

Stabbing

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ing to call her best friend, Sandy Bylo, who lived next door.

Bylo's phone rang minutes after she left the Lienekes' mobile home on Tuesday night, but the line was dead when the phone was picked up.

"I am sure it was Dawn trying to call my granddaughter," said Glenn Kirk, Bylo's grandfather. "The timing is more than coincidental, I think."

Police said the victims had suffered "multiple stab wounds" from a knife.

The victims lived with their grandparents, Chester and Francine Lienekes, who were at a bingo game at the Belle Clair Fairgrounds on the other side of Belleville at the time of the slayings. The grandparents discovered their grandchildren's bodies about 10:45 p.m.

The grandparents' home is in Symonds Dutch Hollow Village, a 390-unit mobile home park off Illinois Route 161 near Royal Heights Road, along the northern perimeter of Belleville.

Neighbors said that David and Dawn Lienekes had stayed with their mother after their parents divorced and that all three had lived for a time with the Lienekes in the mobile home. The teen-agers remained there after their mother was incapacitated by a brain tumor and was admitted about a year ago to a nearby nursing home.

Dawn Lienekes suffered from lupus and had been released from a three-day hospital stay just Thursday, Sandy said.

"First, Sandra Lienekes had to go to a nursing home because she was just

Murder Site



Post-Dispatch Map

too sick to be cared for by her in-laws," said Rev. Henry Simon, pastor of Signal Hill Lutheran Church in Belleville, where the Lienekes are members. "Now her children are dead. I can only say that it is a true tragedy."

The victims' father, of Maryland Heights, said he was "in a state of shock."

"I'm trying to hold everybody else up, but I can't stop crying," Lienekes said.

Illinois Tax Means Raises, Tuition Freeze

By Saffir Ahmed
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Higher salaries, a tuition freeze and new degree programs are among the consequences of a \$251 million increase in state aid for Illinois' public colleges and universities, officials said Wednesday.

When the state Legislature approved a two-year, 20 percent income-tax increase last week, it provided a higher education budget of \$1.93 billion, an increase of about 15 percent over last year.

Educators pored over the numbers Wednesday to assess the impact of the increases and concluded that faculty, staff and administration employees would get salary increases of about 8 percent and that there would be no tuition increase for students.

But officials also expressed great concern over the temporary nature of the budget increases. The 20 percent income-tax increase expires after two years.

"For faculty morale and our ability to retain top-flight research people, this is definitely a shot in the arm for the next couple of years," Ross Hodel, deputy director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, said. "But without question, there will be a major effort to keep the tax increase going after two years."

Earl Lazerson, president of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, hailed the Legislature's actions but also warned of the danger of falling off a fiscal cliff in two years if the tax increase is discontinued.

"On balance, this is a very important step on the part of the General

Assembly and the governor in helping education," Lazerson said. "The thing we need to be concerned about is the temporary nature of the increase. That needs to be rectified."

Under the bills approved by the Legislature that are awaiting Gov. James R. Thompson's signature, the SIU system will get an operating budget of \$232.9 million, an increase of \$23.4 million over last year.

Walter Rehwaldt, assistant to the vice chancellor for financial affairs at

SIU, said that the \$232.9 million broke down as follows:

- \$2 million for the chancellor's office.
- \$164.9 million for the Carbondale campus.
- \$66 million for the Edwardsville campus.

Lazerson said that the increase for SIUE would allow the campus to add a bachelor's degree program in mechanical engineering, a master's de-

gree program in art therapy and a major in computer science. In addition, it will allow the expansion of the master's degree program in electrical engineering and the outreach program in the nursing school.

The University of Illinois — the state's largest and most prestigious system — got an operating budget of \$575 million, an 11.4 percent increase over last year.

Among the biggest winners in the state appropriations is Belleville Area College, which got a whopping 31 percent increase in state aid, bringing its allocation to \$7.8 million from \$5.95 million last year.

BAC President Joseph J. Cipfl said the two main factors for the large increase were a 7 percent increase in enrollment and the fact that the BAC district has far more students in proportion to the district's assessed valuation than the state average. Both factors cause the increase in state aid, Cipfl said.

Cipfl expressed delight at the budget increase while expressing concern about the temporary nature of the increase.

"We are encouraged by the action of the Legislature, and it shows a renewed commitment to education," Cipfl said. "But simply allocating an amount of money for two years is not enough."

Officials say that most of the increase will be used for routine and recurring expenses such as salaries and utility costs, rather than for one-time expenses. And in two years, if the Legislature does not vote to continue the increase, the universities will suffer greatly, they said.

Boykins Jr. Indicted On Heroin Charge

Luther Boykins Jr., 22, was indicted Wednesday by a St. Louis Circuit Court grand jury on a charge of heroin possession, authorities said.

Boykins Jr., of the 1800 block of Warren Street, is the son of License Collector Billie A. Boykins and Lambert Airport Commissioner Luther Boykins. Boykins Jr. was arrested June 27 in the 1300 block of North 16th Street.

Police said they had stopped the younger Boykins' 1973 Mercedes-Benz, which was being driven by another man, because a routine license plate check showed that Boykins Jr. was wanted on four bench warrants involving traffic violations.

Two police officers said that Boykins Jr. had thrown three pink and white capsules to the ground as they started to question him. A laboratory analysis later confirmed that the capsules contained heroin, police said.

After the indictment Wednesday, police said arrangements were being made through a lawyer for Boykins Jr. to surrender on the charge.

Auction To Benefit Mizzou Scholarships

The St. Louis chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association will hold its eighth annual "Evening at Grant's Farm" on July 15 to raise money for scholarships for deserving students.

The benefit starts at 6 p.m. at Grant's Farm, in south St. Louis County. The evening includes dinner, a social hour, music by Bob Kuban Entertainment and an auction.

The items to be auctioned include tickets to sporting events and concerts, use of vacation condos, weekend resort packages, merchandise, gift certificates and roundtrip airfare for two courtesy of Southwest Airlines.

Proceeds are to be used for scholarships for deserving St. Louis area students who would attend the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Youth Pleads Guilty, Gets Life For Murdering His Stepfather

By William C. Lhotka
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A 17-year-old was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison for the murder of his stepfather a year ago in north St. Louis County.

Donyae Smart pleaded guilty of second-degree murder before Judge Philip J. Sweeney in St. Louis County Circuit Court. Smart was 16 when the murder was committed but was certified to stand trial as an adult.

Smart and a friend, Antonio Smith, 18, of St. Louis, were accused of stabbing Horace Jamerson 35 times while Jamerson was asleep at his home in the 7800 block of Meridian Avenue on July 5, 1988. Jamerson, 48, was Smart's stepfather.

As part of a plea agreement and in exchange for the guilty plea, the state dropped a charge of armed criminal action against Smart and reduced the murder charge to second degree from first degree.

Had Smart been convicted of first-degree murder, he would never have been eligible for parole.

Prosecutor William Meiners told Sweeney that evidence in the case would have shown that Smart and

Smith had been hired by Smart's mother, Ruby Jamerson, 35, to kill her husband.

After the stabbing, Smart and Smith were to take Horace Jamerson's body in Ruby Jamerson's car to the Metro East area, but the body was too heavy for them to move, Meiners said.

Meiners told Sweeney that Marvin Jamerson, the victim's brother, was satisfied with the guilty plea by Smart to the reduced murder charge.

Ruby Jamerson was convicted of first-degree murder last month. Her trial centered on the validity of a confession she made two days after the murder. Her sentencing is pending before Judge Robert Saitz.

Smith is awaiting trial. He has pleaded innocent to the charges.

Reader's Advocate

Readers with questions, comments or complaints relating to the Post-Dispatch are invited to get in touch with Sue Ann Wood, the Reader's Advocate. Letters may be addressed to her at the Post-Dispatch, 900 North Tucker Boulevard, St. Louis, 63101, or she may be reached by telephone Monday through Friday.

Tax

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quarter-cent sales tax increase would have produced too much money, so the committee recommended a one-fifth-cent increase. The increase would take effect Oct. 1 and expire July 1, 1990.

The state sales tax rate is 4.225 percent. The rate in the city of St. Louis is 6.1 percent; the rate in St. Louis County is 5.725 percent.

The committee made no changes in its corporate tax plan. It calls for:

- A 6.5 percent tax on corporations with Missouri taxable income over \$335,000.
- A 6 percent tax on corporations with Missouri taxable income exceeding \$100,000 but not over \$335,000.
- No increase in taxes paid by businesses earning less than \$100,000.

Under current law, all businesses are taxed at the 5 percent rate. Bob Knuth, of Taxpayers Research Institute of Missouri, said businesses would prefer a 15 percent surtax on all corporations. Businesses also want the Legislature to reduce the share of the funds that would come from business, from \$100 million to \$80 million.

"We're willing to do our share, but not more than our share," he said. Senate Minority Leader Tom Mc-

Carthy, R-Chesterfield, said he doubted the business-backed changes would win support.

"Corporations are treated pretty well in Missouri," McCarthy said. "This isn't going to kill them."

In addition to the tax plan advanced by the committee, other tax plans were filed Wednesday.

Rep. Pat Kelley, R-Lee's Summit, proposed financing the refunds by eliminating the sales-tax exemptions on newsprint, on items sold by religious or charitable institutions and on long-distance calls made between Missouri and other states.

House Minority Leader James M. Talent, R-Chesterfield, filed a measure that would finance the refunds by issuing bonds.

"I just thought this would be a way of doing this without having a major tax increase," Talent said.

And Sen. John F. Bass, D-St. Louis, and Senate Majority Leader J.B. "Jet" Banks, D-St. Louis, said they might propose alternatives to raising the sales tax, which they said hits poor people hardest. Bass said he wanted to exempt food from any sales tax increase.

While saying he was willing to compromise on which taxes should be raised, the governor said one area of negotiation was off-limits. He indicated that his decision on whether to approve the St. Louis stadium bill or any other pending measures was not linked to the tax plan.

A Stroke Of The Pen Turns Beautiful Flower Into Weed

By Jim Mosley
Post-Dispatch Jefferson City Bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — The purple loosestrife's days are numbered.

The plant, which has a beautiful purple flower but a nasty habit of choking out other plants in wetland areas, became a "noxious weed" under a bill signed Wednesday by Gov. John Ashcroft.

Under the measure, the sale or distribution of purple loosestrife seeds without a permit from the Missouri Department of Conservation will be illegal.

"It's a very beautiful plant," said Jerry J. Presley, director of the Conservation Department. "When it gets into the wetlands, it causes a lot of problems."

The plant, which grows six to eight feet tall, threatens wetland areas because it chokes off other plants. That eliminates food and shelter for wildlife living in wetlands.

"It will grow to the exclusion of everything else," said Ginny Wallace, a botanist for the Conserva-

tion Department. "You'll end up with acres and acres of nothing but purple loosestrife."

In Missouri, purple loosestrife is found mainly in the northeastern part of the state, Wallace said.

The bill dealing with purple loosestrife was one of several measures signed Wednesday by Ashcroft. The governor also approved bills that will:

- Set up a state regional crime laboratory in Jefferson County. The lab, which will be at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, will be the fifth regional crime lab in Missouri.
- Permit the state to designate Missouri Highway 19 — which runs from Hannibal to Thayer — as a "scenic and rustic" road.
- Allow ministers who are not U.S. citizens to perform marriages.
- Require the state to hold in escrow any money that goes to a criminal who sells the rights to his or her story. The money then will be used to finance any civil judgments that victims would obtain against the criminal.



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—Joe Dobronski (left), McDonnell Douglas, Director of Flight Test & Operations, Retired, with Edgar Applegate (center), Experimental Aircraft Mechanic, Retired, Ed Leriche (right), Flight Line Quality Assurance Inspector, Retired

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