June 7. Aitkens was run down by a car driven by another youth after Aitkens had smashed the car's windshield with a baseball bat. The driver then tried to back over Aitkens.



None of the witnesses has told police what the argument was about, but they said the outburst came after Aitkens had been talking with four persons in the car for about 10 minutes. The driver of the car, also 16, is being held by juvenile authorities. No charges have been brought against the three other people in the youth's car at the time of the argument. Both Aitkens and the youth being held say they didn't know each other before the incident. Aitkens' father said, "We've had several discussions on it (fighting). He don't start fights, but he don't back down neither, until recently." But other persons dispute the idea of Aitkens never starting a fight. Witnesses at the parking lot run-in said one man walked up to the driver of the car, after he had run Aitkens down, and said, "Thanks for running that blood son of a bitch over."

## Loop crackdown begins

By Wayne Byard  
Missourian staff writer

In an apparent effort to crack down on "loop riding," the Columbia Police Department Friday issued eight citations to people parked in the Wal-Mart Discount Store parking lot on Business Loop 70 West. The parking lot was the scene of an incident June 7 involving Edward Aitkens, 16, of 49 Woodland Hills Trailer Court. Aitkens, who is in satisfactory condition at the University Hospital and Clinics, was struck by a car driven by another youth, also 16, following an argument. At 9:31 p.m. Friday Columbia police sealed off the exits to the parking lot and issued citations for first-degree trespassing to the people in the parking

lot. No trespassing signs are posted in the lot. No juveniles were among those who received citations. Arraignment on the charges will be in Municipal Court on June 26. A mother of one of the people who received a citation said she thought the charges were "unfair." She said the people in the parking lot were unable to read the signs. She said the signs are posted "halfway up a group of lightposts. Who's going to look up there?" City Prosecuting Attorney Hank Stoltz can press the charges for first- or second-degree trespassing. First-degree trespassing is a Class "B" misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$1 to \$500. Second-degree trespassing is an infraction which carries a fine of \$1 to \$300.

His father insists Aitkens has been trying to improve his behavior in recent months because of several developments in his life. His father said his son had a run-in with juvenile authorities over his fighting and the severity of the punishment was to be determined on whether he curbed his fighting in the future. Then, there was his father's heart attack on Feb. 6 that forced the youth to take over his father's job and become the sole supporter of his family. Aitkens was working seven days a week as manager of the Deer Park Cattle Ranch near Columbia. His father said he earned \$200 to \$300 every two weeks. Aitkens' girlfriend, Kathy Shaw, a 16-year-old senior at Hickman High School, said Aitkens dropped out of Oakland Junior High School a year ago but was considering going back to school. But Aitkens' father said school held no interest for his son. "I tried to get him to stay in school," he said. "His teachers said he wasn't motivated by school." Classmates at Oakland remember Aitkens as a boy who was constantly fighting. They say his fighting alienated him from his acquaintances and left him with few friends. Miss Shaw said many of Aitkens' fights were with black students and followed "mouthing off" by both parties. "He's mouthy," she said. "He can't control his mouth. People hold grudges against him." According to Miss Shaw, Aitkens' fights usually end up with the 5-foot, 6-inch (1.7-meter) Aitkens the loser. She said several people usually would gang up on Aitkens and "he always gets the worst of it in the end." "He's got a bad temper," she said. "If someone rubs him the wrong way, (See GIRLFRIEND, Page 9A)

## Environmentalists criticize May Co. ecological report

By Mike Brennan  
Missourian staff writer

The proposed development of a regional shopping mall near Rock Bridge State Park continues to draw fire from environmentalists. Even after the May Department Stores Co. of St. Louis submitted its detailed application and environmental analysis of the development on May 29 — which included safeguards to prevent pollution from damaging the delicate ecology of the park — critics rage on. "It's a lot of promises, but I don't see any real assurances that what they say (in the analysis) will be put in," said Marty Kardinal, spokeswoman for the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club. "We can't have that degree of urban development out there and not affect Gans Creek." Gans Creek runs within a few hundred yards of the site owned by electrical wholesaler Perry Philips, and optioned to the May Co. and local developer Dalton Patterson. It also

runs through the park. The creek, according to a recent state Department of Conservation report, is one of a handful in the area that has high water quality. The report showed that over 30 species of fish live in the stream, and environmentalists fear that if the mall goes in, pollution will follow. May Co. plans several detention ponds to catch runoff from parking lots and buildings but Mrs. Kardinal said they aren't adequate to protect the creek. "The size of the detention ponds should be examined more thoroughly," she said. "The oils, chemicals, asbestos and lead could alter the creek's organic life, and the nutrients in the runoff could add to algae growth in the stream." She also said algae depletes the stream's oxygen, and if it is allowed to grow to excess, it will eventually kill the fish. The total Philips tract consists of 433 acres, 123 acres of which would be devoted to the mall. The remainder

would still be available for development, and that's what worries Mrs. Kardinal. "I think Dalton Patterson just seems to be waiting to develop the other part of the property," she said. Mrs. Kardinal also said May Co. failed to deal adequately with noise and light pollution. "If you want to see the stars, such as the recent meteor shower, you have to get a long ways out of the city, like to the park," she said. "If the mall goes in that will no longer be possible." Energy consumption, in traveling to and from the mall, was another factor that the Sierra Club said the analysis failed to deal with adequately. "The May Co. said that energy demand would be reduced with people shopping in one area," she said. "I think that's quite an assumption for them to make. We've got to think of energy impact as far as conservation is concerned." May Co.'s own analysis predicts that in the year 1985 motor fuel consumption would amount to 662,000 gallons.

Based on the 1980 price of \$1.20 a gallon that amounts to over \$800,000. As gasoline prices rise, so does the total. She also said construction of an interchange from U.S. 63 to the mall site — at May Co. expense — would require the purchase of University land which is used by the College of Agriculture for an experimental pasture area. And according to Acting Dean George Smith, an important experiment is taking place there. "There is a possibility that it (the interchange) could disrupt a Fescue experiment," he said. "Fescue (one of the principal hay crops) is the most important grass in the state of Missouri and this area produces more seed than anywhere else in the country." "I don't know what the status of the several interchange ideas are, but it looks like they will take up about 10 to 30 acres of University land," Smith said. "They might have to change the design of the interchange. The clover-leaf design (one proposed by May Co.) would cut into our fields. We don't want to lose the land, but we would

probably buy more from the proceeds of the sale. We aren't against development, but we would balk at anything that would damage a valuable experiment." Mrs. Kardinal said the problem of an anchor store for the mall still remains to be solved. "Famous Barr has not committed itself definitely to the Philips site," she said. "And no major department store is going to commit itself to other sites until the question of the Philips site is resolved. And it's reasonable to assume that Famous Barr would be willing to go to another mall site if the Philips site was denied rezoning." Explaining the rationale behind the malls, she said "Many people think customers are going to Kansas City and St. Louis as long as we don't have a regional shopping center, and that we must keep our city's resources together," she said. "But before we let the business community come into that area, we must think about the people of the future." She also pointed out that Harland

Bartholomew and Associates Inc., the consultants that prepared the two May Co. reports at a cost of \$40,000, also prepared the Boone County Comprehensive Plan. In the county master plan, a 1½-mile buffer of undeveloped land around the park was recommended, while the present plan puts the site within a half mile of the park. She said Bartholomew "moved the recommended business district further south" in the May Co. document. Jack Cloud, a zoning enforcement officer for the county, disagreed. "The scales on the two maps are slightly different, but the line is in about the same area," he said. "The line is only a rough outline of where urban development would stop." "It's remarkable that with all the opposition to development of the mall from the city, county and the media that the only people who are enthusiastic about it are the people that stand to make money," Mrs. Kardinal said.

## Groups want abortion to be election issue

By Lynne Appel  
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — In a tight three-way presidential race, both the "pro-life" and "pro-choice" groups are trying to make sure the abortion issue will carry some weight in the final outcome of the election. Missouri is one of the strongest pro-life states in the nation, and both groups are trying to turn political apathy into political activism by appealing to the crossover and single-issue voters. "Abortion is an issue that grabs the hearts of the people," said Kirk Anderson, an active member of Missourian Citizens for Life. "It will be an issue that has high priority in choosing who we vote for on all levels of government because it's a human issue that transcends ordinary divisions that separate people." Though many politicians dismiss the

significance of single-issue voters, a recent New York Times poll indicated that 7 percent of the registered voters in this country would select their candidate solely because of his stance on the issue of abortion. Of this 7 percent, 5 percent favor an amendment to the Constitution to outlaw most abortions. Both parties have voiced concern that the abortion issue could cause waves in the final drafting of their platforms and may even cause irreparable party disunity. "The pro-lifers are using the party structure for one issue, and this will be the destruction of the two-party system if they succeed," said Maureen McCarthy, director of the Abortion Rights Alliance. (See ABORTION, Page 9A)



Douglas Lester Named Citizen of Year

## Columbians honored for community work

By Kirk Swearingen  
Missourian staff writer

George Keepers, a past chamber president, and outgoing President Douglas M. Lester were both named Citizen of the Year by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Tuesday at the Hilton Inn. Keepers was honored posthumously. Donald Dugan, a former president of the chamber and citizen of the year, called Keepers "one of Columbia's busiest and most respected citizens." Keepers, who died in March, was honored for his community service which included serving on the board of directors for both the Eye Research Foundation and Multiple Sclerosis Society; serving as treasurer for the United Way and board member of the Boone County Community Service Council; working on the founding of the Missouri Free Enterprise Association; serving as a board member of the Missouri School of Religion; and working with the Boy Scouts. Keepers was also a teacher, board member and treasurer at the First Baptist Church. Jose Lindner, a certified public accountant, was named ambassador of the year for his service in promoting

Columbia to businesses which could locate or expand in the city. Lindner is a charter member and chairman of the Ambassador's Club. Lester, executive vice president at Boone County National Bank, has been involved in many community functions since his move to Columbia six years ago. His activities include serving as a board member, treasurer, vice president and president of the chamber; campaign chairman and president of the United Way; service on the board of directors for the Friends of Music; special gifts chairman for the American Diabetes Association; and treasurer and board member of the Museum of Art and Archaeology. In other business, officers and directors were announced for the upcoming year. Richard Mendenhall, president of the Boone Realty Corp., will take the reins as president of the chamber, and Lindner will serve as treasurer. New directors are Bob Roper, of Jones and Roper Attorneys; Jack Mohatt, of the Mohatt Tire Co. Inc.; Howard LeVant, administrator of Columbia Regional Hospital; Nancy Steinman, secretary and treasurer of Susie Scott's Children's World; and Lynn Miller, a dentist.

In town today

12:30 p.m. Lecture, "The Ungodliness of Religion," by Wilma Scott Heide, Room 119, General Classroom Building, University.
7 p.m. Concert, the Columbia Civic Band performs selections by Richard Rogers on the Quadrangle, University.

Index

Business	3A
Classified	9A, 9-11B
Comics	14C
Opinion	4A
People	1-2B
Sports	5-7A
Television	14C
Theater	11A