

COLUMBIA'S SUMMER AWAKENING

Snapping shut the bluebook, the student hands it to the professor. The last exam is finished, the winter semester is over.

Ecstasy!
Freedom!
Que sera, sera!

Text and photos by Larry Boehm

The bags are packed and the motor is running. Good-bye, Mizzou, see you in the fall. The last glance of the city fades from a rear-view mirror. School's out, summer jobs, summer vacations and summer romances are in.

But although the academic year's nine-month home-away-from-home fast becomes a memory for the fleeing student, Columbia is alive and well in mid-Missouri. June, July and

August are humid and hot, but not quiet, as these months were when the city largely marked time until students returned. Spending the summer in Columbia was once dreaded by some, looked forward to by those who enjoyed the quiet of almost empty streets. It's not that way any more for 50,000 year-round college-towners.

Stores no longer close, transferring personnel to the big cities for the duration. Trains don't take students away and bring them back three months later. Beer, wine and liquor by the drink is not illegal. Most summer school students aren't

teachers, superintendents or principals. Popular local orchestras aren't booked aboard cruise ships. Kiddie movies at the Hall or Missouri Theater aren't the only show in town. And "On Vacation" signs don't hang in downtown windows during the month of August.

The good old summertime also has become a busy old summertime in Collegetown USA. □

Skip Walther is the 1979 Columbia Open Tennis champion.



Harpo's deck is as popular with Columbia residents during dog days, as it is with students the rest of the year.

More than 75 local artists participated in the 21st annual fair sponsored by the Columbia Art League.



Anything and everything is sold at the consignment auctions every Tuesday and Friday at the Boone County Fairgrounds.





Put 540 cheerleaders in a four-day camp, that spells S-P-I-R-I-T!



Summer is the time when juggler Marty Pliske can take his talent to the street.



Bluegrass music and popsicles in Peace Park can brighten any rainy Saturday.



Lively entertainment under warm starlit skies can be found at the Maplewood Barn.

There's nothing like a sale to fill downtown sidewalks with crowds of bargain hunters.