

Race Matters in Youth Happiness Poll

Responding to quality of life issues

(AP) -- From their relationships to their jobs to their money — even from the time they first roll out of bed — young white Americans are happier with life than their minority counterparts.

According to an extensive survey of 1,280 people ages 13-24 by The Associated Press and MTV, 72 percent of whites say they are happy with life in general, compared with 51 percent of Hispanics and 56 percent of blacks.

"It doesn't surprise me," said Martin Carpenter, 21, a black New Jersey resident. "There's a lot of issues out there for African-American young adults. You can still go to certain places and feel uncomfortable, like you don't belong there."

Martin's feeling about racism, real or perceived, was echoed in the survey: 28 percent of minorities believe race will hurt them in the quest for a better life. Among whites, 20 percent feel their race will help in getting ahead.

Destiny Brown, 17, a black Virginia high school student, said she has friends who were already passed over for work simply because their names sounded different. "I know sometimes your name

—people will give you a hard time when you try to get a job."

The difference in levels of happiness is not always stark, but it's consistent. Among whites, 67 percent usually wake up happy in the morning; for minorities, the figure is 61 percent.

Those numbers extend into all aspects of life:

- **Parents:** Sixty-six percent of minorities are happy with their relationships with mom and dad, compared with 79 percent of whites.

- **Sex:** Sixty percent of white youths are happy with their sex lives, compared with 46 percent of minorities. Both groups are about equal on the sexual activity scale.

- **Friends:** Eighty-one percent of minorities are happy with their relationships with friends, compared with 88 percent of whites.

- **Jobs:** Fifty-one percent of minorities are happy with their jobs, compared with 64 percent of whites.

- **Money:** Forty-four percent of minorities are unhappy with the money they have, compared with 35 percent of whites.

- **Grades:** Sixty-three percent of minorities are happy with their school grades, while 73 percent of whites are satisfied with their marks. Barely half of the minority respondents say school makes them happy, contrasted with 60 percent of the whites.

Mayor Fires Cop for Poor Decisions

One of the highest-ranking Portland police officers ever involved in a fatal shooting has been fired.

Mayor Tom Potter officially fired Lt. Jeffrey Kaer from the Portland Police Bureau Thursday, saying that "virtually every tactical decision he made leading up to the use of deadly force was wrong."

Kaer shot and killed 28-year-old Dennis Young last January after Young drove off when Kaer asked him if his car was stolen.

Kaer was off duty when he got a phone call from his sister saying she was concerned about a suspicious car parked in front of her home. The car turned out to be stolen but Young was unarmed.

A grand jury later cleared Kaer of wrongdoing, but Mayor Tom Potter

recommended that he be fired while Police Chief Rosie Sizer wanted Kaer suspended without pay for a month.

"This has been a difficult decision for me to make, and not one I make lightly," Potter said in a statement. "But I believe our community must hold its police officers to the highest standards of behavior, and on the evening of Jan. 4, 2006, Lt. Kaer failed to meet those standards. Ultimately, that failure contributed to the death of a human being."

The statement goes on to explain that Kaer should have let officers in his sister's precinct handle the call and that he violated a number of other Portland Police Bureau policies.

Obama: No Military Solution to Iraq

(AP) -- Democrat Barack Obama said Tuesday the recent increase in American troops in Iraq may well have helped tamp down violence, but he insisted there is no military solution to the country's problems and U.S. forces should be redeployed soon.

Obama spoke a day after his main Democratic presidential rival, Hillary Rodham Clinton, made similar comments. She said the tactics of the short-term troop increase were working but political progress did not seem to be in sight and the U.S. should begin bringing some troops home.

In a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Kansas City, Mo., Obama said top military commanders recognize that there is no military solution in Iraq.



Democratic presidential hopeful, U.S. Sen Barack Obama, D-Ill., addresses the Veterans of Foreign Wars national convention Tuesday in Kansas City, Mo. (AP photo)

"No military surge can succeed without political reconciliation and a surge of diplomacy in Iraq and the region. Iraq's leaders are not reconciling. They are not achieving political benchmarks. The only thing they seem to have agreed on is to take a vacation," Obama said.

He also talked about improving government programs for veterans.

"My secretary of veterans affairs will be just as important as my secretary of defense. No more shortfalls; it's time to fully fund the VA medical center. No more delays; it's time to pass on-time VA budgets each and every year. No more means testing; it's time to allow all veterans back into the VA," Obama said.

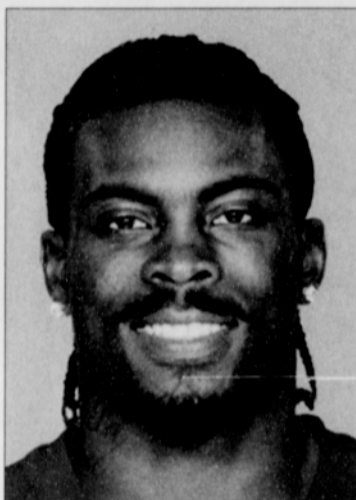
NFL Star Agrees to Take Plea Deal

(AP) Less than a month after saying he looked forward to clearing his name, Michael Vick now acknowledges the heinous acts associated with his name are true.

The Atlanta Falcons quarterback said through a lawyer Monday that he will plead guilty to federal dogfighting conspiracy charges, an admission that likely will mean prison time.

For now, any hopes of salvaging his NFL career are secondary to his impending confinement.

"His focus is on his family, his



Michael Vick

focus is on answering to this judge," Vick's lead defense attorney, Billy Martin, told The Associated Press after announcing the plea agreement.

U.S. District Judge Henry Hudson can sentence Vick to up to five years in prison and fine him \$250,000, although federal sentencing guidelines will call for less. A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the terms are not final, told the AP that prosecutors will recommend a sentence of a year to 18 months.

The official said such a sentence would be more than what is usually recommended for first-time offenders, reflecting the government's attempt to show that animal abusers will receive more than a slap on the wrist.

Since that initial court appearance, all three of Vick's co-defendants have pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate in the government's case against him, including testifying against him if the case had gone to trial in November as scheduled.

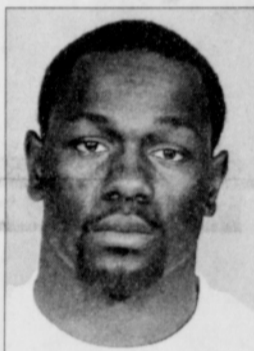
Suspect Hurt in Officer Shooting

Portland police are investigating an officer involved shooting that injured a 26-year-old man who was the subject of a domestic violence call.

Officer Stephanie Rabey fired a single shot from an AR-15 rifle that struck the glass and frame of a window causing a small bullet fragment, piece of glass or piece of the aluminum frame to strike Leslie Paul Scott Stewart in the head. He was not seriously injured.

The shooting happened early Monday morning in an apartment near Southeast 125th Avenue and Stark Street.

Officers were dispatched after a woman called 911 stating that Stewart was threatening to kill



Lesley Paul Stewart

her. While the woman was talking to dispatchers, police said they heard what they believed were gunshots in the background.

Police spokesman Brian Schmutz said officers confirmed that Stewart had access to a handgun and was currently on parole for attempted murder.

Schmutz said officers tried to negotiate with the highly agitated man and that he threatened to kill two other occupants of the apartment. He later allowed the people inside to leave the building, but did not respond to commands to raise his hands and surrender.

No gun was found in the apartment in a subsequent investigation, but detectives said they did find a handgun in a car associated with Stewart.

At least a dozen officers had surrounded the apartment during the ordeal.

The investigation is continuing.

Recovering Addicts to Link Hands

An estimated 2,000 residents will celebrate freedom from alcohol and other drug addiction by joining hands to span the Interstate 5 Bridge that connects Oregon and Washington.

People in recovery, people supporting loved ones in recovery and those praying for someone who needs recovery will take part in the Monday, Sept. 3, Labor Day Hands Across the Bridge event, beginning at 10 a.m.

Organized by the Recovery Association Project with their sponsors and partners, the sixth annual event kicks off National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, promoting the benefits of substance abuse recovery and treatment.

"We will all stand together to show that the bridge to recovery is the bridge to our transformed lives at home, at work, and in our neighborhoods," said organizer Patty Katz.

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