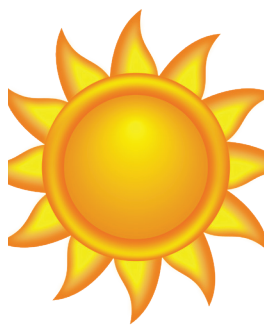


Scientists see
Several sunrays
Scalding the
Earth.



New space downtown



Sports they are
happening and
they ar winning.

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The Department of Journalism

Daily Clarion

Deep South Headline Here

by Tony Howritz
Wall Stree Journal

TALLADEGA, Ala. -- (1) The most-wanted man in this deep South town is a tall, dark drifter known as Jerry Jackson.

(2) At the Winn Dixie supermarket, rumors fly that he was seen with another Jackson -- Michael -- at the singer's Neverland ranch, however, some speculate he was part of the plot to kneecap skater Nancy Kerrigan.

The police recently got a different tip. "We heard that Jerry Jackson was at a football game with Bear Bryant," says Capt. Willard "Peewee" Hurst, referring to the famed -- albeit dead -- Alabama coach.

In fact, about the only place the elusive Mr. Jackson hasn't been spotted is here in Talladega, where he is wanted in connection with fraud allegations. (3) Larry Barton, the town's longtime mayor, is under federal indictment for paying Mr. Jackson more than \$20,000 in town funds for tree-stump removal that, police say never took place. Mr. Barton is charged with laundering the money and pocketing it himself. "It's a bunch of junk," says the feisty 53-year-old mayor. "The only thing I know about money laundering is when my wife washes a dollar bill in my pants."

The mayor also scoffs at claims that he paid a phantom workman. Mr. Jackson, he explains, goes from town to town with a machine that grinds stumps into sawdust. He did his work quietly and moved on. "Guy did a super job," the mayor says.

(4) There are some townspeople, though, who suspect that the only thing working overtime is the mayor's imagination. In a town so tightknit that hospital admissions are reported in the local paper, folks say it simply isn't possible that a stranger chewed up tree stumps for over a year without attracting notice.

(5) "Talladega's like Peyton Place, everybody's into everybody's business," says Casey "Gip" Studdard, a salesman at Cowboy Hubbard's Farmers Trading Post, a general store full of seeds, bags of pecans and elderly men swapping gossip.

"The man must have bought

groceries," adds Robert Nabors, a retired mill worker. "Someone would have seen him."

Or heard him, at least. Thomas Greene has been grinding stumps for years and says it isn't exactly low-profile work. To prove his point, he starts up his stumpgrinder, an ungainly machine with whirling belts and metal teeth.

"This is nothing," he shouts over the deafening roar. "When

**"Everywhere
your cat goes
that's where
it is likely
to be."**

Tim Pilgram
An American Teacher

you've got it grinding a stump, you can hear it for 10 city blocks. It'd wake the dead.

(6) Mr. Greene is one among the townspeople who wants to meet Mr. Jackson. (7) Mr. Greene earned just \$2,600 last year grinding stumps and how his mysterious competitor earned nearly 10 times that much is something he wonders. "I want to see what kind of machine he's got so I can get one too," he says.

Despite such skepticism, Mayor Barton has stuck to his story -- and then some. He offers a vivid profile of Mr. Jackson: "6-foot-1, 195-to-215 pounds, dark hair, probably Hispanic." He keeps several letters from Mr. Jackson on his desk. (8) And he drives a visitor down residential streets where he says Mr. Jackson reduced the number of "ugly, unsightly stumps" that was left by tornadoes and other storms.

"There was a stump right there that's been dug up," he says, pointing at a shallow crater by the curb. "And see that little indenture? That was another."

(9) Asked if Mr. Jackson created these specific stump holes, the answer is uncertain. "I'm assuming he got some of those. We just gave him a section of town to work. We don't follow our workers around."

(10) Police said, however, that neither witnesses nor an electricity bill or other proof of Mr. Jackson's

stay in town has been found. (11) Meanwhile, half of Talladega -- a town of 19,000 midway between Birmingham, Ala., and Atlanta -- has launched a lighthearted manhunt of their own.

"Jerry Jackson was spotted yesterday in Memphis," Norman Culver tells co-workers at a factory cafeteria. "He was eating lunch with Elvis at Burger King or something."

Not so, says Susan Springfield, a local schoolteacher: "He was buried in the rubble in L.A."

(12) Others in Talladega hope that Mr. Jackson remains at large, because people here also enjoy playing Perry Mason. (13) At the factory, Mr. Culver wonders why a man whom the mayor describes as Hispanic is named Jerry Jackson. "It should be Bubba Gonzales, or something," he says.

Then there's the matter of Mr. Jackson's penmanship. (14) Laying on the mayor's desk are letters and cards he has received in recent months signed "Jerry Jackson" and sent from around the country. "The last time I heard from Jerry, he was in Florida," the mayor says, offering a Christmas card with a shaky, childlike signature and, appropriately, a Jacksonville postmark.

(15) But the town councilor who brought charges against the mayor, Howard "Rip" Williams, as well as other officials, greet such evidence with guffaws. Moving a pen from his right hand to his left, Mr. Williams scribbles a "Jerry Jackson" signature much like that on the mayor's letter. "Jerry must be a real nervous writer," he says.

Police say the letters have "general delivery" as a return address, making them hard to trace. (16) And the police department, too, have joined in the fun. A mock postcard on Capt. Hurst's bulletin board reads: "To Talladega P.D. Keep up the good work! Best wishes and Happy New Year." The signature is in the tremulous hand of Jerry Jackson.

The mayor seems unflustered. Of Mr. Jackson's crude handwriting, he says: "Jerry can't write worth a flip." And he blames the whole fuss on political foes. "You can have a ham sandwich indicted by a grand jury," he scoffs.



By internert

Lynden Washington

Lynden Schools Headline Here

By Bob Smith
Washington Post

The Lynden School Board had a busy night last night when they heard from a large segment of the community at their meeting.

Twenty five speakers came to protest the board's cancelling of a drug education program called, "Here's looking at You." A letter signed by 30 of the 42 teachers in the district was also read. It protested thje board action dropping the program without following its own established procedures for the cancellation of programs. Among the 25 speakers were several from the group "Excellence in Education" which originally challenged the program. They praised the board for "standing firm against the tide" of secular humanism, group

leader Mary Kenworthy<cq> said. Another parent, however, said the school board was a "collection of Neanderthals who couldn't evaluate a bus schedule." He said the board needed to be realistic about the problems of modern students and that he was going to organize a recall petition.

Kenwerthy claimed parents who objected to the program were willing to have drug education in schools, but disagreed with the way this information was presented. They objected to a lack of moral absolutes in the curriculum and they said children were asked to role-play unhealthy family situations. Some said they would transfer their children to Lynden Christian schools if this kind of humanistic education was allowed to continue.

Students also spoke about the

program. Jim vanderTop said he didn't think parents who had never seen the program in action in the classroom should decide that it wasn't right for the Lynden schools. Elsie Termaning said she would be "so embarrassed if her little sister got ahold of the program and started asking her about it."

Three students spoke against the program and fourteen were in favor of it. Board member Eben Stoop said that the best thing was for the board to stand by their decision and move forward towards other things.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, November 18 at 8 p.m. at the High School Administration Office.

-30-
Any missing information?

Sex Education Headline Here

By Bob Smith
New York Times

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Inadequate sex education and a failure to urge youngsters to use birth control have helped the United States post the highest teen pregnancy and abortion rates among developed countries, experts on teen pregnancy said yesterday. Panelists at an international conference on child welfare blamed the federal government for spending more time trying to persuade youngsters to be chaste than educating them in preventing pregnancy.

Nationally, about 1 million -- 10 percent -- of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 become pregnant each year, the experts said. Of those about 4 percent have abortions and 5 percent give birth. The rest miscarry. Eight-four percent of the pregnancies are unplanned.

"That pregnancy rate is higher than for any other developed country," said Jacqueline D. Forrest, a researcher at the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a non-profit public policy

research group.

Forrest was part of a panel on teen pregnancy on the first day of the four-day International Child and Youth Care Conference. Nearly 2,000 people from 36 countries have gathered to discuss day care, foster care, abuse, nutrition, health and adoption.

Teen pregnancy is an issue because studies show that babies born to young mothers are more likely to suffer health problems and are at greater risk of being neglected or abused by inexperienced parents than are other children. In addition, many teens who become pregnant drop out of school.

In Washington state, teen pregnancy rates are roughly comparable to national figures.

In 1986, about 14,000 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 became pregnant. Of those, 7,250 give birth, according to figures from Planned Parenthood in Seattle.

The panelists said poor sex education and trouble in obtaining birth control are part of the problem. Forrest said that about 30 percent of

sexually active teens don't use birth control because contraceptives are harder to get here than in many other countries, they are costly and there is no guarantee of privacy for teens seeking birth control or abortions.

Twenty-three states require parental consent or notification before a teen can have an abortion, said Janet Benshoff, director of the Reproductive Freedom Project for the American Civil Liberties Union. That can have a significant effect on birth rates, she said.

Birthrates for girls aged 15 to 19 went up 38.4 percent over three years in Minnesota after lawmakers passed a law requiring that both parents be notified if their child wanted to have an abortion, Benshoff said.

Birthrates for 18- and 19-year-olds, who weren't included in the law, increased only 0.3 percent.



FBI Head Quarters

Photo by Amy Teller

By David Hamiter
Bellingham News

Edit this story. Be on the lookout for errors in numbers as well as grammar, punctuation and spelling.

The state Bureau of Investigation released crime statistics yesterday which cover the first six months of 1996. According to those statistics, crime in the state dropped 5.7 per cent during the first six months of 1996 from the same period during the previous year but 9.2% more rapes were reported.

Violent crimes (murder, rape,

robbery, aggravated assault) decreased over all 3.6% from the first half of 1995. Property crimes, including burglary, larcany, motor-vehical theft and arson dipped 5.7%.

Crime bureau statistics that were released yesterday indicate violent and property crimes in the state dropped for the tenth consecutive quarter. Rape is the only violent crime on the upswing in the last 5 quarters bureau director J. A. Kelly said.

Among violent crimes, rapes (at least those reported) increased from 276 in the first half of 1995 to 304 during the comparable period in

1996.

Homocides showed the biggest drop at 47.6%. 62 murders were recorded in the first half of 1995 but only 42 murders through June of 1996.

Robbery dropped 16.1 per cent while aggravated assault was up less than one per cent.

Arson was down 12.5% with 392 cases reported in the first half of 1996, compared with 441 in 1995.

The most frequent crime committed was larcany, with 31,756 cases reported during the first half of 1996.

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