

# The Press-Sentinel

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## Speaker motivates and inspires students

By Joshua Ellis  
STAFF WRITER

Choices face us every day, and we all have the ability to make good choices

whether we have made them in the past or not, according to Al Duncan.

Duncan, a motivational speaker, spoke at the high school Tuesday.

In the morning he spoke first to the underclassmen and later to the upperclassmen. That afternoon he gave another talk to a smaller group of students who signed up individually.

Duncan spoke about goal setting, responsibility, and personal accountability. He grew up under bad conditions but went on to become a success as a professional saxophone player, an author and the host of a television show.

Duncan grew up the eldest of six siblings in North Philadelphia, an area known for its rough way of life. He was the victim of sexual abuse at the age of 5, and at 15 he found out his father was addicted to crack cocaine. Duncan's life seemed to be coming apart, but he overcame great adversity to break the cycle of poverty and addiction in his family.

Duncan encouraged students to further their educations and stressed that

"anyone who makes the right choices can go to college."

"As important as having knowledge," Duncan asserted, "is putting it to good use."

He likened someone who has knowledge but does not use it to a crazy man who has a new car but walks to work in the rain.

He urged the children to develop clear goals and write them down.

"Ninety-seven percent of people never write down their goals," said Duncan. "So, if you write down your goals, you're already in the top 3 percent."

Duncan also said that people develop a notion of what they think of you during the first four seconds

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### STAFF REPORT

It's time again for the annual Jesup Jaycee Fair, which will begin Tuesday and continue through Saturday. The gates will be open from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Fair chairman Jim Westberry encourages everyone to come out and to bring their whole family.

"I always enjoy this time of year," says Westberry. "You see so many people that you rarely see otherwise, and it's always good to see the kids having a good time."

Westberry says the fair has been going on for close to 50 years and is a bonafide Wayne County tradition.

Terry's Rides will set up the midway, and the Jaycees expect between 18

and 20 rides with a good number of kiddie rides and plenty to please teens and adults, too.

Westberry says Terry's Rides runs a clean show and doesn't put up with any riffraff.

"It's a safe, clean, family-oriented environment, and it's always a lot of fun," he says.

Fun and games put on by the 4-H Club will accompany a Thursday-night steer show, and 4-H exhibits on a variety of topics will remain on display throughout the fair.

Tuesday night will be family night, and tickets will sell for the discounted price of \$6. General admission other nights will be \$8.

The fair will take place at the fairgrounds on Hwy. 84, and all proceeds will benefit the Jesup Jaycees.

# FORUM

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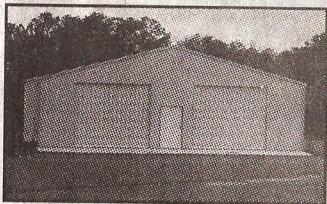
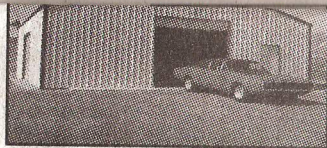
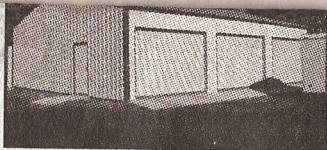
## SPEAKER

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that they meet you. Being confident and neat helps create a good first impression, he said.

"I try to highlight certain life skills that are not always covered sufficiently in school," said Duncan. "Much more than an education is necessary to be a real success."

Al Duncan's talks were arranged by the high school administration and sponsored by Students Against Destructive Decisions.



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