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Free All Brothers Behind Bars...

Editor: Mike Davis SFFS...

The Edge... there is no honest way to explain it because the only people who really know where it is; are the ones who have gone over.

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In Memory of **Pagan Big Ed** from *Delaware Chapter*, may he R.I.P...

In Memory of **Pagan Apex** from *Delaware Valley Chapter*, may he R.I.P...

In Memory of **Warlock Booger, National Enforcer** who died in a work related accident (High Tension Power Lines) may he R.I.P...

A Big Thank you goes to the *Alabama Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs* for becoming the newest sponsor of this newsletter.

They have sent a check for \$ 600.00 for One Year sponsorship at \$ 50.00 a month... Please drop them a note of appreciation when you can at: Alabama Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs 82 Pine Ct Millbrook, AL 36054 Thank You!!!

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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 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 May there were 3 newsletters, June there were 4 newsletters & so far for July there are 2 issues...

Alleged killer sons – July 3, 2008 – *Australia*- By Greg Stolz - Millionaire Gold Coast businessman Ken Lacey has handed over close to \$1 million to bikies to protect his alleged killer sons in jail, police sources claim. Lacey has apparently paid the huge sum to jailed members of the Finks & Bandidos bkie gangs to protect sons Jade & Dionne, who are awaiting trial on charges including murder. Lacey yesterday scoffed at the claim, describing it as "a load of rubbish". "My boys can look after themselves," the heavily-tattooed businessman said. "Who told you that rubbish? They must be an imbecile. They need to get a life." But a Gold Coast police source said Jade, 24, & Dionne, 20, were being protected inside Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, where they have been held since their arrest 14 months ago. "The Lacey boys are young, slightly built & vulnerable. Their high profiles make them prime targets for attack inside jail," he said. Highly paid lawyers have made several failed bail applications for the Lacey brothers, the latest in May - when Melbourne silk Robert Richter, QC, acting for the Laceys, told a Supreme Court bail hearing that the murder case against Jade was "doomed to fail". Lacey, who made his fortune in the Melbourne milk distribution business, has been selling off his Gold Coast property portfolio as his sons await trial. He & his wife

Madeleine sold their beachfront mansion on the Gold Coast's "Millionaire's Row", Hedges Ave at Mermaid Beach, for \$17 million earlier this year. They have also placed on the market a \$6 million Broadbeach penthouse & a Mermaid Beach apartment, which they bought only in February for \$9.75 million. The Laceys are estimated to have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on a legal team that includes Sydney barrister Bret Walker, SC, Richter, prominent Brisbane solicitor Andrew Boe & Gold Coast celebrity lawyer Chris Nyst. Jade & Dionne Lacey have been committed to stand trial for murdering & unlawfully wounding Nerang landscaper Kevin Palmer last May. Palmer was allegedly shot by both Jade & Dionne during a confrontation in in a Nerang townhouse. They will also stand trial for the attempted murder of teenager Owen Matthews, who was allegedly forced at gunpoint to dig his own grave on South Stradbroke Island. Earlier this year, it was revealed that Ken & Madeleine Lacey had set off a drug-detection scanner on several occasions while visiting their sons at Arthur Gorrie. Prison sources said the scanners - that search for traces of cocaine & other drugs by sniffing the air around a person - are highly sensitive & can detect whether a person has had direct or indirect contact with illicit drugs.

Modesto Police Plot Gang War as Riders Unify Against

Repression – July 3, 2008 – *California* - By James Anderson - Tonight, motorcycle bike clubs, riders, & supporters in the Modesto & greater Central Valley area made a historic show of solidarity against police harassment towards local bike club, Most Envied, of West Side Modesto. Things have been brewing for some time between police & the motorcycle club, but according to members of Most Envied problems stem from continued harassment, intimidation, terror, violence, raids, threats, & what many bikers believe, an attempt by the police to create an all out 'gang war' between Most Envied & other local bike crews. But, the united show of support today from local clubs shows that the bikers of the Central Valley aren't going to take this repression lying down. At around 5:30 pm today, 100 or more bikers gathered outside of Modesto City Hall as they prepared to go before the City Council to demand that the police end the harassment against Most Envied. The scene was inspiring, given the fact that the large turnout was organized in only a day or so. While taking the crowd in, I noticed the different motorcycle groups in attendance who represented their local crew with different back patches & logos. After the crowd of mixed ages, races, & sexes slapped hands & hugs, traded stories & excited looks; the group marched into City Hall. Once inside, several speakers took the floor representing Most Envied & demanded that the Modesto PD end their war of repression & profiling. One speaker, John Mataka, detailed a list of complaints of continued harassment by the police against members of Most Envied. These included police raids, helicopter fly bys over members homes, attempts to get club members fired from their places of employment, harassment of club members on various holiday outings, intimidating family of club members, & constant harassment of those within the group. Several other speakers spoke as well against the claim of police that Most Envied is a criminal street gang organization. Speakers before the Council stated over & over that they are not a "gang, but a motorcycle club, formed for the joy of riding. The most interesting claim against the police by far however, was the charge that members of other motorcycle crews throughout the area have been continuously questioned & harassed by police in regards to Most Envied. Members of the group went on to state before the Council that police officers have even encouraged members of other local motorcycle crews to "rip off Most Envied patches," thus leading to a 'gang war' between members of Most Envied & other crews. Despite this attempt by the local PD, I'm happy to report that the police have failed miserably in this endeavor. In fact, due to the show of solidarity from the local bike crews towards one of their own, I'd say the opposite is true: the bikers are united. As Police Chief Roy Wasden, (who is also an officer with the California Police Chiefs Association & who served as head cop during the police murders of Alberto Sepulveda & Sammy Galvan, among others), looked on, more members of Most Envied took the mike before the City Council. Several stated that those involved in the biker group are hard working people who own their own businesses & have also helped raise money for community projects such as the community pool at Cesar Chavez Park in West Side Modesto. When the last speaker was finished, the bikers & their supporters got up & left the room, taking the majority of the folks outside with them. Once the large crowd had left the meeting & as police looked on nervously, one member of another motorcycle club yelled, "They want us to go to war [with Most Envied,] but it's not going to happen!" People then cheered & clapped. The large crowd then moved slowly outside back to their bikes & to the street. Several well armed police officers followed closely behind, many with full SWAT style armor & an array of gadgets. But while these officers were keen to watch the crowd, they also

turned away when people attempted to take pictures of them using cameras. As the bikers moved back to the parking lot where their bikes were, police quickly switched into repression overdrive. Officers quickly appeared on a roof across the street & began taking pictures, police cars suddenly were parked on every corner around the bikers, & an unmarked undercover car across the street quietly video taped the motorists as they packed up, said their good-byes, & drove off. In such a budget crises as the one we are now in, where teachers are laid off, libraries are forced to close early, & poor people's meager benefits are cut - it's always nice to see your tax dollars at work. As the large crowd got on their bikes & drove off, police followed some & continued to swarm the area. Members of Most Envied were the last to leave; as they bravely decided to make sure that their friends would get home safely without being harassed or pulled over by the police. As members of Most Envied got on their bikes, I headed to my car to follow them to make sure that no problems with the police would go down. As I approached Modesto Junior College, I began to see a series of flashing lights & pulled over bikers, & after making sure that the first group was okay, I continued to follow members of Most Envied. As I turned left off of College Ave., I suddenly saw a member of Most Envied slammed stomach first into an unmarked police car, with an officer right behind him. I then pulled into a parking space & began to watch as two members of Most Envied were taken from their bikes, had their tattoos & bodies photographed, & held by police for close to an hour. Modesto Police Officers were also joined by Stanislaus County Sheriffs, as well as several other law enforcement officers armed with various weapons & armor. About 10 police officers & about 5 police cars were used in the arrest of one man who was charged with "assault with a deadly weapon," & the lengthy detention of another. Police & Sheriffs also took time out while during all of this to photograph people who stopped to watch what was going on & support those being arrested. When asked why the police were taking photos of people on the sidewalk, one officer simply did not respond & walked away, while another simply said, "You're on the sidewalk, we can take pictures of you." The daily reality for poor & working people in the Central Valley is one of a police state - when agents of the Gov't continuously expand their power into more & more people's lives at the expense of our freedom & safety. The scene outside of Modesto Junior College could have been anywhere - China, South Africa, Mexico; it showed the naked raw power of a police force determined to crush the voices of anyone that dared stand up against them. It was clear to everyone there that the police were well prepared for this action & were determined to remind any biker that dared to stand up against the police that real power in this society lies in the Gov't & its violence & not in the people - at least for now. As 1 member of Most Envied said to me after the incident was over, "This is what it's like for us every day." This is unacceptable, the bikers must not stand alone - their struggle must be our struggle! At this time, it is still believed that a member of the Most Envied MC is still being held on charges of assault with a deadly weapon at the Stanislaus County Jail. We urge all friends of freedom, community, & justice to call the jail & demand that he be released now! We also urge all concerned people to contact the Modesto Chief of Police, Roy Wasden, & demand that the Modesto PD end their ongoing assault on the members of Most Envied & all motorcycle riders in the area. Free all members of Most Envied! Stop the repression of Valley Bikers!

A lady came up to me on the street & pointed at my leather jacket. 'You know a cow was murdered for that jacket?' she sneered. I replied in a psychotic tone, 'I didn't know there were any witnesses. Now I'll have to kill you too.'

Christian bikers visit Camp Owen – July 3, 2008 – California -

By Jamie Dorkin - 'You can ride a Harley without being in a gang,' according to Camp Erwin Owen Volunteer Coordinator, Sharon Stenerson. This past Sat, June 28, marked the 2nd annual biker visitation event at the camp. Last year, 41 Harley's representing 6 MCs graced the pavement of the Kern River Valley with a mission to reach out to the boys at this county probation facility. This year's numbers have more than doubled as 7 MCs / ministries came to give a message of hope. The day began when the bikers rallied at Kernville Elementary School to get organized for their grand entrance. Representatives of Black Sheep, Christian Motorcycle Association, Hardcore, Prodigal, Sabbath Keepers, Set Free & *Soldiers for Jesus MC* attended. At approximately 10:00 a.m., all that could be heard at the camp were the revving engines of 73 motorcycles, with riders donned in traditional leather apparel. Magnificently in sync, each motorcycle made its way to a designated space in the Camp Owen parking lot as is typical for this event. 'The boys will be able to walk through the bikes. They will be able to ask any questions. They will start the bikes up for them, they will talk to them about anything,' Stenerson said. Intimidation has been a word associated with motorcycle clubs & their riders. The volunteers represented at this event were conscious to give no such impression. 'We want to be a part of the lives of these kids to help give them direction & purpose' said Youth For Christ Director Jim Lewis. Youth For Christ is responsible for organizing the event. The primary goal of each of these groups is to offer encouragement to the boys by giving personal testimonies of wrongs made right. 'That these kids can see changed lives & that they would know that they're lives can be changed,' said Mike Tamargo, Juvenile Justice Ministries Coordinator. Motorcycles weren't the only attraction on this sunny summer day. The air was filled with the aroma of a barbeque served by the Growling Dog BBQ volunteers of the Olive Drive Church in Bakersfield. The food served to the crowd was made possible due to donations from the biker groups. Also joining in on the fun was the Under Grace Community Fellowship Band 'Wheat' who entertained the crowd with their up-beat rock music. The giving didn't end there. Each of the boys was given a ball-cap commemorating the special day. One hundred volunteers contributed to Saturday's success. It is evident that this day could not have happened without the support of the community locally & at large. This event is a prime example of men & women of all backgrounds working together to bring a positive influence into the lives of young people. Camp Owen Director, Marc Bridgford & Assistant Director, Thad Kennedy are both very supportive of events such as these. Community participation for events that benefit the residents at Camp Owen is welcomed. 'As many people as would like to volunteer, I'm certainly happy to have them,' Stenerson said.

Motorcyclists with a mission – July 3, 2008 - New Hampshire -

By Rebecca Correa- John Fitzgerald, 54, began riding motorcycles more than 30 years ago, but it wasn't until he saw the Leathernecks patch that he learned about a motorcycle group he wanted to join. The patch includes the Marine Corps battle streamers & is worn by regular members of the Leathernecks motorcycle club. The Leathernecks is an internat'l organization for active duty & former Marines. There are more than 25 active chapters, including one in Great Britain. The group doesn't require dues, although it is a nonprofit organization that strives to raise money. It's not a veterans club either, although veterans are welcome. And the group is not about showing off, although members do like to ride for fun, Fitzgerald said. "There are plenty of riding groups & motorcycle clubs that ride for the fun of it, which is very important," Fitzgerald said. "But this group stood

for something. It was more. They were real." Group members meet monthly, but also fundraise & make their presence known several times a month. On the Fourth of July, they will be part of a remembrance ceremony at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen. And they're constantly fundraising for state veterans programs & funding projects related to prisoners of war. Most recently, the members have tried to help those who share a bond with them, but might be less fortunate: members of the Marine Corps returning to New Hampshire from war zones, most recently from Iraq & Afghanistan. "A lot of these people are coming back & they're not all coming back right," Fitzgerald said. "We want to do what we can for them." Today, Fitzgerald is the Pres of the New Hampshire chapter, which is undergoing changes. The New Hampshire chapter started in 2001, but disbanded for a short period. Three years ago, it started up again and, more recently, Fitzgerald became the club's president. There are about 20 active members, including former Marines from Hampstead & Derry. Members range in age from young Marines who just returned from combat to Vietnam veterans. He said the group is looking to expand, to find more members to share in their monthly motorcycle rides, & who will help them fundraise. The group is cautious in the projects it backs & the members it accepts. There's a probationary period, usually of about three months, where they get to know the new member before they earn their patch. "We're looking for somebody to fall into what we do, not just to wear the patch on the vest," Fitzgerald said. "It's not to look cool, it's believing what we stand for." FYI – Leathernecks allow women & cops in the club...

Property Seized for Hells Angels Assault Investigation – July 3, 2008 – California -

Two Hells Angels clubhouses & the home of 1 member were raided in 3 Bay Area cities today. Search warrants were executed around 5 a.m. in San Francisco, Healdsburg & Santa Rosa in connection with felony assaults in Petaluma in February & March, Petaluma police Capt. David Sears said. The raids at the Hells Angel clubhouses occurred in San Francisco at Tennessee & 23rd streets & in Santa Rosa at 516 Frazier Ave., Sears said. The third warrant was served at 1426 Oakleaf Ave. in Healdsburg, the home of one of the assault suspects. One man was arrested in San Francisco on an unrelated outstanding warrant for possession of a controlled substance, Sears said. No one was injured in the raids. Petaluma police asked the FBI for assistance in executing the search warrants but the FBI is not involved in the investigation, an FBI spokesman said. After hours of searching the locations, evidence was recovered that supported the investigation, Sears said. He added that investigators are now beginning the lengthy process of sorting through the property that was taken. The search warrants were required, Sears said, because people with information about the assaults were not cooperating, either because they were associates of the Hells Angels or because they were scared of retaliation. "We'll see how it pans out," he said.

A husband had just finished reading a new book entitled, '*You Can Be The Man of Your House.*' He stormed to his wife in the kitchen & announced, 'From now on, you need to know that I am the man of this house & my word is Law. You will prepare me a gourmet meal tonight, & when I'm finished eating my meal, you will serve me a sumptuous dessert. After dinner, you are going to go upstairs with me & we will have the kind of sex that I want. Afterwards, you are going to draw me a bath so I can relax. You will wash my back & towel me dry & bring me my robe. Then, you will massage my feet & hands. Then tomorrow, guess who's going to dress me & comb my hair?' The wife replied, 'The town's funeral director would be my first guess.'

Police raid Hells Angels, seek evidence - July 3, 2008 – *California* - By Mary Callahan; The Press Democrat - The Santa Rosa clubhouse of the Sonoma County Hells Angels on Wed following a law enforcement raid on the building. The Santa Rosa clubhouse of the Hells Angels was raided early Wednesday by a SWAT team using an armored vehicle, as part of raids that also hit the Healdsburg home of a suspected gang member & the club's San Francisco headquarters. Investigators sought evidence to document club membership & criminal connections involving Jonathan Joseph Nelson of Healdsburg & Mark Anthony Guardado of San Francisco, both suspects in beatings last spring in Petaluma. "We're looking for supporting evidence about who these people are," Petaluma Police Capt. Dave Sears said. The 2 men have been charged in connection with an altercation in Feb outside McNear's Saloon & Dining House in Petaluma. A man was jumped & badly beaten, even after he lost consciousness, Sears said. The 2 also were charged in a March beating that injured a man outside Henny Penny's restaurant on the north end of Petaluma Boulevard, Sears said. Nelson & Guardado have pleaded not guilty in both cases, according to court records. The felony charges include allegations the two men acted in participation with a criminal street gang -- allegations that could add prison time if they are convicted. Investigators also sought information bolstering assertions that both men hold or held high-ranking positions in the organization. A Sonoma County sheriff's department attorney identified Nelson as vice president of the Sonoma County chapter & Guardado as president of the San Francisco chapter during court testimony in May. Their attys have argued there is no evidence linking them to gang activity. Hells Angels members say they are wrongly linked to criminal conduct, arguing they are a social motorcycle club & not a gang. Defense attorney Martin Woods, who represents Nelson in the case, on Wednesday cited a Fed court of appeals decision ruling it lawful to associate with the Hells Angels. "Within Sonoma County itself there have been different opinions from different experts on the issue of whether the Hells Angels qualifies as a criminal street gang," Woods said. "It has been my belief that it does not, & that this case we're presently dealing with is where the prosecution is attempting to set some sort of precedent on the issue." Both defendants have filed \$5 million claims against Sonoma County for excluding them from the courtroom because they were wearing shirts with Hells Angels insignia. Superior Court Judge Ken Gness had prohibited the clothing on the grounds that the symbols are meant to intimidate & threaten. Nelson's Healdsburg home on Oak Leaf Avenue was one of the three locations searched simultaneously beginning at about 5 a.m. Wed. Investigators did not say if he was home at the time. Petaluma police served the search warrant there, while Santa Rosa SWAT members raided the Santa Rosa clubhouse on Frazier Avenue. Two FBI tactical teams conducted the search in San Francisco, where Guardado was arrested on an unrelated charge of alleged drug possession, Sears said. No arrests were made in Sonoma County, Sears said. At the Santa Rosa clubhouse off Petaluma Hill Road, the black steel door with the club decal had been battered, apparently in authorities' attempts to get in. They ultimately entered through another door.

Judge Rejects Bush's View on Wiretaps – July 3, 2008 – *Washington, DC* – By Eric Lichtblau - A Fed judge in California said Wed that the wiretapping law established by Congress was the "exclusive" means for the Pres to eavesdrop on Americans, & he rejected the Gov't's claim that the president's constitutional authority as commander in chief trumped that law. The judge, Vaughn Walker, the chief judge for the Northern District of CA, made his findings in a ruling on a lawsuit brought by an Oregon

charity. The group says it has evidence of an illegal wiretap used against it by the N.S.A. under the secret surveillance program established by Pres Bush after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The Justice Dept has tried for more than 2 years to kill the lawsuit, saying any surveillance of the charity or other entities was a "state secret" & citing the Pres's constitutional power as commander in chief to order wiretaps without a warrant from a court under the agency's program. But Judge Walker, who was appointed to the bench by former Pres George Bush, rejected those central claims in his 56-page ruling. He said the rules for surveillance were clearly established by Congress in 1978 under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which requires the Gov't to get a warrant from a secret court. "Congress appears clearly to have intended to - & did - establish the exclusive means for foreign intelligence activities to be conducted," the judge wrote. "Whatever power the executive may otherwise have had in this regard, FISA limits the power of the executive branch to conduct such activities & it limits the executive branch's authority to assert the state secrets privilege in response to challenges to the legality of its foreign intelligence surveillance activities." Judge Walker's voice carries extra weight because all the lawsuits involving telephone companies that took part in the N.S.A. program have been consolidated & are being heard in his court. Jon Eisenberg, a lawyer for Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation, the plaintiff in the case, said the legal issues Judge Walker's ruling raised were significant. "He's saying FISA makes the rules & the president is bound by those rules," Eisenberg said. A Justice Dept official said the department was reviewing the opinion late Wed & would consider its options. Officials at Al-Haramain say they were mistakenly given a Gov't document revealing the N.S.A. operation. The FBI demanded the document back, & Judge Walker's ruling made it more difficult for Al-Haramain to use what it claims to have seen. But he refused to throw out the lawsuit, giving the charity's lawyers 30 days to restructure their claim. "We still have our foot in the door," Eisenberg said. "The clock is a minute to midnight, but we've been there before & survived." The ruling comes as the Senate is overhauling the foreign intelligence law. The measure would reaffirm FISA as the exclusive means for the president to order wiretaps through court warrants, but it would also provide legal immunity to phone companies involved in the eavesdropping program. A vote could come Tue. The immunity issue would not directly affect this lawsuit because Al-Haramain is suing the Gov't, not the phone companies. But the nearly 40 other lawsuits against phone companies that Walker is overseeing would almost certainly have to be dismissed if immunity is signed into law, legal analysts say.

Criminals turn into blade runners – July 3, 2008 – *Australia* – By Rob Malinauskas - Knives continue to be a criminal's weapon of choice despite attempts by the Gov't to outlaw & reduce their influence. Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows a knife was the most common type of weapon used in committing murder, attempted murder & robberies in Australia last year. A weapon was used in 65% of attempted murders, 61% of murders & 43% of robberies. Yesterday, a senior member of the Gypsy Jokers bikie gang was arrested during a property raid in the northern suburbs. Police raided the Blair Athol house on Wednesday & allegedly found weapons & drugs inside. Two men, 48 – one of whom is a senior member of the Gypsy Jokers – were charged with firearms & weapons offences. Weapons including four firearms, four throwing knives, an ASP baton & defensive spray were seized, along with a small amount of unknown drugs. Australia-wide, a knife was used in 100 (41%) attempted murders & 81 murders (32%) last year. A knife was also used in 3632 robberies (20%).

4th of July; History lesson: Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? 5 signers were captured by the British as traitors, & tortured before they died. 12 had their homes ransacked & burned. 2 lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had 2 sons captured. 9 of the 56 fought & died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed & they pledged their lives, their fortunes, & their sacred honor. What kind of men were they? 24 were lawyers & jurists. 11 were merchants, 9 were farmers & large plantation owners, men of means, well educated, But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter & trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home & properties to pay his debts, & died in rags. Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, & his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, & poverty was his reward. Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, & Middleton. At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, & Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, & she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields & his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests & caves, returning home to find his wife dead & his children vanished. Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday & silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid. Remember: freedom is never free!

A tip of the Hat - July 04, 2008 – *California* - By Jessica Ablamsky - George Villegas, a member of the local chapter of the motorcycle club the Top Hatters, always wanted to ride. "I can even remember the date I bought my first Harley Davidson," Villegas said. "It was June 17, 1979. I remember driving off the showroom floor. I grabbed a handful of throttle & man, it just took off." He has been hooked ever since. A conversation with Villegas yields a closer look at the inner workings of the Top Hatters. A large, powerfully built man with a long black ponytail, Villegas looks like a biker. At 52, he has been riding for nearly 30 years. "It's almost like therapy to me," Villegas said. "When I'm out on the road & I'm rumbling down the highway, & I'm surrounded by the best friends I have on earth, or in this world, & we're moving as one, it's just a feeling you have to experience to understand." Biking is his release, Villegas said. "I mean, rumbling down the freeway & we're passing vehicles & nobody gets in our way, it's like, freedom," Villegas said. "Problems - work, bills, issues - everything goes away, & you're just on the road & feeling free. Almost like a modern-day cowboy." It becomes a lifestyle, Villegas said. "Other people, they like golf," Villegas said. "For us motorcycle enthusiasts, it's just biking it." Villegas is divorced with a 27-year-old son & 24-year-old daughter. "Both my son & my daughter made me a grandfather," Villegas said. "I really enjoy grandfatherhood." Before she settled down, his daughter used to attend motorcycle events with him. "She has her own leather vest & boots & chaps & everything, but she's a young mother, & besides she lives out of state," Villegas said. "My son, he rides on occasion too." His son rides Villegas' old bike, a 1983 Harley-Davidson Super Glide.

"What you usually see me on these days is my 2002 Road King," Villegas said. It is a Harley, of course. The Top Hatters are a brotherhood, Villegas said. "It's like we're all made out of the same mold," Villegas said. "The camaraderie that exists amongst all my club brothers. This is just the enjoyment of being with an organization that you truly love in your heart." The club is also about pride, Villegas said. "As the Top Hatters, we display who we are by the colors we wear, the patches on our back," Villegas said. "We wear those colors with a lot of pride." It is a men-only club, Villegas said. "We're not trying to be chauvinistic or something," Villegas said. "It's just, there's women's clubs, & we can't join them. Then there are other clubs that are co-ed, that allow males & females to be in the club." There are six positions in the Top Hatters hierarchy, president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, sergeant at arms & road captain, Villegas said. The sergeant at arms is in charge of club decor & can hand out disciplinary actions, Villegas said. The road captain is responsible for navigation & is heavily involved in organizing events, Villegas said. On rides, the road captain usually rides next to the president, Villegas said. Villegas was one of the founding members of the revived chapter of the Top Hatters. "Originally, the Top Hatters here in Hollister formed in the late '40s, maybe the early '50s." They formed for similar reasons as the current group, Villegas said. "There was just a group of independent riders from this area that would band together & go on runs or events," Villegas said. "From what I understand, back in the late '40s, that era, they used to go to dances a lot. I believe after the '47 event, they decided to form a motorcycle club." The name Top Hatters came from those dances. "We have two honorary members that wear our colors, Jess Bravo & Joe Bravo," Villegas said. When they went to dances in the '40s, Jess Bravo wore a top hat. "And that's where the name originated from," Villegas said. The group disbanded in the mid 1950s, Villegas said. Some member of the current generation of Top Hatters rode together for years. "Back in the late '70s, all through the '80s, we were a group of independent riders," Villegas said. "We were known as the Hollister crew, the Hollister dudes, the Hollister crowd." In the early 1990s, they started talking about forming a motorcycle club. "At the time, there wasn't any," Villegas said. Everybody had a different idea about what to call it. "Finally, somebody's light went off in their head," Villegas said. Reviving the Top Hatters appealed to everyone, Villegas said. "We gathered as many Top Hatters as we could, of the original ones," Villegas said. "These are gentlemen in, maybe, their late 70s, early 80s." They found 17 original members, Villegas said. "There we asked them about what they felt about us [reviving] their name," Villegas said. "Their faces lit up & they started telling old stories, how it was back in the day." That was in Nov 1995. "But, since then, this club has grown," Villegas said. Today, there are Top Hatter chapters in the Central Valley, Imperial Valley, the Sierra Nevada & South Santa Clara Valley. "And, of course, we have the Hollister chapter, which we refer to as the mother chapter," Villegas said. They do not like to tell people exactly how many Top Hatters there are, Villegas said. There are around 20 members in the Hollister Chapter, Villegas said. In all chapters, there are more than 100 members. There is a protocol to starting a new chapter, Villegas said. "You basically need to start off with all your officers' positions," Villegas said. In the Hollister chapter, a prospective member must go through a hang around period, Villegas said. They perform tasks, such as organizing events, Villegas said. "We wouldn't ask them to do anything that we wouldn't do ourselves," Villegas said. "In our club, to become a full patch member you need 100% of the membership in any standing general meeting to be voted in." The time to become a new member varies, Villegas said. "It depends

on the individual & how much he puts forth of himself," Villegas said. Top Hatters have rules they live by. "There's a couple of, what do you call them, creeds," Villegas said. "Something that's important to the Top Hatters." Getting along with the other motorcycle clubs, independent riders, & the community in general is very important to the Top Hatters. Having a good rapport with the community was just as important to the members when they were known only as the Hollister bikers, Villegas said. Another value is something that a lot of the members' parents instilled to them when they were young, Villegas said. "What we like to say is, 'There is no greater deed than when he who is great & strong stoops down & help he who is weak or in need,'" Villegas said. "That's something that just exists among us. We don't really talk about it." That is why the Top Hatters organize & participate in charitable events, such as their annual canned food drive & the scholarship program for local high school seniors, Villegas said. "There's three groups that we like to target in this community - youth, the elderly, & the disabled," Villegas said. "We don't do it for the notoriety. I feel like, it's good for the soul, when you can extend yourself." Every year they provide two \$500 scholarships for seniors at San Benito High School, Villegas said. "We used to be able to provide a scholarship for Anzar, San Benito High School & San Andreas," Villegas said. "That was always our goal, to provide scholarship money for all the high schools in San Benito County." To raise money, they held an annual poker run, which is like poker on a motorcycle. "You pay your entry fee & have an opportunity to win a high hand or a low hand," Villegas said. "You have designated stops where you draw a card." The concept is not unique to motorcycles, Villegas said. "Other groups do it too, bicycle clubs & car clubs," Villegas said "In the past, we've had law enforcement close down our 4th of July event. That's taken away our ability to provide scholarships for San Andreas & Anzar." The Top Hatters will be ready for the Hollister Motorcycle Rally. They have a Top Hatters merchandise booth at Fifth & San Benito Streets & are organizing a poker run, Villegas said. "It's more of a working weekend for us," Villegas said. "It'll help us build up our funds." Villegas is looking forward to the Hollister Motorcycle Rally. "I look forward to it every year," Villegas said. "I think the motorcycle rally is a good, positive event for Hollister." Although the Top Hatters have big hearts, they are not just a bunch of do-gooders, Villegas said. "A lot of us are still that type that will enjoy a nice cold refreshment on a hot summer day," Villegas said. "The things that we do, we enjoy doing them on two wheels." Villegas hopes his club will continue into the next generation. "I like to think it will," Villegas said. "I'd like to see the Top Hatters exist forever, to continue long after I'm gone."

Thompson not guilty – July 4, 2008 - *California* - By Victor A. Patton - The 43-year-old Thompson, who was accused of killing 12-year-old Jodi Ragsdale & 15-year-old Sheila Carter, placed his hands over his face & wept on Thursday as a court clerk read the verdict in his second trial: Not guilty on two counts of first-degree murder. Less than an hour later, he walked out the side exit of the Merced County Jail, his home for the past two years, & into the embrace of his wife, Angie. Seated in the passenger seat of a black SUV, Thompson said he hopes the real killer will be brought to justice. Thompson, who was facing life in prison, expressed outrage at investigators & the Merced County District Attorney's Office for accusing him of the killings. "It's a shame they tried to do what they did," he said. The verdict in the reputed Hells Angel's emotionally charged 2nd trial may be the final chapter in a 21-year-old homicide case -- although the mystery surrounding the deaths of two young girls will never disappear.

Ex-biker finds new life through love, Christ – July 4, 2008 – *Alabama* - By Robyn Bradley Litchfield - Jack Genre knew his life was hanging by a thread even before his outlaw biker buddies left him for dead after a drug deal gone bad. Sitting alone in his truck less than 3 years ago, Genre realized he was out of control. He looked up & screamed at the ceiling, "I can't live like this!" Not long after that, the drug deal went down. Genre's buddies, his fellow members of a biker gang in Denver, beat him senseless. They punched him. They stomped on him. His girlfriend, Brenda "Redd" Davis, saw it all. She'll never forget the boot prints on his face. Genre, now 49, lost consciousness. One of his lungs collapsed. He turned black & blue from head to toe. When Genre woke up 11 days later, a nurse asked if she could bring him anything. "I asked her for a Bible -- I don't know why," he said. The reason doesn't really matter. The beaten biker gang member, with gentle blue-gray eyes & a warm smile, began to read the Holy Book. About the same time, Genre reconnected with a friend who had been saved. The two had lost touch when Genre couldn't accept his friend's newfound faith. "Dude, things are that bad?" Genre remembers asking when his friend shared about his new life. It took coming within an inch of his life for Genre to see he couldn't go on the way he was. The Bible & his friend helped him find the Lord. The biker, no longer an outlaw, is now a believer. Today, Genre lives & works at Canaan Land Ministries in Autaugaville, a yearlong Bible program for wayward men. And this afternoon, he will marry Davis, the love of his life. "He may have a menacing look, but he has a gentle heart," Davis said of her husband-to-be -- with shaved head, goatee & tattoos everywhere. "He used to hurt people. Now, he just wants to love people." Davis, too, has taken Jesus Christ into her life. Her faith has helped her turn from everything in her past, including a heroin habit. "I didn't care who I hurt, what I did, what I took from people," she said. "It was all about me." Davis & Genre believe the beating served a purpose: It allowed God to use something for good that Satan had meant for evil. "He (God) took a broken man with a broken spirit," Davis said, "and created a new Jack." Genre came to Alabama at the invitation of Canaan Land founder Mac Gober, himself a former outlaw biker gang member. When the men met a year ago, Gober noticed a hostile Genre. "He would lose his temper in a heartbeat & go into a rage," he said. Gober & others at Canaan Land prayed with & for Genre, led him through Scripture & loved him. The anger went away. "And today, I see a man completely changed from the inside out," he said. "I see a miracle that he is another man today." Gober & his wife, Sandra Gober, couldn't be happier that Genre & Davis are tying the knot at their annual Fourth of July celebration at their Autaugaville home. Davis came to Alabama only a couple of months ago, but already the Gobers are like family. So are all the others at Canaan Land, who blessed the couple with all they need -- wedding dress & rings included. After a trip back to Denver to see family & friends, the couple will return to Autaugaville, which they now consider home. Genre will stay on at Canaan Land & help establish a trade school for the ministry, & Davis expects she will find a niche as well. "I've always had worldly goods & wealth, but I haven't felt more secure in my life -- & I haven't had an income in a year," Genre said. "God says he will take care of us, & he will."



Pin-striped bikie steps out of his comfort zone – July 4, 2008 - *Australia* - It was an odd place to see the former public face of the Coffin Cheaters, dressed in mandatory black T-shirt with his bikie gang's colours & formalised only by an out-of-character pin-striped coat. The plush surrounds of the parliamentary committee offices, opposite WA Parliament House, could not have been further from his usual haunts of a seedy nightclub, a well-known strip joint or even the open road. But joined by a bevy of bearded bikies & hordes of hangers-on, their hair slicked back & faces masked by oversized designer glasses, Edward Horace Withnell fronted up to half a dozen straight-dressed Fed politicians who were ready to fire off the questions. "I appear as an individual with 35 years experience in the outlaw motorcycle community," Withnell began before the Fed committee investigating new laws to outlaw organised crime. For a man obviously out of his comfort zone, Withnell didn't attempt to restrain his personality, vocal range or unquestioned passion for his club. His animated body language intensified as he named incidents where he felt the Coffin Cheaters & other bikie gangs had been victims of "convenient bigotry" at the hands of corrupt police & naive media. "This history of using the media to publish lies disguised as police intelligence proves only one thing - immoral journalists have been in bed with dishonest police officers for far too long, whispering sweet nothings into each other's ears, conspiring to pull their grubby underpants of lies soaked & soiled in deceit & embroidered with their self-interest over the eyes of some of the most prestigious committees in this country," he said. Withnell likened bikies to "gooks, niggers & terrorists", saying that "once you dehumanise them you can justify policies abhorrent except in a state of war". He said there were 3 simple criteria which made a budding Coffin Cheater member welcome - own your own bike, be strong in character & stand up as a fierce individual. Withnell argued that, statistically, there were more crimes committed in the police force, politics & the priesthood than bikie gangs & that any Coffin Cheater who used their club to engage in criminal activity would be expelled. "We actually pride ourselves on not knowing what our brothers or others are doing so as not to be contaminated by another individual's actions," he said. "Bikers might commit violence but not for the lies propagated by police & the media who try to fit that violence into their frame to suit their own agenda. And that agenda - crime is big business, not crime prevention but the exploitation of crime for vested interests, which include the police & the media."

Bikie Eddie Withnell likens Cheaters to Weld Club – July 4, 2008 – *Australia* - By Nicole Cox - Retired Coffin Cheater bikie Eddie Withnell today vehemently denied that the outlaw motorcycle gang had links to organised crime. He even described the outlaw Coffin Cheaters as a "men only" club similar to the prestigious Weld Club - frequented by Perth's lawyers, judges & business leaders. But Withnell claimed the bikie group had been "convicted by their own code of silence". His comments came as Withnell gave evidence at a hearing of the Fed Parliament's joint committee on the Australian Crime Commission. During the 45-minute appearance, Withnell used parliamentary privilege to launch a scathing attack on police & governments, claiming they "sit back & wait for the frame to fit" by targeting bikies instead of other criminals. "Our Attorney Generals are becoming to drug dealers as a pimp is to a prostitute," Mr Withnell told the inquiry. "They have been corrupted & contaminated by the lust for drug money, sitting back letting the police have unfettered reign while kids everywhere are getting addicted." "Why solve the crimes & wipe out all this when it creates such big business?" "This history of using the media to publish lies disguised as police intelligence proves only one thing - journalists have been in bed

with police officers for far too long, whispering sweet nothings in each other's ears..." Witnell described the Coffin Cheaters outlaw motorcycle gang as a men-only group, similar to the private gentlemen's club The Weld Club. He said new members sought out clubs, instead of clubs seeking them - but they were not recruited unless they were "men of principle" or "individuals with strong characters". "Outlaw bikies refusing to speak to the media & refusing to give evidence against the police in a court of law, we have been convicted by our own code of silence," he said. "Having stereotyped us, secure in the knowledge we will not rebut their lies, a convenient bigotry has been generated with all bikers, outlaw & otherwise." Witnell, a member of the outlaw motorcycle community for 35 years, said he had been granted permission by the Coffin Cheaters to speak at the inquiry. Prominent Perth lawyer Mark Trowell QC & Corruption & Crime Commission chief Len Roberts-Smith were the only other witnesses to give evidence at the 1-day Perth hearing of the committee's inquiry into "legislative arrangements to outlaw serious & organised crime groups". Witnell cited 1996 & 1998 National Crime Authority reports that said outlaw bikie gangs were not organized crime outfits. "The reports clearly state that outlaw motorcycle groups may contain opportunists who take advantage of criminal activity. But so too do members of the police force, political parties, the priesthood & many other organizations," he said. Outside the inquiry, Withnell said bikie gangs had been unfairly targeted as having organized crime links. "I believe that we have become scapegoats by refusing to speak to the media," he said. "If someone tells a lie about you & you don't answer that lie there is a tendency that creates currency & I believe that we must address this issue in the future so that the truth is told so people don't build empires, get desk allowances & actually create crime so as to get a free ride off our backs. "People have made mileage out of the fact that we have refused to speak to the media in the past...I believe the media has a vested interest in creating that fear (of bikies in the community) because it does sell stories."

Anti-Gang Bill – July 5, 2008 – *Florida* - Gov. Charlie Crist traveled to West Palm Beach Monday to sign a new bill into law in hopes of stemming the state's growing gang problem. The legislation includes tougher penalties, additional tools for police & prosecutors & creative new ways to disrupt the ability of gang members to wreak havoc on neighborhoods, Atty General Bill McCollum said. "This comprehensive new law creates a statewide framework for addressing the gang violence that is destroying too many Florida neighborhoods," McCollum said. "We can now look forward to driving gangs out of our state & ultimately out of existence." The anti-gang law contains provisions that target gang kingpins by making it a first-degree felony punishable by life imprisonment for directing criminal gang-related activity. The law strengthens witness protection laws by using the underlying criminal act as the starting benchmark for tampering & harassment penalties. In addition, the law makes it a first-degree felony punishable by life imprisonment for a gang member who is also a convicted felon to be in possession of a firearm. "Gang violence has taken too many lives, destroyed too many families, & taken too great a toll on the economy of our great state," Sen. Jeff Atwater said Monday. "Our law enforcement & community partners will now have the tools they need to help address this complex problem." Rep. William Snyder, of Stuart, & Senate President-Elect Jeff Atwater, of Palm Beach Gardens, sponsored the bill. The anti-gang legislation will take effect Oct 1, 2008.

Owner of Broken Rifle, Surrenders for 30 Month Sentence – July 5, 2008 – *Wisconsin* - A Wisconsin man today surrendered to federal authorities to begin serving a 30-month prison term for having a broken rifle, prompting the Gun Owners of America to issue a warning about the owner's liability should any semi-automatic weapon ever misfire. "A gun that malfunctions is not a machine gun," Larry Pratt, executive director of GOA, said. "What the [ATF] has done in the [David] Olofson case has set a precedent that could make any of the millions of Americans that own semi-automatic firearms suddenly the owner [of] an unregistered machine gun at the moment the gun malfunctions." Officials with Gun Owners of America told WND they met with Olofson today before he surrendered to federal authorities for his prison term. U.S. District Judge Charles Clevert had imposed the sentence after the gun in question let loose three shots at a firing range. "It didn't matter the rifle in question had not been intentionally modified for select fire, or that it did not have an M16 bolt carrier ... that it did not show any signs of machining or drilling, or that that model had even been recalled a few years back," said a commentary in Guns Magazine on the case against Olofson, of Berlin, Wis. "It didn't matter the government had repeatedly failed to replicate automatic fire until they replaced the ammunition with a softer primer type. It didn't even matter that the prosecution admitted it was not important to prove the gun would do it again if the test were conducted today," the magazine said. "What mattered was the government's position that none of the above was relevant because '[T]here's no indication it makes any difference under the statute. If you pull the trigger once & it fires more than one round, no matter what the cause it's a machine gun.' "No matter what the cause." "David Olofson is a victim of BATFE abuse," Pratt said. "He has been railroaded by an agency that is out-of-control." An appeal is being assembled by a legal team at the William J. Olson, P.C., law firm, supplemented by attorney Bob Sanders, whose career stretches from being assistant director of criminal investigations at BATFE to many years in private trial law, officials said. Constitutional expert Herb Titus also is counsel to the Olson law firm. WND reported earlier when Olofson, a drill instructor in the National Guard, was convicted in a federal court for illegally transferring a machine gun. The verdict came in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. An expert witness said then the decision was filled with problems. "If your semiautomatic rifle breaks or malfunctions you are now subject to prosecution. That is now a sad fact," wrote Len Savage, a weaponry expert who runs Historic Arms LLC. "To those in the sporting culture who have derided 'black guns' & so-called 'assault weapons'; Your double barreled shotgun is now next up to be seized & you could possibly be prosecuted if the ATF can get it to 'fire more than once,'" he wrote in a blog run by Red's Trading Post. "Hey, but don't worry," Savage said. "The people testing it have no procedures in writing & the testing will be in secret." He said during an interview with Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership that Olofson had been instructing a man in the use of guns, & the student asked to borrow a rifle for some shooting practice. "Mr. Olofson was nice enough to accommodate him," Savage said. So the student, Robert Kiernicki, went to a range & fired about 120 rounds. "He went to put in another magazine & the rifle shot 3 times, then jammed." He said the rifle, which was subject to a manufacturer's recall because of mechanical problems at one point, malfunctioned because of the way it was made. Savage said once the Gov't confiscated the gun, things got worse. "They examined & test fired the rifle; then declared it to be 'just a rifle,'" Savage said. "You would think it would all be resolved at this point, this was merely the beginning." He said the Special Agent in Charge, Jody Keeku, asked for a re-test & specified that

the tests use "soft primed commercial ammunition." "FTB has no standardized testing procedures, in fact it has no written procedures at all for testing firearms," Savage said. "They had no standard to stick to, & gleefully tried again. The results this time... 'a machinegun.' ATF with a self-admitted 50% error rate pursued an indictment & Olofson was charged with 'Unlawful transfer of a machinegun.' Not possession, not even Robert Kiernicki was charged with possession (who actually possessed the rifle), though the ATF paid Kiernicki 'an undisclosed amount of money' to testify against Olofson at trial," Savage said.

Gangs appear to have 'backed off' – July 5, 2008 - *New Zealand* - By Jared Morgan - Tension between rival gangs in Invercargill had come too little in the past fortnight, police said. A high police presence remains on the streets of Invercargill but there is no sign of tension between the Mongrel Mob & the Road Knights since a spat between the organizations boiled over last month. Det Senior Sergeant B Cowie said police were monitoring the situation but the gangs appeared to have gone to ground. No motive for what sparked hostilities had been made clear to police despite talking with both sides. An alleged assault had been put forward as a possible catalyst, but that had not been confirmed, he said. "We have no specific details about who, or where, or what." Police intended to keep a high profile in the city & the armed offenders squad remained on permanent patrol to deter any potential clashes between the Road Knights & the Mongrel Mob despite little incident in the past fortnight, he said. He agreed both sides appeared to have backed off. Hostilities between the gangs sparked after the Road Knights' Balmoral Dr headquarters was destroyed by fire last month. Two motorbikes belonging to the gang were allegedly stolen by senior Mongrel Mob members & later torched. A Severn St property in front of the Mongrel Mob headquarters was burned 2 days after the initial fire in what police dubbed as a possible "revenge attack". However, the only link with the Invercargill gang was the location of the house. Investigations into the fires were continuing, Cowie said.

There was a ragged, old, retired Submarine Chief who shuffled into a waterfront bar. Stinking of whisky & cigarettes, his hands shook as he took the 'Piano Player Wanted' sign from the window & handed it to the bartender. I'd like to apply for the job,' he said. The barkeep wasn't too sure about this doubtful looking old squid, but it had been quite a while since he had a piano player & business was falling off. So, the barkeep decided to give him a try. The old Chief staggered his way over to the piano while several patrons snickered. By the time he was into his third bar of music, every voice was silenced. What followed was a rhapsody of sound & music, unlike anyone had heard in the bar before. When he finished there wasn't a dry eye in the place. The bartender took the old Chief a beer & asked him the name of the song he had just played. It's called 'Drop your Skivvies, Baby, We're Gonna Rock Tonight' said the Old Chief after he took a long pull from the beer. The bartender & the crowd winced, but the piano player went on with a knee-slapping, hand-clapping bit of ragtime that had the place jumping. After he finished the Chief acknowledged the applause & told the crowd the song was called, 'Big Boobs Make My Anchor Chain Run Out.' He then excused himself as he lurched to the head. When he came out the bartender went over to him & said, 'look Chief, the job is yours, but do you know your fly is open & your pecker is hanging out?' 'Know it?' the old Chief replied, 'Hell, I wrote it!'

Arguments: A woman has the last word in any argument. Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

Animosity between cops damages Hell's Angels investigation – July 5, 2008 – Canada – By Chad Skelton & Allison Cross - Animosity between the RCMP & the Organized Crime Agency of B.C. resulted in the failure of a multi-million-dollar investigation into the Hells Angels, a former lead investigator with the OCABC has alleged in a wrongful dismissal suit. The investigation, known as Project Phoenix, targeted several high-profile members of the Hells Angels biker gang, with agents working for the police buying & selling large quantities of drugs. The investigation was completed & reports were sent to Crown counsel for charges. However, no charges were ever laid, something Allen Dalstrom - the officer who led the investigation & is now suing for wrongful dismissal - blames on infighting between the RCMP & the OCABC. Dalstrom was fired in 2004 after concerns were raised about his handling of Phoenix & over comments he allegedly made to a journalist writing a book about the Angels. However, in a statement of claim filed in B.C. Supreme Court, Dalstrom argued there were no grounds to fire him & that Phoenix was derailed because of RCMP jealousy over the creation of the OCABC in 1999. "Certain members of the senior management of the RCMP in British Columbia were opposed to the creation of the OCABC from its inception because the OCABC was given the mandate to carry out investigations that had previously been within the mandate of the RCMP," Dalstrom alleged in his statement of claim. "The RCMP in British Columbia sought to persuade the province to disband the OCABC & return the mandate for investigating organized crime to the RCMP." Dalstrom alleged that the RCMP attacked his handling of Phoenix "as a means of discrediting the management of the OCABC generally." According to Dalstrom, a number of outside reviews of Project Phoenix concluded that the case had been handled properly. Documents filed by Dalstrom quote a 2003 independent review of Phoenix which states: "The multi-million-dollar Phoenix investigation could have been prosecuted, but the prosecution was derailed because of inter-agency jealousies." The court records do not state who the criminal targets of Phoenix were. However, The Vancouver Sun has learned the investigation targeted members of the Hells Angels biker gang. In his statement of claim, Dalstrom argued that lawyers with the Department of Justice ultimately decided not to prosecute those targeted by Phoenix because it would have meant the "persistent inter-agency dispute between the RCMP & the OCABC" would become public. "In the opinion of the Vancouver office of the Department of Justice, such an examination would have a negative effect on public order & morale, & on public confidence in the administration of justice," Dalstrom stated. In 2004, the same year Dalstrom was dismissed, OCABC was folded into the new Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, an integrated team of RCMP & municipal police officers. Dalstrom's lawsuit names the province of B.C.; David Douglas, the former chief officer of OCABC who fired him; & Kevin Begg, head of the provincial Gov't's police services division, as defendants. In his statement of defence, Douglas, a former RCMP officer, denied that Dalstrom was fired without cause, arguing that his "overall performance . . . was not meeting acceptable standards" & that he mismanaged major investigations. A report on Dalstrom's job performance prepared by Douglas & filed in court, indicated that Douglas had several concerns with how Dalstrom managed Project Phoenix. Those concerns included that investigators with the project did not adequately handle exhibits, such as properly marking purchased drugs as evidence. "During the investigation, drugs that had been purchased from one target were then, at a later date, trafficked to another target," Douglas' report stated. "Both cocaine & marijuana were trafficked in this manner." Similarly, Douglas's report alleged, proceeds from the sale of drugs were

also not marked as exhibits, instead forming part of the "cash pool" used by investigators to make future purchases. Douglas's report agreed with Dalstrom that Phoenix's failure was a major blow. "Project Phoenix was an expensive, long-term project by OCABC which had the opportunity to lay [charges alleging] substantial, substantive offences against a number of very high-profile targets," he wrote. However, Douglas's report argued that it was Dalstrom's mismanagement of the case that led to the decision by Crown not to prosecute the offences. Douglas' report also stated that he was concerned about a comment in reporter Julian Sher's book about the Angels, *The Road To Hell*, in which an "OCA insider" said that, when it came to organized-crime investigations, the RCMP had done "f--- all here for 25 years". According to Douglas's report, Dalstrom at first denied making the statement, but later said he couldn't recall & that "there's a possibility I made [it] because that's the way I may have felt about the situation." In his statement of claim, Dalstrom denied making the comment to Sher but added that, even if he had, it was not grounds for dismissal as it was "fair comment" & did not reveal any confidential police information. On June 17, Insp. Andy Richards, a former investigator with OCABC who is now with the CFSEU, filed an affidavit in support of Dalstrom's lawsuit. Richards, who was Dalstrom's immediate supervisor, said it was his job to prepare regular performance appraisals on Dalstrom. "Just before Christmas of 2003 Chief Officer Douglas asked me to change two performance appraisals for Mr. Dalstrom," Richards states. He said Douglas wanted him to change his generally positive appraisals of Douglas' work to ones that cited Dalstrom's work on Phoenix as unsatisfactory. "This was untrue," states Richards. "I refused to go along. I told Chief Officer Douglas that that would be unethical & unfair. He just shrugged & walked away." In a phone interview Friday, David Butcher, Douglas's lawyer, denied Richards' allegation that Douglas asked Richards to change Dalstrom's performance appraisal. Butcher said he had no further comment on the case. Richards added in his affidavit that he strongly disagreed with the decision to fire Dalstrom. "It appeared that Dalstrom was being fired simply because David Douglas & the RCMP wanted him out of the OCABC," Richards stated. "To my mind, this was simply politics." According to an affidavit filed by Dalstrom, he was told a week before Christmas 2003 that he had been relieved of his duties & to go home. "I was not told why I was sent home, who had made the decision, or why," Dalstrom wrote. "I was merely told that there was no work to assign to me." On Feb. 5, Dalstrom received a letter telling him he was being put on administrative leave because there was no work to do. "I was devastated," Dalstrom wrote. "It appeared to me that I was losing not just my job, but the career I loved." On July 19, 2004, Dalstrom received a letter from Douglas telling him he was terminated. On April 11, 2006, he filed his wrongful dismissal suit. At the time Douglas fired Dalstrom, he didn't provide any reasons to Dalstrom for his dismissal. As part of the legal case, Douglas has since argued Dalstrom's firing due to his mismanagement of Phoenix & for speaking to Sher. A key legal issue in Dalstrom's case is whether he was entitled to the same legal protections as regular municipal police officers. Under the Police Act, a municipal officer cannot be fired except for specific types of misconduct spelled out in the Act. Dalstrom joined the OCABC in 2000 after resigning his position with the Vancouver police. According to Dalstrom, he believed that working with OCABC carried the same job security as the VPD. RCMP spokeswoman Const. Annie Lintea said she was unfamiliar with the Dalstrom case & could not comment on his allegations about the RCMP. Neither Dalstrom nor his lawyer, Kevin Woodall, could be reached for comment Friday.

Biker associate guilty – July 5, 2008 – *Canada* - By Peter Small - An admitted Hells Angels associate has pleaded guilty to drug trafficking after 375 litres of the date rape drug GHB were seized from his Toronto garage, believed one of the largest such seizures in Canada. Mark Figueiredo, 29, stood beside his lawyer Fred Shanahan in Ontario Superior Court yesterday & quietly admitted to several drug charges. He acknowledged conspiring with 6 other men, 5 alleged to be Hells Angels members, to traffic in 600 litres of GHB, valued at \$1.2 million. The other cases are set for preliminary hearings in the fall. Figueiredo also pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking after his Crawford St. home was raided. Figueiredo was arrested as part of Project Develop, which charged alleged Hells Angels members in April 2007 following a series of police raids across southern Ontario. In May 2006, Toronto police raided Figueiredo's home & found cocaine worth \$2,000 & a small amount of marijuana. They also found shirts supporting the Hells Angels MC, according to an agreed statement of facts read into the record by Fed prosecutor Hugh O'Connell. Police had placed Figueiredo under surveillance & in Jan 2006 saw him going to the home of a known Hells Angels member in the Yonge St.-Eglinton Ave. area. They saw him enter with several plastic bags, believed to contain GHB. A police agent, who was at the home, paid the Hells Angels member \$1,600 for 8 litres of the drug. Acting on suspicion that Figueiredo was stashing GHB for Hells Angels members, police obtained a warrant & entered his garage. They found 375 litres of GHB loaded in 5 large containers. Toronto police Det. Al Rennie told the Star it was believed to be Canada's largest GHB seizure.

U.K. to Begin Microchipping Prisoners – July 5, 2008 – *United Kingdom* - The British government is developing a plan to track current & former prisoners by means of microchips implanted under the skin, drawing intense criticism from probation officers & civil rights groups. As a way to reduce prison crowding, many British prisoners are currently released under electronic monitoring, carried out by means of an ankle bracelet that transmits signals like those used by mobile phones. Now the Ministry of Justice is exploring the possibility of injecting prisoners in the back of the arm with a radio frequency identification (RFID) chip that contains information about their name, address & criminal record. Such chips, which contain a built-in antenna, could be scanned by special readers. The implantation of RFID chips in luggage, pets & livestock has become increasingly popular in recent years. In addition to monitoring incarcerated prisoners, the ministry hopes to use the chips on those who are on probation or other conditional release. By including a satellite uplink system in the chip, police would be able to use global positioning system (GPS) technology to track subjects' exact locations at all times. According to advocates of such a measure, this could help keep sex offenders away from "forbidden" zones like schools. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, blasted the measure as degrading to the people chipped & of no benefit to probation officers. "Knowing where offenders like pedophiles are does not mean you know what they are doing," Fletcher said. "Treating people like pieces of meat does not seem to represent an improvement in the system to me." Shami Chakrabarti of the civil rights group Liberty had even stronger words: "If the Home Office doesn't understand why implanting a chip in someone is worse than an ankle bracelet, they don't need a human-rights lawyer; they need a common-sense bypass."

Money: A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs. A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need but it's on sale.

Bikers caught in police raids – July 5, 2008 – *Australia* - Two Outlaw Motorcycle Gang members are among 4 men charged after raids of 3 Sydney properties found firearms, stun-guns, steroids & amphetamines, police say. Properties at Minto, Claymore & Rosemeadow were raided by police yesterday, when officers found & seized firearms, ammunition, amphetamines, cannabis, 2 stun-guns, steroids, & an amount of cash. The Men, 36, 49, 34 & 53 were each charged with supplying prohibited drugs & have been refused bail, & will face court later today.

U.S. 6th Circuit Court: *Jacob v. West Bloomfield*, No. 07-1534 - In a suit brought under 42 U.S.C. section 1983 alleging a violation of plaintiff's Fourth Amendment rights when defendant entered plaintiff's property without a warrant to inspect the property for criminal violations of a land use ordinance, denial of summary judgment for defendant is affirmed where: 1) the purpose of the Gov't intrusion was not merely administrative but also bore the threat of criminal sanctions; & 2) the fact that plaintiff did not endure an even more intrusive search does not obviate the Fourth Amendment's requirement that, absent exigent circumstances, officials may not conduct criminal investigations within the curtilage of a person's home without a warrant.

Police fail to refer major crime – July 6, 2008 - *Australia* - The head of the Corruption & Crime Commission reopened the battle with the police service yesterday, claiming that it had failed to help the CCC fight organized crime. CCC Commissioner Roberts-Smith told a Fed parliamentary inquiry that it had no power to unilaterally investigate organized crime. It could only respond to an application from police. Roberts-Smith questioned why police had not made more applications to the CCC to use its powers & said the legislation prevented the CCC from having any meaningful effect on serious crime in WA. This week, Roberts-Smith said the only sore point in the relationship between the crime-fighting agencies was the controversial decision to raid the Sunday Times newspaper for information relating to a Cabinet leak. Roberts Smith said in a letter to The West Australian, published yesterday, that "police & the commission have effective, ongoing relationships at many levels in regard to the police role & organized crime functions of the commission". Asked by a member of the Fed committee investigating new laws to fight organized crime why the police had not made applications to the CCC to use its full powers against organized crime, Roberts-Smith said: "You would have to ask the police why they haven't applied for the powers." He said he had discussed his concerns with Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan. "The CCC has no power to proactively investigate organized crime," he said. "The only way that can be done is the CCC can approve an application by the Commissioner of Police which they then use ... that is the full extent of the legislation in relation to the CCC." Outside the hearing, O'Callaghan said previous tensions between police & the CCC over the use of the CCC's organized crime powers had been caused by "inadequate legislation". "Both commissioners have signed an MOU (about 6 months ago) that they will seek opportunities to work closely together on organized crime matters," he said. "Currently, several of these matters are being discussed & considered." Roberts-Smith also told the inquiry that a ban on motorcycle gangs would simply force organized crime underground. Barrister Mark Trowell told the inquiry he would like the CCC to take on board criticism & advice.

Nicknames: If Laura, Kate & Sarah go out for lunch, they will call each other Laura, Kate & Sarah. If Mike, Dave & John go out, they will affectionately refer to each other as Fat Boy, Godzilla & Four-eyes.

From biker gang to opera stardom – July 6, 2008 – *New Zealand* - By Kristian South - Former Highway 61 biker Geoff Knight is off the mean streets & on the road to success as an opera star. The one-time patched member of the gang's Christchurch chapter won the lead role for a Sydney-based production & is attracting the attention of international theatre companies. "The door is open but I just need to stay focused in readying myself to step through it. "That may take six months, it may take a year, it may take longer but I am committed to climbing my Everest," Geoff, 38, told Sunday News. "It's an exciting time, there's still work to be done to absolutely refine my voice but the window of opportunity feels very close." Geoff was glad to have turned his back on the gangster lifestyle 16 years ago but said it had given him an appreciation of a brighter future. "The biggest thing the world gave me was fearlessness. I have survived stuff that ordinary people wouldn't even dream of," he said. "It would be nice for people to see me as I am now because that's who I am. All of that happened 16 years ago. "I don't carry that baggage with me, I have recognised that I wasn't truly living back then. I was only seeing the negative. I've faced my demons, I've come to terms with my past & I'm going to give this (opera) a go." Geoff, who has spent years perfecting his tenor tone, says his very being is now defined by his opera singing. "I'm being me. It's my life & I've been blessed with talent & I'm not going to waste that," he said. "It's so wonderful to open up & give the gift of my heart. To have a beautiful, yet powerful, instrument which has the ability to cut through & above other sounds is a huge asset." To ensure his voice is of international standard, Geoff who is performing Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta Utopia Limited with Sydney's Rockdale Opera spends at least four hours a day "vocalising" & the rest of his time learning music & practising speech. "It's not just sing, sing, sing all day. I do this full time. Being an opera singer is what I do," he said.

Lead defendant in meth bust jailed without bond – July 7, 2008 – *Indiana* - Tricky is staying behind bars, but Weirido will have to wait until next week to learn her fate. Richard "Tricky" Kasper, 30, of Kouts, was named as the lead defendant in last week's 38-person indictment of a multistate conspiracy to sell large quantities of methamphetamines & marijuana. U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich ruled Tuesday that Kasper is a danger to the community & a flight risk, & refused to allow him the same release on bond that many of the lower-ranking individuals in the case have received. The drug conspiracy was allegedly based in southern Porter County, along with Newton & Jasper counties. Four people are still at large. Charged in the indictment with dealing meth was Timothy "Beefy" Bartruff, who is accused of being the former national president of the Invaders motorcycle gang. But defense attorney Michael Bosch said Kasper is not affiliated with the Invaders, which is known among Fed LEOs as a violent Northwest Indiana motorcycle gang involved with the manufacture & sale of meth. Hammond police have confirmed that they are investigating the recent beating death of a Hessville man who is a former member of the gang to see whether the man had any recent interactions with the group. Meanwhile, a bond hearing for Stacey "Weirido" Judd, 48, of Hebron, was postponed Tuesday until next week while defense attorney John Martin reviews the charges against his client.

Royal Enfield rules road – July 7, 2008 - *India* - By Laurie Goering - A year ago, in a mangos-for-hogs trade swap, Harley-Davidson won the right to sell motorcycles in India & the U.S. agreed for the first time to allow in imported Indian mangos. But while Americans feast on India's famed Alphonso mangos, India's highways have yet to resound with the thrum of Harleys.

That's largely because heavy import duties on the U.S.-made bikes mean they cost nearly double in India what they do in the United States. That has delayed imports & put the iconic American road bikes beyond the reach of all but the richest Indians. But in this land of a billion people & seemingly nearly that many motorcycles, there are other key obstacles to a Harley invasion, among them the local competition: India's own iconic road cruiser, the Royal Enfield. The hefty motorcycle, developed in Britain & now manufactured only in India, has been the subcontinent's favored cruising bike for most of the last half-century. In a country that snaps up more than 6 million new motorcycles a year, the bikes are still only a tiny portion of a market dominated by fast, lightweight Japanese bikes that are the nation's workhorses, ferrying families of four or five to work & school each day. Hero Honda, the country's most popular manufacturer, last year sold more than 3 million motorcycles. But the sleek Royal Enfield, with an engine typically three times the size of a Honda's, retains a certain cachet among wealthier Indians. And now the older Enfield bikes that government bureaucrats once relied on to traverse the country's tortuous roads are being rounded up & brought to Delhi for restoration.

Bail reduced for Hells Angel – July 8, 2008 – *California* - Citing a clean record & ties to the community, a Merced County Superior Court judge lowered the bail amount of an Atwater man who was allegedly involved in violence at a peace rally that occurred late last month. Judge Frank Dougherty lowered the bail of Kellen Brenton from \$500,000 to \$110,000 at a bail hearing held Monday at the Robert M. Falasco Justice Center. Brenton, 58, a member of the Hells Angels, was arrested June 28 after police said he & other members of the motorcycle gang allegedly started a fight with members of the Mongols motorcycle gang at a stop the violence rally. During the fight 5 to 6 shots were fired from a .40-caliber handgun & a Hells Angel prospect was stabbed. Police said they found the magazine of a semi-automatic weapon during a pat-down of Brenton but were unable to locate the handgun. Police also reportedly found a "whip" on Brenton's motorcycle. Brenton was charged with suspicion of having a dangerous weapon, which would normally carry a \$25,000-\$45,000 bail amount. But Los Baños police asked the district atty to increase it to \$500,000 to ensure the safety of the community. The request was denied. Brenton's atty Linden A. Lindahl argued that the amount was excessive & offered testimonials that his client was a family man & gainfully employed member of the community. "Mr. Brenton is a lifelong resident of the Valley, he has lived here all his life, he is not a flight risk" Lindahl said. "And as the court can tell, he has community support." Brenton's support system included friends, family & his employer, all of whom packed Dougherty's courtroom to attest to his character. Brenton's wife, Cindy, said in their 32-year marriage she has never known her husband to be in trouble & is a good father to their 2 daughters. "He's a wonderful man, his bail should not be this high," she said. Philip de Leon, Brenton's boss, said the only reputation his employee has is as one of the best mechanics in the Valley. De Leon said that with his salary Brenton would not be able to pay the bail amount. Lindahl provided Dougherty with letters in favor of a lower bond from people who know Brenton. Dougherty said there needed to be a balance between Brenton's clean record & public safety. He lowered the bail amount by \$390,000. Brenton has been in custody since June 28 at the John Lotorraca Correctional Facility. He was present at the bail hearing via video conference. The only time he spoke during the hearing was to acknowledge that he heard the judge's orders.

Bikers to make their case to council – July 8, 2008 - *California*

- By Adam Ashton - The Modesto City Council is giving the Most Envied MC a chance to make its case that police have discriminated against its members. The council scheduled a hearing for its Tuesday meeting to consider the motorcycle club's complaint that Modesto police officers have followed & harassed its members. Police say they have watched the motorcycle club because officers suspect it's tied to outlaw gangs, such as the Hells Angels. Sgt. Craig Gundlach said officers have not arrested Most Envied members for gang-related crimes since the club formed a year & a half ago. And because of that, he said, the police have not declared the club a criminal gang. The club's founder, Luis Vera of Modesto, insists the police image is wrong. "We are not a gang; we are a motorcycle club," he told the council last week. Gundlach said the club caught the attention of police officers because its black vest & patches resemble patterns that police believe must be approved by the Hells Angels. Several Hell's Angels members were among the roughly 100 bikers who showed up at last week's City Council meeting to support Most Envied. "The mere fact that they're wearing these vests with these patches is an indicator that something else is going on," Gundlach said. Most Envied's leadership approached the council last week to speak up for members who they say want only to participate in community events & ride motorcycles. They said the club played a role in raising money to keep open the public pool in César Chávez Park when city budget cuts threatened to close it. They described police as harassing their members by pulling them over for insignificant traffic violations, following them after celebrations for Mexican holidays, taking pictures of them & watching their homes. Vera said he has been pulled over 11 times by officers without getting a citation. "I've gotten pulled over. Everybody gets pulled over & never gets citations," said Tony Hernandez of Modesto, the club VP. Hernandez declined to answer a question about Most Envied's link to the Hell's Angels on Thu, but he expects it to come up at the council meeting. NAACP chapter investigating The Stanislaus County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is investigating the motorcycle club's complaints to determine whether police discriminated against its members. Two NAACP leaders asked for the hearing at the council meeting. The scheduled hearing gives the council a chance to ask questions & consider the complaint. At last week's meeting, the council only could hear the club's grievance. State public meeting laws prohibit elected officials from acting on items that aren't on their published agendas. Gundlach denied police were profiling the mostly Latino club because of a racial bias. "There may not be right now any one thing law enforcement can point to & say, 'Because of this, you are a documented gang,'" Gundlach said. "They may never reach that point, & if they don't that's well & good, but I can tell you right now there are many indicators that Most Envied is more than a group of men who get together & ride motorcycles."

Hang on for the ride – July 8, 2008 - *New Zealand* - By Suzanne

McFadden - It was Geoff Knight's "Alice in Wonderland" moment - mere seconds when he watched his booze & drug-addled gang life spin through the air & skid to a halt in the middle of a state highway. In that fantastical moment he understood his life had to change. Tattooed, bearded, leathered & patched, the Highway 61 motorcycle gang member they called Trawler had clipped a timber truck with the handlebars of his Harley Davidson on the road at Puhoi, north of Auckland. In a flash of bravado, Knight had throttled to the front of the pack of seven gang bikers, trying to prove he was still The Man. He was, in fact, an emotional mess. His stripper girlfriend had left him while he was

working at sea, he was facing a prison sentence & he'd just bought \$28,000 worth of gleaming grunt machine to ease his pain. The bike somersaulted. "I was spinning around on my bum, feeling like Alice in Wonderland; spinning in slow motion & total silence," Knight recalls. Bloodied & grazed, he looked to the sky & said: "I get the message." "I walked into a farmhouse & the farmer's wife cleaned the gravel out of my legs with hot water & Dettol. I'm standing there with my long hair & patches, with my pants around my ankles, feeling like a little boy. "I said to her 'Don't tell those guys, but this is the last time I'm riding with them. I want to live a good life. I want to be a good man. I want to see the world.' And she said to me 'Good on you son, you go for it'." Three weeks later he left the gang. "When I put my patches in a bag & handed them back, I realised the last five years of my life fitted into a brown paper bag." Fifteen years on, if Knight, now 38, was to pack up his life, it would be overflowing from Louis Vuitton luggage - his transformation almost as bizarre as Alice's adventures, or the bones of an opera. The toddler scarred by a dog mauling; the dyslexic, obese & bullied teenager who dropped out of school; the hard-working deep sea fisherman who joined a gang but changed his life to become an actor & proud father of five; & now the strapping, handsome, opera tenor, poised to burst on to the world stage. Knight is just as astonished by where he's ended up. For the past seven years he has been studying opera and, under the guidance of renowned bass Grant Dickson, he's building a repertoire of the most popular tenor roles so he can step into the shoes of a leading man anywhere. He's already performing internationally, most recently a 4-month stint with Rockdale Opera in Sydney, singing the lead tenor role of Captain Fitzbattleaxe in Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta *Utopia Limited*; & earning comparisons to the great Italian tenors.

The Great Debate: The Power of Communication - Several centuries ago, the Pope decreed that all the Jews had to convert to Catholicism or leave Italy. There was a huge outcry from the Jewish community, so the Pope offered a deal. He'd have a religious debate with the leader of the Jewish community. If the Jews won, they could stay in Italy; if the Pope won, they'd have to convert or leave. The Jewish people met & picked an aged & wise rabbi to represent them in the debate. However, as the rabbi spoke no Italian, & the Pope spoke no Yiddish; they agreed that it would be a "silent" debate. On the chosen day the Pope & rabbi sat opposite each other. The Pope raised his hand & showed three fingers. The rabbi looked back & raised one finger. Next, the Pope waved his finger around his head. The rabbi pointed to the ground where he sat. The Pope brought out a communion wafer & a chalice of wine. The rabbi pulled out an apple. With that, the Pope stood up & declared himself beaten & said that the rabbi was too clever. The Jews could stay in Italy. Later the cardinals met with the Pope & asked him what had happened. The Pope said, "First I held up three fingers to represent the Trinity. He responded by holding up a single finger to remind me there is still only one God common to both our beliefs. "Then, I waved my finger around my head to show him that God was all around us. He responded by pointing to the ground to show that God was also right here with us. "I pulled out the wine & wafer to show that God absolves us of all our sins. He pulled out an apple to remind me of the original sin. "He bested me at every move & I could not continue." Meanwhile, the Jewish community gathered to ask the rabbi how he'd won. "I haven't a clue" the rabbi said. "First, he told me that we had three days to get out of Italy, so I gave him the finger. "Then he tells me that the whole country would be cleared of Jews & I told him that we were staying right here." "And then what?" asked a woman. "Who knows?" said the rabbi. "He took out his lunch so I took out mine."

Organizer fuming – July 8, 2008 – *California* - By Tina Ford - Police surveillance of the recent Veterans Mountain Run has left the event organizer fuming, but both sides agreed last week to try to talk out their differences. The 5th annual charity event drew about 750 motor-cycle riders & 2,000 participants to Tehachapi to raise money for veterans. On the 2nd day of the event, uniformed officers from area law enforcement agencies appeared across the street from the VFW Post 5946 on Tehachapi Blvd., some taking pictures. Event organizer Orion Sanders said there was no cause for law enforcement to show up. “There were no incidents,” he said. “There were no fights, drugs, guns or knives. There was no illegal activity. The guys were hanging out & having a good time. They are regular people, for God’s sake.” Tehachapi Police Chief Jeff Kermode defended the show of badges as a necessary preventive measure against potential motorcycle gang violence. Both men planned to meet to discuss their concerns. Sanders said the contingent of photo-shooting law enforcement ruined a peaceful event & sent most of the partiers home early. Both Kermode & Sanders confirmed that members of the Mongols & members of the Vagos clubs came to the event & participated in the charity motorcycle run, which has never had a gang presence. Kermode said 30 Mongols & 10 Vagos were in attendance; Sanders gave the numbers as “less than 20” Mongols & 7 Vagos, & “I know them all.” Kermode said the gang prevention officers numbered “20 to 24.” Sanders said that all the participants came with respect to share a common cause. “They were here to support veterans,” said Sanders, who is Pres of event sponsor Funds for Freedom, Inc., a non-profit that makes money for veterans & children & has been the prime mover behind a veterans’ memorial walkway at the Bakersfield VA Nat’l Cemetery. The police Dept reported no arrests or violence connected with the bikers during the two days of festivities that featured music, vendor booths, a 165-mile charity run & packed local motels. VFW Post 5948, the host of the Mountain Run, closed its Tehachapi Boulevard compound off with a chain-link fence for the event. The city blocked Tehachapi Boulevard between Green Street & Mill Street to accommodate parking for all the bikes. According to Kermode, the appearance of the clubs is a big concern for lawmakers. “The Mongols are a large outlaw motorcycle gang,” Kermode said. They have shown up in several nearby cities, he said, & were involved in a deadly shootout four years ago in Laughlin, Nev., with members of the Hells Angels club. “We paid close attention to them,” Kermode said. “They are heavily involved in organized crime & the meth trade & they are known to be violent.” In a scenario of eerie similarity, Kermode said that four years ago at a charity motorcycle run in the city Norco in Riverside County, members of the Vagos & the Hessians clubs engaged in a shootout between the VFW & a liquor store, severely wounding a firefighter. “That’s the potential that we’re dealing with,” he said. Kermode said that a fight at City Slickers restaurant where a group of Mongols were dining Friday night triggered a call to his cell phone from a concerned citizen, which led him to invoke a mutual assistance agreement & alert gang violence prevention officers from other Kern County cities. “They [Mongols] were not involved in the fight but they were involved in the provocation of the fight,” Kermode said. The incident “was what made us nervous,” he said. “We put out the call at 10 a.m. Saturday & they were all here for a briefing at 6 [p.m.],” he said. Kermode said that gang prevention officers from Delano, Arvin, Shafter, Bakersfield, Kern County & the FBI responded to the call. Bear Valley Springs police Dept contributed its new command post vehicle. They took up positions along the street across from the VFW. The officers were taking pictures, he said, & event participants were taking pictures back. Kermode said, “We did not harass. We did not make random contact. We

did not do warrant checks. It was a matter of having a presence. They knew we were there.” The event has been trouble-free for five years & draws weekend bikers from a wide area. “This event has been low-key,” Kermode said. “Outlaw gang members have not been participating in previous years. [But] we didn’t want to be caught short.” 99% of the people “are good folks,” Kermode said. “We encouraged our officers to be friendly.” The uniforms apparently made that job difficult. “The presence of law enforcement is what made people nervous,” Sanders said. “It’s what made people leave.” Sanders said about 75% of the people who were enjoying the event left early, around 7 p.m., after observing the law enforcement officers taking photos from across the street. “They [event participants] were partying & having a good time & at the end the non-club member people would have left with this idealism,” Sanders said. “They would have enjoyed the raffle, had a few beers & gone home. That would have been the perception. Then they saw these guys wearing vests & the perception was that something major was going down. It was the opposite thing than was intended. “They [clubs] would never come to a veteran’s event & disrespect veterans or the VFW... Their own club would have a problem with that. They will police their own people if they ever thought they were doing something to disrespect vets.” Sanders said, “They want the kudos. They want the public to know they support vets.” The Veterans Mountain Run, Kermode said, “is a great event. I hope it continues. It’s great for business. But if motorcycle gang members are there, we’ll be there.” Sanders intends to continue his fund-raising efforts for veterans. “We are doing a lot of good here,” he said.

Gov’t cuts late-trading permits - July 08, 2008 - *Australia* - By Melanie Christiansen - A Crackdown on Queensland’s late-opening pubs & nightclubs has begun, with seven venues told they will no longer be able to trade after 3 am. Among those refused new late-trading permits are Uber at Brisbane’s West End, which hit the headlines last month when NSW State of Origin player Greg Bird was handcuffed by police after an argument outside at 4.30 am. The Berlin Lounge Bar at Surfers Paradise - the scene of an alleged glassing incident involving members of the outlaw Finks motorcycle gang last year - also will be forced to close earlier. Treasurer Andrew Fraser yesterday said police & Liquor Licensing investigators had decided the seven venues posed an “unacceptable risk” of harm to patrons. He said all licensees had a responsibility to ensure a safe environment. But Berlin owner Mark Watson said he was seeking legal advice on appealing against the decision, saying it could ruin his business. “It potentially will cripple us,” he said. “It’s been a long struggle. It took 2 years to get anywhere & it’s only now that we’ve started to & to get hit in the guts like this, it’s very demoralising.” Other venues refused new permits to trade after 3am include Tony’s Niteclub in Fortitude Valley, The Club of Mount Isa & Baja at Coolangatta.

Reinstating helmet law gets mixed support – July 8, 2008 - *Connecticut* - Motorcyclists had mixed reactions Tue to Gov. M. Jodi Rell’s renewed interest in reinstating a state helmet law. Fritz Blau, 41, owner of Bridgeport H-D Inc., in Stratford, said he halfheartedly supports a helmet law. Instead, he suggests a modified law accompanied by a statewide safety awareness campaign for car & truck operators. “It is my official opinion that it should be a person’s choice, though I advocate for people to wear them,” he said. “People that are new to the sport, regardless of age or experience, should wear helmets for some set period of time, or until they’ve completed a skills course. Experienced riders should get the choice to ride without a helmet.”

Hells Angels say final farewell to biker granddad - Jul 8, 2008 – *United Kingdom* - by Katy Simpson - Bikers said their final farewell to Tyneside's oldest Hell's Angel. Pensioner Frank Allan, of North Shields, died of a heart attack while riding his beloved Harley Davidson. The 78-year-old died doing what he loved, & was given a fitting send-off by pals from the Geordie Chapter of the Harley Owners Group Worldwide. More than 50 riders followed the funeral procession on their motorbikes, which set off from the Just Harleys shop in Sandyford, Newcastle, where Frank bought his first bike, which he swapped for a £20,000 three-wheeler last year. At the head of the cortege was a designed trike carrying Frank's coffin in a sidecar. The rally roared past the rows of motorbike shops on West Road as it headed to the Westgate Road Crematorium. Decked out in their leathers & wearing bandanas & sunglasses, the Hells Angels' hard exteriors did not stop the tears rolling as they said goodbye to a much-loved granddad. Black ribbons decorated the bikes as they rode through the city centre. Pals told of how the ageing angel was a dedicated member of the 320-strong Geordie Chapter. "He loved the camaraderie of it," said committee member Grant Anderson, 52, who is sales manager at Just Harleys. "He was a very outgoing person. He was one of those people everyone talked to & everyone loved. "He was very active. He used to go to just about everything. He was out almost every day. It's almost unheard of to ride a bike at his age." Frank, from Heaton, Newcastle, developed his passion for bikes late in life, when his wife Sheila died seven years ago. The retired joiner died while out with friends from the Chapter on a trip to Whitley Bay. He had just pulled back on to the road after stopping at a cafe, & was travelling at 15mph. Despite attempts by bikers to revive him, he died there of a heart attack.

Bikers, activists want review panel – July 9, 2008 - *California* - A diverse group of bikers, lawyers & civil rights activists Tuesday urged the Modesto City Council to create a police oversight board to address complaints of officer misconduct. They spoke up for members of the Most Envied motorcycle club, a mostly Latino outfit from west Modesto whose members claim police harass them without cause by pulling them over continually & asking leading questions. Many of the speakers took exception to police assertions that Most Envied members were affiliated with outlaw motorcycle gangs, such as the Hells Angels. "If there are crimes going on out there, prosecute these individuals to the full extent of the law," said Modesto attorney Ruben Villalobos, who said he grew up with many Most Envied members. "If the crimes aren't there, let these people ride their bikes." Council members encouraged Most Envied members to file formal complaints with the Police Department. Those documents trigger internal investigations that could lead to discipline. Without them, council members said, the city has little evidence to support the grievances claimed by Most Envied. "The policies & procedures are there for you to go in as a citizen & say this happened to me & it was wrong," Councilman Will O'Bryant said. The hearing put a bookend to a discussion that began last week when about 100 bikers from a half-dozen motorcycle clubs attended a council meeting to support Most Envied. Their presence caught city officials by surprise, & about a dozen officers watched the meeting in the council chamber. About 60 bikers from the same clubs attended Tuesday's meeting. They represented the same mix of clubs -- Most Envied, Hells Angels, Jus Brothers, Top Hatters & a few others. Only one uniformed police officer was present at the meeting, although a few higher-ranking ones attended, too. Council members did not say whether they supported the concept of a police oversight board. Representatives from the Stanislaus County chapters of the

American Civil Liberties Union & the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People issued the strongest calls for a police oversight board with subpoena power to recover key documents. Police Chief Roy Wasden said his officers do their jobs fairly. He pointed to the low rate of citizen complaints filed against the Dept, which usually gets about 60 complaints a year out of an average of 176,000 cases or enforcement actions. "I would suggest to you that's not indicative of a police Dept that's out of control," he said. Several Most Envied members described specific run-ins with police when they were pulled over & not issued citations, or were detained by officers. George Garcia, 33, was one of them. He said he gets pulled over often & was slammed against a car last week by a sheriff's deputy. "If (Most Envied) were an outlaw club, I wouldn't be in the club, because I don't need that," he said. Four people at the meeting paid tribute to Helen White, the west Modesto community activist who died Friday. Councilman Dave Lopez, who grew up on the city's west side, described her as an inspiration for young people there. Mayor Jim Ridenour, NAACP representative Frank Johnson & community activist Salvador Vera also praised her work.

Biker band concert at Fox will close street – July 9, 2008 - *California* - Salinas police say an expected influx of motorcycle riders mean they will close the 200 block of Main Street to traffic on the afternoon of Saturday, July 12. A concert is planned for that day at the Fox Theater at 239 Main St. One of the bands playing bills itself as the "world's most dangerous biker band." This event is expected to draw motorcycle riders from the Hollister Motorcycle Rally, which is occurring that same weekend, police said. Police plan to post the 200 block of Main Street for "No Parking" beginning at noon. The roadway itself will be closed starting at 2 p.m. This closure will last throughout the night. Additionally, City Lot No. 3, on Monterey Street behind the Fox Theater, will be closed as will one lane of traffic on Monterey Street. The Salinas Police Dept said it will be increasing staffing to insure the safety of the public during the concert & will be present in the Oldtown Salinas area before, during & after the concert.

Anti-Gang Initiative Grant helps Tehama County in gang war – July 9, 2008 – *California* - By Ashley Gebb - Gang investigator Martin Perrone has been on the job for about a month, but he's already learned a lot about Tehama County gangs, & an \$80,000 grant will help him continue to do just that. The federally funded Anti-Gang Initiative Grant will pay for Perrone's position & is distributed through the State of California Office of Emergency Services, said District Attorney Gregg Cohen. The district attorney's office has never gotten the grant before but is pleased to have federal money to use at a local level. Tehama County was fortunate to receive the grant after competing for it with other, larger counties. "I think people often perceive them as having more horrific gang problems than we do," Cohen said. "As far as I'm concerned, any gang problems are bad." Perrone agrees the gang situation in Tehama County deserves attention. "It's there, it's existing, it needs to be addressed," he said. About 650 documented gang members are spread throughout Tehama County, Cohen said, which interestingly enough, represents 1 percent of the county's population - the same percentage as gang members in Los Angeles County. "One percent seems to be the number that is pretty consistent throughout the state," he said. The Hispanic-based, criminal street gangs Nortenos & Surenos are the most prevalent in Tehama County, but the Bloods, Crips, Fresno Bulldogs, Hellbent MC, Hells Angels MC, Jus Brothers MC & white supremacists are also in the area, Perrone said.

Harley Davidson motorbikes turn revolutionary – July 9, 2008 – *Havana, Cuba* - The characteristic roar of engines heralds the arrival of the coveted H-D motorcycles. Slowly, pairs of proud riders parade down Havana's Malecon outside the US Interests Section & the statue of Cuban independence hero, Jose Marti, who points an accusing finger at the representatives of the empire. H-D may be one of the symbols of the "American way of life" that Cuba so despises, but passion for these vehicles knows neither boundaries nor ideologies & is so deeply entrenched in the hearts of Cubans that the stir caused is considered compatible with being a good "revolutionary." "It has nothing to do with having an American bike. On the contrary, we took part in the May 1 parade invited by the government. We have joined the Battle of Ideas," says Lazaro Broton, from the western province of Matanzas. Broton owns one of the over 120 Harleys in Cuba. Lazaro William Gonzalez, president of the Havana Team of Classic English Motorbikes, a rolling museum which goes beyond Harleys, sees no contradiction either. "I was an officer of the Armed Forces for 15 years," he says, dressed in a leather waistcoat & bandana boasting the Harley logo. In fact, he insists, all riders in Cuba have a most revolutionary role model: Guevara himself, who travelled Latin America on a Norton motorcycle.

Motorcycling – The Facts & Figures – July 9, 2008 – *United Kingdom* - By Tasha Crook - In the UK, there are approximately 3.5 million people who have motorcycle entitlement on their license. There are around 1.5 million active riders & 15% of them are women. The average motorcyclist rides 90 miles per week. About 60% of motorcycle trips are for five motorcycles can park in a space occupied by one car. Scooters cut journey times in the capital by an average of 48% compared to all other forms of transport. Approximately 100,000 Londoners own a bike. Gender & Motorcycling. 28% of women used a motorcycle as their main form of transport. 27% used a moped. 63% said they were all-year riders. 37% didn't generally ride in winter. 40% used their bike every day compared to 33% men. 38% used a bike mainly for general transport compared to 23% men. 42% used a bike mainly for pleasure compared to 51% men. Age & Motorcycling. The number of young people aged 17–21 years, who took their motorcycle test increased from 2003/04 to 2004/05 by 12%. An industry survey of riders in the 35-45 age-groups indicates: Three quarters are married. Around half are skilled, managerial or professional workers. On average, they started riding 20 years ago. Many gave-up in the mid 1980s. Around 60% have come back to biking after a break of 9 years on average. Around 1 in 4 belong to a bike club of some sort. The Nation's Favourite Bikers Steve McQueen Top of The Polls. Almost one quarter of the British public value Steve McQueen as the nation's favorite biker. Research commissioned by the MCI found that he tops the polls with 24 per cent of the votes, head & shoulders ahead of other famous two-wheel fans.

Mongrel Mob members – July 9, 2008 - *New Zealand* - Two southern Mongrel Mob members have been charged with torching the Road Knights' headquarters on June 19. Mob boss Shaun Te Kahu, 37, & mob member Barry James Pennicott, 27, have been jointly charged with arson & appeared on the fresh charges in the Invercargill District Court yesterday. They have also been jointly charged with aggravated burglary armed with a hammer & an air rifle of the Road Knights' headquarters, while Pennicott also faces two fresh theft charges. The pair are among a group of mob members arrested on a raft of charges late last month. As well as the new charges laid yesterday, Te Kahu also faces two charges of theft of Harley Davidson motorbikes & two charges of intentionally damaging those motorbikes by fire, while Pennicott

faces charges of intentionally damaging two motorbikes. Also appearing yesterday were Craig Arthur Reid, 36, & Pihama John Tauroa, 32, who are jointly charged with Pennicott on the intentional damage charges. None of the four men entered pleas to any of the charges, nor were any applications made for bail. All four were remanded in custody to July 15.

Police forces dysfunctional - July 9, 2008 - *Canada* - A fired biker-gang investigator warned during settlement talks last year that if his wrongful dismissal case ever got to trial it would expose the dysfunctional relationship between the RCMP & B.C.'s municipal police. "We expect to have several senior police officers willing to testify about the inability or unwillingness of RCMP senior management to cooperate with other police agencies," Allen Dalstrom stated in a mediation brief. Dalstrom, who was fired from the Organized Crime Agency of B.C. in 2004, has also alleged that animosity between the RCMP & the OCABC led to the failure of Project Phoenix, a multimillion-dollar investigation into several high-ranking members of the Hells Angels. Police have repeatedly said the Angels are the most powerful crime group in B.C. Rob Gordon, head of criminology at Simon Fraser University, said if Dalstrom's allegations are true, & key Hells Angels members escaped justice because of police infighting, the provincial government needs to take a hard look at how B.C. is policed. "It's outrageous," he said. "And no professional police service anywhere else on the face of the earth would tolerate it." Gordon said the current patchwork of RCMP & municipal police in Metro Vancouver simply isn't working. "If we ever have a hope of knocking these guys out, we [need] to be better organized," he said. "There has to be a reason why organized crime has been so effective in taking root in this province. I think it's sheer incompetence caused by [police] infighting & territoriality." Gordon added that he suspects Phoenix isn't the only B.C. investigation that's been derailed by police turf wars. "If there was an inquiry into all of this, we'd probably find a lot more," he said. NDP solicitor-general critic Mike Farnworth noted the RCMP's provincial policing contract is up for renewal in 2012 & it may be time to look at other options. "It's time that we have a very thorough look at the issue of regional policing," he said.

Pregnancies jump after Grand Junction festival – July 9, 2008 – *Colorado* - Associated Press - Whether it's something in the water or the grooving sounds of country music, the aftermath of what one health official calls Grand Junction's "Woodstock" drives up pregnancies in this city each year. Nurse-Family Partnership supervisor Wanda Scott said referrals to her agency from the Mesa County Health Dept quadruple every year after the music festival Country Jam. Scott told commissioners about the phenomena Mon during a presentation called, "How are the Children?" Scott said on average the health clinic sees between 25 to 30 pregnancies a month. She says 5 weeks after the festival that number jumps to almost 80 a month. The festival ran from June 26-29. Performers included Tim McGraw, Clay Walker & Sugarland. "That's our Grand Junction Woodstock," Scott said, referring to the 1969 counterculture rock festival in Bethel, N.Y., featuring such acts as Jimi Hendricks & Janis Joplin. Grand Junction is a city of about 50,000 about 245 miles west of Denver. Country Jam Director Steve Berg said the information surprised him. "I certainly can't stop them from having sex. If we could stop it we certainly would," he said. Commissioner Janet Rowland said education could help prevent unwanted teen pregnancies but didn't know what else could be done to stop them "short of putting birth control in the water at Country Jam."

Son Of A Son Adam – July 9, 2008 – *North Dakota* - My 20 yr Old Son Adam has come down with Lymphoma, He has a tumor the size of my fist in the center of his chest, & began chemo Monday for 8 hr a day Tues 4 hr Wed 2 hrs for the next 6 months, I will do my best to keep everyone up to date but he has a long way to go till we get him out of the woods... Big Paul SOS ND

Man robbed buying crack - July 9, 2008 - *Connecticut* - An East Hartford man called police to report he had been robbed while trying to buy crack cocaine. Max Minnefield called police Mon to tell them he had paid a man & a woman \$8 for drugs he never received. Police charged him with criminal attempt to commit possession of narcotics. During his arraignment Tue, Judge Bradford Ward asked Minnefield, "Did you really think the police were going to go after the people?" He added that his question was rhetorical. Prosecutors later dropped the charges. Minnefield's public defender, said no drugs were ever found.

Motorcycle rally to benefit Salvation Army – July 10, 2008 – *Minnesota* - By Katie Johnson - Bikers & non-bikers are invited to a music, riding & camping fundraising event Sat at Riverbend Campground south of Austin. The First International Ride for Help Motorcycle Rally will be held to benefit general operations for the Salvation Army in Mower County. Tammy Flicek, fundraising director & volunteer coordinator, said the event was organized to help them "keep the doors open & lights on. "As the year gets closer to ending, things get depleted," she said.

Hells Angels to hold bash – July 10, 2008 - *Canada* - By Kelly Sinoski - Uniformed police will be a visible presence at Langley gathering When the Hells Angels holds its 25th anniversary bash this month, uniformed officers of the Metro Vancouver police are planning to join the party. Officers from the RCMP & municipal police forces will attend the two-day event, set for July 25-26 at Hells Angels' clubhouse in Langley. "We're going to make a special effort to participate as heavily as we can in that," Vancouver Police Insp. Dean Robinson said Wednesday. "We're keenly aware of all the things we can leverage in our favour." The White Rock chapter of the Hells Angels, which is based out of Langley, is host of the party for the Vancouver, Nanaimo & White Rock chapters. Hells Angels representative Rick Ciarniello would not comment on the plans for the bash or how people plan to attend. "It's just a private party," he said, adding: "We're not anticipating on there being any problems." At least 200 Hells Angels & associates are expected to attend the party at the clubhouse, located at 21764 61st Ave., Langley RCMP Cpl. Peter Thiessen said. He wouldn't disclose how many officers would be attending the bash, but said police have developed a strategy to deal with any problems. Resources are being drawn from around Metro Vancouver to ensure there is no cost to the front-line policing in the various regions, he added. "We're in a position to deal with any issues that might come up with the Hells Angels event," Thiessen said. "We're basically taking the Hells Angels' lead; it's up to them as to how this is going to go." City officials for both the city of Langley & Langley Township say they don't expect any major problems. "We're hopeful they'll be respectful of the neighbourhood," said Francis Cheung, chief administrative officer for the city of Langley.

Organized crime ring – July 10, 2008 - *Canada* - A ring of Toronto-area organized criminals – including a local Hells Angel biker – impersonated police officers while committing a string of armed robberies, police say. Project Betrayal, a 9-month police operation, ended with 198 criminal charges laid against 25 people after a crime spree across the regions of York, Peel, Toronto &

the Golden Horseshoe. Police said they seized body armour marked "Police," police-style stun guns, handcuffs, illegal handguns, including one with a silencer, \$140,000 in stolen lawn mowers, \$1.6 million in stolen power tools, 300 marijuana plants, police-style radios, a money-counting machine, \$108,000 in cash, plus 15 stolen luxury vehicles. Some of the police paraphernalia was found hidden inside a false wall of a Richmond Hill home, discovered during a series of 22 dawn raids over the past two months, police said. "They were very organized & they were very dangerous," York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge said. "I think we disrupted a very sophisticated criminal enterprise here." Some 50,000 telephone conversations were intercepted, La Barge said. The project began when a York Region hotel guest called police after he saw members of the ring robbing a pair of Montreal drug dealers, police said. Dobroslav (Bobby) Manchev, 39, who often held court in a restaurant on the Danforth – which he called "the office," police said – is in custody. Harry Lainis, a member of the Simcoe County Hells Angels who previously was with the Keswick Hells Angels & frequently met with Manchev, was also charged, police said.

Surfside bans biker vendors for 2 years – July 10, 2008 - *South Carolina* -By Aliana Ramos - Temporary motorcycle event vendors are now banned for two years from Surfside Beach during May's annual biker rallies, after Town Council on Tuesday approved a moratorium. The action comes on the heels of Myrtle Beach's aggressive campaign to end the rallies that attract thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts to the area each year. The ban in Surfside Beach is intended to protect residents from the traffic congestion & noise pollution that plague the area each May as thousands of motorcyclists travel to the Grand Strand, Mayor K. Allen Deaton said. "We're overwhelmed during the biker weeks. What happens is the gridlock on [U.S. 17 S. business] & Ocean Boulevard creates a problem for people trying to leave their neighborhoods. Our tourism area is only about three blocks wide. When [bikers] venture out of that 3-block area, they are basically in our neighborhoods. Noise is the major problem," Deaton said. As a result of the moratorium, the town will lose about \$4,500 in vendor permit fees. Deaton said the town spends more money on overtime & public safety than it brings in from the permits. The town issued 8 vendor permits, 5 tent permits & 12 banner permits last year, Town Clerk Sharon Pinnell said. Deaton recognizes the number of permits issued is not large, but said it will help to relieve some of the congestion off of its major tourists roads. "Our attitude is not to eliminate the Harley-Davidson rally. It's to control it," he said.

Life in a Mental Hospital: A nurse walks into a room & sees a patient pretending he's driving a truck, with his hand at 10 to 2. The nurse asks him, 'Kenny! What are you doing?' Kenny replies, 'Can't talk right now I'm driving to New York!' The nurse wished him a good & safe trip & leaves the room.. The next day the nurse enters Kenny's room just as he stops driving his imaginary truck & she asks, 'Well Kenny how was your trip?' Kenny says, 'I'm exhausted, I just got to New York & I need some rest.' That's great, replied the nurse, 'I'm glad you had a safe trip.' The nurse leaves Kenny's room, & goes across the hall into another patient's room & finds Dave sitting on his bed masturbating vigorously. In shock she shouts, 'Dave what are you doing!?' To which Dave replies, 'SHHHHH, I'm screwing Kenny's wife while he's in New York'.

Success: A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.