# Area Teen Up To Something

[**NEWS**](http://www.theonion.com/features/news/) **•** [**Local**](http://www.theonion.com/channels/local/) **•** [**Teens**](http://www.theonion.com/channels/teens/) **•** [**ISSUE 45•04**](http://www.theonion.com/issue/4504/) **• Jan 24, 2009**

GREENFIELD, OH-A local teenager, standing on the corner of Spring Street and Dunlap Lane, is clearly up to some kind of no good, neighborhood sources reported Thursday. The teenager, spotted by Greenfield residents at approximately 4:36 p.m., has been described as tall, suspiciously quiet, and almost certainly looking for trouble. According to concerned sources, the teenager has absolutely no business being out there like that.

"Just look at him," said Bob Page, one of several men and women currently watching the 14-year-old from their living room window. "That boy's definitely up to something."

Signs that the teenager may be up to no good have so far included his hunched over posture, the way he keeps looking around with his eyes, and the fact that he probably owns a number of those violent video games.

Residents told reporters that they are especially troubled by the teenager's hooded sweatshirt, which he is wearing with the hood drawn, despite it not even raining outside.

"I don't like how I can't see his face," said homemaker Ellen Campbell, who attributed the teen's erratic behavior to the lack of positive role models in today's music industry. "He'd show his face if he weren't thinking of doing something wrong. I bet he's thinking of doing something wrong right now."

Based on his outward appearance, many are worried that the teenager is one of those youths who were recently caught drinking in the woods behind the grainery.

According to residents, what the teenager will do next remains their chief concern. Though he is not currently in possession of a shopping cart, residents believe that he may in fact steal one from the nearby Stop & Shop, simply for the sake of inconveniencing others. Some have even speculated that the teenager may be planning to burn dead leaves later this afternoon, possibly with the cigarette lighter to which he no doubt has access.

Whatever unlawful acts he may be planning, locals are convinced it will include some sort of profanity, whether spoken, written, or a combination of both.

"He's probably waiting for one of his friends to arrive," said Howard Silverman, who pretended to check on his mailbox four separate times in order to get a better look at the teen. "Once that happens, they'll come up with something really terrible to do together."

Added Silverman, "The songs they listen to make them angry."

Fears among residents increased minutes later when several onlookers noticed that the teenager's hands had entered his pockets. Among the items believed to be inside his pockets were spray cans, spoiled eggs, and probably one of those miniature stereos that all the young people own.

The teenager then removed a cell phone from his pocket, viewed its screen—which sources believe contained a nude picture of another teenager—and placed it back in his pocket.

"What's he hiding?" homeowner Ron Kirkland asked. "One thing I know for sure: He's going to regret whatever it is he's about to do when he's older."

In a recent poll, 56 percent of residents claimed that the teenager is selling drugs, while 34 percent said he is buying drugs. The remaining 10 percent believe that he is currently on drugs.

Ninety-eight percent of those polled wished the teen would just go away. "Maybe someone should call the police," said neighbor Patricia Meyer, who instead opted to stare out her window with an even more disapproving look. "I just hope something doesn't get robbed."

At press time, the teen adjusted his hood to reveal a giant piercing in his left earlobe.

Teen Wastes Prime Childbearing Years Going To High School

[**NEWS**](http://www.theonion.com/features/news/) **•** [**Local**](http://www.theonion.com/channels/local/) **•** [**Teens**](http://www.theonion.com/channels/teens/) **•** [**ISSUE 49•38**](http://www.theonion.com/issue/4938/) **• Sep 17, 2013**

REDDING, CA—Though now in the stage of her life when her body is at its most fertile, local teenager Katie Stevens is evidently choosing to squander her peak childbearing years by devoting herself to obtaining a high school education, sources confirmed Tuesday.

According to reports, the 18-year-old Stevens has done nothing in the past few years but fritter away her once-in-a-lifetime period of optimum reproductive capability, idly spending her time in classrooms where she listens to hours upon hours of lectures about mathematics, history, English, and science.

“I’m really enjoying my senior year,” said Stevens, whose window for producing as many healthy human offspring as possible is currently wide open, but won’t be forever. “It’s almost over now, which is pretty exciting.”

“Plus, I just got my own car, so I don’t need to get rides in the morning from Melissa anymore,” she added, as if oblivious to the fact that these years are the ideal time for her to successfully procreate and that she’s throwing them all away.

According to sources, while Stevens somehow finds time to attend school from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, the highly fecund young female seems not to care one bit about her ovaries regularly releasing mature eggs that—if she would simply put forth the effort of making sure someone fertilized them—would allow her to fulfill her biological imperative of birthing a child.

“I can’t believe I’m actually going to be finished with high school in a few months,” Stevens said, “It’s really weird.”

Sources confirmed that from the moment she first reached childbearing age, Stevens has almost completely ignored her obligation to mate and propagate her species, and has chosen instead to engage in activities such as attending Mr. Zappicchi’s honors geometry class and spending hundreds of hours on various homework assignments.

Reports also indicated that Stevens has spent much of the past two months intensely preparing for Advanced Placement exams in calculus and U.S. history rather than focusing her efforts on producing as many offspring as possible.

“I love English literature—I’m thinking about majoring in it when I go to college next year,” said Stevens, who sources speculated will let approximately 48 perfect opportunities go to total waste while obtaining an undergraduate degree. “I’d love to be a professor someday, or maybe even an author. But I have plenty of time to figure that out.”

Most nights, reports confirmed, the 18-year-old completely and utterly disregards her role as a vehicle for human reproduction by spending her time at varsity basketball practice.

“Katie’s body has reached full maturity, and she should start having children immediately,” said Dr. Jaclyn Strudwick, a doctor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. “Frankly, the longer she waits, the fewer babies she can have before her time is up.”

At press time, sources happily confirmed that Allison Evans, a 16-year-old schoolmate of Stevens, had already begun to dutifully fulfill her sole biological purpose, giving birth to a healthy baby boy.

# Local Sheriff Suspects Al-Qaeda Or Teens

[**NEWS**](http://www.theonion.com/features/news/) **•** [**Crime & Justice**](http://www.theonion.com/channels/crime-justice/) **•** [**ISSUE 40•33**](http://www.theonion.com/issue/4033/) **• Aug 18, 2012**

BARABOO, WI—Sauk County Sheriff Virgil "Butch" Steinhorst announced Tuesday that he believes a recent rash of Baraboo-area crimes was perpetrated by the al-Qaeda terrorist network or teenagers.

"In this day and age, it's important for law-enforcement officials to consider global threats as well as local ones," Steinhorst said. "We could be dealing with an al-Qaeda sleeper cell attempting to collect information that they could use to plan a terrorist strike or some of those Goth kids who knocked over that mailbox. Neither group has any respect for the law."

The string of unsolved crimes includes the defacement of public property, an incident of breaking-and-entering, and a string of harassing phone calls. The latest crime—the sudden disappearance of two yield signs from Hoxie Street—occurred Monday.

"We believe the yield signs were removed in order to disrupt traffic patterns, most likely to cause an accident," Steinhorst said. "The party responsible for the crime could be anyone from suspected terrorist Ahmad Ibrahim Al-Mughassil, who is on the FBI's most-wanted list, to that Felding kid and his buddies. It could be the work of one or the other. Possibly both, though I have to say I doubt that."

Responding to an anonymous report of a blue Ford Escort seen idling in the Marathon gas station parking lot for several hours after closing, Steinhorst said, "In these troubled times, any and all suspicious activity is worth investigating."

"This activity matches up with the M.O. of a terrorist casing a potential target," Steinhorst said. "It also matches the M.O. of a group of teens drinking beer and fooling around. But, as Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge told us, we are in a state of heightened alert. We could come under attack anywhere, at any time, from any direction. The tip-off could be anything from a duffel bag abandoned in a bank lobby to a carload of people at a stop sign who exit the car all at once, only to reenter through different doors."

Steinhorst regularly receives Department of Homeland Security bulletins that include the names of suspected terrorists. He also makes frequent visits to Baraboo High School, where Principal Larry Stordahl provides him with a list of possible truants.

"Teens regularly act without regard for the consequences of their actions or concern for their own physical well-being," Steinhorst said. "So do terrorists."

According to Steinhorst, the first in the series of crimes currently under scrutiny occurred several months ago, on April 1, when an unknown party pulled a fire alarm in the Baraboo Community Library during a children's puppet show.

"The perpetrators of the April 1 incident may not even live in Sauk County," Steinhorst said. "They could be terrorists based in Madison. Or it could be students from Reedsburg High School, our nearby rival."

To investigate the possibility of the latter, the Sauk County Sheriff's Department has been exchanging intelligence with the sheriff in Richland County, where unsolved crimes of a similar nature have been reported.

"Over in Richland Center, we had some criminal activity occur dangerously close to unguarded reserves of fertilizer,"

Richland County police officer Tim Hutter said. "The report came from one Helen Johnson, who expressed fear for the safety of her cows. A cow found lying on its side could either be the victim of a chemical agent or of some immature teenager who thinks it's funny to sneak into the pasture and tip over a helpless animal. Either way, we can't be too cautious."

Steinhorst called upon all Baraboo citizens to report anything suspicious, especially since Deputy Dale Schneider broke his wrist last week subduing a drunken patron of the Come Back Inn, and Deputy Frank Pulvermacher can't work overtime since his mother got sick with dropsy.

Steinhorst said it's important to "not let fear get the better of us, but still remain vigilant. Just today, we had a report of some suspicious lettering by the high-school football field," Steinhorst said.

"Upon investigation, we discovered the phrase '2016 Rules' burnt into the grass. An item of clothing found at the scene leads us to believe the cryptic phrase was the work of members of next year's senior class, and not, as was originally feared, the warning of an impending terrorist attack. So we can all breathe a little easier."

# Nonconformity Linked To Peer Pressure

[**NEWS**](http://www.theonion.com/features/news/) **•** [**Patriotism**](http://www.theonion.com/channels/patriotism/) **•** [**High School**](http://www.theonion.com/channels/high-school/) **•** [**ISSUE 33•08**](http://www.theonion.com/issue/3308/) **• Mar 4, 1998**

ATHENS, GA—According to a study released Tuesday by the University of Georgia's Institute For Social Research, a strong link exists between nonconformity and peer pressure among teenagers and young adults.

Commissioned in 1995 to examine the growing trend of nonconformity among 13- to 21-year-olds, the three-year study found that 85 percent of U.S. youths actively defy standard societal norms—adopting "alternative" modes of language, behavior and dress—as a means of winning the acceptance and approval of their peers.

"Kids today are told, over and over, by their classmates, their siblings, and images on TV and in magazines, that normal, mainstream behavior isn't 'cool,'" institute director and study co-chair Iris Evantine said. "The message these kids are receiving is: 'C'mon, don't you want to be different like us?' Sadly, kids who resist these pressures to be different are usually ostracized. For the average teenager these days, the pressure not to do what everyone else does is enormous, and often unbearable."

"I'd really like to be normal and conform, because, at heart, I'm not a risk-taker at all," said Grand Rapids, MI, high-school sophomore Christine Kornowicz. "But if I want to fit in, I have to be different. If you don't stick out, everyone at school makes fun of you."

"I've started wearing all black, painting my nails, and shaving my head, just to fit in," said Jonathan Auger, a Binghamton, NY, high-school junior. "You can't understand how hard it is for a young person not to make waves these days."

The trend of nonconformity—which soared to mass popularity in the late 1960s before eventually tapering off in the '80s—has experienced a resurgence in popularity since 1991, when Nirvana's *Nevermind* album generated nationwide interest in the nonconformist Seattle "grunge-music scene" and its surrounding alternative culture. In the years since, those who have chosen to remain within mainstream society have become virtual pariahs.

"Today, nonconformity is everywhere," Evantine said. "From the Piercing Hut in the suburban mall to the fast-growing, 'radical,' multi million-dollar business of snowboarding, all of America is not going along with the crowd."

While nonconformity is most prevalent among youths, the trend has spilled over into older groups, as well.

"We are finding a shockingly high rate of nonconformity across virtually all age groups, particularly the 40- to 55-year-old middle-class white-male demographic," Evantine said.

According to Institute For Social Research statistics, 38 percent of middle-aged males are defying society's rule that men be prohibited from wearing ponytails; 51 percent regularly wear denim or leather garments, long regarded by the mainstream as bold and unconventional; and 73 percent listen to such nonconformist alternative-rock groups as The Wallflowers, Counting Crows and Oasis.

Additionally, the defiant, iconoclastic fashion statement of earrings has now reached an epidemic level of 89 percent among 40- to 55-year-old men.

Evantine noted that, due to the boom in nonconformity, the percentage of Americans who currently make up the "mainstream" stands at an alarmingly low 7 percent.

"We should all be grateful to the precious few who have stuck to their guns and conformed, even at the cost of exclusion from the vast majority," Evantine said. "And we must pray that they continue to conform, for without this tiny group of people, there would be no one to rebel against."

The institute's report, which has been condemned as "subversive" by such powerful nonconformist institutions as MTV, Pepsico, Urban Outfitters and 1-800-COLLECT, concluded with a call for increased public willingness to rebel against rebelliousness.

"Now, more than ever, we must have the courage to stand up and embrace the norm, no matter how marginalized we may become in doing so," the report read. "We must be brave enough to walk the road less travelled and conform."

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# Evangelical Hospital Holds 5th Annual Gayness Cure Walk

[**NEWS WITH VIDEO**](http://www.theonion.com/features/news-with-video/) **•** [**News**](http://www.theonion.com/channels/news/) **•** [**ISSUE 48•33**](http://www.theonion.com/issue/4833/) **• Aug 17, 2012**

MARIETTA, GA—As part of an ongoing effort to eradicate homosexuality, Cobb County Evangelical Hospital held its fifth annual Walk to Cure Gayness Sunday, drawing thousands of participants to raise funds and awareness for the debilitating psychosexual disease.

Hospital administrators said the remarkably high turnout, which included many survivors and their new opposite-sex spouses, would allow the gayness treatment center to focus on developing new, more effective techniques to cure sufferers of their deviant lifestyle choice.

"Today's walk marks another important step in our continuing battle to make gayness a thing of the past," said hospital president Kenneth P. Strickland, who like many in attendance was wearing a gray ex-gay-awareness ribbon. "Thanks to the groundbreaking research these events make possible, perhaps in 10 or 15 years people who realize they're attracted to members of their own gender can have a shot at leading long, heterosexual lives in the eyes of God."

Well represented among the crowd of walkers in matching "5th Annual Walk to Cure Gayness" collared button-down shirts and khaki slacks were families and friends who had lost loved ones to the illness over the years. As they made their way through downtown Marietta cheered on by volunteers screaming about the evils of sodomy, some took a moment to remember those who had succumbed to the salvation-ending affliction.

"You don't think something like this will ever happen to your family, and then one day your daughter is suddenly taken away from you just like that," said Cheryl Larson, who drove in from nearby Macon with her teenage son and only remaining child. "The doctors told me there was nothing that could have been done to save her, but I feel partially responsible."

"I could have prayed harder. It's something I think about every day," she continued. "And now my Kelly is gone forever. She's in Seattle now."

According to sources, a significant portion of the funding will go toward the purchase of new state-of-the-art gayness treatment equipment such as the YHWH-500, a device that holds one's eyelids open while a patient is forced to read biblical passages denouncing the abomination of homosexuality.

Administrators confirmed that some money will be allocated toward remodeling the hospital's outdated physical therapy center, which, after 14 years of reteaching gay men how to walk properly, "has started to show its age."

The hospital also used the occasion to announce the construction of a new gay pediatric wing, which will cost an estimated $2.6 million to build over the next three years. Officials expressed hope that such a facility would encourage parents to bring in their kids at the first sign of gayness, before it's too late.

"Hopefully, with a dedicated site for homsexual children, we can start diagnosing and treating the disease earlier than ever before," said Strickland, adding that the new wing's decor would adhere to strict gender-conforming norms. "Unfortunately, far too many victims don't get the care they need until well into adolescence, and then by the time they show up at our emergency room their gayness has spiraled out of control."

"It's devastating news no evangelical doctor wants to deliver to a patient's family," he added.

If the number of ex-gays taking part in the walk is any indication, however, Cobb County Evangelical's success stories are growing. Graphic designer Kevin Watson, 36, who was participating in his third Walk to Cure Gayness with his wife, proudly counts himself as one of the survivors.

"I was a goner there for a while, but as you can see I am now happily married to a woman," said Watson, draping an arm around the church organist nine years his senior whom he met and proposed to within months of his release from the hospital. "In spite of my condition, I defied the odds and as of next month my homosexuality will have been in remission for two years."

"I'm taking things one day at a time," he continued. "But right now it just feels great to be around so many incredible guys who went through the same thing."

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