



NCOM – National Coalition Of Motorcyclists / AIM - Aid for Injured Motorcyclists
AIM / NCOM - Free Legal And Legislative Consultation

Free All Brothers Behind Bars...

Editor: Mike Davis SFFS...

*** * * Be Silent And Safe — Silence Never Betrays You. * * ***

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Thanks goes to the **Prairie Rattlers MC** of Western *North Dakota* for their \$ 50.00 Donation to this BBB Newsletter... Thank you...

Special Thanks goes to **Sundowner Chico Two Guns** who is currently at FCI Englewood

And his **O'Lady Patty** for their \$ 100.00 Donation... Thank you...

Welcome **Devils Diciples SportCoat** to the NCOM BBB Newsletter Mailing list...

Welcome **Iron Wings Dan** to the NCOM BBB Newsletter Mailing list...

Welcome **Outlaw David** to the NCOM BBB Newsletter Mailing list...

News Article Sources: All News Articles contained in this NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter, unless source is specified, are obtained from the following 3 Web Sites: *Road Scholars (Wolf From Atlanta)*, *Outlaw Biker World*, & *White Trash Biker (Ace)*...

Disclaimer: The News Media does NOT always tell the Whole Truth. It tends to sensationalize the News to sell Newspapers...

Editor's Note: I produce a NCOM BBB Newsletter for members mainly of Motorcycle Clubs. Info in the Newsletter contains News Articles & other info that may be of interest to a biker behind bars. Financial support for this Newsletter comes mainly from NCOM, MCs & Tattoo Shops. **New Brothers added** to the NCOM BBB Newsletter's Mailing List are approved via their respective club's contact Brother.

Editor's Note: The current NCOM BBB Mailing List includes 21 Bandidos, 1 Banshees, 2 BPM, 5 Breed, 1 Boozefighters, 1 Brother Speed, 2 Christian Motorcycle Association, 2 Death Squad, 2 Devils Diciples, 4 Diablos, 3 Finks, 1 Free Souls, 16 Hells Angels, 1 Hermano, 1 In Country Vietnam, 7 Iron Horsemen, 1 Iron Ranger, 1 Liberty Riders, 1 Mohawk Valley Riders, 8 Mongols, 27 Outlaws, 13 Pagan's, 2 Phantom's, 3 Pharaoh's, 1 Reapers, 1 Renegades, 1 Saramanials, 9 Sons Of Silence, 1 Sundowners, 1 Thunderbird, 1 Vagos, 1 Vietnam Vet, & 5 Warlocks...
Of which: 6 - Australia, 2 - Norway, 2 - England & 3 - Sweden... **Total of 146...**

Editor's Note: I would also like to Thank my Wife Kari for folding & stuffing ALL the envelopes as well as stamping, putting mailing labels, & return labels on the envelopes... Thank you... Mike...

Editor's Note: I would also like to Thank my Wife Kari & my Daughter Ciera for being so patient with me when I am working on the Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter, taking time away from them... Thank you.... Mike / Dad...

Editor's Note: Issue 1 from June 2008, we mailed out 139 copies of this newsletter. If more than one in a prison, I will only mail one copy of this newsletter for those to share. I am currently doing this in many prisons already & believe it works. This is a cost saving measure...

Editor's Note: Stamps for 121 copies is 59 cents apiece; for 5 issues that need to go in 2 envelopes is 82 cents; & for 13 issues that go overseas is 94 cents... So mailing for 1 issue is: 71.39 + 4.10 + 12.22 = \$ 87.71... Plus miscellaneous stamps to respond to requests between mailing – approx: 8.29... So 87.71 + 8.29 = \$ 96.00... Copy costs are 65 cents per copy... Thus 139 * .65 = \$ 90.35... Plus approx 3.65 for labels per issue... Thus approx cost for 1 Issue Sent Out is: 96.00 + 90.35 + 3.65 = \$ 190.00...
If we mail out 3 Issues in 1 month, then BBB Newsletter **Costs are: \$ 570.00...** Money Well Spent!!! L&R Mike SFFS

Editor's Note: I will start listing the number of issues per month, so if you have missed one of the issue, drop me a letter & specify the issue that you missed... For April there were 3 newsletters, For May there were 3 newsletters & so far for June there is 2 newsletters...

Message from Sarge to the SOS & IHMC Nations: - June 3, 2008 – *Iowa* - Sarge & his entire family would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, visits, cards, & flowers. As they lay their son Cody to rest, it was very comforting to him knowing that so many of us had him & his family in their thoughts & prayers. Sarge & Lee (his wife) send their Love & Respect to all. "SOS EZ Eastern Iowa President"

Biker's Names

By Richard '*Bingo*' Cosby (Member of Wisconsin COC)

I'll bet I've met ten thousand bikers! Many with 'names' the same
And I always wondered - how in Hell he got that goofy name!

I've met a dozen 'Spiders' and 'Wild Bills' - a dozen more
'Crazy' this, and 'Crazy' that, - - 'Bigs' and 'Littles' by the score.

I knew a 'Rocker', a 'Burrito', 'Papa Snake', 'Weasel', and a 'Frog',
A 'Goat', a 'Bear', an 'Animal', a 'Tiger', and a 'Hawg'.

I know a 'Buzzard', a 'Turkey', a 'Hawk', a 'Duck', and a 'Goose'
A 'Polock', 'Swede', and 'Dago' - - a 'Shovel', 'Rat', and a 'Moose'.

There's 'Solo', 'Shooter', 'Hungry', 'Flapper', and a 'Crank'
'Boonie', 'Dozer', 'Junkyard', 'Dirty Doyle', and a 'Tank'.

'Old Man Pete', a 'Maverick', a 'Butcher', and a 'Slash'
'Stoneface', 'Greaseball', 'Taco', 'Skeeter', and a 'Crash'.

There's 'One Eye', 'Nubs' and 'Chopper' - a 'Weiner' and a 'Louse'
'Kind Brother', 'Surfer', 'Snoopy', 'Criminal Chris', and a 'Mouse'.

'Pirate John' and 'Cowboy' - - 'Hundred Proof' and 'Dirty Dan'
'Stairway Harry', 'Jingles', a 'Hitler', 'Skull', and 'Pan'.

'Joe The Jag', 'Kingfish', 'Spike', 'Ghetto', and a 'Brew'
A 'Wizard', 'Suicide', 'Killer', a 'Tiny', and a 'Heavy' too.

One 'Claim Jumper', a 'Chad', 'Poppy', 'Speed' and a 'Shoe'
'Super', 'Snatch', 'Preacher', a 'Yankee', and a 'Rebel' too.

There's some that really blow my mind! Some that really puzzle me!
'Douche Bag', 'Bugs' and 'Maggot' - - 'Gangreen' and one 'V.D.'!

'Barf', 'Skidrow', 'Pervert', 'Dickless', 'Weird', and 'Crud'
'Vulture', 'Puke', 'Dog Breath', a 'Dirt', a 'Slime', and a 'Mud'!

There's a 'Rotten' and a 'Scumbag', a 'Gargoyle' and a 'Worm'
A 'Dickhead', 'Towbar', 'Lousy', a 'Filthy', 'Ded' and a 'Germ'.

One they call 'Greased Lightning' - a 'Mad', a 'Freak' a 'Turd'
And for every crazy name that I forgot - I'll bet there's two I haven't heard!

I could go on and on - and I'll bet you know a few.
I know how I got My name --- Now stop - and think --- Do You? Bingo...

Rally director recognized by biker group - May 31, 2008 –
South Dakota - Sturgis rally director Pepper Massey will be inducted into an international firefighters MC Sat, May 31, in Rapid City. Members of the Wind & Fire MC, which does charitable work throughout the world, will make a Rapid City stop on their return trip from Rolling Thunder, a recent ride to Washington, D.C., by bikers who are advocates for veterans. Each year, the Wind & Fire MC selects one honorary member who exemplifies the motorcycling community, according to a news release. Massey has been named Honorary Member No. 16, she said. Massey will be inducted at 11 a.m. at the Firehouse Brewing Co. restaurant in Rapid City.

Missoula police set budget - May 30, 2008 – *Missoula, Missouri*
- The Missoula Police Dept has requested over \$139,000 to pay for extra patrols & other expenses for a Hells Angels gathering July 30 to Aug. 3. Most of the money will pay overtime for local officers & others from around the state who will help patrol the streets during the gathering. Other costs are for rented vehicles, extra fuel, overtime for rural fire departments, extra trash pickup,

pepper spray, barricade tape, beanbag rounds & batons. Police Chief Mark Muir says keeping the community safe comes at a cost when a group with a reputation for violence is visiting. The Hells Angels last gathered in Missoula in 2000, but the police had more trouble with local citizens.

Post Turtle: While suturing a cut on the hand of a 75 year old Texas rancher, whose hand was caught in a gate while working cattle, the doctor struck up a conversation with the old man. Eventually the topic got around to Obama & his bid to be our President. The old rancher said, "Well, ya know, Obama is a 'Post Turtle'." Not being familiar with the term, the doctor asked him what a 'Post Turtle' was. The old rancher said, "When you're driving down a country road & you come across a fence post with a turtle balanced on top, that's a 'Post Turtle'." The old rancher saw a puzzled look on the doctor's face, so he continued to explain. "You know he didn't get up there by himself, he doesn't belong up there, he doesn't know what to do while he is up there, & you just wonder what kind of a dumb ass put him up there."

Hells Angels trial raises gang issue – May 30, 2008 - California

- By L.A. Carter - A Sonoma County Superior Court judge is weighing security concerns in his courtroom against the free speech rights of members of a motorcycle group charged with a gang crime. The case, felony battery charges filed Wed against 2 Hells Angels MC members, also raises the issue of whether the group meets the legal definition of a criminal street gang -- an issue that may never have been addressed in Sonoma County. Jonathan Nelson of Healdsburg is charged with 4 felonies & Mark Guardado Sr of San Francisco with 3 similar charges in connection with an altercation Feb 10 in Petaluma. Both also face a separate charge of participating in a criminal street gang & other gang enhancements that could add several years of prison time if they are convicted, Chief Dep District Atty Spencer Brady said. Anne Keck, an atty representing the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, said local detectives believe the Sonoma County chapter of the motorcycle group was involved in a fatal shooting on Highway 101 last week in which a Hells Angels associate was killed. A Marin County Sheriff's Dept spokesman declined to comment on any connection to the local club. Keck said Nelson is the vice president of the Sonoma County chapter & Guardado is president of the San Francisco chapter. Nelson's atty, Martin Woods, said the Hells Angels don't qualify as a gang. "I don't think the Hells Angels MC qualifies as a criminal street gang, the primary purpose of which is to engage in criminal activity," he said. Brady said other Superior Courts in California have ruled that the motorcycle club is a gang, though he said he wasn't sure if any Sonoma County judges had made that determination. "It has not happened in recent memory," he said. But before charges were even filed, the case was causing a stir over the defendants' free speech rights in connection with their attire. On Wed, Nelson & Guardado sat outside the courtroom as their case was called after having been told at two prior hearings they could not enter wearing insignia depicting their Hells Angels membership, Woods said. Keck asked Judge Ken Gness to prohibit the men from wearing clothing with any Hells Angels patches, signs or insignia, arguing the symbols are meant to intimidate & threaten. The sheriff's Dept provides security in the courthouse & occasionally ejects people for inappropriate clothing or behavior. At previous hearings, Woods said, the men wore the same items -- Nelson a white T-shirt paying homage to a dead friend with the group's "death head" emblem on it, & Guardado a black nylon jacket with a small red emblem embroidered on the chest. The death head emblem, a trademarked logo of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Corp., is a horned skull wearing an ornate helmet. A Petaluma police gang detective testified that the mouth of the skull is sewn shut as a symbol that members of the group are supposed to keep their mouths shut. Detective Jason Lechleiter said he had extensive training in gang symbols, but acknowledged he is not an expert in the Hells Angels. Woods said the men had behaved impeccably during the three hearings & suggested only those in the know about Hells Angels activity would understand the group's use of symbols. Gness will hear additional evidence & issue a ruling June 25, when both men may enter pleas to the charges. The issue of whether the Hells Angels are a street gang as defined by state law likely will surface at future hearings. Woods raised the issue Wed on whether it was appropriate to charge Nelson & Guardado with gang charges. Prosecutor David Barkhurst said other Hells Angels members have been charged as gangsters, but he said he was unsure whether those resulted in convictions. Law enforcement has long considered the group a criminal enterprise. The Hells Angels were formed in 1948 & for a time, law enforcement has said, controlled the meth-amphetamine trade & have a history of intimidating witnesses & violent behavior. Club members, though, have said their group is

a social organization. In Sonoma County, the group hosts motorcycle rides several times a year & has organized a Toys for Tots gift drive for nearly a decade. The free speech issue in connection with Hells Angels apparel isn't new in Sonoma County. In 1998, a Vallejo club member sued Sonoma County after he was ejected from the fair for wearing his Hells Angels vest, which security determined to be gang attire. In 2002, a state appeals court ruled in the man's favor, saying a dress code targeting gang members was unconstitutionally vague. But the court also said fair operators had the authority to ban distinctive insignia that have been shown to incite violence.

He'll catch Hell from Zito – May 30, 2008 – California - A Current co-star might want to apologize to Chuck Zito. The former Hells Angel - who over the years has knocked out Jean-Claude Van Damme, Gary Busey, A.J. Benza & Mickey Rourke - says he'll get to the bottom of a tip that a castmate in "Grasslands" was dissing Zito & calling him a "punchy-mugged terrible actor." "I'll have to ask him about that," said Zito, who had a role in the HBO prison drama "Oz." "Look what happened to people that disrespected me. Disrespectful people get knocked out. We're gonna look face to face, & if you wanna be a tough guy, a wise guy, you'll admit what you said. I have a saying - you treat me good, I'll treat you better. You treat me bad, I'll treat you worse. And when in doubt, knock 'em out." Zito just lost 31 lbs & is now training for the Ultimate Fighting Championship. He's also doing stuntman work on the remake of "The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3," & has a role in an HBO pilot he calls a "'Sopranos' on wheels."

Police sought signs of a 'bloodletting' – May 30, 2008 – Canada - By Jane Sims; The London Free Press - Grisly details of Bandidos massacre - They were hunting for signs of a "bloodletting." Blood, firearms & DNA of 8 shooting victims were among items police wanted to look for at Wayne Kellestine's farm two years ago, say newly-released court documents. Police needed a warrant to search the property at 32196 Aberdeen Line in Dutton-Dunwich in Elgin County after the eight bodies of men associated with the Bandidos MC were found slain on the Stafford Line in Elgin County. The warrants were released yesterday for the first time after they were sealed in the early days of the multiple homicide investigation. The warrants to search the Dutton-Dunwich farm -- Kellestine's house, garage, barn & real property -- were released yesterday. The warrants issued for three addresses & a red Jimmy in Winnipeg, Man., are still under review. Kellestine is one of six men facing eight counts of first-degree murder. Items the OPP looked for included: - Blood stains, Firearms, Footwear for impression evidence, Hair & fibre evidence, Items that could contain evidence of DNA of the eight victims, Soil samples, Tire impression evidence, Items that appeared to have been in the area of a "blood-letting" such as clothing, footwear & transfer evidence, Identification of the victims. The warrants allowed the police on the property for one week, April 9 to April 16, 2006.

President Bush decides to leave the White House & go out to sit in a local bar. A guy walks in & asks the barman, 'Isn't that Bush sitting at the end of the bar?' The bartender says, 'Yep, that's him.' So the guy walks over & says, 'Wow, this is a real honor! What are you doing in here?' Bush says, 'I'm planning WW III.' The guy says, 'Really? What's going to happen?' Bush says, 'Well, I'm going to kill 140 million Muslims & 1 blonde with big tits. The guy exclaimed! 'A blonde with big tits? Why kill a blonde with big tits?' Bush turns to the bartender & says, 'See, I told you, no one gives a shit about the 140 million Muslims'.

Bar visits put Newark police chief in trouble - May 30, 2008 – *New Jersey* - By Jonathan Schuppe & Jeffery C. Mays; Star-Ledger Staff - Newark's police chief, suspended earlier this year in a spat with the police director, is facing a new string of disciplinary charges for patronizing an illegal bar, according to law enforcement officials familiar with the case. Anthony Campos admitted numerous visits to the Indian Knights MC, in the city's Ironbound section, after investigators found online photos showing him in the bar, according to the law enforcement officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the case remains a personnel matter. Campos has been charged with several administrative violations, including misconduct & failure to report a crime, which could result in a lengthy suspension, the officials said. Campos' lawyer said the chief was never at the club when any laws were broken, & he called Campos the victim of a political vendetta by others in the police Dept. "The suggestion that my client was present while an illegal act was going on is shameful," said atty Charles Sciarra. "This is internal Newark politics at its worst. Chief Campos is focused on reducing crime & making the community safer, & we hope everyone else will get on board with that mission." Mayor Cory Booker released a statement supporting Campos without addressing the pending charges. "I am confident that the leadership I have selected for our police Dept can & will deliver the safety & security our residents deserve," Booker said. Police Director Garry McCarthy, who has feuded with Campos, declined to comment on the case, saying in a statement that Campos "has been instrumental in the many positive changes already under way in the department." McCarthy suspended Campos for five days in March in a dispute over personnel moves. It was the first suspension of a Newark police chief in more than 20 years, & it exposed a private rift between Campos, a career Newark cop, & McCarthy, a retired New York Police Dept deputy commissioner. A lawsuit filed by the Superior Officers Association claims McCarthy has no authority to run the day-to-day operations of the department, a job that Campos should be doing. **Routine Raid:** The Indian Knights case stems from a routine raid by the city's vice squad March 2, when police received a complaint of noise & loud music from the club, located on Lexington St in an industrial section of the Ironbound, according to police reports. They arrested the Pres of Indian Knights, Everton Oliveira, for selling drinks without a certificate of occupancy or a liquor license, according to the report. "With those two things alone, you are automatically in violation of the law," said Deputy Mayor Ronald Salahuddin, who oversees the city's vice squads. Oliveira told police that he was hosting a birthday party & was giving away the drinks for free, according to police reports. But police, noting they'd warned him before to stop selling drinks, shut down the club. Sciarra said Indian Knights was a charitable organization & was "well known to members of the governing body of Newark at the highest level." He would not elaborate. Oliveira could not be reached for comment. Following the March 2 raid, police learned that Campos had been to the club before, & they found at least 1 photo on a website showing him there, according to the LEOs. An internal affairs investigation followed & administrative charges were filed against him May 14. A hearing was scheduled for last Fri but was postponed indefinitely, according to the officials. Earlier this year, the Dept placed an officer on a 6-month suspension after he was caught in a vice squad raid on an unlicensed after-hours club. **'Just A Social Club':** Jonathan Velarde owns Velarde Transportation & houses several of his dump trucks on the lot where the club is located. When he arrived at about 3 a.m. on the night of the raid, he said, police officers were taking the liquor from the bar. "It was just a social club. They had no license to sell the beer, so police closed it," said

Velarde. He said the club had been open for about six months under the current owner but had been closed by police before. "It was always open 3 months, the police close it, it open, closes," said Velarde. "They were nice guys. I don't have a problem with them." The club remained closed yesterday. This week, an Indian Knights MC banner was still posted outside of the Lexington Street address, near a truck parking lot & a garbage bin. A black door had an Indian Knights logo painted on it, & a sign that read "Members only."

Bad moon rising in the crescent – June 2, 2008 - *Australia* - By Robyn Wuth - The Finks have left the building ... but not the city, unfortunately. Notorious bikie gang the Stinks, oops, I mean Finks, have been evicted from their former clubhouse in Wrights Place, Labrador. The property's brave owners terminated the club's lease & politely asked the Plonks, eh, Finks, if they would mind moving out so they could carry out renovations. Brave owners. Kudos to you, you brave, brave men. So they issued the Punks, I mean the Finks, with a notice to quit the building. Amazingly, they did so without a murmur -- & they call themselves outlaws. Hmph! Still, it's one building inspection I would have been anxious to avoid. Imagine the man armed with only his little clipboard arriving at the premises for a final inspection. "There seems to be a wall missing ... there are several marks that appear to be, well, gunshots, some that appear to be knife marks & what is this ungodly stain? Is that, blood? Well that's not coming out. That's your bond forfeited, fellas, & you'll be paying for repairs, OK, fellas? Fellas, is that a baseball bat? On second thoughts ... you've done wonders for the place! Thank you, come again!" So the Funks, sorry ... I mean Finks ... loaded their little tricycles & pedaled off to find their new home. The bikies have been swaggering about, telling anyone not fast enough to run they decided it was time to move on to bigger & better premises. Being community spirited, we are happy to offer a few suggestions for a new clubhouse. How about Beenleigh? You'll fit right in & the Hells Angels are friendly & put on a mean welcome party (and boy, do we mean mean). No? We understand you have a jail cell reserved & you have lots of friends there already, so how about you go straight there & save us all a lot of time, trouble & possibly injury & recovery time? No? Picky, picky, picky. You would rather feed the lawyers. So off they trundled to places unknown. The boys in blue had no idea where & the search for the Pinks ... er ... Finks was on. Until now. The Dinks ... I mean Finks ... now call Bailey Crescent, Southport, home, but they are pretty secretive & they would rather keep it to themselves. So that's just between you, me & 100,000 readers, right? To be honest, it's just a little too close to the ole Bulletin office for my liking, but it could be worse. I could be one of those poor people who actually have to work in Bailey Crescent. Be careful which driveway you park across, that's all I'm saying. I talked to an apprentice mechanic who worked near their old clubhouse & he reckons the Minks ... Finks ... parked where ever they wanted & did pretty much whatever they wanted. "Would you have a bloody go?" he asked. Good point. The new clubhouse is only temporary, we're told. The Bonks ... Finks ... maintain they have grand plans to build themselves a fancy new compound in a secret location, but those plans might be on hold for a while. It takes a lot of money to post bail for that many members, after all. So to the other, law abiding workers of the Bailey Crescent area, try to look on the bright side. The ambulance, fire station & the hospital are all pretty close by & you can probably look forward to an increased police presence. Acting Inspector Mat Rosevear said police were aware the bikie gang had moved in to Southport & would continue their 'vigilance' in relation to monitoring their movements. The

Flunks ... Finks ... are no strangers to attention from the men & women in blue, however. Liquor Licensing officers & police raided their Wrights Place home & confiscated alcohol & fridges just before the gang was tipped to hold a 'good-bye' party. A flock of scruffy looking Blinks ... Finks ... jetted in to the Gold Coast last weekend, courtesy of budget airline Virgin. Told you they were bikies on a budget. Sources told The Gold Coast Bulletin members flew to the Coast from across the country to help them break in their new abode. They helped move some furniture, a couple of weapons & there's a rumor there was an engagement to celebrate. Do ponks, I mean Finks, marry? You rebels, you. I have a suggestion -- instead of moving a couple of suburbs, move cities. Better still, move states. Consider yourselves told. You're not wanted. Get out.

Bikies in Dapto club brawl – June 2, 2008 – *Australia* - Brawl involving up to 35 people, including members of 3 rival outlaw motorcycle gangs, forced the shutdown of a Dapto club early yesterday. A 32-year-old man was stabbed & a security officer thrown down a flight of stairs during the brawl, which occurred at a boxing night at Dapto Leagues Club. About 300 people were attending the fight in the upstairs auditorium when the brawl broke out just after midnight. It is believed the final bout was about to start when words were exchanged over support for the boxers, with the argument then erupting into violence. A police officer said it was believed members of the Lone Wolf, Nomads & Rebels motorcycle gangs were involved. The 32-year-old man was stabbed in the leg, severing a main artery. He had emergency surgery; Wollongong Hospital & recovering in a stable condition. He was yet to provide police with a statement last night.

Former Hells Angel admits murder - June 2, 2008 – *Australia*
A Former Hells Angel has pleaded guilty to murdering a lawyer who was shot dead as he went to the aid of a woman in central Melbourne last year. Christopher Hudson, 31, also pleaded guilty to 2 counts of attempted murder when he appeared in the Victorian Supreme Court today. Hudson shot Brendan Keilar in the chest at point-blank range & critically injured 2 others in the shooting on June 18 last year. Former model Kaera Douglas & Dutch backpacker Paul de Waard were also shot in the incident.

Outlaws member acquitted of DUI – June 3, 2008 - *Pinellas Park, Florida* - By Anne Lindberg - A jury has acquitted a member of the Outlaws MC who said the officer who charged him with DUI was so verbally abusive that he "was scared for his safety." Martin Dowdy's defense centered on the actions of Pinellas Park police Officer John McNeil, who has long been one of the Dept's leading officers. McNeil has won numerous awards from MADD for catching drunken drivers & has twice been named officer of the year. He has also been commended by at least 1 defense atty for his professional conduct during a DUI stop. But McNeil, 56, has been the target of complaints from residents who contend that he can be belligerent & verbally abusive & that he has charged people with offenses they did not commit. His sergeant suggested in 2007 that he be transferred back to patrol, where he could be closely supervised, but police Chief Dorene Thomas refused. She said McNeil had been through a bad patch but had put those incidents behind him. Thomas said her faith in McNeil was justified & she continued to support him. She affirmed that support Tuesday, saying, "Really, it doesn't even require an answer, (but) I still stand behind my crew." Thomas' stance baffled Tarpon Springs defense atty Jerry Theophilopoulos, who represents Dowdy. "Why the chief supports him is beyond me," the atty said, & added: "His testimony was strange, to say the least ... He had an excuse for

every problem in his case as well as all of the prior complaints made against him. It is frightening to believe he is still on the streets pulling people over." Dowdy was charged with DUI, driving with a suspended or revoked license, & refusing a breath test in Mar 2007 after leaving Carlie's, a Pinellas Park nightclub, with a friend. McNeil followed him for several blocks before pulling him over on 54th Ave, outside the Pinellas Park city limits. The jury acquitted Dowdy, 50, of the DUI charge. The other 2 charges are pending. McNeil has a stellar record, said Pinellas Park spokesman Tim Caddell, which proves "he has done a good job & has kept a lot of potentially dangerous people off the street." Caddell added that Theophilopoulos "has the right to gloat; he won his case" but "we don't tell him how to handle his cases & he shouldn't tell us how to handle our Police Dept." During the trial last week, much of Theophilopoulos' cross-examination was directed at McNeil's truthfulness & why the in-car videotape was turned off after Dowdy was pulled over. "He testified that he turned off the video because he went back to the car to check Dowdy's driver's license. He claimed 'that is my habit,' " Theophilopoulos said. That contradicted other statements McNeil had made, the atty said. Theophilopoulos said McNeil "wrote in his police report, 'I adjusted the video ... I must have turned the camera off as later, when I went to duplicate the tape, only the stop was recorded.'" McNeil also testified that "he requested that his backup sit behind the video & pick up the area. He indicated he frequently does that. When (Pinellas Park police) Officer (Harold) Behar was questioned about this, he said he was not asked to go behind McNeil's wheel & do this on this case." Theophilopoulos also said: "When I asked why he did not use the DUI video room at the jail, he said he has only used it a couple of times in his career. ... He claimed that not having video was not important, as 'a human can detect things that a video won't.'

Councilwoman Receives Backlash - June 3, 2008 - *Texas* - San Antonio city councilwoman Lourdes Galvan loses the endorsement of the San Antonio Police Officers Assoc. Its backlash from her support of the Bandidos MC caught on tape by the News 4 Trouble Shooters. Brian Collister has the fallout from his story that has sparked a city hall controversy. Councilwoman Galvan had no problem talking to us the day she honored the Bandidos, but now she is refusing to talk about the controversy it created. Here's what triggered the outrage: The district 5 councilwoman gave the Bandidos a proclamation from the city for their charity work. "If we can let the public know they are not bad people, they are good people. Even though they make a lot of noise, they are together as an organization to do good. So, that is the message we want to put out... Don't be afraid of them. What can they do to you?" Galvan said at the time of giving the proclamation. The proclamation which did not require council or city approval really ticked off a lot of police officers. Many in law enforcement believe the biker are nothing more than a gang of criminals. At an event she sponsored on Saturday in her district, we tried to ask her about the reaction from police. She told us, "I'm not going to talk about that. No politics today." In response to the backlash, Galvan did send a letter to the head of the police union saying she was apologizing to all of those who may have taken offense, & that "while the organization may have some members who conduct themselves in a manner that I do not condone, I believe others have contributed positively to the community." The Police Union Pres declined to comment on camera, but confirms his organization has pulled its support for Galvan, who faces re-election next May. Mayor Hardberger also is not happy with all of this. His office said he is now pushing for change, possibly requiring council approval for city proclamations.

Hell's fury - Threat of gang retaliation passes – June 3, 2008 – *California* - By Scott Thomas Anderson - Approximately 3,500 bikers poured into the 3rd Annual Motorcycle Expo in Plymouth over the weekend, where rumors were flying that there would be a confrontation between the Hells Angels & Mongols due to a reported murder last week. They were being watched as their boots clicked down the fairway. They'd been riding all morning - searing streaks of steal, their Harley engines rumbling like demented ship boilers. Moving through the crowd & the hounding music, they were followed by worried eyes, a flaming Death Head on their backs & the knowledge of their brother's recently spilled blood. For months, rumors were building that Amador County's first motorcycle expo would either be the site of a peace treaty or violent confrontation between the Hells Angels MC & their rivals, the Mongol Nation. When the Hells Angels finally arrived at the fairgrounds in Plymouth early Saturday afternoon, it was under a cloud. One of their own had just been murdered, causing law enforcement & the entire biker community to fear that a bloody, ongoing war might rupture the peaceful setting of the foothills. **The secret war:** The Hells Angels are no strangers to the Mother Lode. For years they've torn across its open highways, exuding hints of the outlaw mystique that once made them symbols of the American counterculture - that is, before the 1970s when members began to be repeatedly convicted of drug dealing, gun running, pimping, extortion, tax evasion & murder. Similar cases are still being made against the Hells Angels today, & the FBI has identified the organization as having a major role in the sales of methamphetamine in California, Nevada, Arizona & parts of the Midwest. **Who are the Mongols?** Widely regarded as the most violent motorcycle gang in existence, the Mongols were formed in Southern California as the Hells Angels were becoming hard-charging international icons. The Mongols were quickly drawn into a turf war with the more famous group - a war that saw members of both clubs shot, sliced & burned on the streets of Los Angeles. After 17 years of warfare, a fragile treaty was signed between the organizations. The ceasefire didn't last. As both the Mongols & Hells Angels evolved into alleged criminal syndicates that were prosecuted under the federal Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations statute, or RICO Act, the Mongols began to spread from Southern California into the Bay Area, which had been dominated by the Hells Angels since the 1960s. In 2001, members of the Hells Angels & Mongols shot & stabbed each other in San Diego, which led to a near-deadly confrontation months later. That same year a motorcycle swap descended into chaos as members of the Hells Angels & Mongols started bludgeoning each other with handle bars, gas tanks & shock absorbers. Not long after, the president of the San Jose Mongols was ambushed & stabbed by several Hells Angels. It's believed an attempt to incinerate his vice president with a car bomb was made by the Hells Angels several weeks later. In 2002, the new conflict reached a head in the Nevada desert during the annual Laughlin River Run. The blinking slot machines & crap tables of Harrah's Casino became an all-out battle ground as platoons of Hells Angels & Mongols let loose on each other. One Mongol died, 2 Hells Angels were killed & a dozen other bikers were badly hurt. Forty-two men were arrested. The Laughlin incident prompted the Hells Angels to officially declare war on the Mongols. Since then, law enforcement officials across California have reported countless near-misses between the groups. In 2005, Hollister police said they'd "dodged an atomic bomb" as a fight between the Hells Angels & Mongols was barely prevented. **Fears of ground zero:** Rumors that Amador's 1st-ever motorcycle expo would either be the site of a new peace treaty - or a new showdown - between the Mongols & Hells Angels were

circulating as early as March. The most widely spread story was that the local Top Hatters MC would be acting as mediators between the groups. The president of the Sierra Mountain chapter of the Top Hatters, who wished to be referred to by his first name, Mike, insisted the story was a complete lie. "I don't know how these crazy things get started," Mike said in frustration. "My club is not involved in the business of the Hells Angels or the Mongols. We only worry about our own business - which is our families, our jobs & our club." Mike added that the Top Hatters were frequent targets for slander: "People have spread insane rumors about us. The truth is we do charity work year-round for kids, seniors, veterans & the homeless. Our vice president runs a clean-living house for addicts to get sober. That's who the Top Hatters are." In a nine-week investigation, the Ledger Dispatch found even more holes in the alleged peace treaty scenario as local, state & federal law enforcement, as well as Hells Angels associates, suggested tensions between the "red & whites" & Mongols were as high as they'd been since the Laughlin killings. Jackson Police Captain Christy Stidger acknowledged the potential for violence if both motorcycle gangs hit the county at the same time. "If the Hells Angels & the Mongols are both in the area, that would be a major concern," she admitted. The motorcycle expo's organizer, Loretta Kinnicutt, insisted there was no reason to think that would happen. "This is not that kind of motorcycle event," said Kinnicutt. "My expo is really catering to recreational bikers & motorcross enthusiasts. There will probably be a small group of Hells Angels, but the vast majority of people will be regular bikers who are there to have fun." Kinnicutt also denied the Mongols had ever attended one of her events. Knowing that the Hells Angels & Mongols had turned a simple motorcycle swap meet into a bloody head-bashing derby, some members of local law enforcement found little comfort in Kinnicutt's assurances. In the past, geography alone might have checked rumors that the Mongols were on their way. According to Special Agent John A. Torres of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, that's no longer the case. In terms of federal agencies, the ATF has arguably been the most successful at damaging outlaw motorcycle gangs. For more than a decade, Torres has supervised these investigations from the bureau's Los Angeles division. Torres said the ATF was now aware of Mongol activity in the Central Valley. "The Mongols are exerting pressure all over California. They're up & down the state," Torres told the Ledger Dispatch by phone in late May. "We decimated them in 2000 with the Queen investigation, but they've been trying hard to expand since then. In terms of whether they might come to this event, all I can say is that the Mongols are in the area & it shouldn't surprise anyone if they show up." **The "Queen investigation"** Torres referred to was a 1998 operation that allowed former Special Forces operative & ATF agent Bill Queen to infiltrate the Mongols. Queen spent two-and-a-half years in deep cover with the gang, resulting in the arrest & prosecution of 53 members for crimes ranging from gun & drug violations to extortion & murder. In that time the ATF learned first-hand of the extreme violence the Mongols were capable of, particularly toward the Hells Angels. "There is no treaty between the groups that we're aware of," Torres said. "If the Hells Angels & Mongols both show up to this event, it won't be an ideal situation for anyone. They genuinely hate each other." Amador County Sheriff Martin Ryan said his Dept had been working on security preparations for the expo since last fall. "We're hoping this will be a successful event that goes off without a hitch," Ryan explained in the weeks leading up to the event. "The organizer has a clean slate. She's done similar things & never had a problem, so this could be a real boost to the local economy. That said, we have a number of measures in place to make sure that if anything bad

happens, we'll be ready for it." With 6 days to go before the big day, Ryan & his fellow police chiefs were dealt some disturbing news: On May 24 at 8:15 p.m. a young Hells Angel was murdered on northbound Highway 101 coming off the Golden Gate Bridge. According to The San Francisco Chronicle, the victim was riding in the passenger seat of a truck shepherding a large procession of Hells Angels from Daly City. The driver of the truck is alleged to be a Hells Angel who figured prominently in the battle with the Mongols in Laughlin in 2002. Though road rage hasn't been ruled out, fear that the murder was a gang hit by the Mongols or Vagos had local law enforcement on even higher alert. Some members were worried the Hells Angels coming to Amador would be dangerously paranoid or bent on revenge over the slaying. "The biggest precaution we're taking is to have all of the Depts work together," Sutter Creek Police Chief Rob Duke said the night before the event. Duke, who dealt with outlaw bikers when he worked gang intelligence in Southern California, explained that the agencies were not only sharing information, but also partnering up. "All the local Depts are working as one team, plus we have Depts coming in from other areas. We're hoping a massive show of force will be the ultimate deterrent." **The Angels' backyard:** In the end, only a small number of Hells Angels showed up in Plymouth over the weekend. A motorcycle run paying tribute to Sunday's homicide victim kept most of their chapters in the Bay Area. Because the Mongols are known to resort to a strategy called "riding 66" when planning violence - meaning they hide their club colors - it's difficult to know if any attended the expo. While the event was largely patronized by recreational bikers, there's little denying that outlaw motorcycle gangs have expanded their presence in the Mother Lode. For decades the Hells Angels have turned up at functions in Amador & Calaveras - especially the Jumping Frog Jubilee. However, several family members & friends of the group told the Ledger Dispatch that more & more Hells Angels are choosing to live in the foothills because the "heat" from federal law enforcement has grown too intense in the Bay Area. This year, members of the group have shown up wearing full colors at events as common as the Sutter Creek Duck Race. Sonny Barger, the most famous Hells Angel of all, is said to be living in Calaveras County. Perhaps even more worrisome, one of the area's most frightening & violent individuals, parolee-at-large Albert "White Owl" Fernandez, is also rumored to be associated with motorcycle gangs. The Hells Angels' most direct link to Amador County is through an extremely friendly relationship with the local motorcycle club, The Skeleton Crew. Reports vary about the connection between the groups, but an expert on regional motorcycle gangs told the Ledger Dispatch, "There's no doubt the Skeleton Crew aspires to be like Hells Angels, which means they shouldn't be dismissed as wanna-be's." During the motorcycle expo members of the Skeleton Crew & Hells Angels could be seen warmly embracing one another. A local biker commented that, though he was friends with the Skeleton Crew & felt they were hard working, "regular guys," when it came to the club's affiliation with the Hells Angels he worried they were getting "a little too close to the flame." Law enforcement's main concern about the Hells Angels exploding their influence on the foothills has to do with the group's reputation as meth-runners. In an area already dealing with what some call a methamphetamine epidemic, it's feared that another organized player in the distribution game could make the problem even worse. Sheriff Ryan said he now has a full-time gang intelligence officer monitoring such situations & working closely with the new Amador County Combined Narcotics Enforcement Team. He added his Dept also had lines of communication open with state & federal experts. According to Special Agent Torres, such

measures are the only way to keep motorcycle gangs in check. "One of the big reasons the ATF was able to arrest so many Mongols who were committing crimes back in 2000 was because we worked side by side with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department," Torres observed. "I can't stress enough how important it is for agencies to share information with each other." Torres also couldn't help but wonder aloud if gangs like the Mongols were in for the long haul. "We put a lot of the worse ones away 8 years ago. But they're still here - & so are we."

Our purpose is to honor all veterans – June 3, 2008 – *North Carolina* - To the Editor by Diane Worthen; Hendersonville - This letter is to complain about T-N coverage in the last two weeks in which the Patriot Guard Riders of WNC were incorrectly identified or completely mislabeled. I'm a PGR member & personally attended both events. I also know correct PGR info was offered to T-N reporters & editors with little to no response. We aren't a "biker group." We don't "kick up dust" every time we ride. Every PGR member doesn't "receive a plaque." We're a group of local residents who want to honor any & all veterans when they leave this world. We also do welcome home rides. The majority of us are also military veterans. We'll be at any local veteran's funeral when asked. We can establish a flag line, perform the flag-folding ceremony or any other military honor the family requests. We can show you photos or news coverage of our presence at numerous past services. Remember Sgt. Bagwell from Brevard, or Sgt. Ray of Weaverville?

Bikers here for Americade, law enforcement ups patrols – June 3, 2008 – *New York* - By Jessica Mokhiber - There is no mistaking the sound. For a week, motorcycles take over Warren County. They're here for Americade, the largest motorcycle tour expo in the Northeast. It shouldn't come as too much of a surprise that along with the bikers, the police are out in greater numbers, making sure everything goes smoothly. Biker Joseph Tyo said, "Sometimes it's better for everybody. Sometimes I think it's an infringement of my rights." Tyo says he understands the cops keeping things safe but he just hopes they're fair about it. Last week state police announced they'll have more checkpoints on the highways throughout Americade week, when tens of thousands of people roll in & the Sheriff's Dept ups their patrols as well. Tyo said, "I don't excessively make noise or cause problems & if there are a few troublemakers, they're going to have to come in sometime & at least calm things down." Biker Eric Nelson said, "Use them all you can. Everyone should be checked. Everyone should be sober. Everybody should have good equipment." But not everyone agrees. Some of the bikers say more cops have been out here in recent years & they feel that they're being targeted just because they ride on two wheels instead of four. Ben Levenson of Oneonta said, "I've been coming here for 20 years & this is the worst I've ever seen it." Levenson says the stops aren't random & he says it's so bad, he's leaving early. "We're leaving. We're trying to get out before the trouble starts," Levenson said. On Monday, a local chapter of a national motorcycling coalition even announced it is planning a lawsuit, saying these random checks are discriminatory towards bikers. Bikers here say they don't know if they'd sue, they just want a peaceful ride.

The aged patient doddered into the doctor's office with a serious complaint. "Doc, you've got to do something to lower my sex drive." "Come on now, Mr. Peters," the doctor said, "your sex drives all in your head." "That's what I mean, you've got to lower it a little."

Police consider appeal against festival decision – June 3, 2008 – *United Kingdom* - By Katie Thompson - Warwickshire Police are considering appealing against Stratford District Council's decision to grant a license for the Bulldog Bash. The force has taken legal advice concerning an appeal after it lodged an objection to the popular biker festival being given a licence in the interests of protecting the public from harm.' Bidford's County Councilor Peter Barnes & district councilor Brian Slaughter attended the meeting of the liquor licensing & gambling panels committee in May & spoke up in favor of the event being given the go-ahead. Cllr Barnes said: "I support the Bulldog Bash. I feel it creates minimal problems & is a major benefit to the area" Responding to the decision, assistant chief constable Bill Holland said: "Warwickshire Police lodged an objection to a license being granted for Bulldog Bash because we firmly believe that public safety could be comprised by this event. "Warwickshire Police has a duty of care to the public & the force will give the council's decision careful consideration before commenting further."

Police backing' for bike show – June 3, 2008 – *United Kingdom* - Plans to stage a bike show in Denbighshire in August have police backing, its organisers have claimed. Last month, the annual Welsh National Motorcycle show at Builth Wells was cancelled because of police concerns about violence between rival bikers. But David Green, who is organising the two day show at Llangollen, says his venture has the backing of North Wales Police & will promote safe riding. The show will have an emphasis on trade stands, he added. Steve Bennett, the organiser of the Welsh National Motorcycle Show, which had been due to take place between 23 - 26 May on the Royal Welsh showground in Powys, has said he might take legal action over the cancellation. It would be against the Royal Welsh Showground Committee which called off the event after meetings with the police. Green said his event on 2 & 3 August would be daytime only & would not offer any camping facilities. "The police are with us on this event," he said. "It will be more like the motorcycle show at the NEC in Birmingham with a big emphasis on trade stands."

Magoo update – June 4, 2008 – *North Dakota* – By SOS Big Paul - Magoo is doing real well. Maureen (Magoo's O'Lady) said he is ready for some phone calls. He is also ready for some limited visits; if anyone wishes to see him we ask that they please contact Maureen first at (218) 230-4143. Magoo still has arm & speech therapy though out the week & is not home at certain times of the day.

Hells Angels slaying suspects in court – June 4, 2008 – *California* - By Gary Klien - A Mill Valley woman & an El Cerrito man suspected in a fatal freeway shooting near Corte Madera appeared in court together for the first time Tuesday amid exceptionally tight security because of the victim's Hells Angels connections. Jessica Andrea Gordon, 20, & Joseph Andrew Farnsworth, 19, were brought before Judge Kelly Simmons but were not arraigned on any charge. Both suspects waived their right to a speedy arraignment to allow prosecutors more time to review the investigative reports. Farnsworth, suspected of shooting William Crompton Maclean on Highway 101, & Gordon, suspected of driving the red Dodge Durango from which the gunfire came, were ordered to return to court on Thursday.

Laconia – June 4, 2008 – *New Hampshire* - The Belknap County Sheriff's Dept has received an \$11,000 Fed grant that will help put more police officers on the streets during the upcoming Bike Week event. An allocation from the U.S. Atty's Office "Operation

Streetsweeper" program will bring in extra officers from various communities to cover large crowds & the possible threat of violence involving rival motorcycle clubs.

Bikie clubhouse torching 'payback' – June 4, 2008 - *Australia* - It was the defection that did it. When a senior member of the Rebels outlaw motorcycle gang in traded in his colors to join rival club the Bandidos in Sydney in 2006, it set off a chain of events that would see several people injured, a gang clubhouse destroyed and, ultimately, 4 bikies behind bars. The former Pres of the Bandidos' Brisbane chapter, Blair Raymond Thomsen, 35, his vice-president Ivan Glavas, 48, sergeant-at-arms Kenneth James Whittaker, 33, & gang associate John Debilla, 47, were today sentenced to a combined total of 15 years jail over the March 27, 2007 torching of the Rebels outlaw motorcycle gang headquarters at Albion. Brisbane's District Court heard the attack, captured on Rebels' CCTV cameras, was payback for for Bribie Island the bashing of several Bandidos one month earlier. On that occasion, prosecutors said Bandidos had been riding their motorcycles in formation when Rebels members - upset at the Sydney defection - tried to run them off the road in cars, assaulted them with baseball bats & stole their prized club colors. "It was purely & solely for retribution & revenge," Crown prosecutor Deborah Holliday said at a sentencing hearing this afternoon, where all 4 men pleaded guilty to arson charges. "It was likely to lead to further escalating violence between the 2 clubs." The court heard the group, as well as two other members who cannot be named, took part in a series of meetings in the lead up to the attack, instigated - a judge found - by Thomsen, who nominated which of 2 Rebels' clubhouses would be targeted & also arranged a getaway car. On the evening of March 27, the group took 4 gerry cans of petrol & a wick fashioned from rope & kerosene to the Lucy Street premises after doing several laps of the perimeter. Whittaker then climbed onto the roof, pulled off several tiles & poured the fuel into the building before setting it alight, causing a large explosion. Defence barristers for the men said they had been careful to ensure no one was inside at the time. Phillip Hardcastle, for Whittaker, also denied the extent of the damage to the building, which he said could still be repaired. "They were conscious of not hurting anybody," Anthony Glynn SC, for Thomsen & Glavas, told the court. Judge Gilbert Trafford-Walker accepted the submission, sentencing Whittaker & Thomsen to five years jail, suspended after they had served 20 months. Glavas, who helped plan but did not help set fire to the building, was sentenced to 4 years, to be suspended after 16 months, while Debilla - identified only as the getaway driver - was released on immediate parole. All 4 have spent more than a year in custody on remand. The time - 417 days in total each - will be taken off their sentences. The two other men, who gave evidence against their former associates to police, are currently serving wholly suspended five year sentences in the community. One is in witness protection.

Parole Denied – June 4, 2008 – *California* - The former Pres of the Barhoppers, an outlaw motorcycle gang, was denied parole for the 6th time last week after a hearing at Folsom State Prison, according to a statement from the Stanislaus County district atty's office. In 1982, Glenn Gary was convicted of murdering a member of a rival motorcycle club & was sentenced to 27 years to life in prison. Authorities said Gary used the promise of drugs to lure Casey Allen Wallace, 23, to his home on March 11, 1981. Next, Gary kidnapped Wallace, took him to an orchard near Turlock, beat him & shot him in the head. Later, Gary bragged that he had used Wallace's .38-caliber revolver to do the deed. Gary, 60, will have another parole hearing in 1 year.

Police fail to alert bureau of possible terrorism suspects – June 4, 2008 – *Washington, DC* - By Kevin Johnson; USA Today - State & local police officers fail to notify federal authorities about encounters with possible terrorism suspects up to 10 times a day, a senior FBI official said. The rate of failure represents missed opportunities to verify possible matches to suspects on the Govt's terrorist watch list or to remove individuals from the list whose names had been added by mistake, Leonard Boyle, director of the bureau's Terrorist Screening Center (TSC), said in an interview. Police are asked to contact the center when routine computerized background checks on individuals — who may have violated traffic rules or been involved in a domestic disturbance — trigger electronic alerts from the TSC. The alerts indicate possible matches to individuals on the Govt's watch list of an estimated 400,000 people. Police notifications to the center result in the identification of 40 to 50 verified suspects each day. Of those, Boyle said, a handful result in arrests. Regular audits of the system reveal that officers do not respond to the alerts eight to 10 times daily. Fed authorities are not automatically contacted. As a result, Boyle said, they are forced to reconstruct the encounters through interviews & local police reports.

Helmet Rally - June 4, 2008 – *Michigan* - Shouts of “Let those who ride decide” rang out at the state capitol today. Motorcyclists rallied for a bill that would change Michigan's helmet law & lawmakers heard them. The house passed the proposal. It now goes to Governor Granholm where it faces a far less certain future. James Seely, motorcyclist: “I believe that everyone should have a choice, a freedom if they wanna wear it or not, I mean I'm not saying they don't have to or they have to, but they should have the choice.” Currently, all motorcyclists have to wear a helmet while on the road. But a new proposal would let them take it off. Critics of the plan say more bikers will die if this bill becomes law. But supporters say there are some things that trump safety. Sen. Michael Bishop, (R) Oakland County: “It's a personal responsibility issue; people should be able to be allowed to decide how they ride, when they ride, & what protection they use.” It's not that bikers are against wearing helmets, they just want the choice. Right now, Michigan's is one of only a few states to require riders to wear helmets. Vince Consiglio Abate, MC President: “We look at the surrounding states around Michigan's, none of the states around Michigan's have a helmet law.” There is a catch: riders would have to buy a special permit & have either 2 years of motorcycle experience or take a safety class. But they get the Governor's signature before bikers hit the road, helmet-free. Governor Granholm has vetoed similar bills before. She says we all pay for head injuries in motorcycle crashes in the form of higher medical costs & insurance rates. And says when helmet laws get repealed, it means more bikers will pay with their lives.

Veteran bikers share a bond – June 4, 2008 – *Canada* - They may ride separately at times, but they're never alone. The riders of the Canadian Army Veteran Motorcycle Units (CAV) aren't a gang. And they're not a club. They are a close group of veterans, current troops & supporters who aid each other & others with military ties whenever & wherever needed. “I really think you could classify this as the new Legion,” said Cpl. Walter Rau. He serves with Trenton's 8 Air Maintenance Squadron & is a new local member. “It serves much the same purpose as the legion, which is to remember & educate people so they don't forget the service veterans have given to the country,” Rau said. Now in its fifth year, the CAV was founded by Kingston residents Yannick Lebrun & Paul “Trapper” Cane, now the national president. Its regional units are named for Canadian “battles of honour.” The

Juno unit, covering Madoc to Prince Edward County & Napanee to just east of Bowmanville is named for Canada's D-Day invasion beach of the Second World War. “When I got out of the military, I really felt as though there was something missing -- it was the camaraderie & I found it in the CAV,” said Mike Guay, who spent 18 years with military transport units. The Juno unit was created three years ago by Dave Schmidt; it's now headed by Wellington's Régent St.-Onge, a military retiree who teaches martial arts. Like many CAV members, he has post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). It's related to his 1993 service in Bosnia, where he worked in communications & on military convoys. The CAV helps him & others cope with PTSD, he said. “It's not only to ride & look good on a motorcycle,” said St.-Onge. “Riding, for most of our members, is therapy,” he said. “It's a kind of freedom.” He said some riders have had PTSD-related panic attacks while riding & some suffer flashbacks from traumatic experiences. St.-Onge said it's good to be among friends when that happens. “You know they have your back all the time ... We never leave a member behind.”

A bug floors Wolf at court – June 4, 2008 – *Australia* - By Renee Redmond - One of the 4 motorcycle gang members charged over the alleged kidnapping & disfiguring of a man who was later found at Currumbin Rock Pools had to be excused from committal proceedings yesterday with a ‘stomach bug’. Lone Wolves motorcycle gang member Ray Kenneth Brookes, 30, of Pottsville, asked to leave court during the morning's evidence in Southport Magistrates Court several times due to his illness. During the lunch adjournment he was lying face down on the court foyer's carpet but declined an offer from the prosecutor to have an ambulance called so he could be medically examined. Magistrate Michael O'Driscoll allowed Brookes to go home for the afternoon while his 3 co-accused -- Lone Wolves Benjamin James Dehnen, 31, of Kingscliff, Aaron Drew Scheers, 24, of Tweed Heads & alleged Coomicub gang member James Desmond Murphy -- remained in court. The 4 men have been charged with kidnapping, torture, acts intended to maim & grievous bodily harm. Police allege their victim, David Holmes, was tortured for several hours over a botched drug deal & a missing \$40,000. He had his left ear & both ear lobes cut off before he was abandoned at the Currumbin Rock Pools. The committal hearing began with evidence from Hydra Taskforce detective Senior-Sergeant Mark Reid. The detective, who oversaw the investigation, told the court the 5th accused, Scott Holland, had his charges ‘discontinued’ after agreeing to talk with police. Cross-examination became heated when solicitor Bill Potts asked whether Mr Holland had been coerced, promised anything or induced into helping police. Sen-Sgt Reid said he was simply giving Mr Holland his options. “Go to jail for ever or get a big discount, do this & you will get a benefit?” asked Potts. “No. I said these are your options according to the Act,” said Sen-Sgt Reid. Sen-Sgt Reid agreed that Holland's evidence was used to identify the ‘wrong-doers’ & prior to the interview police had not obtained sufficient information to identify the men now before the court.

When in England, at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of empire building' by George Bush. He answered by saying, ‘Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men & women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.’ You could have heard a pin drop.

Intellect has its limits, stupidity knows no bounds.

Outcry after French court rules on virginity - June 4, 2008 – *France* - The bride said she was a virgin. When her new husband discovered that was a lie, he went to court to annul the marriage - & a French judge agreed. The ruling ending the Muslim couple's union has stunned France & raised concerns the country's much-cherished secular values are losing ground to cultural traditions from its fast-growing immigrant communities. The decision also exposed the silent shame borne by some Muslim women who transgress long-held customs demanding proof of virginity on the wedding night. In its ruling, the court concluded the woman had misrepresented herself as a virgin & that, in this particular marriage, virginity was a prerequisite. But in treating the case as a breach of contract, the ruling was decried by critics who said it undermined decades of progress in women's rights. Marriage, they said, was reduced to the status of a commercial transaction in which women could be discarded by husbands claiming to have discovered hidden defects in them.

Freedom Run event gets green light – June 5, 2008 – *Illinois* - By Charles Stanley - Freedom Run event gets green light 'Outlaw motorcycle gangs' concern caused permit delay, Marseilles Council praised for 'due diligence' - A fee-waived special event permit for the Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run for its annual "Return to the Wall" event earned unanimous approval of the Marseilles City Council Wed. As in the past 4 years, the Sat, June 21, event is expected to draw more than 30,000 motorcyclists & others to the city to pay homage at the Middle East Conflicts Wall Memorial to troops who have died in the past year -- & then stay on to party on Main Street. The permit was delayed while reports "outlaw motorcycle gangs" might be planning on attending were dealt with, according to Police Chief Jim Hovious. The council chamber seats were filled with an audience of 30 people. There was no reaction to the council's vote early in the meeting, & at the close of the meeting only the atty for the Freedom Run, Pete Naylor of Gurnee, commented to thank the council & express his satisfaction with the outcome. "We appreciate that you've done your due diligence," Naylor said. "I think you've handled it the right way. You've probably read in the papers about some other communities that handled it the wrong way. The wrong, we would say, would be to have these kind of meetings behind closed doors, not alert the event promoters there might be an issue until the last second & then yank the permit." A press release from Police Chief Jim Hovious was available. Ruffled feathers were further smoothed by prepared comments from Mayor Jim Trager. "Some people have the mistaken idea that a permit for the annual Freedom Run event is going to be automatically granted," Trager said. "That has never been the case in the past, & it will not be the case in the future." The special event permit ordinance was approved early last year. Before that the council granted special event permission on an as-needed basis. "Every year there are issues that have to be looked at. This year we had a few more things to consider than we usually do," Trager said. "After meeting with Chief Hovious & Lt. (Kenneth) Sangston & carefully considering all of the facts, it was determined that the city should issue the permit. "All of the commissioners were briefed either by me or Chief Hovious so that they could make an informed decisions regarding this issue." Hovious said safety for all is the city's main goal for the event. "During the planning stages of this year's event, the police Dept learned from some of the event sponsors there could be a substantial attendance of outlaw motorcycle gang members. "This information was confirmed by the Statewide Terrorism Information Center. In the recent past there has been violence between rival outlaw motorcycle gangs. Events in Illinois have been either canceled or changed venues as a result. "The Marseilles Police Dept is

working with various federal, state & local law enforcement agencies to provide assistance & support. Because the planning for this event depends on up-to-date information, the Marseilles police requested the permit be tabled at the last meeting to allow more time to investigate security issue. "Event security was the sole reason for tabling the application, financing was not a factor." Hovious said the police will work to ensure "the event is a safe & enjoyable experience that is dedicated to the support of the veterans & their families."

Police raid bikie clubhouse – June 5, 2008 - *Blacktown, Australia* - Police have located a firearm during a morning raid on an outlaw motorcycle gang clubhouse in Sydney's west following an investigation into licensing breaches. Operation Indianna, run by Blacktown Local Area Command, saw the gathering of intelligence into a clubhouse run by the Bandidos on Mort Street, Blacktown. It will be alleged alcohol was being sold illegally at the property which does not have a liquor licence. At 8am, police from Blacktown Local Area Command – including the Proactive Crime Team, General Duties, HP, Detectives, Crime Management Unit & Licensing – forced entry into the premises which were unoccupied at the time. They were assisted by the Public Order & Riot Squad, the Dog Unit, the Rescue & Bomb Disposal Unit, Police Airwing & the Gangs Squad. In a garage at the rear of the property police located a bar with hundreds of bottles of alcohol worth thousands of dollars, a semi-automatic pistol, ammunition, knuckle-dusters, cash, & a till. Police also discovered an illegal electricity reconnection which was allegedly being used to steal power. Operation Indianna falls under the scope of Operation Ranmore which was formed in May last year to crackdown on all criminal activities conducted by outlaw motorcycle gang members. There have been a total of 539 OMCG members & their associates arrested in that time with more than 1290 charges laid. The charges range from traffic matters to drug supply, as well as affray, & participation in criminal group. Blacktown Commander, Spt Gary Hutchen, said police would continue to target the activities of outlaw motorcycle gangs in the Blacktown area. "We'll do that through high visibility policing, licensing operations such as this one today & extensive investigations into any allegations of criminality," he said. "We want to send a strong message to these people that anti-social & criminal behavior will not be tolerated." The operation is ongoing.

Motorcycle Sales Rise With Gas Prices – June 5, 2008 – *Atlanta, Georgia* - Record gas prices are motivating some drivers to contemplate changes. Seeing more motorcycles on the road? "We're seeing a huge influx of new riders coming in," said Mike Moran of San Diego H-D. "It's been incredible."

There was a conference in France where a number of international engineers were taking part, including French & American. During a break, one of the French engineers came back into the room saying 'Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intended to do, bomb them?' A Boeing engineer stood up & replied quietly: 'Our carriers have 3 hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered & can supply emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,000 people three meals a day, they can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water each day, & they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in transporting victims & injured to & from their flight deck. We have eleven such ships; how many does France have?' You could have heard a pin drop.

The Phoney War on Bkie Gangs – June 5, 2008 – *Australia* - Robbie', an Adelaide-based member of the Finks MC, got a new tattoo to celebrate the South Australian Govt's war on bikies... so writes Adam Shand for the Monthly. He now has the word 'Finks' emblazoned across his throat in bold green type. It was an indescribably painful process, but Robbie, a 25-year veteran of the club, endured it for what the tattoo symbolizes. He is not going to hide away, nor submit to the labels anybody else might give him. He has a criminal record & has done time, but he refuses to be typecast as a criminal. He operates on a different plane altogether, willing to do some short jail terms in order to maintain a life of medieval-style knight errantry. If they send him back to prison, it will just give him more time to master the Navajo flute, which he has been learning to play. At the same time, Robbie's new tattoo sends a message to his club mates. Their membership is not something they can wear, like a suit or a piece of jewellery, then put away in the cupboard when it's inconvenient. It's not an image that can be used to intimidate weaker beings for personal gain. It's a commitment, one for which a member must be prepared to sacrifice his liberty, & possibly even his life. The strength of that commitment will soon be tested. The South Australian premier, Mike Rann, has just enacted what he calls the toughest anti-bikie laws in the world - which would suggest that the state is in the grip of some major bikie activity. Rann has said that his Serious & Organized Crime legislation was partly inspired by the commonwealth Govt's anti-terrorism laws, enacted after the London & Madrid bombings. In reality, it gives the police what they have always wanted: a lower burden of proof, making it easier to get convictions for offences already covered by existing laws. The new law provides that the state's atty-general, acting on advice from the police, can declare any group of people a criminal gang & then prohibit members from associating with each other, through the use of control orders. If the members meet or communicate six times in a year, they will face up to five years in jail. There will be no review or judicial appeal, nor can the clubs or individuals gain access to the intelligence on which the control order is based. In a legal first for an Australian state, the police will also be able to ban the wearing of insignia in public if it deems that community safety is compromised. This amounts to a legally enforceable dress code. And to enforce it, the police will only have to satisfy a "balance of probabilities", rather than prove their allegations beyond reasonable doubt. South Australia's atty-general, Michael Atkinson, has proudly described this as "a social experiment" & branded his state "a laboratory" for others to observe in their own struggles with bikies. Remarkably, the director of public prosecutions, Stephen Pallaras, QC, has told the Adelaide media that the new legislation doesn't go far enough. "Why do we tolerate [the clubs'] existence?" he said. The answer is that their existence is still legal, at least until 1 July, when the new law comes into force. The organizations' clubhouses are set up in accordance with council by-laws; their members are subject to the same legal framework as any other citizens. Over nearly 4 years of monitoring the media coverage of bikies, I have read on numerous occasions the phrase 'outlawed motorcycle gangs', as if the clubs were already proscribed. They are not. Premier Rann has said that the old laws were not sufficient. The bikies have been able to thwart police by hiring the best lawyers in town - hence the lowering of the evidentiary hurdles. This reinforces the popular belief that bikie gangs have become a new kind of organised crime, pursuing anarchic goals while cleverly working the legal political system to their advantage. In reality, there are no legal precedents in Australia to suggest that these clubs are set up for the purpose of criminal activity. Their hierarchies are not structured to facilitate crime, as they would be in dedicated drug syndicates. No club stipulates that members must have a criminal

record or commit an offence to join. It would be ridiculous to suggest there aren't criminals involved - there are accomplished villains in most chapters - but it's equally fatuous to maintain, as South Australian authorities have, that the motorcycle is a mere prop, a cover. Illegal activities tend to be decentralized, carried out in groups of two or three members & often with accomplices from outside the club. The uneven distribution of wealth among club members is ample evidence of that. At most, clubs provide a permeable membrane through which criminals can pass back & forth, enlisting hard men to resolve their business disputes. There are regular arrests & convictions of club members across Australia, for offences ranging from drugs & extortion to murder & assault, but I am yet to see any Australian club convicted or even accused of a criminal conspiracy. In Jan 2006, the Pres of the Club Deroes in Western Australia, Phillip William Rowles, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine. The overheated media reporting of Rowles' arrest implied that police were set to reveal the hidden world of Bikies Inc. Rowles was caught with 8 kilograms of tablets that tested positive to morphine & methamphetamine, some laboratory glassware & a thousand rounds of shotgun ammunition. I waited for the follow-up, the arrest of co-conspirators, the exposure of the inner workings of a club-wide plot, but I was disappointed. In Mar this year, Rowles was finally sentenced to just 7 & a half months in jail. A few of his associates were busted for owning bongos & possessing cannabis, but it was hardly a win for the ban-the-bikies lobby. One report suggested hopefully that police investigations "were continuing & more charges might be laid". We are still waiting. This is not to say that there aren't large numbers of bikies involved in the illegal-drug trade. Most clubs are experiencing tension between the haves & have-nots within their ranks. The ice epidemic is having the same social effect on bikie clubs as it is in the wider population. Heroin use has long been banned in clubs worldwide, & now members caught using or dealing ice are likely to be kicked out of the club & their motorcycles confiscated. In some extreme cases, they may also have their club tattoos forcibly removed, such is the hostility towards the powerful amphetamine. This reflects practicality, rather than temperance. Drug addicts in custody will tell police anything to escape the horrors of withdrawal. Bike clubs are one of the few institutions in which a code of silence still exists, & drugs like ice represent the biggest threat to that solidarity. They are dividing clubs internally, & creating conflict between clubs that had previously left each other alone. Some motorcycle clubs have been on recruiting drives in recent years, in order to defend themselves from attacks by other clubs. It's the new soldiers, though, who invariably start the wars. This was the lesson learnt from the case of the former Hells Angel Christopher Wayne Hudson, who pleaded guilty in May to murdering one & wounding two others in a busy Melbourne street in June 2007. Hudson had been a Gold Coast Fink, until he proved too hot to handle & defected to the Hells Angels. His former colleagues were happy to see him go. He might have been a useful tool for the Angels in their long-running feud with the Finks, but soon he was beyond their command, too. In March 2006, he sparked a wild gunfight at the Royal Pines Resort. Hudson was shot in the jaw but survived, much to the disappointment of the Finks - & some Angels. On the outer with the Gold Coast Hells Angels, he drifted to Melbourne, bingeing on drugs & booze all the way. Early one morning, a psychotic rage overwhelmed him & he bashed his girlfriend, 24-year-old Kaera Douglas, on a city street. When two bystanders came to her aid, Hudson opened fire with a handgun, wounding Douglas & a 25-year-old Dutch backpacker, Paul de Waard, & killing a 43-year-old solicitor, Brendan Keilar. While on the run, Hudson is believed to have visited local Hells Angels, who arranged for his

club tattoo to be removed, ending his association with the organisation. Hudson's actions in Melbourne were entirely self-motivated, yet his murderous rampage has strengthened calls for a national approach to bikie clubs. The Australian Crime Commission had already begun lobbying for this, gathering intelligence from state police to build a case for a national taskforce. A curious story appeared in the Age newspaper some months before the Melbourne shooting. The accompanying image was designed to chill the blood of all upstanding citizens. A parade of bikers snaked its way through the leafy streets of Melbourne's east. They rode 4 abreast, disobeying road rules, & you could almost smell them through the newsprint: the stink of sweat & axle grease. The caption warned that this was "One of Victoria's 17 bikie gangs [taking] to the streets". But it was nothing of the sort. There was not a single rider wearing club colours, nor any other club insignia. It is law in such bike clubs that public runs are conducted in full colours. Bikie runs in mufti are about as likely as diggers marching on Anzac Day in Hawaiian shirts. No one, in fact, could say who the motorcyclists were. Professor Arthur Veno, of Monash University & Australia's leading bikie expert, said they were probably just a Harley-owners group on a run through town, or perhaps it was a bike club's open day that included members of the public. The accompanying story raised yet more questions: 'Outlaw Gangs Make Killing' suggested the Australian Crime Commission had discovered that bikers were expanding from drug trading into legitimate industries. "[Bikie] involvement in outwardly legitimate business enterprises is potentially impacting adversely on a number of key market sectors in Australia, including finance, transport, private security, entertainment, natural resources & construction," the ACC had told the Age. This was serious. Bikies, it seemed, were taking over the world. I called the ACC to get the source material. The dossier was a page & a half. I called the ACC back & asked for clarification, for some examples of the evil conglomerate's activities. I emailed my questions; the ACC promised to respond. It did not. Finally, I contacted the ACC spokesman, who was not allowed to speak to me. He broke ranks & said that all at the ACC were too busy. Perhaps spreading fear is a full-time job. Victoria has 17 operating bikie clubs, but they cause remarkably little trouble. It's quite a stretch to say that club membership carries the certainty of criminal connection, any more than membership of the Melbourne Club makes one a tax cheat. In the US, the FBI has spent hundreds of millions of dollars over 30 years trying to prosecute bike clubs. In all but 2 or 3 cases, it has failed in this. And if the Hells Angels is the most potent organized-crime group in the US, then its iconic world leader, Ralph 'Sonny' Barger, has a question for his compadres in crime: "Why isn't someone giving me my share of the money? They say I am the boss!" When I spoke to him, Barger, who is in his late sixties & for almost half a century has been a Hells Angel, was standing in the backyard of a modest home in the desert outside Phoenix, Arizona, cleaning out his horse stalls. His list of assets was modest indeed for an alleged crime kingpin: a mortgaged house, a leased truck, two dogs, three horses & a five-year-old Harley Davidson motorcycle. For three decades, Barger was the president of the Oakland chapter of the Hells Angels. This group became the template for the spread of Angels chapters & bikie culture around the world. Then, in 1992, after serving time in prison, Barger decided the desert life was for him & left northern California behind. He became a member of the Cave Creek chapter, near Phoenix. When I met him, he looked remarkably fit, despite losing his larynx to cancer in the early 1980s & surviving two heart attacks in the '90s. Like many Californian exiles, he came to the south-west to find freedom, but the urban sprawl had reached his doorstep & he was planning to move further into the desert. Arizona is a major transit point for

America's methamphetamine trade. Seizures of the drug on the border with Mexico are doubling each year, & the Hells Angels are widely regarded as the prime suspects. So, in July 2003, to much public acclaim, law-enforcement agencies launched a massive offensive against the Angels in Arizona. Operation Black Biscuit was touted by the media as "the most successful undercover operation ever pulled on an outlaw motorcycle club." Three-dozen suspects were charged with gunrunning, freelance murder & narcotics violations. Five months later, 16 Angels & associates, including three chapter presidents, were charged with racketeering, conspiracy, murder & drug dealing. According to reports, the Gov't assembled 800 hours of bugged conversations, 92,000 phone calls & 8500 seized documents to prove that the Hells Angels was a criminal enterprise. Investigators confiscated computers & files allegedly containing drug ledgers, membership lists, meeting minutes & records of by-laws. Yet, despite all this evidence, Barger said, when police raided the Cave Creek chapter they had only a warrant for a computer: no members were to be arrested. "They seemed to think that because I was supposedly the boss, they would find all the records of our state-wide criminal activity in our computer," he said. The cops came expecting a war, swooping on the clubhouse before dawn. "They knocked down the back fence [with an armoured car]; they killed our dog; they broke through the back of the building; they shot out every window; they shot our prospect [a would-be member] three times when he answered the door ... all in just 14 seconds." The police claimed that the prospect had drawn a weapon & fired at them. But after the biker was charged with aggravated assault, forensic tests showed that his gun had not been fired. An Arizona judge described the Cave Creek raid as an attack, & deemed all evidence inadmissible in future proceedings. Barger called Operation Black Biscuit a publicity stunt that will have no effect on the speed trade. Not one of the Hells Angels charged with drug offences was arrested with more than one gram of the drug, & "that's personal use". Ultimately, all 16 Angels charged with racketeering were acquitted. While Barger conceded that Hells Angels have dealt drugs in the past, he insisted that the club is no drug cartel. He could recall Angels being busted for manufacturing amphetamines only twice in 50 years. America's Drug Intelligence Center concurs, & has suggested that Mexican gangs control the manufacture & distribution of speed in America's south-west. The bikers rate a mention only as a minor player further down the retail chain. "We do have criminals in our club," Barger told me. "I was a criminal in our club, but that does not mean the club is a criminal organisation. Is the Catholic priesthood a criminal organisation? In the last few years we have seen hundreds of cases of child molestation: does that make the priesthood a criminal organisation?" According to Barger, the FBI has created an industry for itself by pursuing & harassing the club. "If they got rid of me & the Hells Angels, if we were wiped off the face of the Earth, crime would not reduce by a tenth of 1%. Whatever club took our place - no matter who they they were, whatever their name - they would still be referred to as those guys who are acting like Hells Angels. People don't know us - they fear us. Everybody who knows us doesn't fear us. That is the big problem: fear of the unknown." He might be understating the aggression that motorcycle clubs harness & sometimes fail to contain. While on a visit to Adelaide last Oct, I became aware that young members of two bikie clubs were hunting each other. I was told to stay away from Currie Street, in the city's entertainment precinct. Just after 1.30 am on Sunday, 14 October, a 23-year-old man, an innocent bystander, was wounded in a drive-by shooting outside the Gemini Gaming Lounge, in Currie Street. Later I was told that the attack was not sanctioned by the leadership of the clubs involved. In fact, it was a public-relations disaster. In the

aftermath of the shooting, the leaders of both organisations worked to ensure there was no retaliation. Nothing in the Rann Gov'ts anti-crime package could have prevented this violence, or helped bring the perpetrators to justice. Nothing but tighter gun laws could have prevented it, or for that matter the shooting in Melbourne. A constructive relationship between clubs & police could even prevent some violence. I have witnessed the tireless efforts of some club elders to control & council members who would otherwise run amok. Dismantling clubs might simply unleash more Christopher Wayne Hudsons on society. In New South Wales, Operation Ranmore is achieving results without curtailing the right of association. The gang-squad chief, Detective Superintendent Scott Whyte, is targeting criminals in the clubs, not the clubs themselves. "They didn't believe it at first, but now it's sinking in. We are going after the criminals," he said. Nearly 200 club members or associates were arrested in the 1st 4 months of the operation, with 580 charges laid, most of them relating to drugs, weapons or assault. Using existing laws, Whyte's team is also pursuing cases in which assets may have been acquired through crime. Task Force Hydra, in Queensland, has also been attacking crime in bike clubs without lobbying for racketeering legislation. Cops involved in policing bikies in Queensland & NSW say repeatedly that banning clubs & proscribing association is a political act that only diverts resources away from genuine law-enforcement problems. The worst-case scenario would be a national banning of motorcycle clubs, driving the moderates into the hardliners' camp. Such action would only serve to tighten the bonds between club mates. It would provide further evidence of a conspiracy, a social contract that excludes their kind. And every misanthrope & murderer would be queuing up to join a club. The polite citizenry views bikies through the prism of police action & media reports, aside from the occasional noisy cavalcade when members ride through town on their club runs. This is a difficult time in which to stand aside from society's norms, to declare allegiance to a code at odds with mainstream thought & display symbols of alternative values. But that hasn't stopped Muslim-Australian women from wearing headscarves to protest against religious intolerance, & it hasn't stopped members of motorcycle gangs from wearing their colours proudly to proclaim their brotherhood. As a national crackdown on bikies looms, the righteousness of all club members is being assessed: some have gone to ground; some have surrendered their club patches. For the remainder, perhaps about 10%, the pressure is hardening their resolve to fight. It is a battle they will surely lose, but there will nevertheless be casualties on both sides.

Extra deputies will be on alert - June 7, 2008 – *California* - By Matthew Rodriguez; Union-Tribune - Several hundred members of the Mongols MC are expected to arrive this weekend at the La Jolla Indian Reservation Campground near Palomar Mountain for an annual chapter meeting. The Mongols are considered 1 of the most violent MCs in the country. One well-known incident occurred in April 2002 at a casino in Laughlin, Nev, where 2 Hells Angels & a Mongol were killed in a shootout. In Sept 2003, a Mongol member shot & killed a man after an argument outside a bar in El Cajon. The biker was sentenced to life in prison in 2005. The Sheriff's Dept will "have extra staff on alert & some on standby should it be necessary for them to respond," Undersheriff Bill Gore said. He said the Mongols have a right to hold their function. "As long as they obey the laws, they'll have no problem, & we'll have no problem," Gore said. Gore said the Dept didn't have an accurate count of how many members are expected at the campground, but it could be as many as 500. The meeting is expected to last through tomorrow. A person who answered the phone at the campground declined to comment.

Yesterday afternoon, several Mongols had been cited for misdemeanor vehicle code violations, said sheriff's Sgt. Jason Rothlein. Riverside County authorities arrested about a dozen Mongols yesterday on various charges & issued numerous citations in a stop on Interstate 15 near the Riverside-San Diego county border, said Temecula police Sgt. Ken Southern. Traffic was backed up in both directions along I-15 as a helicopter circled overhead & several motorcycles were towed from the southbound shoulder. Southern said 14 motorcycles & a few other vehicles were seized. The Mongols started in the 1970s in California.

Task force targets outlaw biker gang – June 7, 2008 – *California* - At least 15 suspected members of the Mongols motorcycle gang were arrested Friday as part of a crackdown on bikers traveling through the area for a nationwide gathering at the La Jolla Indian Reservation, authorities said. Sheriff's deputies & other law enforcement officers working as part of a 60-person task force stopped motorcycle riders on Interstate 15 & on side streets throughout the Temecula area on Friday for vehicle code violations, according to Temecula police Chief Jerry Williams. The largest such stop occurred about 1:45 p.m., when several officers attempted to pull over 14 bikers heading south on I-15 near the San Diego County border, Williams said. After they refused to pull over, they were arrested on suspicion of failing to yield & their bikes were impounded, he added. Traffic was backed up for miles on southbound I-15 Friday afternoon. Side streets near the freeway in Temecula were clogged as well, with cars trying to escape the freeway congestion & bypass the police action. Williams said San Diego County Sheriff's Dept officials informed Temecula officers on Wed that they had learned that members of the Mongols MC were planning a nationwide gathering at the La Jolla Indian Reservation campgrounds this weekend. The police chief said the event was expected to draw between 300 & 800 people & was believed to be open anyone in the Mongols, a motorcycle group with chapters in California, Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada & Mexico, according to the group's Web site. The group has been designated an outlaw motorcycle gang by the California atty general's office & is perhaps best known for a 2002 fight between Mongols & Hells Angels in Laughlin, Nev. On Thur, Williams said, Temecula officers assembled a 60-member task force composed of Riverside County sheriff's deputies & law enforcement officers from other agencies including the California Highway Patrol, Murrieta PD & the U.S. Border Patrol. "This task force of 60 people were out on the street patrolling with special instructions to keep an eye on the Mongols motorcycle gang for any violations whatsoever," Williams said. The stops slowed traffic on I-15 to a crawl in both directions for several hours Friday afternoon. In the incident near the county line, Williams said the motorcyclists refused to pull over until law enforcement officers weaved through traffic, slowing the cars that were in front of the bikers. Officers were then seen pointing weapons at the bikers & later inspecting their motorcycles on the side of the road. Around the same time, a 2nd group of bikers was stopped at gunpoint in the center divider of the freeway south of Rancho California Road. Williams said weapons were drawn because the officers were dealing with an "outlaw motorcycle gang." Those 2 stops created major traffic problems, according to California HP Officer Ron Thatcher. The agency put 5 additional cars & a helicopter on duty to stand by, he said. "All I know is that it screwed up the freeway pretty badly," Thatcher said. "They were stopping them left & right." Drivers also expressed their frustration with the traffic jam. Williams said Mongols also were stopped throughout the city & an unknown number of them were issued citations or given warnings for

violations such as having handlebars too high. Kyle Cosgrove, a cashier at a Shell station near Temecula Parkway, said the streets around the station were filled with officers & motorcyclists when he got to work at 11 a.m. Four police cars were still parked near the station facing the freeway about 4:30 p.m. Cosgrove said he saw about 50 motorcyclists during that time, most accompanied by several officers in three police cars. He saw just 1 arrest, he said, & one stop in which he saw the officers use weapons. In that case, 4 officers carried "assault rifles," 3 of which were down at the officers' sides & one of which was pointed at the motorcyclist. It was controlled, he said, but disconcerting nonetheless. "Everyone kept asking us what was going on," he said. "It was pretty weird, actually, in an alarming way." Williams estimated about 150 of the Mongols traveled through the area. Those arrested were taken to a command post in a cordoned-off section of the parking lot at the Community Recreation Center on Rancho Vista Road in Temecula, where scores of officers gathered around a motor home that served as a mobile operations center. By day's end, one of several large shade structures was covering three rows of folding chairs filled with handcuffed motorcyclists while officers sat at two folding tables processing those who had been arrested. The men were calm, many of them sitting slumped over to one side or the other, their feet chained & their hands cuffed behind their backs. One Temecula mother was surprised to see the police when she pulled into the parking lot to pick up her 10-year-old daughter at swim practice. "I was going to park there & then I saw the police," Sonja Clause said. "It's somewhat shocking." The task force will remain on the lookout for Mongols this weekend, but the police chief said he doubted there would be more stops on I-15. "Traffic was going to be an issue anyway," he said, making reference to this weekend's Temecula Valley Balloon & Wine Festival, "and we're going to do our best to keep from compounding that." Williams said it was necessary to create the task force & crack down on the Mongols because of their reputation for being dangerous, especially in groups. "We're not dealing with your Sun motorcycle group that gets together every weekend & rides," he said. "We're taking about an outlaw motorcycle gang. Problems are created when they get together."

Pagan's club seeks federal probe into death – June 8, 2008 – *Delaware* - The Pagan's MC of Delaware is asking the U.S. Dept of Justice to launch a civil rights investigation into the November 2006 killing of club member Derek Hale by a Wilmington police lieutenant. The request from a club the Justice Dept considers an "outlaw motorcycle gang" is indicative of the anger Hale's killing has caused, said Pagan's spokesman K.B. Jones. "We want justice," Jones said. "Derek Hale did two tours of duty in a combat zone for this country. We feel this country now owes him an independent investigation by federal authorities." Each year, the Criminal Section of the Justice Dept's Civil Rights Division receives thousands of complaints of civil rights abuse, including complaints of police misconduct. One of the section's most notable cases -- U.S. v. Koon, et al. -- resulted in 30-month prison sentences for two Los Angeles police officers, who in 1991 were videotaped beating Rodney King on a Los Angeles freeway. Hale, a 25-year-old decorated Marine, was sitting on the steps of the Wilmington home of another Pagan when police surrounded him & then stunned him with Taser guns. The family's lawyer said "excessive tasing allegedly had left Hale virtually paralyzed, unable to comply with the police officers' demands." A witness told investigators that Hale said "in a low raspy voice" that he was trying to comply with the officers' demands to remove his hands from his hooded sweat shirt pockets. Witnesses also said Hale did not appear to pose a threat & had just vomited & was shaking violently from the Taser blasts when then-Lt.

William Browne shot him in the chest with three .40-caliber rounds. Browne was later promoted to captain. Last year, investigations by Atty General Beau Biden, Wilmington police & the Wilmington Solicitor's Office cleared Browne of wrongdoing. Biden's office, after clearing Browne, was unable to confirm whether any line-of-duty shootings by police in Delaware had ever been found to be unjustified. According to News Journal archives, there have been nearly 40 shootings by police since 1998, all later ruled justified. Jones said Hale was killed because he was a Pagan. "I don't think they'd do that to just any citizen," he said. "We feel the whole thing was swept under the carpet by local authorities." The club's request for an investigation, which was delivered to a clerk in U.S. District Court in Wilmington, asks "that an investigation be entered into culminating with the indictment of defendant Lt. William Browne of the Wilmington Police Dept & whoever else is found culpable by this United States Dept of Justice." Jones said he plans to hand-deliver additional copies of the document to U.S. Atty for Delaware Colm Connolly & the FBI. "We're extremely aware that if this is allowed to stand, which one of us is going to be next?" Jones asked, saying he's heard from MCs across the country about the shooting. "All of them say what happened to us could happen to their club tomorrow," he said. Hale's killing came at the end of an 18-month Delaware State Police narcotics investigation that led to charges against 32 people -- including some Pagan members -- for drug & weapons offenses. Many of the charges were later reduced or dropped. According to Biden's report, state police Lt. Patrick Ogden told Browne prior to the killing that guns & drugs were recovered two days earlier during a search warrant at the home where Hale was killed, that Hale was a member of the motorcycle club & that "Mr. Hale had been known to carry firearms." Hale had a permit from Virginia to carry concealed weapons, but he had no arrest record at the time of his death. It is unclear whether Ogden gave Browne that information. After Hale was shot & killed, police recovered a knife & a can of pepper spray from Hale's pockets. "I sincerely hope that the U.S. Dept of Justice will look into this matter," said Drewry Fennell, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware. "It's always a good thing to have as many sets of professional eyes as possible review a tragedy like this." Jules Epstein, a professor at Widener School of Law, said a civil rights investigation "would be an examination of facts to see if someone's rights -- & in this case, the right to be free from unjustified violence -- under the Constitution was violated. "We have a right, when not doing anything wrong, not to be shot & killed, & I'm not saying this man did or didn't do anything wrong," Epstein said. "Wrongful death is an extreme case of an excessive force claim. There are rules for when police -- under the Constitution -- may use significant or even deadly force. It's a violation of civil rights if police are operating outside of those rules." FBI Special Agent R. Wolf, spokesman for the FBI's Baltimore Field Office that oversees the bureau's operations in Delaware, said in general, the FBI cannot investigate civil rights complaints without approval from Dept of Justice officials in Washington. "I would characterize them as extremely sensitive & emotional," he said of civil rights investigations of local police. Usually, Wolf said, the FBI waits until all legal issues have been adjudicated before launching a civil rights investigation. Family members of someone slain by police can request a civil rights investigation through the Justice Dept in Washington or at their local FBI office, Wolf said. Hale's widow & his parents initiated a wrongful-death lawsuit last year seeking compensatory & punitive damages, as well as written apologies & a mandatory injunction forcing the Wilmington PD & Delaware State Police to "properly train their officers in the use of Tasers & deadly force."

No trouble from biker gang, officials say – June 8, 2008 – *California* - By Darryn Bennett - Several hundred members of the Mongols MC arrived Saturday at the La Jolla Indian Reservation campground near Palomar Mountain for an annual chapter meeting, authorities said. Law enforcement agencies consider the Mongols to be one of the most violent motorcycle gangs in the country. The San Diego County Sheriff's Dept ramped up patrols of the area near the campground in an effort to prevent disturbances, authorities said. Sheriff's deputies have been strategically placed along a roughly 15-mile span of Highway 76 between Pala Road & the Highway 79 interchange, Lt. Bill Donahue said. As of mid-day Sat, no Mongol arrests had been made & no major problems had been reported, according to Donahue. "We're out there to preserve everybody's rights," he said. "And it's been really quiet." The La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians owns & manages the campground. A tribal member who answered the phone Saturday afternoon at the site said the Mongols have followed campground rules & have not disturbed other campers. "The only disturbance we have had is from the police," said the tribal member, who spoke to the North County Times on the condition of anonymity. "The county (Sheriff's Dept) exaggerated the threat, & now they're harassing our customers." Donahue said authorities were not harassing anyone & that their increased presence in the area this weekend was "a necessary precaution to deal with any potential problems." The Mongol's meeting is expected to last through Sun, officials said.

Brothel owner's appeal of license suspension fails – June 8, 2008 - *Nevada* - Convicted brothel owner David Burgess won't be getting his license back anytime soon, leaving his estranged wife, Ingrid, who has run the business, out of work. Burgess' license for the Old Bridge Ranch in northern Storey County, which Ingrid Burgess managed, was suspended May 9 after he was convicted in federal court in Wyoming for possessing & transporting child pornography. He has been incarcerated since his April 18 conviction, & is scheduled to be sentenced July 7 in Cheyenne, Wyo. He faces from five to 30 years in prison & up to a \$500,000 fine. Not long after the brothel license suspension, Sheriff Jim Miller suspended Burgess' liquor & escort licenses.

Bikie gang law in force today - June 8, 2008 – *Australia* - The first stage of the State Government's three-pronged legislative attack on outlaw bikie gangs & their associates comes into force today. Gang members involved in brawls or those threatening witnesses will be charged with new offences under the Public Order Offences Act, which carries penalties of up to 10 years' jail or fines of up to \$10,000. The new charges available to police are riot, affray & violent disorder. They have been designed specifically to target offenders who have previously escaped justice because of witness intimidation or situations in which witnesses – such as rival gang members – have refused to give evidence against the accused. Atty-General Michael Atkinson said yesterday the new legislation would set the scene for the pending Serious & Organised Crime Act & the Firearms Prohibition Act that would both be introduced soon. All 3 legislative measures are aimed at disrupting, dismantling & discouraging the activities of crime gangs in South Australia. "The Act equips police with the tools to further pursue members & associates of criminal gangs who engage in group violence – particularly those involved in outlaw motorcycle gangs," he said. "It's been difficult to secure convictions when bikies & their associates have engaged in violent brawls with rival gangs. Victims, including other gang members, have refused to co-operate with police. "The only option has been to charge these criminals with minor offences such as disorderly conduct, which

carries a maximum penalty of just three months' jail." Under the new Act, a person is guilty of riot if they are part of a group of 12 or more who use or threaten violence for a common purpose of causing a reasonable person fear. The maximum penalty is seven years' jail or 10 years for an aggravated offence. Any person who uses or threatens violence towards another that would cause them fear is guilty of affray. An offender faces up to three years' jail & five years for an aggravated offence. A violent disorder charge can be used when three or more people use or threaten violence & cause a person fear. The maximum penalty is a \$10,000 fine or two years' jail. Both the Serious & Organised Crime Bill & the Firearms Prohibition Bill have passed through both houses of Parliament, but have not yet been assented to by the Governor, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce. The Firearms Prohibition Bill passed the Upper House on Thursday night, paving the way for police to shortly issue prohibition orders against bikie gang members. Those subject to a prohibition order will face a 15-year jail term if they are caught breaching it. Under the Act police will have the power to stop & search any person subject to an order on sight. Their home & vehicle can also be searched.

Christian bikers ride for charity – June 8, 2008 – *Ohio* - By Brian Slodysko - Chaplain Les Ames doesn't look like he would be raising money for charity; he looks like an extra from The Road Warrior. But raising money for charity he does. Covered with tattoos, wearing denim & leather, topped-off with a Guns N' Roses-style tophat, Ames & 51 other Christian Bikers rode for charity Saturday, raising money to send low-income children to summer camp. "I can't, myself, right the wrongs of the past. It's impossible for me to do," Ames said. "But what I can do is reach out & help somebody when I get a chance." The 2nd annual ride was staged by the Salvation Army & Lancaster-based Knights of His Majesty Christian Bikers Association, with participants from around the state. This past year, the event raised enough money to send five Fairfield County children to a Christian summer camp sponsored by the Salvation Army, said Mandy Miller, one of the event's organizers. In total, Miller said the Lancaster Salvation Army sent 33 children from the county to camp in 2007.

A young guy from Texas moves to New York & goes to a big 'everything under one roof' Dept store looking for a job. The Manager says, 'Do you have any sales experience?' The kid says 'Yeah. I was a salesman back in Texas' Well, the boss liked the kid & gave him the job. 'You start tomorrow. I'll come down after we close & see how you did.' His first day on the job was rough, but he got through it. After the store was locked up, the boss came down. 'How many customers bought something from you today? The kid says 'one'. The boss says 'Just one? Our sales people average 20 to 30 customers a day. How much was the sale for?' The kid says '\$101,237.65'. The boss says '\$101,237.65? What the heck did you sell?' The kid says, 'First, I sold him a small fish hook. Then I sold him a medium fishhook. Then I sold him a larger fishhook. Then I sold him a new fishing rod. Then I asked him where he was going fishing & he said down the coast, so I told him he was going to need a boat, so we went down to the boat Dept & I sold him a Twin engine Chris Craft. Then he said he didn't think his Honda Civic would pull it, so I took him down to the automotive Dept & sold him that 4x4 Expedition.' The boss said, 'A guy came in here to buy a fish hook & you sold him a Boat & a Truck?' The kid said 'No, the guy came in here to buy Tampons for his wife, & I said, 'Dude, your weekend's shot, you should go fishing.

What's the best thing about turning 65?
No more calls from insurance salesmen.

From Road Scholars WebSite – June 6, 2008 - Sitting around late tonight, I just wanted to say to all Riders, that if you don't have a Pen Pal, BBB, or whatever you choose to call your locked down friend, get one. What you can write in less than an hour a week, or a month, can really make a difference in the daily life of someone who stood up for their Brothers, Friends, or Families. Spring has sprung, summer is upon us, & it is easy to let time slip away. A lot of us send out Christmas wishes/cards, etc, & easily forget that these men are there 24/7/365. I recommend writing someone, regularly, the old fashioned way: Pen & paper & a stamp. Whether your initial intent is for them or yourself, the result seldom varies.....you both will benefit spiritually. It's like riding.... "If I have to explain, you wouldn't understand." Come on, you are man enough to get on a motorcycle & brave the freeways of America, sometimes helmetless! Write a downed Brother, you may find out that you may have more in common than you think. Some things don't come with & cannot be bought at the local dealership, this is one of the easiest to earn, the only thing required is a little time & a lot of consistency. Respectfully, Possum SYLB AZ "Free Panhead Fred-Breed MC" Support Your Local Bandidos

"Mongrel Mob" boss signals change – June 9, 2008 – *New Zealand* - Chapter president Shaun Newton-Te Kahu said he felt compelled to speak out after newspaper reports about a senior member of the gang, Phillip Tuahine Edwards, 36, being sentenced last month on two charges of sexual connection with young persons aged between 12 & 16, relating to the then 12-year-old & her 13-year-old friend. Edwards was no longer a member of the gang & had been stripped of his patch because the gang did not condone crimes against children, Newton-Te Kahu said. Edwards had never been president of the chapter, he said. "We don't condone that ... we're bad & all that but when it comes to kids - that's a different ball game. "He (Edwards) has been kicked right out (of the gang). We don't condone high-ranking bros going away for that sort of crap." A police armed offenders squad raid on the Mongrel Mob headquarters in Severn St, Invercargill, last week had also caused a rethink on the gang's direction, he said. Two patched members were charged with possessing cannabis after the raids on 2 separate properties. The searches came after city pharmacies reported gang associates trying to buy pseudoephedrine-based products, a key precursor substance used in the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine or P. Newton-Te Kahu, who acknowledges a history of violent offending, said he wanted the gang to work on a better future for its families & young people & to move away from the gang's violent past. "When you're starving & you've got no other means (of getting money) & you hear about a P dealer then I'm going to go & rob him & take his P," he said. However, employment would provide "legit" options for gang members to feed their families. "We have got to survive somehow ... "I don't want my soldiers & their families & kids starving at home because they can't get a job. "It's time to change direction & the image. Not give up the patches ... but hang up our violent ways," Newton-Te Kahu said. He wanted gang members' children to see their fathers go to work. "I want that for our kids & my brother's kids." Mr Newton-Te Kahu had nothing against the police or the armed offenders squad after the raids. "They are just trying to reach out to us in a different way but I don't like to be reached (in that way)," he said. Invercargill police Senior Sergeant Richard McPhail said he had doubts about the gang wanting to change its ways. "However, if they wanted to do so that would be good for Invercargill. "I don't believe the gang will change but, if individuals wish to, a good start would be to leave the gang," he said.

Two Bandidos members get life for murder of Hells Angels member – June 10, 2008 – *Germany* - A German court sentenced 2 members of the Bandidos MC to life in prison Tues for the murder of a member of the rival Hells Angels MC. The court, sitting in the northern city of Muenster, found the men, aged 36 & 48, guilty of the cold-blooded shooting of the 47- year-old motorcycle dealer from the town of Ibbenbueren in May last year. Some 400 members of the Hells Angels & 50 of the Bandidos were present in Muenster for the final day of the trial. A strong police presence kept the two groups apart. Last month, the Interior Ministry in the southern state of Bavaria warned the Hells Angels were extending their sphere of influence into southern Germany. The motorcycle group, which has been linked to organized crime in many countries, has long been established in northern Europe. The Hells Angels have in the past been linked to dealing in illegal drugs & arms & to prostitution, protection rackets & money-laundering. The ministry said southern Germany was of increasing interest to the gang because of drug routes running through south-eastern Europe & the Balkans. In Dec, Dutch prosecutors failed in their efforts to have the Hells Angels declared a criminal association after an Amsterdam court ruled that confidential conversations between members & their lawyers had been bugged illegally.

Biker appeals drug conviction – June 10, 2008 – *Canada* - By Mike McIntyre - A high-ranking Manitoba biker claims he's been wrongfully convicted of his role in a major drug operation and deserves to have a new trial. Ian Grant, a full-patch member of the Hells Angels, is also arguing his 15-year prison sentence is too severe and should be reduced if he loses his conviction appeal. The Manitoba Court of Appeal is hearing two days worth of arguments, expected to conclude this afternoon. Grant's sentence included a \$118,000 fine and forfeiture of an additional \$63,000 cash, making it one of the stiffest ever given for drug crimes in Manitoba. He was one of 13 people arrested in February 2006 as part of Project Defence, in which career criminal Franco Atanasovic was paid \$525,000 to infiltrate the Hells Angels.

American Solutions Delivers 350,000 Petition Signatures to Senators McCain, Obama, and Reid – June 10, 2008 – *USA* - American Solutions for Winning the Future today delivered 350,000 petition signatures, gathered from all 50 states, to the U.S. Senate urging them to take immediate action to lower gas prices by drilling for oil domestically. The petition is part of the "Drill Here, Drill Now, Pay Less" campaign American Solutions launched two weeks ago.

Hey Brother – June 10, 2008 - White Bear 13 rolled his car yesterday evening. As far as last night or should I say this morning when I left. The most prominent injury is he has a broken left arm requiring surgery. He's in a lot of pain & should be in the hospital for several days. I'll let you know about his progress. SOS Bronson was holding down the fort at his house last night while his o'lady was at the hospital. Damn good Brother right there. L&R, Pagan Hose-A

A foursome of senior golfers hit the course with waning enthusiasm for the sport. "These hills are getting steeper as the years go by," one complained. "These fairways seem to be getting longer too," said one of the others. "The sand traps seem to be bigger than I remember them too," said the third senior. After hearing enough from his Senior buddies, the oldest, & the wisest of the 4 of them at 87 years old, piped up & said... "Quit your dang complaining & just be thankful we're still on the Right Side of the grass!"