

White Lightnin' 'still' strikes in Virginia

ROCKY MOUNT, Va. — White lightnin', kickapoo juice, head-buster, rotgut moonshine—whatever you call it, folks will tell you there's plenty of it to be found in the hills and hollows of southern Virginia.

Moonshine making is a tradition spanning generations. Residents claim it will be around for generations to come—regardless of recent

efforts by state and federal "revenooers."

Last week agents of the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau (ATF) and the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission began their biggest raid in a decade, arresting 40 people and seizing 39 stills and 3,000 gallons of whiskey in a six-county area.

The media loved it—reporters from several major metropolitan

newspapers were there to record the event—but area residents were stifling yawns.

Kermit "Red" Salyer, a crusading newspaper editor who received anonymous threats when he began writing about moonshine as a public nuisance 27 years ago, called the crackdown "more bark than bite."

"All blown out of proportion," said Franklin County Sheriff Quint Overton, who added he is too busy inves-

tigating murders, burglaries and drugs to worry about moonshine.

"They've been making whiskey before I come here in 1959, and they'll be making whiskey here when I'm dead and gone," said Overton. "They talk like whiskey's running in the streets here."

"It's old as the ages," said Circuit Court Judge B. A. "Monk" Davis, who is upset because federal officials said lenient judge and lax law en-

forcement have helped make Franklin County the major center for moonshine production in the nation.

Moonshine continues to flourish in southern Virginia even though production of illicit whiskey throughout the nation has shown a sharp decline, Washington-based ATF Director G. B. Dickerson said.

But authorities contend moonshine is no longer the product of bearded, rifle-toting "good ol' boys"

who proudly distill whiskey in the mountains to impress their kin and friends.

"The moonshiner of folklore does not exist," said Dickerson. "Moonshiners are criminals. They are tax thieves who cheat federal and state governments. Their product is usually poisonous and sometimes deadly."

The question that puzzles authorities is just why there is such a large

market for moonshine when it co about the same in small quantities booze purchased in state-run liquor stores.

Joe, 54, being held at the Frank County Jail on a trespass charge, an expert on the subject. He used to make moonshine and still drinks a gallon a day "when I'm on a drunk." He said tradition and taste are reasons the "juice" is still made.

"It don't make me sick as the other stuff (store-bought liquor)," Joe said. However, he said, the good stuff now has a "kind of sweet taste to it while rotgut" smells and tastes kind of funky.

Asked if moonshine could ever be eliminated, Joe said, "I doubt it. I imagine a lot of them moonshine makers would starve to death if did."

'Garlic breath' forced to wall

HAMPTON BAYS, N.Y. — A 84-year-old man says a bus driver discriminates against him because he eats garlic.

The driver for Sunrise Coach Lin in Long Island's Suffolk County will not stop in front of Arthur J. Kraus house, making him walk 300 feet, Kraus said.

The only reason, Kraus claimed, that he eats garlic and the driver dislikes the smell. The walk, he said, is painful because his leg was injured in a motorcycle accident five years ago.

The company says the claim by the former philosophy professor at the City College of New York is unfounded but Kraus has complained to state and county officials.

Kraus, a long-time vegetarian said he has stopped eating garlic or days he has to ride buses. "But once the authorities make a decision in my favor, I am going to eat more than ever before."

Researchers change sex of lamb fetus

By ROSEMARY ALYEA

Campus Reporter
Animal science researchers at Texas A&M University have completed a study that has brought ranchers closer to determining the sex of their herds before birth.

The researchers successfully changed sheep fetuses into male or female, but with the chromosomes of female.

Dr. Nat Kieffer, a geneticist with the animal science department, said this discovery could have a great economic impact on the meat industry.

Kieffer said ranchers hold back females to replenish their stock. If they had the option of producing "all-female" herds in any given year ranchers would sell more female and there would be more meat on the market, with savings being passed to the consumer.

In the study, the male hormone testosterone was directly injected into the uterus of ewes in early pregnancy. This was done through a small incision made along the abdomen, exposing the uterus.

"We are the first to use direct injection in large animals," Kieffer said.

Although other scientists have injected testosterone into the muscle and bloodstream of large animals, Kieffer said this is the first study to inject testosterone directly into the uterus.

After breeding, the ewes were injected at different times, but usually between the 10th and 20th day after conception.

Of 55 lambs born during the six-year study, 53 had the external characteristics of a male, with 31 being genetically female.

However, Kieffer said total sex reversal is not possible with just the injection of testosterone, as was shown in the study. But with new discoveries, total sex reversal is close to becoming a reality, he said.

In addition, Kieffer said the study uncovered another important discovery concerning psycho-sexual behavior, or brain-priming.

Psycho-sexual behavior is the involuntary behavior unique to the separate sexes that is programmed into the brain early in development. The behavior is conditioned by the sex hormones.

The males with female chromosomes that were injected 10-15 days or more after conception had normal female characteristics, such as the squatting urination position. Lambs injected prior to 10 days after conception possessed the standing urination stance typical of males.

"Our observations of these animals' behavior tells us something about when the brain becomes primed for psycho-sexual behavior," Kieffer said.

According to the study, Kieffer said it was concluded that the brain cells responsible for the programming, or priming, of psycho-sexual behavior are developed after the 10th day of conception.

Although Kieffer is interested in continuing the study of sex reversal and brain-priming, he said there are no plans to begin a new study now.

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