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Census Figures On Births is Released

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than half of all black babies in the United States are born to out-of-wedlock mothers, according to a new Census Bureau study that found unmarried women accounted for nearly 18 percent of all births.

The rate of births to unmarried women has been rising in recent years, from 14 percent nationally in 1980, despite the increased availability of birth control products and abortion.

Out-of-wedlock births were most common in the 15-24 age group, accounting for nearly three-fourths of babies born to black women in that category, and more than one in five among white women, said the study released Wednesday.

The bureau studied births in the 12 months ending in June 1983. Among its findings:

—Out-of-wedlock births totaled 17.8 percent for women aged 18 to 44, including 11.7 percent for whites and 54.9 percent for blacks.

—In the 15-24 group, out-of-wedlock births were 21.1 percent overall, 20.2 percent for white women and 74.5 percent for blacks.

—Some 48 percent of new mothers had returned to the labor force within a year, up from 38 percent in 1980 and 31 percent in 1976. College graduates were twice as likely to have gone back to work as women who had not completed high school.

The increase in out-of-wedlock births has followed a general lessening of the stigma attached to illegitimate children by society, as well as a change in attitude among young women, said Martha R. Burt of the Urban Institute, a private research organization.

"Black teenagers perceive greater tolerance for out-of-wedlock childbearing in their neighborhood than white youth, and are more accepting of premarital sexual activity," said authors Kristin A. Moore, Margaret C. Simms and Charles L. Betsey.

Ms. Simms added that "for black women, the marriage rate is going down faster than the birth rate. So one factor is just the lower likelihood of getting married. Certainly, among teens, whites are still much more likely to either be married at time of pregnancy or to marry before child is born."

While in past decades an out-of-wedlock pregnancy often led to marriage, young people are not heading automatically for the altar any more, she said in a telephone interview.

Instead, she said, institute studies have shown that an expectant young woman will often take a serious look at the father of her child and consider whether marriage is a good idea, whether he can support a family and what the future would be like.

The girl may then decide that the father is not a good candidate for marriage, she said.

Woman to be Kept Alive To Give Fetus a Chance

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — A brain-dead pregnant woman will be kept alive until she gives birth under an agreement between the father of the 27-week-old female fetus and the woman's parents, who had sought to turn off life-support.

The settlement signed Tuesday by Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge John A. Flaherty gave custody of the fetus to the father, Derrick Poole of Oakland, and allowed the hospital to keep the woman alive.

"There is a problem with the law," said Mark Swendsen, attorney for Poole, 31. "We have a human being whose life is precious, whose life is worth fighting for, yet whose legal status is very much in question."

The agreement came 13 days after Poole won a court order to keep Marie Odette Henderson, 34, connected to a life-support system at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center just hours before she was scheduled to have been disconnected.

Miss Henderson has been kept alive since June 7, when she was declared brain-dead from a brain tumor.

Her parents, Edna and Otis Henderson of Detroit, did not want to discuss their feelings about the case or the reasons why they changed their mind to let their daughter stay on life-support long enough to give birth, said their attorney, Robert E. Borton. "They feel it is a very private matter."

Poole said that until Miss Henderson lapsed into a coma the couple had been living together and looking forward to having their baby and then marrying around Christmas.

Hospital officials, who had been caught in the middle of the dispute, called for laws that would guide families and doctors.

"This situation has brought home for us the need for some sort of societal action to help keep families, physicians and hospitals out of the quandary that a situation like this puts them in," said spokeswoman Susan Pieper.

The female fetus weighs 2 pounds now, the proper weight for its stage of development, and is in good condition, according to Ms. Pieper.

However, Miss Henderson's condition has been steadily deteriorating and she is given only a 5 percent chance of surviving more than another week, she said.

"We will keep the mother alive as long as possible," Ms. Pieper said.

Cocaine Recognized As an Instant Killer

BOSTON (AP) — The death of basketball star Len Bias highlights a new image of cocaine that has begun to emerge from case histories and autopsies: The euphoria-inducing powder is a random killer.

Within the past 18 months, researchers have started to recognize that even a single encounter with the drug can sometimes cause death by stopping the heart.

"There are still superb cardiologists who are surprised to find out that cocaine can cause a lethal cardiac event," said Dr. Jeffrey Isner of Tufts Medical School in Boston.

Isner is one of a small number of researchers who are studying the damaging influence of cocaine on the heart. Recently, he reported research on seven young people who were hospitalized or died suddenly because of heart disorders immediately after using cocaine.

Yet this complication remained obscure until the sudden death last week of Len Bias, the University of Maryland basketball star. Dr. John Smialek, the Maryland state medical examiner, ruled Tuesday that Bias died of cocaine that disrupted the electrical stimulation of his heart.

"The most likely explanation is that this man was extremely sensitive to cocaine, as some people are extremely sensitive to almost any drug," said Dr. Lester Grinspoon, a cocaine expert at Harvard Medical School. "It's not clear how rare this is, but it's not common."

However, Isner said heart damage from cocaine probably occurs far more often than is recognized, in part because doctors rarely ask heart patients about their illicit drug use.

Two effects of cocaine are certain: The drug makes the heart beat rapidly, and it raises blood pressure. This alone could explain how cocaine kills people whose hearts are already weakened by disease.

"It's like taking a person who has pre-existing heart disease and asking him to run a marathon," said Isner.

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Cannery Workers Evicted from Tents

VALDEZ (AP) — About 150 cannery workers living in a tent city in Valdez have been served eviction notices.

Valdez police showed up at the makeshift community on a hill behind Nautilus Marine Tuesday evening and told the residents they would have to strike their tents within 24 hours, according to one who was living there.

The police said they had a number of complaints about sanitation, noise and a communal patio shelter that didn't meet city building codes, said Paul Warloski.

"This was the first time we'd heard about these things," Warloski said.

The 22-year-old cannery worker from Eau Claire, Wis., said most of the tent city residents are college students working at the cannery to earn next fall's tuition.

He said the eviction notices leave them with few alternatives. The nearest established campground is 7 miles away, Warloski said.

Because most of them are from somewhere else and working at temporary jobs, few of the cannery workers have automobiles and Valdez doesn't have any public transportation to get them back and forth from their jobs to the campground, he said.

Warloski said even if the workers could surmount the transportation problems, the campground is nearly full and certainly couldn't hold all the people being evicted.

If the order stands, most of the workers either will have to quit and go home or perhaps move on to similar jobs in Cordova, he said.

Some may try to camp on public land along a creek about 3 miles from town, Warloski said.

"We'll just have to adapt," he said.

Police Chief Patrick Shely didn't return a reporter's call to discuss the situation.

Similar tent cities are a common sight — and often a source of controversy — in cannery towns throughout the state. Most of the communities have little temporary housing for the seasonal workers. Some towns, like Homer, have tried to solve the problem by charging camping fees and providing some amenities like portable toilets and running water.

Peel Not in Skiff Before Fire, Witness Testifies

KETCHIKAN (AP) — A commercial fisherman testified Wednesday that John Kenneth Peel, accused of killing eight people aboard the fishing vessel Investor, was not the man he saw get into a skiff shortly before the seiner was set afire.

Joseph Weyhmiller told the Ketchikan Superior Court jury hearing the case against Peel that he was unloading his fishing vessel at the Craig cold storage dock when he noticed the Investor's seine skiff at a nearby float.

He remembered the man who got into it as middle-aged, native and stocky. He watched the dark-haired man about a half-minute, Weyhmiller said.

Weyhmiller said he could not remember whether the man drove the skiff away, but he recalled seeing the distinctive 22-foot boat shortly after the Investor was discovered afire a mile from Craig. The small craft again was tied up at the cold storage float, he said.

Peel's lawyers say Weyhmiller's testimony counters prosecution contentions that one man — Peel — killed the vessel's skipper, Mark Coulthurst, his wife, Irene, their two children, and four crew members. Peel, who has pleaded innocent, at one time worked for Coulthurst.

Prosecutors claim the 32-year-old Weyhmiller's statements do not rule out Peel as the man who burned the Investor outside Craig on Sept. 7, 1982.

Ketchikan District Attorney Mary Anne Henry said Weyhmiller's estimate Wednesday of the time when he saw the man get into the skiff had shortened to 45 minutes before the fire. He previously had said it was two hours before the fire exploded into a black plume.

The testimony does not prove that Peel was not in the skiff when another witness saw it approaching the Investor, Henry said.

"It's significant evidence when a person positively stated it could not be John Peel who was in the Investor skiff 45 minutes to two hours before the fire," Weidner said.

CAP Officers Mull Ousting Commander

ANCHORAGE (AP) — Some current and former Alaska Civil Air Patrol officers plan to meet today with their regional commander to call for replacing the volunteer search-and-rescue group's Alaska commander.

The Alaska commander, Col. Russel J. Anderson, said Tuesday he encourages such a meeting if some members differ with his policies and practices. He said the complaints stem from the group's tight budget and related issues.

Pacific Region Commander Col. Warren Berry of Antioch, Calif., confirmed he was contacted by a CAP officer in Fairbanks last week. The officer said he and others were concerned about Anderson's leadership of the CAP's Alaska wing, Berry said.

Berry said he agreed tentatively to meet with disgruntled members Thursday, when he planned to be in Anchorage to attend a quarterly commanders' meeting.

Mel Fry, speaking for several former and outgoing CAP officers, said the group's direction and policies have prompted an exodus of members and a loss of faith in Anderson's effectiveness.

"We've lost two-thirds of our pilots here in the Kenai Squadron for the same reason," said Fry, a former CAP officer. "They're just disgusted with the situation."

Dorothy Emerton, the wing's personnel officer until April, said, "People I've talked to at the other units are all completely demoralized. People are leaving left and right. They're all backing off."

The disgruntled officers say Anderson largely ignores the volunteer staff, makes assignments of aircraft that do not reflect the state's search-and-rescue needs, and has mishandled financial matters.

But some officers still like Anderson.

"In all of his dealings with Civil Air Patrol, he has had only one thing in mind, and that is the future of CAP — making CAP better," said Fred Wegener, the wing's deputy commander.

Anderson said the problems have occurred because the wing has had its spending cut by $400,000 during the past four years.

SHS Classes Set Reunion

The first reunion of Sitka High School classes dating from 1932 to 1950, will be held July 3 and 4.

The event will begin with a popcorn party and old movies on the evening of July 3 at Sheffield Pioneer Room.

Participation by walking or bus riding in the parade is scheduled for July 4. A picnic will follow at Halibut Point Recreation Area. Participants will later take a cruise in Sitka Sound to view fireworks.

A limited amount of tickets are available at $15 for the dance. Call 747-8320 for tickets or purchase them at the office of Lloyd Hames', above Vi's Apparel.

To register for the reunion, call JoAnn LaCour, 747-5688.

Fish ...

(Continued from page 1)

he said.

"I can assure you we'll be asking you for your support when it's time for the city to invest their 25 percent," he said.

On another subject, Thompson reported that in the value of fish processed, Sitka is the 15th largest fishing port in the nation, with a volume he estimated at $30 million.

Sitka is lower in the ranking based on weight of fish landed, with an estimated 30 million pounds.

The "largest phenomenon happening in the fishing industry," he said, is the Americanization of the bottomfish industry within the 200-mile U.S. management zone. Last year was the first that American vessels caught more than half the catch. Domination of the fishery zone by domestic vessels, to the exclusion of foreign ones, is anticipated by 1990, he said.

Despite this trend, more than 90 percent of the catch is now being processed by foreign vessels in what are known as "joint venture" operations.

Fishermen are not bypassing Alaska processors by selling to foreigners, he said, because Alaskan processors do not have the capacity to handle the huge quantities of bottomfish involved. In what he termed a "Catch 22" situation, processors will not invest in such facilities until they find out whether they can find a market.

"We've been near record runs consistently in recent years," said Thompson, turning his talk to developments in the domestic industry.

However, the growing industry of pen rearing salmon in Norway and other countries has gluted the market with high quality salmon and has driven down prices, he continued.

He predicted that fishermen will receive 15 to 18 cents a pound for nonrefrigerated pink salmon sold on fishing grounds this year, down from 20 cents last year and 45 cents several years ago.

Prices for troll-caught salmon are expected to average out this year as the lowest in many years, he continued.

Despite the oversupply of salmon on the market, Sitka Sound Seafoods continues to support salmon enhancement programs.

"We have no control over the non-Alaskan product, and we feel to compete we have to fight volume with volume," said the processor.

The Southeast Alaska Troll Processors organization is planning to spend money to promote troll-caught salmon, particularly in Europe.

Halibut stocks are also "near historic high levels," said Thompson, but the price has not dropped due to increased markets and sales to the Japanese.

An increasing amount of halibut is going to markets as fresh seafood, requiring air transport from Alaska to markets out of state.

"If you get awakened at 1 in the morning by an Alaska Airlines jet, don't get mad, just think of it as your sacrifice to increase the price of halibut," he said.

Thompson applauded the city and chamber for their efforts to make Sitka an attractive port for transient fishermen. He said services provided here are "probably the best of any major fishing port in Alaska." However, he said, if the city is to continue to draw out-of-town fishermen — who sell their fish here, thus creating processing jobs — more moorage facilities are needed.

Thompson pointed out that Cordova aggressively advertises moorage space in an effort to lure out-of-town fishermen, and that such an ad had appeared in the Daily Sitka Sentinel.

The other big need for fishermen in Sitka, he said, is a work float.

In response to a question about his feelings on state marketing efforts, Thompson commented that it has perhaps been appropriate that the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute has placed an emphasis on canned salmon promotion, since ASMI came into being about the time of the Alaskan canned salmon botulism scare, which resulted in huge unsold backlogs of warehoused canned salmon.

Now, however, the organization should begin to place more emphasis on marketing of frozen seafoods, continued Thompson. He termed past efforts "commendable, but not nearly enough," pointing out that funds spent by the Alaskan seafood industry are small in comparison with the vast amounts of money spent by other food industries.

"All the best advertising we're getting now is free," he noted. "Doctors tell you it's (seafood) good for your heart."

OWNER CAN'T AFFORD SALVAGE:

Historic Ferry Stuck

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — The owner of the M.V. Vashon says he can't afford to salvage the historic ferry even if it can be refloated, and the U.S. Coast Guard says the federal government might have to take over the oil-leaking hulk.

Ferry owner Ray Armistead, of Bellingham, Wash., said over the weekend that he planned to raise the flooded ferry today.

But the Coast Guard said today the 197-foot vessel still is hard aground and leaking oil in Johnson Cove, where it grounded at anchor June 6. The former Washington state ferry is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Workers from the guard's marine safety division and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation remain at the site to monitor salvage efforts and the vessel's continuing oil leak, said Petty Officer Mark Hilley.

"Structural damage above the waterline continues to increase, but the hull is capable of being refloated at this point," Hilley said from the Coast Guard office in Juneau.

"That's going to be a major salvage. It's going to take a lot of work, a lot of temporary pumping, minor repairs," he said.

Hilley said according to reports from the scene, on Prince of Wales Island, Armistead has not been able to find a local salvage contractor to raise the ferry.

And once it's afloat, he won't have the money to restore it, Armistead said in a phone interview from Ketchikan before he left for the spill site, about 30 miles away.

"I am a retired master mariner, of limited funds. My limitations will be reached once it's been floated," Armistead said. "The Coast Guard requires that I do something with it. If we can't get any help from any outside historical societies, I may have to abandon it."

Armistead had planned to turn the Vashon into a floating resort.

Sitka Summer Music Festival
Brahms
Rhapsody in B Minor
Intermezzo in E Major
Variations on a Theme of Paganini
Brahms
Piano Trio in C Major, opus 87
Brahms
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