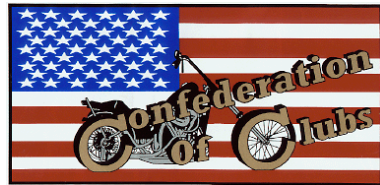


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Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter...

October 2008 – Issue 3...



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

Free All Brothers Behind Bars...

Editor: Mike Davis SFFS...

Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose. - Ronald Reagan

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**Solders For Jesus MC** Nation donates \$ 50.00 a month...  
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**Heathens MC** from Florida donates \$ 25.00 a month...  
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**Breed MC Mother Chapter** donates \$ 30.00 a month...  
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**Billy Powell's Ink Works, VA** donates of \$ 25.00 a month...  
**MMCC** from *Minnesota* donates \$17.00 a month...  
**SOS / Silent Thunder Clubhouse** in Fargo, North Dakota makes a Great donations each month... See note below...  
**SOS MC LiL Paul & his wife Lynn** from *North Dakota* for his \$ 25.00 a month...  
**Michigan SteelHorse Riders MC Cappy, Chino, Defender, & Q** donates \$ 25.00 a month...

*Special Thanks* goes to the **Outlaw Leech** for his \$ 50.00 Donation to this BBB Newsletter... Thank You!!!

*Thanks* goes to **Devils Diciples Tato** from *Alabama* for his \$ 25.00 donation...

*Donec Mors Non Separat*

R.I.P. Fossil...

In Memory of **Sons Of Silence Fossil** from *Colorado* who died after suffering from a long illness...

*Sending my Condolences* to you and to The **SOS MC Nation** for the Loss of Yau'll Brother SOS Fossil. L&R, *Road Scholar Jimbo*...

In Memory of **Hells Angel South Side Billy** from *Minnesota* who died October 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:05 am... R.I.P. SSB...

South Side Billy was my Contact with the Hells Angels MC with regards to this Newsletter and a Friend...

Welcome **Devils Diciples Clyde, Stroke, & Big Al** to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter Mailing list...

Welcome **Outlaws Richie, Toledo Al, Freddie, Keeler, Big Jim, & Doyle** to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter Mailing list...

**Editor's Note:** FYI – The **Sons Of Silence MC North Dakota** Chapter has a 2<sup>nd</sup> Clubhouse (Fargo) which is shared with **Silent Thunder MC** which is a SOS Support Club... SOS Brothers are spread thru out the State... Just got another \$ 51.00 at the Fargo Clubhouse on my way home this weekend from Minot, North Dakota (a stone's throw from Canada)... By the way, the SOS Brothers, Silent Thunder Brothers, and Guests really enjoyed the letters they have gotten so far... I believe there were 13 letters already, from 13 different clubs on this mailing list... And the weekend before they sent \$ 160.00 home with my Chapter President to give to me for this newsletter... Also went to North Dakota's COC meeting and party in Bismarck, North Dakota on Saturday... Brothers also live in the Grand Forks area of North Dakota... Just for reference Minot to Grand Forks is 206 miles... Bismarck to Fargo is 188 miles... Minot to Fargo is 262 miles... And to think then the Brothers make regular weekend (Friday after work thru Sunday evening and back to work on Monday) runs to Minnesota and Iowa and beyond... Drop them a line at: Paul Dellaneva; 1325 14<sup>th</sup> Street South Fargo, ND 58103...

**SOS Rebel Liver Update** – Oct 20, 2008 – **Minnesota** - Hey All, The docs called yesterday to tell me ALL my liver, kidney, ect functions are perfect! They backed me off of my lab draws to once a month, Ya got to love it!! Rebel SFFS

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

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

**Editor's Note:** I produce this National Coalition of Motorcyclists **Brothers Behind Bars** Newsletter which is a non partisan newsletter for Bikers by Bikers. The mailing list consists of members mainly of One-percenter **Motorcycle Clubs**, as well as from some non One-percenter **Motorcycle Clubs**. Information from the Newsletter contains News Articles & other information that may be of interest to a biker behind bars. Financial support for this Newsletter comes mainly from **NCOM, Motorcycle Clubs, Confederations Of Clubs, & Tattoo Shops**...

**Warlocks crab feed raises nearly \$5,000 for Warm the Children** – Oct 13, 2008 – *Keyser, West Virginia* - The 2008 Warm the Children campaign got off to an outstanding start recently when the local chapter of the Warlocks MC held their annual Crab Feast. The group raised nearly \$5,000 to benefit

children in Mineral County who are in need of warm clothing. This year's effort was a record-setting one. More people attended than ever before & more money was raised than in previous years. It also marked the fourth consecutive year that the Warlocks have designated Warm the Children as their benefit charity. "It's a

good cause helping good people,” stated the Warlocks. They also expressed their appreciation to the dozens of local merchants who helped in any way to make their effort a success. More than 300 people attended this year’s event, which was held at the Sonny Dawson campground on Patterson Creek Road. In addition to many local residents, individuals from Virginia, South Carolina, New York, Florida, Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina & Georgia also attended. Thirteen bushels of crabs, a 250 lb. hog, & other refreshments were enjoyed by those who attended. Entertainment was provided by 3 local bands: Kay & Rick Mellon bluegrass, Luke Hoover Orchestra, & South Train. Many participated in various bike field events, including the longest ride, slow race, plank race, water haul & the weenie bite. Winners were awarded wooden plaques handmade by one of the club members. “Our heartfelt thanks goes to each & every Warlock who makes this event such a huge success,” said Kelli Wittman, Warm the Children coordinator. “Our campaign has grown to depend on this great group of guys & their overwhelming generosity.” Volunteer shoppers will soon begin shopping with local families to provide each child on the application list new winter clothing totaling \$80 each. Anyone interested in being a volunteer shopper is invited to the campaign kick-off meeting at 6 p.m. tonight at the Emmanuel Pentecostal Assembly on Newton Street in Keyser. In addition, those interested in making a monetary donation may mail it or drop it off at the News-Tribune office. Checks can be made payable to “Warm the Children.”

**A Loss in the SOS family** – Oct 20, 2008 – *Iowa* - Brothers, I have been asked to let everyone know that our brother Kevin Durbin of the Western Iowa Chapter lost his mother late last night. Please keep our brother in your thoughts and prayers.

**SOS Tattoo Joe called** the other day and said he was transferred to Englewood with Iron Wing Boos. He would like to thank Sundowner Chico Two Guns for taking care of them when they arrived...

**2008 American Heat Motorcycle Weekend** – Oct 14, 2008 – *Palm Springs, California* - Members of some rival motorcycle clubs were expected to attend this weekend’s gathering, but no violence had been reported, Booth & other police officials said. “So far, it has been calm, cool & collected,” Palm Springs police Sgt. Mark Stafford said earlier. As many as 10,000 bikers descended on the city, according to unofficial estimates. “It’s been a nice weekend,” Stafford said. “Lots of people out there enjoying it. The event will feature stunt shows, food, live entertainment & motorcycle vendors.

**4 killed in weekend motorcycle accidents** – Oct 14, 2008 – *Minnesota* - Four motorcyclists died in 3 separate crashes over the weekend. Police data show motorcycle accidents are at their highest level in Minnesota in 17 years. In 2007, there were more than 1600 accidents in the state involving motorcycles. In both accidents Sat the motorcyclists lost control of their bikes. 45-year-old David Thoele & 50-year-old Mary Lofquist died Saturday after Thoele misjudged a curve on River Street & Franklin in Delano. A little over 2 hours later, 36-year-old Herbert Martin lost control of his bike while switching lanes on Highway 610 near Highway 252 in Brooklyn Park. Around 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Ryan Erdman, 29, died after hitting the bumper of an SUV on Interstate 94 near County Road 101 in Rogers. 5 Eyewitness News talked to local bikers about the increase in motorcycle accidents. Some said they believe the problem is drivers are not seeing or watching for motorcycles on the road.

They encourage all motorcyclists to take training classes that many also help reduce the number of accidents.

**Mideast anti-Americanism doesn’t apply to H-D’s** – Oct 14, 2008 – *Beirut, Lebanon* - BY: Borzou Daragahi - He’d had a rotten day at the office -- the boss had barked at him, ordering him to get some mammoth project done within an impossible deadline. So he got aboard his pearl-white H-D Street Glide, turned the ignition, gripped the throttle & revved the engine. He rode through streets crowded with apartments, past well-lighted skyscrapers. The city faded behind him & he breathed in the cool nighttime air, his motorbike roaring through the desert. For a few minutes, he felt free of his job, his family, of pressures & demands on his time -- just heading out on the highway atop nearly 800 pounds of pure American thunder. On a Middle Eastern highway. “My mind just clears,” says Rakan Talal, a 26-year-old from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia’s capital, who was among a small but fervent crew of hog fanatics converging on Lebanon the first weekend of October for the country’s first Harley-Davidson tour. “I don’t think about anything. Just the road & feeling the wind. Riding on 2 wheels is something else. Riding a bike makes it all feel better.” About 130 Harley riders roared into town from all over the Arab world -- Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia. The group driving in from Jordan ran into trouble at the Syrian border. Apparently, someone didn’t have the proper papers. They were held up for hours. But in the end, it was cool. Even as clerics & politicians in the Arab world ring out denunciations of U.S. foreign policy & the encroachment of Western-style decadence, these gleaming emblems of American freedom are growing in popularity here, says Marwan Tarraf, who sells Harleys in Lebanon & helped organize the tour. Five years ago, he knew of only 25 serious Harley riders in Lebanon. Now, he says, there are about 180. Harley clubs are popping up around the region. Talal says his chapter in Riyadh has about 300 members. They ride in one of the world’s most religiously conservative countries wearing the black leather jackets, heavy boots & snarling insignia of biker gangs everywhere. Talal sees no incongruity in having the green flag of Saudi Arabia, with its sword & elaborate Koranic script, right below the glistening Harley-Davidson badge on his black denim jacket, or in playing Arabic pop music as he rides his all-American bike. In fact, he says, Saudi Arabia is the perfect place to ride. The wide roads are fantastic for motorcycles, smooth & well-maintained. Such highways are becoming more typical in the Middle East, especially in the car culture of the Persian Gulf. Dry, sunny days are also common in the region: Lebanon gets about 300 days a year of Southern California-like weather. Most Harley riders seem to have some kind of tie to the United States. “It’s part of American culture,” says Tarraf, a burly 40-year-old with a head shaved shiny & a goatee speckled with white. “It’s a lifestyle adopted mostly by people who have some kind of connection to America. They either lived there or studied there or are connected to Americans.” But anyone can ride a Harley. It’s all about freedom & the exhilaration of the open road and, like, wow, man. “Once you get on a Harley you feel that you are really free & that your spirit is always up high & you’re going through the wind,” said Abraham Kadoumy, 51, who discovered motorcycle culture when he lived in Los Angeles in the late 1970s & early ‘80s. “Freedom is what it’s all about,” he says. H-Ds also have deep roots in Lebanon. Police here have been riding them for decades. In fact, bike dealer Tarraf says he fell in love with Harleys after getting a lift on one stolen from the cops during the 15-year civil war. He dreamed of owning one until he was 28, when he bought his first. He was living & working in New York City & went to the dealership there, plunking down every last cent he had. “I didn’t even have the

money to pay for the gas,” he says with a smile. “But I had the Harley.” Many of the riders’ girlfriends or wives accompanied them to the tour, & in the case of Jidda resident Mohammed Shahabeddine, 47, even his children were there. He’s grooming his oldest, 19-year-old Nadine, to ride in Lebanon, where she’s a student, though she says she’d be arrested by the morality police if she was caught in Saudi Arabia driving a Harley, or any other motor vehicle, for that matter. She still loves to ride on back. “When you sit on the bike, everything is in front of you,” she says. Talal, the Harley fanatic from Riyadh, came with his wife, Sara, 25, who goes riding with him wearing a pair of mirrored sunglasses & a brown head scarf covering all but her face. It wouldn’t have been as fun without her, he says. But clearly she’s not as much of an enthusiast as he is. “He treats the bike like his baby,” she says. Talal says he gets to live out a fantasy on a bike. Whenever he rides, he says, he feels like a movie star from old biker films, especially the 1969 classic “Easy Rider,” starring Dennis Hopper & Peter Fonda as 2 nomads drifting across America in a quest to be free above all else. “People hated the way they were because they were so free & they weren’t afraid of doing what they wanted,” Talal says. Luckily, modern-day Lebanon is perhaps a bit more tolerant than the Deep South of America that figures in “Easy Rider.” As the tour began, few paid the Harley fans any mind as they gathered in the midmorning sun to greet one another & show off their shiny trophies of steel & rubber in a parking lot next to Beirut’s blue-domed Mohammed al Amin mosque. But plenty of heads turned as the riders rolled out around 11 a.m. to travel the country in squads of 25, machines roaring, the glares of drivers on their way to work & the pious headed to church & mosque reflected in the mirrored sunglasses, shiny black helmets & polished chrome.

**Bikie link to roadside shooting** - Oct 14, 2008 – *Australia* - By Chris Thomson - Police have confirmed the motorcyclist shot & wounded on the side of the road in rural Wooroloo yesterday is a member of a bikie gang. The shooting of the bikie has closed Great Eastern Highway, Western Australia’s main road link to the eastern states, as police investigate whether a rival outlaw motorcycle gang was responsible. Police have refused to confirm reports that the Finks bikie gang, which is trying to establish itself in WA, was responsible for the shooting. “We are monitoring all outlaw motorcycle gangs at the moment,” Police Media’s Greg Lambert said this morning. “(The Finks) have certainly come to light in terms of coming to town, “I believe (the victim) was with a club, but I don’t know which one.” The male bikie was shot & wounded as he rode along Great Eastern Highway at Wooroloo, 55km east of Perth, at 3pm yesterday, police said. The man was flown by helicopter to Royal Perth Hospital with serious injuries. The hospital this morning refused to comment on the man’s health, but Sergeant Lambert said the bikie was in a stable condition. Few other details, including the age of the victim, were available overnight, but police expect to release further info at a media conference today, Sergeant Lambert said.

**Police appeal to public to do on bikies** - Oct 14, 2008 – *Australia* - WA Police are calling on members of the public to report all bikie movements following a gang-land style shooting of a motorcyclist yesterday. As fears grow that a bikie war is about to break out across Perth, Police Assistant Commissioner Wayne Gregson said police were concerned about an increase in bikie criminal networks establishing bases in WA. His comments come after the shooting of a man while riding a motorcycle near Wooroloo yesterday. Police believe members of the Finks bikie gang, which is trying to establish a presence in WA, were involved. About 3pm yesterday a motorcyclist was shot in the

shoulder while he was riding on Great Eastern Highway near The Lakes roadhouse. Gregson said police were appealing to the public to help them in their efforts to monitor gangs establishing headquarters in the State. “We can’t be everywhere & on every road,” he said. “We encourage members of the public, if they see any movement of gang members; we encourage them to ring Crime Stoppers anonymously.” Gregson today said he would not reveal the identity of the victim but said he was in a stable condition in hospital. He also refused to comment about several elements of the investigation including who he believed fired the shots. Gregson said the investigation was in its very early stages & wanted to assure the public that a strong, capable police presence was out in force. He said he was aware of up to 250 members of various motorcycle gangs in WA which was part of a \$90 million industry. “No law says they can’t ride around on a motorbike,” he said. “But we will make sure they tow the line.” Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers.

**Fear of gang war as bikie** - Oct 14, 2008 – By Debbie Guest - *West Australian* police are bracing for a bikie war after a gang-related shooting left one bikie, now under police guard, seriously injured. Police are concerned the incident could escalate into more violence involving the state’s notorious motorcycle gangs. A member of the Finks bikie gang, believed to be from Western Australia, was shot in the shoulder during the incident at Wooroloo, 55km east of Perth, on Sunday. Police would not comment on whether other motorcycle gangs were involved but it is suspected the Finks main rivals, the Coffin Cheaters, may be.

**Lawyer cleared over drug raid tip-off charge** – Oct 14, 2008 – *Australia* - A Rockhampton solicitor has been found not guilty of tipping off a motorcycle club about a drug raid. Douglas John Winning faced the Legal Practice Tribunal in Brisbane on 9 charges relating to drug raids in Rockhampton, in central Queensland, in 2003. Justice White found Winning not guilty of 5 of the charges, including tipping off the Rebels MC. But he was found guilty of unprofessional conduct relating to 4 charges, including abusing a police officer & calling former Director of Public Prosecutions Leanne Clare, a stupid woman. She is now a District Court Judge. The tribunal ruled Winning is still fit to practice but ordered he seek a legal mentor for 12 months. Winning’s penalty & costs are yet to be announced.

**153 potential witnesses on Hells Angels shooting** – Oct 15, 2008 - *Sioux Falls, South Dakota* - By The Associated Press - Defense lawyers representing 2 Hells Angels bikers charged with injuring six rivals in a 2006 gunfight have filed their list of potential witnesses. Chad Wilson of Lynnwood, Wash., & John Midmore, of Valparaiso, Ind., are to stand trial Nov. 3 in Sioux Falls on five counts of attempted first-degree murder & one count of commission of a felony while armed. Their lawyers say they may call as many 153 witnesses, though some of the names are also on the list of more than 200 people submitted by prosecutors. The shooting happened Aug. 8, 2006, at Legion Lake Resort in Custer State Park, where Outlaws MC members gathered for the Sturgis motorcycle rally 70 miles away.

**Convicted Criminal Not Granted Parole** – Oct 15, 2008 - *Florida* - No parole was granted Wed for Joseph “Crazy Joe” Spaziano. Spaziano was convicted of rape in Orange County, & he pleaded guilty to murder in a Seminole County case from the early 1970s. His request for parole was denied this morning. Spaziano, now 63, was a notorious member of the Outlaws motorcycle gang. He’s facing life in prison, but will be eligible for parole in another 5 years.

**Spaziano parole bid again rejected by state board** – Oct 15, 2008 - *Tallahassee, Florida* - By Bill Kaczor; Associated Press Writer - Convicted killer & rapist Joseph “Crazy Joe” Spaziano lost another bid for freedom Wed. The Florida Parole Commission rejected a tearful plea from his daughter & pushed back his prospective release date in 2060 - when he’d be 115 years old - by six months because he was disciplined last year for being disrespectful to prison officials. Spaziano, 63, has been eligible for parole since 1998 from a sentence of life plus five years. He was convicted of raping a 16-year-old Orlando girl, beating her & slashing her eyes in 1974. Commissioners said their decision was based on the vulnerability of his victim, his use of a deadly weapon, the heinous nature of the offense & his prison misconduct. The one-time Outlaws motorcycle gang member also spent two decades on death row for the 1973 murder of 18-year-old Laura Harberts in Seminole County. His conviction, though, was thrown out after a witness recanted his testimony. Spaziano then pleaded no contest to second-degree murder in that case & was sentenced to time served - 23 years. Spaziano’s daughter, Marynoel Tabar of St. Petersburg, told the three-member panel her father was innocent, the victim of mistaken identity by the victim, who initially was unable to pick him out of a police lineup. “This whole thing is a farce to keep him there,” Tabar said. “This is unjust.” She said her father suffers from brain damage, the result of being hit by a car, & never should have pleaded no contest to the murder. “The state found a perfect patsy,” Tabar said. “I don’t think he understood what happened to him.” Assistant State Attorney Tom Hastings of Seminole County urged the commission to keep Spaziano behind bars. “Joseph Spaziano is no victim as his daughter has tried to portray him,” Hastings said. “Both of these cases demonstrate that Spaziano is a violent & vicious individual.” Harberts’ mutilated body was found in a dump. A second body also was found there but it never was identified, said Florida Department of Law Enforcement agent Ed Hudson. The Florida Legislature abolished parole for most cases in 1983, but about 5,900 inmates are still eligible. They include prisoners, such as Spaziano, who committed offenses before then or were convicted of certain crimes still covered by parole through 1995. The commission agreed not to review Spaziano’s case for another five years, the maximum, & reset his prospective release date for Oct. 28, 2060. The panel in 1999 initially decided he should not be released until 2060, & in 2004 it refused to change the date.

**FAMM in the News** – Oct 15, 2008 – *USA* - Dear friend, I have great news to share! Last Fri, the Washington Post published an editorial calling for changes to Fed mandatory minimum sentencing laws. It was gratifying to see the Washington Post’s editorial board calling for reform, but it was even better because they wrote the editorial after reading the new **Families Against Mandatory Minimums** report, *Correcting Course: Lessons from the 1970 Repeal of Mandatory Minimums*. [\*Sentences on Trial\*](#) – Oct 10, 2008 – [\*Washington Post\*](#) - Congress can reenact a proud moment in its history by dumping strict mandatory minimums. Yogi Berra could have written a recently released report on the failure of mandatory minimum sentences. The report, published by **FAMM**, chronicles lawmakers’ rush in the 1950s to enact tough mandatory minimum sentences for what they saw as the viral spread of illegal drugs throughout the country. The most frightening of these substances, marijuana, was blamed for a rise in “sadistic” murders & gruesome sex crimes. Twenty years later, during the administration of Republican Pres Nixon, many of these mandatory minimums were repealed after lawmakers gathered enough evidence to show that they did not reduce crime or drug consumption & that they served primarily to usurp the

power of judges to tailor punishments to crimes. The stiff sentences also resulted in unconscionably long sentences for nonviolent offenders. Reliance on education to prevent drug use, rehabilitation to help addicts kick the habit & sentencing schemes that restored flexibility to judges -- including the flexibility to hand down tougher sentences than required under mandatory minimum statutes -- replaced irrational, tough-on-crime posturing. According to the report, no Republican was kicked out of office for supporting the changes. That these lessons were forgotten a mere decade later bring to mind one of Mr. Berra’s more famous observations: It’s *deja vu* all over again. As the FAMM report explains, in the 1980s Congress again turned to mandatory minimums to combat a growing & admittedly frightening problem involving another relatively unknown drug, crack cocaine, & the crime wave that accompanied it. The result: Judges were forced to sentence first-time nonviolent offenders to unconscionably long prison terms. Under these new laws, a 1<sup>st</sup>-time offender caught with 5 grams of crack faced a mandatory sentence of 5 years behind bars; if caught with 50 grams, he faced a mandatory sentence of 10 years, with no possibility of parole. A defendant would have to have been caught with 100 times that amount of powder cocaine to trigger similar punishment. No one expected lawmakers to address this problem in an election year. But they should revisit mandatory minimums & consider their repeal, as their predecessors did in 1970, once a new administration takes over. This is one time when history repeating itself would be a blessing.

**Gauger writes book about his wrongful conviction** – Oct 15, 2008 – *Richmond, Illinois* - By Jillian Duchnowski - Gary Gauger begins his book with information he wouldn’t learn until years after he had been sentenced to die by lethal injection for his parents’ 1993 double murder. Without sparing some chilling details, Gauger tells readers how he dozed on & off, unaware that 2 motorcycle gang members had slit his parent’s throats & gathered about \$15 off the floor of his dad’s motorcycle-shop floor. They had hoped to walk away with at least \$30,000, but instead used the meager proceeds to buy breakfast in Lake Geneva. Gauger, 56, recently self-published his story of wrongful conviction with help from Lake Geneva-based reporter Julie Von Bergen. He is beginning a round of book-signings to promote the book & the dangers of lifting the death-penalty moratorium. “I just want [readers] to see what happens & hopefully put more pressure on the police & prosecutors to do the job right,” Gauger said, sitting at the kitchen table in a farmhouse where he lives next to the Richmond area farm where the murders occurred. His story is told over 190 pages, including his memories of a long interrogation that ended with police considering his hypothetical account of how he might have committed the murders in an alcoholic blackout a confession. Then, there’s his disbelief that a McHenry County jury would convict him without any physical evidence connecting him to the crime, letters he wrote from death row, & details on how a law professor & his students exonerated him. He tried to commit his story to writing a few times while in prison, but the emotions were too raw. Instead, he tried to pass his 20 months in Stateville Correctional Center making cheese & sewing with a contraband needle left by another inmate & thread from unraveled clothing & sheets. About half of Gauger’s cellmates were convicted murderers, & nine inmates died while he was there – five by execution & four at the hands of other inmates. Prison officials dealt with the pall that executions brought by locking prisoners down early & passing out boxes of cookies. Rival gang members fought each other & the guards, which meant other prisoners on their way to the “chow hall” sometimes walked past gang members beating their enemies in

the stairwell, Gauger said. But some prisoners struggled to build a life beyond monotony & television. "They're just like other people," Gauger said. "It reminded me of a large apartment complex where the doors don't open." The doors opened for Gauger through law professor Larry Marshall & Northwestern University School of Law's Center on Wrongful Convictions. Sixty students signed up to work on his appeal after Marshall agreed to take on the case. After Gauger's release, federal authorities charged & later secured convictions against Outlaw gang members Randall Miller & James Schneider for the murders of Ruth & Morris Gauger. Gauger hypothesized in his book that Marshall was drawn to his case partially because he's a white Midwestern guy who illustrates that "these things didn't just happen in the ghetto." But Marshall said recently that he was impressed with how Gauger's twin sister, Ginger, stood by him so steadfastly. "When I read about the case, it had all the earmarks of a wrongful conviction in that it was a case where there was no physical evidence that supported the guilty [finding]," Marshall said. "It all boiled down to what was said during an unrecorded conversation." Marshall said Gauger ultimately became "one of the poster children" for why officers should tape entire interviews, not just confessions made toward the end of long interrogations. All that remains of the legal ordeal is a malicious prosecution lawsuit pending against the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, which is next due in court Friday. Gauger returned to farming full-time – before the murders he also spent part of his time helping his dad in his motorcycle shop – but the work serves a new purpose. "I like the work because it's hard enough & dangerous enough that I have to focus on what I'm doing," Gauger said. "It keeps my mind off what happened to me."

**Technology to track criminals will expand** - Oct 15, 2008 – *California / USA* - By Wesley G. Hughes - As the economy tightens the reins on the rest of us, San Bernardino County is shortening its leash even more on a special few. This is a group almost everyone is glad that someone is watching. It includes child molesters, wife beaters, drunken drivers & gang members. On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors voted to expand the county's use of surveillance technology to track criminal offenders who are on probation or serving time on house arrest or weekends in jail. Some of the technology includes global positioning satellite surveillance, home-based electronic monitoring & alcohol monitoring. Primary users of the technology will be the county Probation Dept & the Sheriff's Dept. And in these days when the taxpayers are taking a beating, this program is expected to pay its own way by requiring the offenders to pay for the equipment that tracks them. It's either agree to that or jail. Taxpayers get another break out of the deal. When the offender is out & about & being monitored, the county isn't forced to provide him with room & board, which is a big savings. It also helps alleviate overcrowding in the jails - a chronic problem in San Bernardino County. The county signed contracts with Total Court Services to provide alcohol monitoring & Sentinel Offender Services to provide GPS tracking & home-based monitoring. GPS satellite tracking has been in use in the county for 4 years. But the alcohol monitoring is new & the Sheriff's Dept is new to the home-based electronic monitoring. Sgt. David Phelps said several hundred county prisoners work during the week & serve their time on weekends. This should enable them to complete their sentences sooner. The offenders will be charged \$15 a day on a sliding scale according to ability to pay. It will cost the county nothing, & the contractors will collect the money. **Tracking from space:** Slap a GPS ankle bracelet on a probationer & you can track where he is & where he has been today, last week or last month. No alibis. Probation officer

Nathan Scarano tells about a gang fight in front of an apartment complex in Adelanto. Word was that a felony probationer might be connected. Scarano booted up his computer & sure enough, the guy had been at the scene when the call came in. He went to the man's home & found him scuffed up like he'd been in a brawl. He finally admitted it & provided other evidence to investigators. "GPS put him at the scene," Scarano said. GPS also provided the break in a High Desert homicide, Scarano said. It was a shooting at a house. A man in the program had been there but was not involved. He ran, but the GPS locked in on him, & he became a witness. **Sex offenders:** The Probation Dept's six-member sex offender unit was formed 4 years ago. It supervises 450 offenders countywide, including 130 in the High Desert, where acting supervisor Peter Bockman works. The High Desert team ranges far from Victorville to Needles to Trona to Twentynine Palms. There are no sex offenders in tiny Trona at this time, Bockman said. Sex offenders are very different from other criminals, Bockman said. "They tend to be intelligent, stable & employed." GPS is one of the tools used to supervise sex offenders. Others include home searches, surveillance, office visits, treatment & computer forensics. With all its capabilities, Bockman said, "GPS doesn't know what they are doing, who they are with or what actions they have taken." Satellite tracking is effective at getting compliance to the rules, Bockman said, "They mind their P's & Q's." The Probation Dept is strict in handling felony probationers. They can't get away with just saying they are homeless. "We make sure we know where you are," Bockman said. "If you say you sleep in your car, show me where you park." **Alcohol monitoring:** They call it SCRAM, secure continuous remote alcohol monitoring. It's a different sort of anklewear, & it doesn't make a fashion statement. It is sensitive to & records the amount of alcohol in your sweat. It's mostly used to monitor people on probation for driving under the influence, but it can be used in any cases where alcohol has been a factor, such as domestic violence, preventing underage drinking, or even custody cases. And Child Protective Services can request it. SCRAM representative Maria Gamboa said there are a surprising number of bartenders wearing the device. It is sensitive enough to detect the difference between ambient alcohol & alcohol that has been consumed. The wearer must pair it with a device at home that downloads its information & transmits it to SCRAM. Probation Officer John Holmes said, "It's a great tool. Nobody gets arrested on suspicion. You get arrested on evidence." Holmes is hoping SCRAM will reduce the number of second & third offenses & the overall amount of DUIs, making the community safer. In the past year, the county courts have issued almost 1,500 warrants for drivers who didn't follow the judges' orders & became fugitives. Holmes said he would put both the alcohol monitor & the GPS monitor on an offender, if it was called for. "San Bernardino County has no tolerance," he said. **Tracking the gangs:** There are approximately 780 gangs in the county ranging from 200 to 300 members down to the teens, said Probation Officer Bakunas. There are Latino gangs, black gangs, white gangs, hybrid (mixed race) gangs, tagger gangs, Asian gangs & outlaw motorcycle gangs. The Probation Dept has had as many as 75 gang members tracked by GPS. That nbr currently is 25. Bakunas said the Probation Dept is very concerned about community safety. He's seen bona fide gang members as young as 9 or 10 & families with 4 generations in the gang life. Scarano said, "I would like to see all convicted felons on GPS." Gangs "live by their own ideology," Scarano said. "They just prey on the community."

**I have wondered** at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress.' - Ronald Reagan

**Police to target bikies** – Oct 15, 2008 – *Australia* – By Beau Pearson - Bunbury police may use anti-fortification laws to target the Coffin Cheaters Bunbury club house. The WA Supreme Court recently upheld the law allowing police to force the removal of heavy fortification from premises suspected of involvement in organized crime. Detective senior sergeant Kylie Whiteley said the decision gave WA police the necessary legislative support to take action against organised criminal activity. “South West police & other support areas of the WA police will be reviewing & assessing the current situation relating to the premises being utilized by the Coffin Cheaters in Bunbury,” she said. The clubhouse has been raided twice this year by South West detectives, Bunbury police personnel & the Gang Crime Squad. Det. Whiteley said police would continue to investigate the activities of all outlaw motorcycle gangs in the South West. “Members of the Coffin Cheaters Bunbury have been involved in serious criminal matters this year including assaults, drug offences, possession of property suspected to be stolen & or unlawfully obtained, & a number of offences against the Liquor Control Act,” she said. “A number of close associates of the Coffin Cheaters have also been identified & charged this year.” The charges related to serious drug offences, firearm & ammunition offences, property offence & serious assaults. “The WA police recognise outlaw motor cycle gangs as the one per cent of the community who believe they are outside of the laws of society,” Det. Whiteley said. The legality of heavy fortifications at outlaw motorcycle gang CHs was the subject of a 4-year legal battle between police & the Gypsy Jokers. The gang even took their case to the High Court where it was dismissed. In August this year the Supreme Court ruled the Gypsy Jokers were legally obligated to remove fortifications at their Maddington clubhouse.

**King’s Cross farewells murdered mate** – Oct 15, 2008 – *Australia* - By Dylan Welch - Kings Cross’s colourful characters were out in daylight before noon today to pay their respects to murdered bikie & security manager Todd O’Connor. About 250 mourners packed more than 30 rows of St Mary’s Cathedral for the Catholic service. The sombre event turned ugly after the Mass, when a group of large aggressive men attacked several news photographers, pushing & hitting them. A Herald photographer was hit in the back & others were shouted & sworn at as people emerged from the cathedral. “Show some f---ing respect, c’mon, get out of here,” one man yelled, pushing photographers & camera people. Another later approached a Daily Telegraph photographer, who had already crossed the road to avoid the aggression, & asked for his camera. “Give us your camera & we’ll go for a walk,” he said. “Come for a walk, come for a walk.” The photographer declined. Earlier, a large ornate coffin carrying O’Connor’s body - covered in red roses & with a portrait of the man resting on top - was wheeled into the church & remained under the pulpit during the hour-long service. O’Connor, 41, a father of 3, was shot dead in a quiet Tempe street this month. Strike Force Colbee - comprising officers from the homicide, gangs & Middle Eastern organised crime squads, as well as Newtown police - is investigating his death. O’Connor’s widow, Kym, wept as she sat next to the couple’s 3 children - Nick, Kayla & Madison - when the coffin was brought in. The officiating priest said O’Connor was now free of the sins humans commit while alive. “All of us, we are criminals when we are going against the name of God. We are all sinners,” he said. He praised O’Connor’s life & lamented his sudden death. “It is the will of some evil Satanic force that brought us here together today,” he said. O’Connor’s brother Mark also made a tearful speech, remembering his brother as a “man’s man” who had always supported him & his family. “People who knew my

brother knew him to be a man of his word ... he had no time for small talk & that’s why he was a very successful businessman in his own right. “My brother would’ve meant something to each & every one of you here today. Personally he was my guardian angel,” Mark said. “I know whatever we did together he would be my support & my rock.” O’Connor began working as a strip club bouncer at the Cross when he was 17, & spent the past 2 decades working as a manager of clubs, strip joints & security firms. During testimony at the 1995 Wood royal commission into police corruption, he said he had worked as a manager at the Pink Panther, Pink Pussycat, Stripperama & on the door at Porkies. “I hired girls & waitresses & doormen & made sure that no money was stolen,” O’Connor told the hearing. Today’s service was attended by many of the Cross’s most notable nightclub identities, including promoters John Ibrahim & David Freeman as well as the licensees, respectively, of the nightclubs The Piano Bar & Dragonfly, Poata Okeroa & David Auld. David Freeman is the son of the late George Freeman, who featured heavily in several royal commissions into organised crime. A large number of large, muscled men wearing dark sunglasses & suits also arrived late & sat at the rear of the cathedral.

**New jails ‘not overcrowding answer’** - Oct 15, 2008 – *United Kingdom* - A controversial plan to build 3 huge Titan prisons “is not the solution to the prison overcrowding crisis”, the Gov’t has been warned. The Tackling Prison Overcrowding report, being launched at the House of Lords, is critical of the policy of building 11,000 new prison places over the next 5 years & concludes that current penal policies will be unsustainable should crime rise in the future. The study is based on a series of essays whose authors include former Gov’t officials & advisors. They question the findings of the prisons review undertaken last year by Lord Carter of Coles, drawing attention to “political dimensions in penal policy & the pressures on politicians to present tough solutions to crime problems,” a spokesperson said. Joint editor of the report, Professor Mike Hough, director of the International Centre for Prison Studies at King’s College London, said: “Neither the case for expanding the prison population nor for the proposed Titan prisons have properly been made. “While there is some promise in the proposed sentencing commission, these essays raise a large question mark over the general direction of current policies.” A 2<sup>nd</sup> joint editor, Enver Solomon, added: “The evidence from the experts clearly demonstrates that building new super-sized jails is not the solution to the prison overcrowding crisis. “Politicians from all parties need to listen carefully to what they have to say & rethink their approach.” The solutions to overcrowding suggested by the report include a Royal Commission on sentencing, the development of better ways of measuring the impact of imprisonment on public safety, & the consideration of how other countries limit prison growth. The Titan prisons will be able to house up to 2,500 inmates, & the likely locations were given as London, W Midlands & the NW.

**I was having a drink at a local restaurant** with my friend Justin when he spotted an attractive woman sitting at the bar. After an hour of gathering his courage, he approached her & asked, “Would you mind if I chatted with you for a while?” She responded by yelling at the top of her lungs, “No, I won’t come over to your place tonight!” With everyone in the restaurant staring, Justin crept back to our table, puzzled & humiliated. A few minutes later, the woman walked over to us & apologized. “I’m sorry if I embarrassed you,” she said, “but I’m a graduate student in psychology & I’m studying human reaction to embarrassing situations.” At the top of his lungs Justin responded, “What do you mean, two hundred dollars?”

**Sentencing laws condemned** - Oct 15, 2008 – *United Kingdom* - Sentencing laws which led to thousands of prisoners being jailed indefinitely with little prospect of release have been condemned in an official report. Indeterminate sentences aimed at protecting the public from serious sexual or violent criminals were an example of “how not to” introduce new laws, a joint report by the Chief Inspectors of Prisons & Probation found. They said prisoners on IPP (Imprisonment for Public Protection) sentences found themselves in a “Kafkaesque” situation where they had completed their sentences but were unable to access the courses needed to prove they were no longer a threat. The sentences were introduced at a time when prisons were already overstretched & funding for probation services was being slashed, they said. “This was a perfect storm. It led to IPP prisoners languishing in local prisons for months & years, unable to access the interventions they would need before the expiry of their often short tariffs,” the report said. Juliet Lyon, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said the sentences were “unnecessary” & “unworkable”. She said they account for more than 6% of today’s prison population. “IPPs are a text book example of the dangers of chasing headlines by acting tough, not smart,” she said. Already by April this year, more than 750 people were being held beyond the tariff set by the courts. That number is expected to be approaching 1,000 by now. Despite some changes in this year’s Criminal Justice Act, it is likely that many of these prisoners who have served their minimum tariff but remain in prison do so because they have had no opportunity to demonstrate they pose no risk if released. Recent changes to sentencing laws will drastically cut the number of people likely to be jailed indefinitely. In the report, Chief Inspector of Prisons Anne Owers said indefinite sentences were “over-used” & under-funded. “This created a vicious circle, in which IPP prisoners were both casualties & contributory causes of a severely overcrowded prison system,” she said. “Moreover, as they tend to be younger, frustrated prisoners with complex needs, they are likely to pose significant control problems & self-harm risks.”

**Hells Angels biker released** – Oct 15, 2008 - *Denmark* - A spokesman for the Hells Angels has been released from custody & is awaiting a further decision in the case Infamous Hells Angels member Jørn Jønke Nielsen was released by the city court Wed after 10 months behind bars & a psychiatric evaluation. He was remanded in custody in December after he stabbed a man in the Nørrebro district of Copenhagen. Jønke maintained it was self-defence, & had sustained injuries himself in the incident. The prosecution wanted him to remain in custody until his trial for attempted murder, but the city court decided to release him, following the results of an involuntary psychiatric evaluation. Psychiatrists found that he is neither too dangerous nor too sick to serve a regular prison sentence. Jønke had previously refused to undergo the evaluation, & called it an attempted character assassination as he left the courthouse Wed. Jønke came to prominence in 1984 when he killed the head of rival biker gang Bandidos. The 24-year-old fled the country to Canada & returned 4 years later to face a 16 year jail sentence. During the height of the biker warfare in 1996, Bandidos members tried to assassinate Jønke with guns & hand grenades while he was serving his sentence in Jyderup prison. He survived the attack. Jønke was also involved in the death of a man during a 2001 fight at an Aalborg disco, which saw him receive a 4 year jail term.

**ABATE of NY to Picket the NY Highway Safety Conference** – Oct 16, 2008 – By Roadkill; President of ABATE of *New York*, Inc. - “On Tue, Oct 21st, **American Bikers Aimed Toward Education** of New York, Inc. will picket the New York Highway Safety Conference at the Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel &

Conference Center at 801 Univ Ave, Syracuse, NY, where the New York State Police are presenting their Motorcycle Safety Roadblock Scenario to more than 350 professionals from local, state, federal & private agencies involved in the effort to reduce deaths & injuries related to traffic crashes...” ABATE of New York has obtained an all-day public assembly permit to conduct an informational picket/protest outside of the Conference Center where the event is scheduled. With media coverage of our protest, this is an excellent opportunity for ABATE to achieve “In Your Face” results. In addition to the simple enjoyment of being able to verbalize ABATE’s dissatisfaction with dedicated fund mis-assignments & motorcycle-only roadblocks, we’ll be able to publicly argue before the media the irony of New York State’s misdirection of designated motorcycle safety funds to those very same enforcement efforts being fostered at the New York Highway Safety Conference being conducted inside, in the blatant face of rising motorcyclist accident rates. In a nutshell, we should be able to emphasize that our designated safety funds should be used for safety purposes not enforcement purposes.

**Chili cooks wanted** – Oct 16, 2008 – *Nevada* - Entrants are needed for an amateur chili cook-off beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday on Curry Street between Spear & Robinson streets in Carson City. The event is part of the Leather & Lace Motorcycle Club’s Nomad Poker Run for Cancer Awareness.

**Antonio Taylor gets 8 to 30 years in prison for shooting at Naptown Riders MC** – Oct 16, 2008 - *Michigan* - Antonio Taylor apologized Monday for his role in a Dec. 15 shooting at a Kalamazoo after-hours club. Anthony Potts died from injuries in the shooting. Taylor, 22, of Kalamazoo, was sentenced Monday by Kalamazoo County Circuit Judge J. Richardson Johnson to eight to 30 years in prison for assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder plus a consecutive two-year term for using a firearm in the commission of a felony. Taylor pleaded guilty to those charges in May. A murder charge & 3 additional firearms charges were dismissed. On Mon, Taylor said he took responsibility for his actions & was sorry for the loss the Potts’ family had suffered. Taylor was one of three men charged in the shooting of Potts at the Naptown Riders MC, 328 Parsons St., in Kalamazoo. Potts, 19, was found in the private club at about 2:20 a.m. & pronounced dead a short time later. Lamar Johnson, 18, of Kalamazoo, was found guilty at trial in September of second-degree murder for Potts’ death. He is to be sentenced Oct. 20. Tykwan Buchanan, 23, of Kalamazoo, who police have said was likely the intended target of the shot that hit Potts, pleaded guilty in August to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

**Cops want fresh leads in 2006 murder** – Oct 16, 2008 – *Texas* - Austin police are trying to drum up leads in a cold case from 2006. On Mar 18, 2006, someone shot Anthony Benesh, 44, to death outside Saccone’s Pizza in a strip mall off Hwy 183 just south of FM 620. He was shot in the head at close range & had his 2 children with him. At that time, investigators said they believed the Bandidos motorcycle gang was behind the murder. Now police are making a plea for any new info to solve the case.

**Went to the doctor for my yearly physical.** The nurse starts with certain basics. ‘How much do you weigh?’ she asks. ‘135,’ I say. The nurse puts me on the scale. It turns out my weight is 180. The nurse asks, ‘Your height?’ ‘5 foot 4,’ I say. The nurse checks & sees that I only measure 5’ 2”. She then takes my blood pressure & tells me it is very high. ‘Of course it’s high!’ I scream. ‘When I came in here I was tall & slender! Now I’m short & fat!’ She put me on Prozac.

**Deputy learns Taser not effective on wild boars** – Oct 16, 2008 – *Florida* - While normally effective on people, a Hernando deputy learned the hard way that Taser stun guns do not work very well on wild boars. The sheriff's office reported that Deputy Joseph Tibor responded to complaints of an "extremely large pig" tearing up a resident's yard in a Brooksville neighborhood Tuesday morning. He quickly found a 450-pound boar rooting up shrubbery & threatening a water fountain. The animal then flashed his tusks toward onlookers. Tibor tried to stop it with his Taser, but the 50,000 volts had no effect on the animal. The boar was eventually corralled into a neighbor's trailer.

**The More Alcohol Your Drink** – Oct 16, 2008 – *World* - The more alcohol an individual drinks, the smaller his or her total brain volume, according to a report in the Oct issue of Archives of Neurology, one of the JAMA/Archives journals. Brain volume decreases with age at an estimated rate of 1.9% per decade, accompanied by an increase in white matter lesions, according to background info in the article. Lower brain volumes & larger white matter lesions also occur with the progression of dementia & problems with thinking, learning & memory. Moderate alcohol consumption has been associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease; because the brain receives blood from this system, researchers have hypothesized that small amounts of alcohol may also attenuate age-related declines in brain volume. Carol Ann Paul, M.S., of Wellesley College, Mass., & colleagues studied 1,839 adults (average age 60) who were part of the Framingham Offspring Study, which began in 1971 & includes children of the original Framingham Heart Study participants & their spouses. Between 1999 & 2001, participants underwent magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) & a health examination. They reported the number of alcoholic drinks they consumed per week, along with their age, sex, education, height, body mass index & Framingham Stroke Risk Profile (which calculates stroke risk based on age, sex, blood pressure & other factors). "Most participants reported low alcohol consumption, & men were more likely than women to be moderate or heavy drinkers," the authors write. "There was a significant negative linear relationship between alcohol consumption & total cerebral brain volume." Although men were more likely to drink alcohol, the association between drinking & brain volume was stronger in women, they note. This could be due to biological factors, including women's smaller size & greater susceptibility to alcohol's effects. "The public health effect of this study gives a clear message about the possible dangers of drinking alcohol," the authors write. "Prospective longitudinal studies are needed to confirm these results as well as to determine whether there are any functional consequences associated with increasing alcohol consumption. This study suggests that, unlike the associations with cardiovascular disease, alcohol consumption does not have any protective effect on brain volume."

**ODOT District Riddled With Fraud, Corruption & Depravity** – Oct 16, 2008 – *Cleveland, Ohio* - An incredibly scathing report released Thu morning by the Ohio Inspector General's Office showed that a district of the Ohio Dept of Transportation is in horrible disarray with allegations of kickbacks, bid steering at the taxpayer's expense & even thousands & thousands of dollars spent on strippers during work time. The report already has resulted in firings, suspensions & resignations within the Dept. A number of ODOT employees who worked in the purchasing end were accused of steering state work to companies that would give them gifts, services & money. Three employees are the focus of the investigation -- all in the Cleveland area. Facilities Manager Dennis Kratochvil is accused of accepting more than \$34,000 in

commissions or basic kickbacks from just one vendor, & there are nearly 30 vendors in question. According to the report, the gratuities Kratochvil received from vendors included fishing & hunting trips in Ohio, Texas & Alaska; hotels & meals in Las Vegas; meals, drinks & lap dances at strip clubs; & private golf club memberships. Strippers allegedly accompanied state workers on Lake Erie boating trips on company time & even were offered breast augmentations, which were paid for by these workers who were allegedly accepting kickbacks from companies they steered business to. The IG's report said the Dept was riddled with fraud, corruption & depravity. Bowersock will be investigating the allegations & the report Thu & will offer updates as possible.

**Time to take fight interstate** - Oct 16, 2008 - *Australia* - South Australia's tough anti-bikie laws should be adopted by other states & territories, Premier Mike Rann says. Western Australia's Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan said yesterday he might consider asking the WA government for new laws to disrupt bikie gangs amid fears of an escalation of bikie violence in the state. Under SA laws which passed parliament this year, the attorney-general can declare a criminal bikie gang an outlaw organisation & police can issue control orders stopping members associating with each other. Rann said today it was time other states & territories enacted similar laws. "We have said from day one that if other states & territories do not follow our lead there is the potential for displacement of bikies," Rann said in a statement. "There can be no doubt that legislative gaps or inconsistencies across Australia stand to benefit organised crime gangs. "There is no doubt that bikie gangs have broadened their activity to become involved in crime syndicated on a national & international scale. "The only way to curtail the abhorrent criminal activities of bikies throughout Australia is to develop a Nat'l approach."

**Taskforce admits Bandido presence** – Oct 16, 2008 - *Australia* - The Bandidos are here. That is the message from the Queensland Police Service Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Taskforce, otherwise known as Taskforce Hydra. In a statement delivered to the Daily News yesterday, Taskforce Hydra said it had evidence Bandidos members were on the radar screen in the Rose City. "The OMTG & Warwick police have identified a Bandido presence in the Warwick area," the statement said. The confirmation comes after concerned residents contacted the Daily News regarding increasing numbers of Bandido members in the city, as well as the possibility a Bandido clubhouse was already in operation near the CBD. Warwick police Officer-in-Charge Senior Sergeant Mike Curtin said there was no cause for undue alarm. "Local police are aware there are some activities relating to motorcycle groups in Warwick," Snr Sgt Curtin said. "We have no info at hand giving us any indication that an actual motorcycle club is operating within Warwick," he said. Snr Sgt Curtin also said people belonging to various motorcycle clubs were to be expected around the city. "Warwick is on a major traffic route so it is not uncommon to see members of such groups on the streets from time to time," he said. "The police are quite happy to monitor such groups & ensure general safety is upheld." He said residents should report any problems regarding anti-social behaviour to the police & such instances would be dealt with accordingly & within the "correct legislation".

**Daylight saving time:** When told the reason for Daylight Saving time the old Indian said... 'Only a white man would believe that you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket & sew it to the bottom of a blanket & have a longer blanket.'

**Bandidos mit festen Strukturen im Freistaat** - Oct 16, 2008 – *Germany* - Einbrüche, Messerattacken, Razzien warfen in den vergangenen Wochen Schlaglichter auf kriminelle Motorradgangs. "Weimar und die Bandidos - wie sicher ist die Kulturstadt?", fragt ein Forum heute Abend im Weimarer Rathaus. ERFURT. 8000 Euro konnten das Schweigen nicht brechen. Bei den Ermittlungen zu einer Messerstecherei vor der Weimarer Diskothek Locca tappen Polizei und Staatsanwaltschaft trotz des ausgelobten Geldes weiter im Dunkeln. Brisant ist, dass die Disko gegenüber dem Clubquartier der Rockergruppierung Bandidos MC liegt - und der Verdacht besteht, dass es zwischen der Messerstecherei und den Rockern womöglich Verbindungen geben könnte. Beim Thüringer Verfassungsschutz werden die Bandidos unter "OMC" geführt: Outlaw MC, gesetzliche Motorradclubs oder besser: kriminelle Rockervereinigungen. Seit etwa 2000 haben sich mehrere dieser international agierenden Clans auch in Thüringen breit gemacht. "Heute gibt es im Freistaat gefestigte Strukturen", schätzt Verfassungsschutzpräsident Thomas Sippel gegenüber dieser Zeitung ein. Seine Behörde beobachtet die Rockerbanden, weil sich in Thüringen, wie in nur wenigen Bundesländern, der Verfassungsschutz mit organisierter Kriminalität beschäftigen darf. Am auffälligsten verhalten sich derzeit die Mitglieder des Bandidos MC. Kürzlich wurden vier von ihnen nach einer Razzia in der Region Weimar verhaftet, weil sie im Verdacht stehen, serienweise Einbrüche begangen zu haben. Insgesamt hatten die Ermittler des Landeskriminalamtes (LKA) Mitte Sept Durchsuchungsbeschlüsse für die Wohnungen von 17 Personen im Alter zwischen 19 und 40 Jahren, die alle zum Umfeld der Rockerbande gezählt werden. Vor allem der noch immer mysteriöse Selbstmord eines Bandidos Anfang September brachte die Gruppierung wieder in die Öffentlichkeit. Davor herrschte wenigstens oberflächlich fast anderthalb Jahre Ruhe, seit in Weimar ein Pkw in Flammen aufgegangen war und bei Verhaftungen von Banden-Mitgliedern im Januar 2007 durch ein Spezialeinsatzkommando geschossen werden musste. Lässt Thüringen Weimar mit den Rockerbanden allein? Darüber diskutieren Experten und Bürger heute Abend im Weimarer Rathaus auf Einladung der "Thüringer Allgemeine". Chefredakteur Sergej Lochthofen moderiert die Gesprächsrunde mit Weimars Oberbürgermeister Stefan Wolf (SPD), Innenminister Manfred Scherer (CDU) und dem Weimarer Polizeichef Gregor Zeh.

**Hindret ikke politiets etterforskning, mener retten.** – Oct 16, 2008 – *Norway* - Advokaten, som er fra Tromsø, ble i Nord-Troms tingrett i juni frikjent for å ha hindret politiets arbeid i en større narkotikasak mot medlemmer av motorsykelklubben Hells Angels i Tromsø. Statsadvokaten anket: Påtalemyndigheten mente at advokaten hadde ringt et Hells Angels-medlem for å tipse om at motorsykelklubben ble etterforsket av politiet i en større narkotikasak. Statsadvokaten anket så tingrettens avgjørelse til Hålogaland lagmannsrett med krav om gjennomgang av alle bevisene i saken. Statsadvokaten ville at lagmannsretten skulle ta stilling til hvor grensen går mellom hensynet til politiets arbeid og hva en advokat kan gjøre for sin klient. I dag onsdag frikjente også lagmannsretten Tromsø-advokaten etter tiltalen. Erstatningskrav: Etter avgjørelsen i tingretten sa advokaten at han vurderte å reise søksmål mot myndighetene med krav om erstatning. Det er usikkert om han fortsatt mener det samme.

**Police Make Large Meth, Gun Bust With Ties To Local Biker Gang** – Oct 17, 2008 – *Pennsylvania* - By Dave Schratwieser-Attorney General Tom Corbett says the Warlocks Motorcycle Gang were the main recipients of lots of meth cooked up in 2 labs

in Berks and Montgomery Counties. The labs produced over 500 pounds of meth, worth millions of dollars. They had the firepower, they had the drugs and they generated plenty of cash. State investigators say when it came to producing home grown methamphetamine in our region, this was a big time operation. "Spadafora allegedly produced more than \$9 million worth of methamphetamine," said Atty General Thomas Corbett. Agents say 42-year-old Michael Spadafora and 3 others ran the show, cooking meth in the kitchen and basement of Spadafora's half million dollar Reading home, a shed and a shipping container. After each meth cook, they say, Spadafora put liquid meth in pipes and buried it underground, until he needed more. Some of his best customers were right here in our area. "We believe Mr. Spadafora's meth was distributed across southeast Pennsylvania and was even being supplied to members of the Warlocks Outlaw Motorcycle Gang," said Corbett. The Warlocks have long been linked to meth. Recently, state investigators took down 13 members of the notorious biker gang for dealing the drug. Then Warlocks president Thomas Zaroff was arrested and his garage raided. Just 2 weeks ago, Corbett's agents broke up a multi-million dollar operation that was shipping crystal meth from Mexico to Philadelphia in porcelain dolls. "Definitely what it tells me, there is a problem here in southeastern Pennsylvania with methamphetamine," said Corbett. Corbett says most disturbing was the discovery of this life-size, bullet-riddled target of a police officer found in a suspect's home. "Somebody's learning how to hone in with their weapon and where are they shooting, they're shooting into the heart of a police officer. We have a huge problem in this state, this country with a lack of respect for law enforcement," said Corbett. Agents made undercover purchases of meth from this ring. They seized 68 guns, including half a dozen assault rifles and handguns with silencers. The meth labs were dismantled. Corbett says with the high demand for meth in this area, there's no doubt someone try to take fill the void left by these arrests.

**Former Bandido Breaks His Silence** – Oct 17, 2008 – *Texas* - By Brian Collister - It was brutal murder that shocked San Antonio. A local boxing legend, Robert Quiroga, stabbed to death by a member of the Bandidos MC in Aug of 2004. Now, for the first time, the man who committed the crime is talking about what happened. Former Bandido Ricky Merla is a stone-cold killer. Now he's breaking his silence about murdering Robert Quiroga and how, he says, the Bandidos turned their backs on him. "I don't regret it. I don't have no remorse. I don't feel sorry for him and his family. I don't and I mean that," Ricky Merla admits. Merla candidly talked about the night he killed boxing legend Robert Quiroga. He's never spoken publicly about what happened four years ago. But from prison in Gatesville, Merla claims he was only defending himself when he and Quiroga got into an argument at a friends house. "I'm wild; I ain't gonna lie. But I don't go around killing people and hurting people because I can," Merla said. "You got to give me a reason. And Robert Quiroga gave me a reason. He attacked me when he should have just left." Merla says Quiroga came at him first. That's when he overpowered the boxer, grabbed the knife out of his hand and used it to stab him seventeen times. But it's what happened after the murder that set Merla off. Within a week of Quiroga's murder, John Portillo, a member of the Bandidos MC spoke with News 4. "This was not an action of our club," Portillo said back in 2004. "We do not condone this. This was the act of a coward who is no longer a member of this motorcycle club." Ricky Merla was not happy about those comments. In fact, he was fuming. "I am a natural born outlaw, O.K., I can't defend myself? That night somebody's trying to harm me and I can't defend myself? So I

committed a murder? So, he kicks me out," Merla asked. "I'm an outlaw. What's the definition of an outlaw? I'm a true outlaw. I'm not like those guys running around over there right now, man." Merla thinks the Bandidos are no longer the outlaws he joined. He says he saw a story aired by News 4 a few months ago where the Bandidos claimed they were misunderstood and not a group of criminals on bikes. Merla tells us, they're just trying to clean up their image. The truth, according to Merla is, the motorcycle club is a front for crime. The convicted murderer told us, "I'm not gonna sit here and say, that we practiced organized crime. But I'll sit here and say this -- half of the Bandido Nation is involved in some kind of crime or another, trying to make a living. You know what I'm saying?" Merla also insists it was a club leader who ordered him to murder Roberto Lara in 2001, in retaliation for the shooting of a fellow Bandido. Again, a spokesperson for the motorcycle club flatly denies it all. "We are not a criminal organization," Portillo said in an interview earlier this year. As the interview came to an end, Merla admitted, his only regret was joining the Bandidos MC. The Bandidos declined to comment about Merla's recent interview with News 4. Robert Quiroga's brother also spoke with Brian Collister, saying, "Merla is a lost soul, a coward and where he belongs." Ricky Merla will spend the next 40 years in jail.

**Concerts, parties, rides -- your complete guide** – Oct 17, 2008 – *Florida* - By Rick de Yampert - Local tourism officials estimate 125,000 to 175,000 people will be in town for Biketoberfest, the annual fall biker fest that's now in its 16th year. The event officially began Thursday and continues through Sunday. What the hell are all these folks going to do? Imbibe lots of rock 'n' roll, brews, street parties, rides, expos, an art show (!) and other motorcycle-related activities. You got questions about Biketoberfest? We got answers. I'm tired of hearing pipes. I wanna hear some music. Which band is going to be cranking out the best Biketoberfest anthem? Our pick for Biketoberfest anthem is Jo Dee Messina's "My Give a Damn's Busted." Sure, she's likely singing about some guy who pimp-slapped her heart around, but the title refrain sums up the biker attitude.

**Bikers steering clear of Temecula** – Oct 17, 2008 – *California* - "On my way in here I finally got a ticket," Ron Muir, a motorcycle enthusiast, said last Saturday as he leaned on the service counter of the store he runs in Old Town Temecula. He shook the piece of paper in front of him. To Muir, the ticket was proof of a problem he had only suspected before. The Temecula police are targeting local motorcycle riders, he stated with renewed confidence. The ticket came as if on cue. He had contacted the Valley News only a few days before about some concerns he had for his fellow motorcycle riders. Muir owns a motorcycle gear shop in Old Town Temecula, he explained in an e-mail last week, and since last month his customers have been complaining of getting excessive tickets. "They say, 'No, you're breaking the noise ordinance.' They don't have any decibel meters," he said of the ticketing officers. The Temecula Police Department stepped up enforcement in Old Town last month, said Capt. Jerry Williams, the Chief of Police for the City of Temecula. "I got some complaints from some Old Town merchants," he said. "When [motorcycle riders] come through there with excessively loud pipes we will put a few officers down there." He redirected two units – which usually patrol other parts of Temecula – to Old Town for three weekends in September, he said. The officers issued 60 citations, which was "a lot," according to Williams. Temporary increased enforcement falls short of a crackdown, he said. "I ride a Harley myself. Most of my officers ride bikes," he said at a City Council meeting during a

discussion of the police department's activities. "It's a misconception about the whole thing." This month, the number of officers patrolling Old Town has returned to normal, he said. Nonetheless, some motorcycle enthusiasts speculate the increased attention is part of a larger goal of making Temecula a quieter place. "It sounds to me like [the local police] are cracking down on bikers," said Ken Rauton, the owner of Swing Inn in Old Town. Rauton rarely hears his motorcycle-riding clients complain about getting tickets in the area, he said. Then, in the middle of last month, all his clients started complaining about getting tickets, he said.

**Police chief's decision changes rally: Bikers denied access to concert by police because of 'colors'** – Oct 19, 2008 – *Texas* – By Nikki Maxwell - The definition of rally is 'to bring into order again; gather and organize or inspire anew. Or, to draw or call (persons) together for a common action or effort.' However, some people are using the terms "discrimination and profiling" to describe the events of this past weekend at the first Gonzales Thunder Rally at J.B. Wells Arena. "We were shocked," said Ben Piggot of Rock Festival Productions, co-organizer of the Rally. "We were told that thousands of bikers were coming, even some from great distances, including Alaska and Vermont." But the attendance numbers were not even close to that estimate. Despite over one million hits on their web site within a couple of months of the event, not even one percent of those people showed up at the rally. The final count of paid visitors was only approximately 1,000 people. The reason for the low attendance numbers was unknown to the rally organizers, until late Friday night. The motorcycle riders began to roll into the city of Gonzales on Friday afternoon, and entered the J.B. Wells Arena without a problem. That evening, when members of the Bandidos biker organization showed their tickets to enter the concert area, they were confronted by law enforcement officers at the entrance gate and given an ultimatum. The motorcycle riders were told that they had to remove their colors to enter the event area, and if not, then they would have to leave. They chose to leave. "I got called about the bikers being asked to leave their jackets outside and asked the security people what was going on. They said that Gonzales Police Chief Tim Crow had given the order," said Piggot. "When I asked him (Crow) about it, he said that there was a city ordinance against bikers wearing their colors within city limits." Crow denies making that statement. "I told them that there was a city ordinance giving us authority to ask, and if necessary escort, anyone off the park premises as an alternate course of action to arresting them, if I or other city officials felt it was necessary for good order and safety," said Crow. Piggot said the minute word got out about the jackets not being allowed inside, the bikers began calling each other and cancelling their trips to Gonzales from across the state. "I had biker friends call me and ask me if it was true and if they (police) could really do that," Piggot said. "I live in Gonzales and got to the rally on Saturday morning about 9 a.m.," said Billy Newton, a motorcycle rider. "My daughter was with me and she is a junior member of the club. Then another member of the Gypsies rolled up and greeted me and told me that we wouldn't be allowed to wear our colors inside the rally." Newton said at first that evening it was just enforced inside the concert fence, but then it became as soon as visitors entered J.B. Wells property. "The police were everywhere, and one cop on horseback came over and told me to take off my colors that night, and we weren't even inside the rally fence." Piggot said that he and other event officials argued with the police about the rule because they wanted the bikers to be able to wear their colors inside the rally and show pride in their bike clubs and association patches. According to Crow, he made the

'no colors' decision in the name of safety. "The decision was made during the first meeting with the event organizers and the city manager, back in the Spring of this year," said Crow. "I proposed the no colors rule because bikers wear patches called colors on their jackets to signify which gang they are with and I didn't want outlaw gangs in our town or at the event causing trouble. When opposing gangs get together at an event like a rally, the chance of a fight increases." "If it was a matter of security, we had more officers than the city. We hired security and had officers from the Bexar County Sheriff's Office working out there," said Piggot. "There were no problems, no fights and many families with children attended." The decision resulted in a combined loss of more than \$500,000. "We were told to expect thousands of people, and bought enough food to feed that amount," said one vendor who wished to remain anonymous. "Sadly it became obvious by Saturday night that business was not going to pick up, so many of us (vendors) packed up and left. That's why Sunday was a 'no show.' Crow said that no one was turned away, and his head of security told him only 13 people showed up at the rally and left because of the 'no color's rule. Piggot and Thunder Rally partner Roger Owens want to ensure that the vendors who invested in the event and the disappointed public understand exactly what went wrong. "It wasn't us, it was the police determining who came in," said Piggot. "I think it was a bad decision by a few people that negatively impacted the entire community. If someone comes into my restaurant I thank them for choosing us to spend their money on, I don't ask them to take off their jacket." "It's unfortunate that this happened," said Denise Garcia, advertising and media relations representative of the Republic of Texas (ROT) Rally. ROT is an annual event hosted in Austin and with an average of 50,000 participants, is the largest motorcycle rally in Texas. "Rallies are about camaraderie, meeting other bikers and sharing stories and their love for the sport. We don't turn anyone away," Garcia said. Four of the many motorcycle clubs whose members were asked to leave their group's jackets at the door of the Gonzales Thunder Rally were the Bandidos, the Christian Motorcycle Association, a Vietnam War Veterans group and a U.S. Marine Corps veterans group. The colors on their jackets include a Christian cross and the American flag. "As a veteran myself I think it was reckless," said Piggot. "We have a war going on right now and it's like basically telling them (veterans) that their service was meaningless." "In today's rally world, the key word is rally not rowdy," he continued. "The people who can afford these expensive cruisers are professionals such as doctors and lawyers." Piggot said the event was laid out well, and other than the attendance issue, it went relatively smooth considering it was the rally's first year. According to Crow, the only problems at the rally were "a few narcotics cases involving local residents." "Overall, the event was successful in my opinion. I saw a bunch of riders come in, stay a while, and then leave," said Crow. "It was held in a city park, which I am ultimately responsible for." "We don't know what we are going to do yet about another one next year," said Piggot. "But if we do hold another rally, it will be outside city limits."

**Recorded telephone interview with Police Chief Crow** – Oct 19, 2008 – *Texas* - Nearby Gonzales hosted it's first-ever motorcycle rally this past weekend. Geriatric hard-rockers Great White and Brett Michaels were there to do their part to Keep South Texas Hokey. But someone forgot to alert the promoters at Rock Festival Productions or the teams of gearheads blowin' in that Gonzales Police Chief Tim Crow had learned all he knows about motorcycle culture from Marlon Brando's performance in *The Wild One*. At least that would explain why the Chief stationed his men at the town gate, requiring all motorcycle club

members to check their colors at the door. The overt discrimination has both the event's promoter and would-be attendees hornin' their lawyers this week. While Gonzales Thunder Rally's website got 530,000 hits in the week before the event kicked off, only about 400 showed on Friday. Saturday saw that number maybe double. Maybe. "Beyond a doubt, attendance was hurt," RF Productions' Ben Piggot said. Horror stories were cycling across the state early Saturday. Some complained that groups of bikers were being signaled by police on the highways to turn around before they even reached town. Crow was unapologetic. "The experience of other law-enforcement agencies, it shows that yes there is trouble when different motorcycle clubs meet," he said. Queque asked what studies or police groups said so and was countered by 33 seconds of brooding silence. "Are you through asking questions? Because I believe I'm through talking to you." Click. Prognosis for GTR '09? "No one's going to go to something like this when you have these kinds of rules in place," Bandito member Toolman Tim told the Queque. "Because of the oppression and the opinions of the police chief, I think they killed this thing for the vendors." Piggot didn't argue. "What they did totally bombed me," he said.

**Police investigating double shooting** – Oct 19, 2008 – *Ohio* - By Joanne Huist Smith - Dayton Police are investigating a double shooting early this morning, Sunday Oct. 19, at the Dragon Master's MC. Police and paramedics, around 4:45 a.m., were called to 2115 Home Avenue on the report of shots fired. Two victims were taken to Miami Valley Hospital in critical condition, according to police dispatch.

**Undercover probe targets motorcycle gang members in 6 states** – Oct 21, 2008 – *Washington* - By Thomas Watkins; The AP - Dozens of motorcycle gang members were arrested today by Fed agents in 6 states, including Washington, on warrants ranging from drug sales to murder after a three-year undercover investigation in which four agents successfully infiltrated the group. At least 38 members of the Southern California-based Mongol motorcycle gang were arrested under a Fed racketeering indictment that included charges of murder, attempted murder, assault, as well as gun & drug violations, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives spokesman Mike Hoffman said. During some arrests, sharpshooters stood guard on surrounding rooftops & motorcycles were lined up & confiscated. "It's going to be a large hit to their organization, we are arresting many of their top members," Hoffman said. Among those arrested were the gang's former national president Ruben Cavazos. Fed & local agents had 110 Fed arrest warrants & 160 search warrants that were being served across Southern California & in Nevada, Oregon, Colorado, Washington & Ohio. The sweep, dubbed Operation Black Rain, was to continue throughout the day, agents said. Hoffman said the Mongols had been recruiting members of Los Angeles street gangs to assist in their operations. Four ATF agents infiltrated the gang & were accepted as full members, a difficult process that requires winning the trust of the gang's top leaders over a period of months, Hoffman said. In recent years, Fed prosecutors in Washington have used racketeering laws to prosecute dozens of members of the Washington Nomads chapter of the Hells Angels & the Bandidos MC.

**The trouble with fighting for human freedom** is that one spends most of one's time defending scoundrels. For it is against scoundrels that oppressive laws are first aimed, & oppression must be stopped at the beginning if it is to be stopped at all. - Henry Mencken

**Several local arrests after motorcycle gang investigation** – Oct 21, 2008 – *Denver, Colorado* – By Jace Larson, AP - The ATF served several arrest warrants in a multi-state illegal gun investigation that included suspects in the metro area Tuesday morning. The arrests are part of an investigation into the Mongols Motorcycle Gang. The Colorado investigation discovered suspects violated Fed gun laws, according to the ATF. In other states members of the motorcycle gang are accused in a Fed racketeering indictment of murder & attempted murder. Several search warrants were also served in the Denver area, according to Denver Police who assisted the ATF. The searches included at least one house & one truck in Englewood & a business near Platte River Drive & Evans Ave. Fed agents started serving search warrants & making arrests in the Denver area at 6 a.m. The Metro Gang Task Force partnered with the ATF on the Denver-area investigation & arrests. The Associated Press reports in all, agents served 110 Fed arrest warrants in Colorado, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington & Ohio. ATF spokesman Mike Hoffman said four ATF members were fully-inducted members of the motorcycle gang during the investigation, according to the Associated Press. Among those arrested was the Mongols' former national president Ruben Cavazos, according to the AP.

**Mongols Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Indicted & Arrested in Metro Denver** - Oct 21, 2008 – *Denver, Colorado* - Ten members or associates of the Mongols Outlaw Motorcycle Gang were arrested today by the ATF & Metro Gang Task Force, United States Attorney Troy Eid & Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) Special Agent in Charge Richard Chase announced today. The arrests were based on sealed indictments returned by a federal grand jury on August 5th & 6th, 2008. The arrests took place early this morning without incident. Some of those arrested have been taken to U.S. District Court in Denver so they can make their initial appearances, where they will be advised of the charges pending against them. The three year investigation culminated in this morning's take down. Mass arrests related to the Mongols Outlaw Motorcycle Gang were also made in Los Angeles, where 79 defendants are being prosecuted, 73 of which face Racketeering Charges (RICO). Federal search & arrest warrants were executed in 7 states: Colorado, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Florida, & Ohio. In addition to the arrests, agents & officers executed 6 federal search warrants throughout the Denver area. Items confiscated during the execution of the warrants include: a shotgun, a stolen .25 caliber pistol, a Colt .38 revolver, a Taurus .380 pistol, ammunition, Mongols Paraphernalia, cell phones, & a computer. Eleven members or associates of the Mongols were charged in the main indictment with drug trafficking, federal firearm violations, wire fraud, witness tampering, & trafficking in vehicle parts with obliterated serial numbers. "Once again, members of a violent gang face justice in our community, thanks to the ATF, & the Metro Gang Task Force," said United States Attorney Troy Eid. The Mongols are an outlaw motorcycle gang that was formed in Montebello, California in the 1970s. There are as many as 600 members nationwide. Many of the Mongols were allegedly recruited from some of the most violent street gangs. The name 'Mongols,' which is part of the 'patch' that members wear on their motorcycle jackets, was trademarked by the gang. The Los Angeles indictment alleges that this trademark is subject to forfeiture. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California today obtained a court order that immediately prevents gang members from using or displaying the name 'Mongols.' "These types of investigations are part of the ATF's overall enforcement strategy, to target the most violent offenders within

our communities," said ATF Special Agent in Charge Richard Chase. "Today's success is the result of a combined Federal, State, & local law enforcement effort & good police work." If convicted, the defendants charged in the main indictment face not less than 5 years, & up to 40 years in federal prison, as well as a \$2,000,000 fine. Hernandez faces up to 20 years in federal prison, & not more than a \$250,000 fine. Gonzales & Muniz both face not less than 5 years, & up to 40 years in federal prison, as well as a \$2,000,000 fine. The investigation was conducted by the ATF. The Metro Gang Task Force assisted in making this morning's arrests. Other partners in the Mongols case include: The FBI, Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Denver Police Department, the Aurora Police Department, the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), the Arapahoe Sheriff's Department, the Lakewood Police Department, the Adams County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado Department of Corrections, the Pueblo Police Department, the Greeley Police Department, the Thornton Police Department, the South Metro Gang Task Force, Littleton Police Department, Englewood Police Department, Sheridan Police Department, Parker Police Department, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, & the Cherry Hill's Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Pegeen Rhyne & Stephen M. Tokarz. The charges are only allegations & the defendants are presumed innocent unless & until proven guilty.

**Mongols - Feds Going After Their Patch** – Oct 21, 2008 – *California* - Rejected for their ethnicity from the biker gang Hell's Angels in the 1970s, a group of Latinos formed their own called The Mongols, as the story is told according to the LA Times reporting on today's massive raid of the gang. This morning, over 1,000 officers across Southern California & in five different states arrested around 38 alleged Mongol members under Fed racketeering charges. And that's not all, the Gov't seeks to trademark the group's name & branding. "Not only are we going after the Mongols' motorcycles, we're going after their very identity," U.S. Atty Thomas P. O'Brien told the Times. "We are using all the tools at our disposal to crush this violent gang." The gang was infiltrated by 4 undercover ATF agents who mostly gathered the intel along with four paid informants for today's indictment. Arrested members in the Los Angeles area are expected to appear in court today.

**Mongols, Target of ATF Raids** – Oct 21, 2008 – *USA* - More than 1,000 heavily armed Fed agents & local police fanned out across Southern California & cities in five other states early this morning, arresting dozens of members of the notorious Mongols motorcycle gang on Fed racketeering charges. But the most lasting blow to the San Gabriel Valley-based bikers may be down the road: In an unusual maneuver, the feds are also seeking to seize control of the Mongols' trademarked name, which is typically accompanied by its cherished insignia -- a ponytailed Genghis Khan-like figure riding a chopper. U.S. Atty Thomas P. O'Brien said if his plan is successful, the Gov't would take over ownership of the trademark, & anyone caught wearing a Mongols patch could have it seized by law enforcement on the spot. "Not only are we going after the Mongols' motorcycles, we're going after their very identity," O'Brien said in a telephone interview early this morning. "We are using all the tools at our disposal to crush this violent gang." In addition to racketeering, the Mongols are charged with committing violent crimes -- including murder -- drug trafficking, weapons offenses & money laundering. They used guns, knives, brass knuckles, lead pipes & steel-toed boots to impose their will, often on rivals such as the Hells Angels, but also on unsuspecting members of the public who happened to cross their paths, according to a 177-page indictment unsealed this

morning. The indictment, the first three pages of which list 79 gang member defendants with menacing monikers such as "Monster," "Danger" & "Violent Ed," is drawn largely from the observations of four undercover ATF agents who infiltrated the gang & four current Mongols members who became paid informants for the Gov't. Investigators also relied heavily on wiretapped telephone calls in which Mongols, usually speaking in coded language, discussed the gang's allegedly criminal operations. The unidentified agents, who spent several years working to gain the Mongols' trust, were checked out by a private investigator hired by the gang & given polygraph exams before being formally admitted in 2007. Though this is not the first time the ATF has penetrated the Mongols, having four undercover agents in the gang at once, coupled with the cooperation of four Mongols, provided authorities with a particularly broad view of its inner workings, officials said. The Mongols were formed in the 1970s by a small group of Latinos who had been rejected from the Hell's Angels because of their ethnicity, as the story goes. The gang now has between 500 & 600 members, the vast majority of them in Southern California, according to law enforcement officials. The gang has a constitution & bylaws & some of the trappings of more conventional organizations -- its members are provided Nextel phones, for example. Decisions regarding membership, dues collection & club policy are made by leaders known in the gang as the "Mother Chapter." They have a headquarters in West Covina stocked with assault rifles, shotguns & bulletproof vests, according to the indictment. As with many organizations, patches are awarded to signify the status or achievements of its members, though the behavior celebrated by the Mongols differs from most. For instance, a skull & crossbones patch or one proclaiming, "Respect Few, Fear None," is given to members who commit murder or other acts of violence on behalf of the gang, according to the indictment. One member was given permission to have the gang's insignia tattooed on his head for having shot 2 members of a rival street gang last year, the indictment alleges. There are also patches associated with the gang's alleged sexual rituals. Members are awarded wings of varying colors for engaging in sex acts with women at pre-arranged "wing parties," the indictment states. Members who have sex with a woman with venereal disease are given green wings; those who have sex with a woman's corpse are given purple wings, according to the indictment. The Mongols fund their organization largely through the sale of methamphetamine, according to the indictment. Undercover agents documented dozens of alleged drug deals ranging in quantity from a few grams to half a kilo. Many of the alleged sales were made to undercover agents or confidential informants cooperating with authorities, the indictment states. But violence seemed to be at the heart of the Mongols' existence. One undercover agent said he was told early in his effort to infiltrate the gang that he "must be willing to kill & die for the Mongols if he wanted to join the organization." Much of the violence described in the indictment involved clashes between the Mongols & their longtime rivals, the Hells Angels. Mongols' members are accused of tangling with the Hells Angels at a Laughlin, Nev., casino in 2002, at a "Toys for Tots" motorcycle run in 2005, & at a Chuck E. Cheese in San Diego last year. Two Hells Angels & one Mongol were killed in the Nevada casino incident, the indictment alleges. But the violence was not limited to disputes between warring gangs. Some attacks were motivated by race -- the mostly Latino gang is intolerant of African Americans, authorities say -- & some appeared random. Two Mongols, known as "Villain" & "Danger," are accused of beating a man to death with a pool cue in a Lancaster nightclub on Valentine's Day last year because he had been badmouthing the gang. Another member is accused of shooting patrons of a

Riverside bar & then trying to run them over in the parking lot, also in 2007. A Mongol known as "Dago Bull" told an undercover agent that he & two fellow Mongols tortured a man in 2006 by breaking his knuckles with pliers & one of his knees with a metal pipe. Another member boasted of having beaten a man so badly that he knocked out a tooth, which he kept taped to his microwave as a souvenir. A Mongol known as "Monster" & two other members are accused of beating a black man at a Hollywood bar in 2006 while shouting racial slurs, the indictment states. Other members beat & repeatedly stabbed a Latina woman whom they saw in the company of a black man. Those arrested are expected to make their initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles this afternoon.

**Man with Warlock ties loses drug conviction appeal** – Oct 21, 2008 – *Pennsylvania* - By Carl Hessler Jr - A Limerick man who had ties to the Warlocks Motorcycle Club has lost his Pennsylvania Supreme Court bid for a new trial. The state's highest court denied Harold Charles "Ripper" McKenrick's appeal of the five- to 10-year state prison sentence he received in December 2006, siding with the state's Superior Court, which previously upheld McKenrick's conviction & sentence. In his state appeals, McKenrick claimed authorities did not have sufficient probable cause to obtain a warrant to search his Buckwalter Road home, a search that uncovered methamphetamine & marijuana. McKenrick argued police claims that he had blackened the windows of his shed & erected a fence around his property to conceal illegal activity were false & therefore insufficient grounds to obtain a search warrant. However, a panel of Superior Court judges determined McKenrick's claims were immaterial given that various incriminating items, including marijuana stems & leaves, were pulled from the curbside trash of McKenrick's home on several occasions.

**Inland raids help shut down deadly Mongols** - Oct 22, 2008 - *USA* - BY: John Asbury - Fed authorities arrested 61 members of the Southern California-based Mongol Motorcycle Club, including several Inland residents, on Fed racketeering charges that authorities said Tuesday will halt the gang's criminal enterprises. The Gov't also is attempting to seize the motorcycle gang's trademarked name, featured on the patch that its 500 to 600 members wear on their jackets. U.S. Atty Thomas P. O'Brien said it is the first time the Gov't has taken such a step. "We have filed papers seeking a court order that will prevent gang members from using or displaying the name 'Mongols,'" O'Brien said. If the request is granted, law enforcement officers could stop any Mongol wearing the patch, which features a muscular, sunglasses-wearing biker, bald except for a ponytail. "If local law enforcement sees that symbol they can literally take the jacket right off his back," O'Brien said. In the Inland area, local authorities & agents with the ATF served search warrants at homes in Redlands, Perris, San Jacinto, Corona & Ontario resulting in the seizure of weapons, clothing & paraphernalia. At least 17 Mongols members of Inland chapters were listed in the indictment & face charges including attempted murder & drug trafficking. The 86-count Fed indictment targeted 79 gang members in seven states, as well as 10 members already in custody. The arrests come after a three-year investigation during which four male ATF agents infiltrated the gang & were formally admitted last year after passing lie detector tests. Four female agents also worked undercover on the investigation. The racketeering indictment accuses the motorcycle gang of profiting from a criminal enterprise & violent intimidation. The indictment includes Fed murder, hate crime, drug trafficking, money

laundering & battery charges. During a Los Angeles news conference to announce the raid, ATF & U.S. Attorney's Office officials lined a narrow downtown street with several dozen confiscated motorcycles decked with Mongols jackets. "This may be the biggest, most significant bust we've ever made," said ATF National Acting Director Michael Sullivan. "This shows how violent this gang was. I say was, because we've taken down this operation from top to bottom. This has more than disrupted this gang -- we've put a stake through the heart of the Mongols." Six Mongols are charged with a shooting at a 2005 Toys for Tots charity drive in Norco that injured three people, including a Norco firefighter. The Mongols opened fire after a fistfight with rival Hells Angels members attending the event at the Maverick Steakhouse. Other gang members are charged with causing a riot at a 2002 Ultimate Fighting Match at the Morongo Casino in Cabazon, where people were attacked with knives & chairs as Mongols members began kicking victims with steel-toed boots.

**Once-goodtime club turned to violence** – Oct 22, 2008 – *California* - By Amanda Baumfeld - The Mongols Motorcycle Club began in the 1970s as a group of men with a passion for motorcycles & partying before turning into a violent criminal enterprise, officials said. Fed law enforcement officials attempted to dismantle that enterprise Tuesday when they arrested suspected Mongols members & their associates in a sweep targeting the outlaw motorcycle gang. But the Mongols were not always an outlaw gang, according to former member Anthony Vodnik, 60. Vodnik, also known as "Snake," is an original Mongol. He served with the motorcycle club for nearly 37 years. Disagreeing about the direction the club had taken, Vodnik retired in Jan. "It's a good club," Vodnik said. "But some of us older members want to bring it back to how it used to be; we are tired over this war over drugs & who controls drugs." Officials say the gang was formed by a group of Latino men who were banned from joining the Hells Angels because of their heritage. But Vodnik said they were just a group of guys who liked to have a good time. He reflected back to his days of hanging out in bars in Montebello & Whittier. "We just wanted to ride bikes & we had parties & good times," Vodnik said. "It expanded from there." About 1974 the club voted to become an outlaw gang, Vodnik said. From that point on, the gang maintained a certain criminal element, according to Frank Wills, police chief of West Covina, where the "Mother Chapter" is stationed. The "Mother Chapter" collects & reviews applications, collects fees & resolves disputes within the organization, court documents state. In the mid-1990s membership in the Mongols started to dwindle, according to Wills. It was then that Ruben "Doc" Cavazos of West Covina took over as president. He began recruiting members from Los Angeles street gangs such as "The Avenues" & "South Side Montebello," according to court documents. Cavazos also expanded the gang across state lines into Florida, Nevada, Oregon, Maryland & New York, law enforcement officials say. Older members of the motorcycle gang, like Vodnik, did not like these changes. "It got under the hands of a man who didn't know what he was talking about," Vodnik said. "Pulling members from Mexican gangs that would call themselves part-time members. There's no such thing as a part-time Mongol; it made me sick to my stomach." Law enforcement estimates there are about 600 members nationwide, with 400 of them located in Southern California. Mongols wear leather vests with an image of a Mongol motorcycle rider & the name of the member's regional chapter on it. They have a patch on the back of the vests with "Mongols California" written on it. This infuriated the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, the Mongols' biggest rival. As they continued to grow in numbers, the Mongols began to encroach

more on the Hells Angels' territory, Wills said. The two gangs went to war over territory. "The Hells Angels thought they were trying to claim the entire state of California," Wills said. "They put out an order to the Mongols to remove California from the jackets. The Mongols refused & things escalated from there." The two gangs have continued to fight over the years, including a 2002 confrontation in Laughlin, Nev., at the Harrah's Laughlin Casino that left one Mongol & two Hells Angels dead. Even though Vodnik is no longer a Mongols member, he & other retired members maintain a strong loyalty to one another. But Vodnik said they still can't come to grips with the way the club has changed. "We grew up as brothers," Vodnick said. "For two or three years they would prospect you the old school way; they don't do that anymore. They just hand out patches to anyone they want." The gang members arrested Tuesday face charges of murder, hate crimes, assault, gun crimes & drug trafficking. "The leaders are very aware of what these guys are doing," said Senior Special ATF Agent Tom Mangan. "The Mongols want them & they don't care if you're a criminal. This is not a few bad seeds; it's a criminal gang."

**U.S. Customs officers get access to gang info** – Oct 22, 2008 – *USA* - U.S. Customs & Border Protection joins the National Gang Intelligence Center. The FBI is pleased to announce the U.S. Dept of Homeland Security's Customs & Border Protection has joined the National Gang Intelligence Center. Established in 2005, the NGIC is an FBI led multi-agency effort that integrates the gang intelligence assets of the FBI & other Fed, state, & local law enforcement entities to serve as a centralized intelligence resource for gang information & analytical support. "The addition of CBP will only strengthen the partnership of the NGIC aimed at combating violent crime & gangs," said Assistant Director Kenneth W. Kaiser. "The NGIC provides the law enforcement community with a one-stop-shop mechanism for submitting requests for information & conducting relational analysis of gang information as it pertains to past & present gang investigations." "CBP has to be an intelligence driven organization to provide information to frontline officers to protect the nation from criminal gangs," said U.S. Customs & Border Protection Commissioner W. Ralph Basham. "CBP's Office of Intelligence & Operations Coordination recently announced an anti-gang initiative related to fighting the growth, migration, criminal activity, & affiliation of gangs who pose a threat to our nation's security & to public safety. We welcome the ability to add the resources of NGIC to our ongoing efforts to collaborate with other Fed agencies & our state & local partners to combat this unique threat." The NGIC is designed to combine the manpower & resources of partner Fed agencies responsible for investigating & gathering intelligence on violent street & motorcycle gangs. The center supports law enforcement agencies through timely & accurate information sharing & strategic/tactical analysis of Fed, state, & local law enforcement information focusing on the growth, migration, criminal activity, & association of gangs that pose a significant threat to communities throughout the U.S.

**Adam & Eve:** A Brit, a Frenchman & a Russian are viewing a painting of Adam & Eve frolicking in the Garden of Eden. "Look at their reserve, their calm," muses the Brit. "They must be British." "Nonsense," the Frenchman disagrees. "They're naked, & so beautiful. Clearly, they are French." "No clothes, no shelter," the Russian points out, "they have only an apple to eat, & they're being told this is paradise. They are Russian."

**LA judge bans sale of Mongols logo** – Oct 22, 2008 – *Los Angeles, California* - The Associated Press - A federal judge in Los Angeles has barred the Mongols motorcycle gang from selling or distributing its trademarked logo after authorities arrested dozens of its members in six states. U.S. District Court Judge Florence-Marie Cooper granted an injunction requested by prosecutors late Tuesday that prohibits gang members, their family members & associates from licensing, selling or distributing the logo. The order, however, did not include language that would prohibit Mongols members from wearing or displaying the logo. Prosecutors are seeking to take control of the gang's trademarked name. At least 61 members were arrested under a racketeering indictment that accuses some of murder, attempted murder & drug sales.

**Shooting at Bandidos bikie clubhouse in Geelong** – Oct 22, 2008 – *Australia* - By Chip Le Grand - A Drive-By shooting at the clubhouse of an outlaw motorcycle gang has left one bikie with head wounds & another with a bullet in his leg. The shooting took place tonight at the clubhouse of the notorious Bandidos motorcycle club, near the Barwon River in Breakwater, on the outskirts of Geelong. According to early police accounts, a car approached the front entrance of the club house at about 6:10pm. An unidentified gunman shot & injured two club members. The car then drove away. A search of neighboring streets failed to find the suspects. Police tonight established a crime scene around the club rooms & appealed for witnesses to the shooting. Both bikies were taken to hospital, one with serious injuries. The shooting comes two weeks after 200 Bandidos members paraded from the Geelong clubrooms through Melbourne's CBD, in full club colors, as part of the gang's annual national run. Victorian police were criticized for providing a police escort.

**Woman accused of bartending in the nude** – Oct 22, 2008 – *Illinois* - It's a different take on belly up to the bar. A 24-year-old female bartender in the Mississippi River community of Alton was charged with misdemeanor lewd entertainment after apparently working in the buff. Police arrested the woman last Friday at the Pub Room after someone called to complain. Authorities said the woman had managed to put on a shirt before officers arrived. It's not the first time it's happened in that area. Last month in nearby Jersey County, a 33-year-old bartender at The Cabin Incorporated in Delhi was charged with public indecency after sheriff's deputies found her working nude. That county's liquor regulators subsequently suspended the tavern's liquor license for 30 days & fined its owner \$500.

**LA Judge Bans Mongols from Wearing Trademark Logo** – Oct 23, 2008 – *Los Angeles, California* – AP - A federal judge in Los Angeles has barred the Mongols motorcycle gang from wearing or distributing its trademarked logo after authorities arrested dozens of its members in six states. U.S. District Court Judge Florence-Marie Cooper granted an injunction requested by prosecutors Wednesday that prohibits gang members, their family members & associates from wearing, licensing, selling or distributing the logo. Cooper on Tuesday initially limited the order to just selling or distributing the logo. At least 61 members were arrested under a racketeering indictment that accuses some of murder, attempted murder & drug sales.

**Bandidos killing was 'targeted'** – Oct 23, 2008 – *Australia* - As fears grew of a turf war escalating into vengeful bloodshed, the human cost of last night's shooting became heartbreakingly apparent today as people paid tribute to Ross Brand, 51, of

Torquay, who died this morning after he was shot in the head outside the clubhouse in the Geelong suburb of Breakwater just after 6pm last night. A 34-year-old Geelong West man, who was walking with Brand at the time of the attack, was wounded. He has spoken to police & was expected to be operated on today. Individual mourners & small groups of grievors have been leaving tributes at the scene of the shooting, almost all refusing to speak to waiting media.

**Judge bans Mongols from wearing trademark logo** – Oct 23, 2008 – *Los Angeles, California* – By Thomas Watkins; AP - Mongols can no longer wear patches bearing the motorcycle gang's insignia following what appears to be an unprecedented court order stripping them of their trademarked logo. U.S. District Court Judge Florence-Marie Cooper on Wednesday granted an injunction that prohibits gang members, their family members & associates from wearing, licensing, selling or distributing the logo, which typically depicts the profile of a Mongolian warrior wearing sunglasses. Prosecutors requested the injunction after authorities arrested dozens of Mongol members under a racketeering indictment. "If a Mongol is wearing a vest or jacket bearing the Mongols patch, that item is pursuant to seizure based on this order," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Welk. It is believed to be the first case in the nation in which the government has sought to take control of a gang's identity — via its logo — through a court order. "I've never heard the government going after something like this in this context," said David Welkowitz, a law professor at Whittier Law School. Welkowitz said attorneys & academics who specialize in trademark law are wondering whether the order will stand. Sixty-four Mongol members have been arrested in six states under an indictment released Tuesday. The indictment describes a tightly organized group, which is mostly Latino, that routinely engages in murder, torture, drug trafficking & other offenses. Among 79 people named in the indictment, 15 were still at large, said Mike Hoffman, a spokesman with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives. The judge initially issued an injunction Tuesday, but that order was limited to barring the sale or distribution of the logo. New language was added, saying the gang members & their affiliates "shall surrender for seizure all products, clothing, vehicles, motorcycles ... or other materials bearing the Mongols trademark, upon presentation of a copy of this order." Welk said his office is drafting the protocol for such seizures. Law enforcement agencies could begin enforcing the injunction by Thursday or Friday, he said. Observers questioned whether the injunction is constitutional. "Here you have the government stepping in & preventing a rights holder of using the (trade) mark they legally obtained," said attorney Douglas Mirell, who specializes in First Amendment cases. "It strikes me as a serious potential First Amendment violation to have the government come in & attempt to, & in this case exceed, stripping lawfully obtained rights," he added. "This is one for the record books." Meanwhile, 44 defendants have appeared in court, all of them pleading not guilty. It wasn't immediately clear whether they had been assigned defense attorneys. The incarcerated Mongols were being kept at various federal detention centers, separate from inmates loyal to the Mexican Mafia gang, said Anthony Burke, a supervisory inspector with the U.S. Marshals Service in Los Angeles. Segregation of incarcerated rival gang members is common practice. The Marshal's Service is guarding 60 motorcycles, almost all of them Harley-Davidsons, that were seized during Tuesday's operation. Burke estimated the average value of the customized machines to be \$22,000.

**How to read your FBI file** - Oct 1, 2008 – USA - As part of the occasional series Life in post-Constitutional America I'm pleased to offer a brief primer on How to read your FBI file. It isn't as easy as you'd think, since the FBI has failed several times to create a modern data management system - which may not be a bad thing. You can get your FBI file thanks to the Freedom of Information Act or FOIA, a creation of terrorist-coddling liberals. The Freedom of Governmental Secrecy Act or FOGS will fix this by extending "Executive Privilege" to every agency & operation of the Executive branch. How can the Gov't protect us from millions of crazed jihadists without total secrecy? I should note that you probably don't have an FBI file unless you've engaged in suspect activities such as petitioning the Gov't for redress of grievances or protesting unreasonable searches. God-fearing patriotic Americans have no worries unless the data entry clerk is hung over or you have a foreign name. **File contents:** Most of your file will consist of messages between the Feeb's HQ in Washington DC & one of the 56 local field offices or the many local Resident Agencies (we should have one on every block!). Aided by the finest communication technology money can buy, these messages may be teletypes or snail mail. **Types of messages:** Administrative - boring, usually. Prosecutive summary - you in big trouble now, liberal bed-wetter or criminal mastermind. Hire a defense lawyer or flee to Namibia. Investigative report - 50 pages of detail on you, your wife, your mistress, girlfriends, children & other unsavory contacts & activities, that is forwarded to military intelligence, the Attorney General, the White House & carefully vetted journalists & bloggers. Miscellaneous - court documents, like divorce papers; credit reports; incorporation documents; military records; surveillance transcripts; & other security agency reports. Naturally, you can be sure that all of this data is of the absolute highest quality, like the pre-Iraq war WMD intelligence. Mistakes are always corrected, but it may take a few years. **FBI filing system:** You'd think that the nation's leading domestic law enforcement agency would employ sophisticated data management technology - but you'd be wrong. For example, HQ & each field office maintains its own file system - so file #12-3456 at HQ & file #12-3456 in the New York field office may be completely unrelated. To paper this over the Feeb's use a 3 part code: an offense code (sample: 332 Media Leak); an office code - & a 3 to 6 digit file number. The offense code gets created locally, so related files might have different offense codes assigned by different offices. Sounds like an administrative nightmare, but it can help you track the Agency's thinking about your case as the codes change over time. **Reading the file:** As you go through the file, look for other file numbers. Then you can file an FOIA request for those as well. Don't assume that all the files contain the same information - the FBI doesn't have a centralized database - so collect them all. The individual documents in your file are called "serials." It could be a 2 sentence teletype or a 50 page report. Most are given a serial number that starts at 1, but don't assume that serial #1 is the earliest document in the file. Check for missing pages as well. The Feebs redact the files before handing them over so somebody whose wrist is sore from crossing stuff out might start pulling whole pages. One tip: the last page of a serial usually has an asterisk after the page number. If you don't find one it may have been tossed. Most serials are also "captioned" with your name & aliases (if any); an abbreviation of the crimes under investigation; & the office of origin code. The Feebs love forms & have hundreds of them in use. You'll see references to them that you can decode here. You knew the FBI was a bureaucracy, right? **Redaction:** Of course the Gov't needs to protect the few secrets bleeding-heart liberals haven't already ratted out to Al-Qaeda. So

your file may be heavily censored to protect national security or the FBI's public image. Edited information must give the exemption type allowed under the FOIA. The exemption codes can help you understand what was cut out, as well as your chances of getting the info if you appeal. Of course no loyal American would question the FBI. BTW, if you've read this far the NSA probably has your number. Just saying. **The Storage Bits take:** We can't expect underpaid & overworked bureaucrats to maintain good intelligence on us, our families & our neighbors, without help. You can help by getting your file & your family member's files to ensure accuracy. The Framers designed the Constitution to protect Americans from their Gov't. From long experience they knew the Murphy's Law of Gov't: if power can be abused it will be abused. They designed an inefficient Gov't with checks & balances & competing factions to ensure there would be lots of leaks & partisan bickering. The Bill of Rights outlawed warrantless searches, a basic prohibition that has been shredded in the name of homeland security. The strength of America is not its Gov't, but its Constitution & its people - a people who aren't afraid to challenge power & fight for change. America was founded by revolutionaries, not bureaucrats, & nurtured by idealists, not ideologues. May that spirit never die!

**A married Irishman** went into the confessional & said to his priest, 'I almost had an affair with another woman.' The priest said, 'What do you mean, almost?' The Irishman said, 'Well, we got undressed & rubbed together, but then I stopped.' The priest said, 'Rubbing together is the same as putting it in. You're not to see that woman again. For your penance, say five Hail Mary's & put \$50 in the poor box.' The Irishman left the confessional, said his prayers, & then walked over to the poor box. He paused for a moment & then started to leave. The priest, who was watching, quickly ran over to him saying, 'I saw that. You didn't put any money in the poor box!' The Irishman replied, 'Yeah, but I rubbed the \$50 on the box, & according to you, that's the same as putting it in!'

#### **Watch for these consolidations in 2009:**

1. Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, & W. R. Grace Co. Will merge & become: Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.
2. PolygramRecords, Warner Bros., & ZestaCrackers join forces & become: Poly, Warner Cracker.
3. 3M will merge with Goodyear & become: MMMGood.
4. ZippoManufacturing, AudiMotors, Dofasco, & Dakota Mining will merge & become: ZipAudiDoDa.
5. FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, & become: FedUP.
6. Fairchild Electronics & Honeywell Computers will become: Fairwell Honeychild.
7. Grey Poupon & Docker Pants are expected to become: PouponPants.
8. Knotts Berry Farm & the National Organization of Women will become: Knott NOW!
9. Victoria 's Secret & Smith & Wesson will merge under the new name: TittyTittyBangBang

**Our natural, inalienable rights** are now considered to be a dispensation from government, & freedom has never been so fragile, so close to slipping from our grasp as it is at this moment. - Ronald Reagan

National Coalition of Motorcyclists...  
An Idea Whose Time Has Come...