



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

Free All Brothers Behind Bars...

Editor: Mike Davis SFFS...

Be thankful you're not getting all the government you're paying for... Will Rogers...

NCOM Sponsors this Newsletter with a donation of \$175.00 per month. NCOM; Richard And Joseph Lester; Attorneys At Law...

Solders For Jesus MC Nation donates \$ 50.00 a month...

Bandidos MC USA donates \$ 50.00 a month...

Pagan's Lazy who donates \$ 50.00 a month...

Warlocks MC Nation donates \$ 35.00 a month...

Outlaws MC Nation donates \$ 50.00 a month...

BoozeFighters MC from Alabama donates \$ 50.00 a month...

Alabama COC donates \$ 50.00 a month...

North Carolina COC donates \$ 12.50 a month...

Heathens MC from Florida donates \$ 25.00 a month...

Sons Of Silence MC Nation donates \$ 25.00 month...

Breed MC Mother Chapter donates \$ 30.00 a month...

Oregon COC donates \$ 25.00 a month...

Billy Powell's Ink Works, VA donates of \$ 25.00 a month...

MMCC from Minnesota donates \$17.00 a month...

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...

SOS / Silent Thunder Clubhouse in Fargo, North Dakota makes a Great donations each month... Please drop them a Thank You Letter at: SOS / Silent Thunder Clubhouse; In care of Paul Dellaneva; 1325 14th Street South Fargo, ND 58103...

Special Thanks goes to Viet Nam Vets MC Art who is currently in Florence, CO for his \$ 50.00 Donation to this BBB Newsletter...

Thanks goes to EL Forastero BJ from Iowa for his \$ 50.00 donation...

In Memory of BPM Butch from Northern Minnesota...

Congratulations to Sons Of Silence Bear on your 30 year Club Anniversary...

Congratulations to Bandido Sambo on your release... (Houston, Texas)...

Welcome Bandido Loyd to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter mailing list...

Welcome Scorpion Country & Scorpion Little Albert to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter mailing list...

Happy Birthday Iron Horsemen Schoke...

Happy Birthday Josh...

Correction: I mis-spelled EL Forastero MC... Also note EFMC John's nickname is "Shifty" & EFMC George's nickname is "Crazy George"... The El Forastero's was founded in 1962... Shifty has been a member since 1967...

Declaration of Position - Confederation of Clubs Outline: A Coming Together Goals:

1. Bring the Patch holders Together...

- Communication between clubs.
- A judicial coming together (not legislative) to protect our rights through the courts.

2. Fight Police Harassment & Discrimination...

- Introduce anti-discrimination legislation, similar to the Unruh Act in California, in Confederation States that presently leave Bikers unprotected; A.I.M. attorney to work with state Motorcycle Rights Organization on new laws.
- Form delegation of patch holders & other affected bikers, that together with their local A.I.M. attorney, Present police harassment grievances to the police chief and/or civic entity responsible.
- Discriminatory establishments notified by the A.I.M. attorney that suit will be filed if they don't cease & desist.

3. Proclamation of Intent...

- Working with local state MRO on legislative matters (ie. helmet issues, anti-biker discrimination, etc).
- Working with the National Coalition of Motorcyclists on National & Federal matters (ie. helmet issues, Fed Gang Bill, etc).
- Support Aid to Injured Motorcyclists by introducing the A.I.M. numbered card (Special card only for patch holders) & program to the members & allowing A.I.M. to set up at events.

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...

Colors, By Richard 'Bingo' Cosby

D.C. Eagles M.C. / Wisconsin Confederation Of Clubs

What is given but cannot be bought?
Fools may seek it - but in vain it's sought!
They can't give it - so they get naught!
It's Brotherhood!
If you are needed - you are there!
You come - because you care!
Your brother's burden to take a share.
That's Brotherhood!
The symbol of this love we share -
We proudly show - because we dare!
It's the colors on our backs we wear!
That's Brotherhood!

The Probate, By Richard 'Bingo' Cosby

D.C. Eagles M.C. / Wisconsin Confederation Of Clubs

You've got your patch! You're a member now!
But you still have a long way to go!
In order to remain a brother -
You have to Be One you know!
The rules are strict and a little tough -
And we all have to 'toe the line'.
We all went through what's ahead of you -
And we all made it through just fine.
If you're ever called upon for help -
Or if a brother needs a hand -
You better rise and volunteer!
And don't be the last to stand!
Without your brothers - you ain't shit!
And when all is said and done ---
The only way to have those brothers -
Is just by merely - Being One!

Editor's Note: The current NCOM BBB Mailing List includes 18 Bandidos, 2 Banshees, 1 Boozefighters, 2 BPM, 6 Breed, 1 Brother Speed, 1 Christian Motorcycle Association, 3 Death Squad, 6 Devils Diciples, 4 Diablos, 2 El Forasteros, 3 Finks, 1 Free Souls, 1 Gypsy Jokers, 13 Hells Angels, 1 Hermano, 1 In Country Vietnam, 8 Iron Horsemen, 1 Iron Ranger, 1 Iron Wings, 1 Liberty Riders, 1 Mohawk Valley Riders, 8 Mongols, 39 Outlaws, 15 Pagan's, 2 Phantom's, 4 Pharaoh's, 1 Reapers, 1 Renegades, 1 Salramanials, 3 Scorpions, 8 Sons Of Silence, 1 Sundowners, 1 Thunderbird, 1 Unforegiven, 2 Vagos, 1 Viet Nam Vet, & 5 Warlocks...
Of which: 6 - Australia, 2 - Norway, 3 - England & 3 - Sweden... **Total of 170...**

Editor's Note: For October there were 3 issues, For November there were 3 issues, For December this is 1st issue so far...

There are 3 B's in my life Booze, Babes and Blades; I am not sure which one will kill me first..... But eventually one will...

Motorcycle club collecting toys for children – Nov 18, 2008 – **Pennsylvania** - The Johnstown Chapter of the Brothers of the Hammer MC will distribute toys to less fortunate children again this Christmas. Club members will contact local churches for a list of 10 children who may need a toy this Christmas. The club is requesting help from the community through gifts of cash or toys for children ages 1 to 12.

Attorney says client denies – Nov 18, 2008 – **California** - The attorney for a man accused of fatally shooting the leader of the San Francisco chapter of the Hells Angels in Sept said today his client denies committing murder. Christopher Ablett, a reputed member of the rival Mongols motorcycle gang, appeared in San Francisco Superior Court for the second time this morning since his extradition from Oklahoma last week & was appointed an attorney from the public defender's office. The 35-year-old Modesto resident is suspected by San Francisco police of fatally shooting 46-year-old Mark "Papa" Guardado outside a bar in San Francisco's Mission District on Sept. 2. He has not yet entered a plea to charges of murder & firearm possession & remains in custody in the jail's high-security unit in lieu of \$5 million bail. Ablett's new atty Stephen Olmo said today he has not yet received the evidence against his client. "My client's absolutely denying that he committed murder," Olmo said. Olmo declined comment on Ablett's alleged status as a Mongols member, or whether he has admitted to being at the scene of Guardado's shooting. Olmo also refused to discuss what Ablett had been doing in Oklahoma. In early September Ablett was declared a fugitive, & a \$5 million warrant was issued for his arrest after police searched his Modesto home & seized a motorcycle & other items. On Oct. 5, Ablett turned himself in to police in Bartlesville, Okla. Ablett is due back in court Dec. 4 for plea entry.

Bar Fight - Nov 18, 2008 - **Australia** - By Ashlee Pleffer - Three members of a bikie gang were arrested last night after starting a brawl & assaulting staff & a police officer at the Raby Tavern in

Macquarie Fields. It's believed that at about 7.30pm last night, the 3 members of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMCG) & a female associate refused staff requests to leave the licensed premises on Hurricane Drive, Raby. A fight broke out & a male staff member was hit in the face. The tavern was also damaged during the brawl, with 2 glass doors shattering after being kicked & punched. Police arrested 3 men & a woman. A 27 & 33-year-old man were both charged with affray, malicious damage & failing to quit licensed premises. A 32-year-old woman was also charged with these offences, as well as assaulting a police officer, after she punched a senior constable in the face. The third man, aged 35, was charged with possessing an offensive implement & failing to quit licensed premises. All 4 will appear in Campbelltown Local Court on 17 Dec.

Jury considers Hells Angels' fates – Nov 19, 2008 – **South Dakota** – By Josh Verges - Jurors spent about 4 hours Tuesday considering what motivated a member of the Hells Angels to shoot 5 rivals but went home for the night without reaching a verdict. In his closing argument Tue, prosecutor Mike Moore said the locations of bullet casings & testimony from the Outlaws & independent witnesses all work together to contradict the defendants' self-defense narrative. The prosecution's witnesses during the 2-week trial included 7 people in the group of Outlaws plus 14 others who were at Legion Lake Lodge at the time of the shooting. No one saw any confrontation involving the Outlaws, Moore said, & no one placed the Outlaws where Wilson said they were. He said witnesses also agreed there were 2 distinct sets of shots, which fits the state's theory that Wilson fired several times, & then one Outlaw fired back as the defendants fled in Wilson's pickup truck. "They agree that the Outlaws were not the aggressors," Moore said. "Not one eyewitness said that the defendants acted in self-defense." Moore argued the defendants saw an opportunity to attack several Outlaws at once when they gathered as a group outside Legion Lake Lodge. He said Midmore drove the truck alongside the group, Wilson got out & fired, &

then both men fled, dumped evidence & tried to hitch a ride back to their camp in Sturgis. "They drove up slowly with premeditation to kill those Outlaws. They tried to kill as many of those people as they could," Moore said. "They thought they would be heroes in the Hells Angels for shooting some Outlaws." Defense lawyer David Kenner said those 14 witnesses saw no confrontation because it took only a few seconds. He said the Outlaws surrounded the pickup as the defendants tried to leave. Wilson saw no alternative but to get out & tell the group to move away. But when he did so, 2 Outlaws pulled their guns on him & he fired back in self-defense, Kenner said. He said it was the Outlaws, not the defendants, who seized the opportunity to take out members of "the other team." "This just jumped off. They couldn't resist," Kenner said. "It happened, sadly & unfortunately, because of a history between these 2 clubs." Kenner said prosecutors charged his clients because the Outlaws were the first to speak with police. Authorities accepted what the Outlaws told them, he said, which led to a sloppy handling of evidence & skewed witness statements. "They bought into the story the Outlaws were telling," he said. The jury of 7 women & 5 men got the case about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday after closing arguments & lunch. Judge Gene Kean allowed the "fatigued" jurors to go home about 5:30 p.m. with orders to return this morning.

Hells Angels jurors told to keep deliberating – Nov 19, 2008 – *South Dakota* - Jurors in the Sioux Falls trial of 2 Hells Angels bikers said they couldn't reach a verdict after 7 to 8 hours of deliberating. But at a hearing called in response to a note from the jury foreman, the judge told jurors to keep going. Jurors deliberated Tue afternoon & Wed morning but at noon said they couldn't reach a unanimous decision. The judge reread jury instructions urging them to consider the case carefully & honestly. He told them that after 8 days of testimony they needed to discuss it longer, though he didn't set a time limit.

Judge to get update – Nov 19, 2008 – *South Dakota* - The jury considering the fate of 2 men affiliated with the Hells Angels have turned down a judge's offer of food, saying they want to keep working toward a verdict. Judge Gene Kean told lawyers moments ago that he will call everyone back into the courtroom at 6:30 tonight for a status update. In the interim, the jury will continue deliberating.

Hells Angels jurors to deliberate into 3rd day – Nov 19, 2008 – *Sioux Falls, South Dakota* - The jury in the trial of 2 Hells Angels bikers will deliberate into a third day after earlier saying they couldn't reach a verdict. The 7 woman & 5 men met again midmorning Wednesday but just before at noon the foreman indicated they couldn't reach a unanimous decision. The judge politely told them to keep working. But by early evening they said they would resume deliberations Thursday morning.

Hells Angels member charged in Sturgis bar shooting – Nov 20, 2008 – *Sturgis, South Dakota* - The atty for the California man accused of assault after an August motorcycle rally bar fight told a judge Wed she needs more information from the investigation. Joseph P. McGuire, a member of the Hells Angels, was shot by an off-duty Seattle police officer during the early Aug. 9 altercation at the Loud American Road House in Sturgis. Although detective Ron Smith & 4 others were indicted, the charges have been dismissed for all but one. Authorities accuse McGuire of starting the incident. McGuire, 33, of Imperial Beach, was hospitalized with stomach & leg wounds. He has pleaded not guilty. To defend him, attorney Angela Colbath told 4th Circuit Judge Jerome Eckrich that she needs recordings of police

interviews, additional surveillance pictures from the incident scene & possibly other law enforcement reports. Eckrich said she needs to compile a list of requests & file a formal motion by Dec. 1. McGuire, who attended the status hearing & is still recovering, has the option to attend the Dec. 8 motions hearing but must be at a second hearing set for Jan. 12, the judge said.

Can Harley-Davidson survive the downturn? – Nov 20, 2008 – *USA* - By Kim Peterson - Harley shares have taken a beating lately, falling 41% in less than 3 weeks. Shares are down 70% year to date. Sure, the stock looks cheap, but analysts warn that the earnings potential for the company is unclear. One reason is that core Harley buyers are simply getting older. Only 12% of buyers are under 35, & long-term demand will slow as baby boomers "exit their peak riding years," wrote a JPMorgan analyst in a recent client note. The analyst expects motorcycle registrations to drop 14.7% next year in the U.S. & 4.2% internationally. Harley also made bad business decisions. It sold bikes to buyers who clearly couldn't afford it, handing out \$20,000 motorcycles with no money down, according to BusinessWeek. And now, a lot of subprime borrowers simply can't, or won't, repay those risky bike loans. That's led to concerns about the credit rating for Harley's financial services unit. Standard & Poor's has placed Harley on "CreditWatch Negative" status & will meet with management with concerns. Harley is responding by cutting back shipments to retailers, in hopes that it will reduce its inventory levels. The company has said that earnings will drop about 18% in 2008 -- the second straight year of decline after 20 years of growth, according to Standard & Poor's. Harley shares are in the \$13 range now, & option traders expect the stock to drop below \$10 by Dec. 19.

Putting The Brakes On The Hollister Bike Rally? – Nov 20, 2008 – *Hollister, California* - The Hollister city council is expected to make a decision Monday night on the fate of the 2009 Hollister Bike Rally. City leaders will discuss the issue after they said they lost more than \$200,000 from this year's rally. Despite the rally being a tradition for more than 60 years, it's not the first time the city has canceled the event. In 2006, officials also suspended the rally, and, as the news travels that next year's rally might be canceled, supporters are speaking out. "Oh it's a really good time & good people & it puts Hollister on the map," said Charisse Tyson, the owner of Johnny's Bar & Grill in Hollister. Tyson said she counts on the extra cash that comes in on the bike rally weekend. "I was able to do new carpet & chairs," said Tyson. City officials said they lost \$125,000 in the 2008 rally, plus another \$100,000 from slow T-shirts sales. "Why do we have this party on tax payers' dime? It's hard to justify," said Hollister Mayor Doug Emerson. Emerson said the city needs the money up front. Just 2 years ago, he said the city lost more than \$300,000. Emerson adds that security is expensive, & needed to control rival motorcycle gangs. "Coming up with the money is impossible," said Emerson. "I can't imagine that another festival runs like that." On the flip side, business owners like Tyson said it's a waste of money overloading the downtown area with too much security. "There's a lot of guys standing around doing nothing, they're bored to tears," said Tyson. The rally takes place in mid-July, & even if the bike rally is voted down Monday night, city leaders said they still expect that motorcycle groups will roar into Hollister that weekend.

Fear is the mind-killer,

Fear is the little death that brings total oblivion,

I will let my fear pass over & through me,

And when it is gone; Only I will remain. - Frank Herbert

44-Year-Old Stripper Sues Club for Age Discrimination – Nov 20, 2008 – *Canada* - A Canadian exotic dancer has filed an age discrimination suit against a Toronto-area strip club, saying she was fired because she is 44 years old, The Nat'l Post reported. Kimberlee Ouwroulis, who began stripping when she was 40, says the manager at New Locomotion strip club sat her down on June 6 & said, "Your time is up here," the Post reported. When she asked if it was because of her age, he allegedly told her another older woman had been fired the same day, & the club was going for a younger look. Ouwroulis says she would like to continue stripping until she is 47 or 48. Ouwroulis told the Post that while the job is about looks, it is also about personality & attitude, all of which made her a great dancer. She has filed an age discrimination complaint to the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario. She is currently working at another strip club as a dancer.

2 Hells Angels acquitted – Nov 21, 2008 – *Sioux Falls, South Dakota* - By Carson Walker - After deliberating over most of 3 days - & at one point saying they couldn't reach a verdict - jurors acquitted 2 Hells Angels bikers of attempted murder for a 2006 gunfight that injured rival Outlaws MC members. Prosecutors said they still plan to try Chad Wilson & John Midmore on a more serious conspiracy charge for the Aug. 8, 2006, shootout at Custer State Park, though the judge asked for legal briefs on whether that would be double jeopardy. Both men are Canadian citizens who live in the United States. Lawyers for the state said Wilson & Midmore went to Legion Lake Resort, near a campground where the Outlaws gathered for the Sturgis motorcycle rally, opened fire & injured 5 people. But Wilson testified the Outlaws confronted the 2 outnumbered Hells Angels & he fired in self-defense after the Outlaws started shooting. "Justice has prevailed," said one of the Hells Angels in the audience after the verdict was read. Club members have attended, though Judge Gene Paul Kean had them remove their black leather vests & jackets that display patches with club affiliation, known as colors, because several jurors said they were intimidated. In response to a request from defence lawyer David Kenner, Kean allowed the bikers to don their colours for the reading of the verdict. "They're Hells Angels. Wearing their patches is everything to them," Kenner said later. The Outlaws injured - Thomas Haas, Allen Matthews & Danny Neace - & 2 women with them, Claudia Wables & Susan Evans-Martin, testified but did not otherwise attend the trial. Nor did any other Outlaws visibly show a presence. The case was delayed several times, including once for an appeal to the state Supreme Court that led to the appointment of Kean, who came out of retirement. "I think Judge Kean is an amazing judge who has given these 2 young men as fair a trial as I have seen," Kenner said. Prosecutors Tracy Kelley & Michael Moore said they were disappointed but respected the decision of the 7 women & 5 men on the jury. "Obviously some of the jurors weren't convinced because they were out 3 days," Moore said. Kelley wouldn't speculate whether fear influenced the verdict. After getting the case Tuesday, the jury on Wednesday sent a note indicating it couldn't reach a unanimous decision. The judge politely told them to keep working & by 2 p.m. Thursday they had a verdict. Kean earlier separated the conspiracy charge from the other counts, which the prosecutors opposed. If Wilson & Midmore do stand trial on conspiracy, which carries a mandatory punishment of life in prison, the state plans to call witnesses who did not testify in the first trial about how the organizations operate & each member's role, Moore said. Kenner said another trial would be a waste of taxpayer money because Thursday's verdict proved there was no conspiracy. Wilson, Midmore & their defense lawyers visibly reacted negatively when the prosecutors indicated they wanted to proceed with the conspiracy trial. "Bring it on, Tracy,"

one of the lawyers told Kelley after the hearing. Kean said because of the verdict & the fact that the defendants had been in jail for more than 2 years, he set bail for each at \$100,000 cash or surety, which means they could get out by posting 10%. Kenner said he was already working on it. Midmore, who lives in Valparaiso, Ind., has dual citizenship in Canada & Australia but is a resident alien. Wilson, who lists his residence as San Diego, is a Canadian citizen & is in the country illegally, so the U.S. Gov't plans to deport him if he's released, which could complicate plans for another trial, Kelley said. Because Wilson & Midmore were found not guilty of attempted murder, jurors didn't enter a verdict on the other count, commission of a felony while armed.

Hells Angels could be tried for conspiracy – Nov 21, 2008 – *South Dakota* - The second of 2 Hells Angels bikers acquitted of trying to kill a group of Outlaws MC members was released from the county jail here Friday. After deliberating over 3 days, jurors on Thursday found Chad Wilson, 33, of San Diego & John Midmore, 35, of Valparaiso, Ind., not guilty of sparking an Aug. 8, 2006, gunfight at Custer State Park during the Sturgis motorcycle rally. Midmore, who has dual citizenship in Canada & Australia but is a resident alien, was released on bail that evening. Wilson was held overnight because he's reportedly in the country illegally, so he was to be deported back to his native Canada. He testified that he fired in self-defense after the Outlaws confronted 2 men at Legion Lake Resort, near a campground where the Outlaws were staying. But prosecutors argued the 2 Hells Angels attempted to kill the Outlaws, injuring 3 of the rival bikers & 2 women with them. Prosecutors said they still plan to try Wilson & Midmore on a more serious charge of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder, which carries a punishment of life in prison if convicted. Attorneys have until Dec. 10 to submit legal briefs on whether that would be double jeopardy. Defense lawyer David Kenner said if there's no attempted murder, there can be no conspiracy. "I think this is a despicable act by the state," he said of the decision to keep the charge alive. "There's no conspiracy here." South Dakota Attorney General Larry Long said today there's no legal problem with the prosecutors trying the 2 men on the conspiracy count, despite the acquittal on the other charges because it's a separate crime. "You could conspire to commit attempted murder & then never carry it out," he said. "It's an agreement to commit a crime." Kenner questioned why prosecutor Michael Moore, during closing arguments, said Wilson & Midmore saw an opportunity & took it, & it was not part of a plan. "Now he wants to go to trial on a plan that he said wasn't there," he said. "The bigger crime would be to spend more taxpayer money. I think when they rethink this, they'll reconsider." Moore said he & Custer County State's Attorney Tracy Kelley will research the issue further, possibly talk to some of the jurors & then decide for certain whether to continue. "Obviously we presented enough evidence to keep them out for 3 days," he said. Judge Gene Paul Kean earlier separated the conspiracy count from the others, which the prosecutors opposed. Double jeopardy "should have been a consideration when he ordered the severing of them. It should have been decided at that point & not after trial," Moore said. "We had a grand jury return an indictment on that charge. We have an obligation to go forward with it. Obviously we feel these guys did this intentionally," he said. The Outlaws injured were Thomas Haas, Allen Matthews & Danny Neace. They & 2 women with them, Claudia Wables & Sue Evans-Martin, testified.

I want to stay as close to the edge as I can without going over. Out on the edge you see all kinds of things you can't see from the center. - Kurt Vonnegut

B.C. man admits to smuggling 30,000 kilos of pot into U.S. – Nov 21, 2008 – *Vancouver, B.C., Canada* - An Abbotsford car dealer & father of 3 has admitted he helped smuggle more than 30,000 kilograms of B.C. marijuana into the United States as part of a drug ring linked to the Hells Angels. Devron Quast, 38, pleaded guilty Thursday in U.S. District Court in Seattle to conspiracy to distribute cocaine & marijuana & conspiracy to engage in money laundering. Quast was arrested in June 2008, following a three-year investigation that involved undercover officers & resulted in the seizure of about 770 kilograms of cocaine, 3,175 kilograms of B.C. bud & about \$3.5 million, the U.S. attorney's office said in a news release.

Biker snitch was paid \$1M – Nov 21, 2008 – *Canada* – By Peter Edwards - An Oshawa Hells Angel sold out his biker brothers to police for more than \$1 million, but informed on his in-laws free, a murder conspiracy trial was told yesterday. Steven Gault, a Grade 10 dropout with a string of fraud & assault convictions, told Superior Court in Whitby that he wasn't sure exactly how much he had been paid by police since signing a contract to work as an undercover agent against the Hells Angels in April 2005. Lawyer Brian Grys, who's defending Oshawa Hells Angels president Mark Cephes Stephenson on charges of plotting to kill a rival biker, told court he pegged the figure at \$1,041,800. "I'll go with your math," said Gault, who took the witness stand dressed in a black business suit. Gault is a former executive member of the Oshawa Hells Angels, nicknamed "The Asylum Crew" for their often-wild behaviour. He's now in a witness protection program. He's also the star prosecution witness in the murder-plot trial of Stephenson & Remond (Ray) Akleh, a member of the club's elite, Ottawa-based Nomads unit. Akleh & Stephenson are accused of enlisting Gault to murder rival biker Frank (Cisco) Lenti of the Bandidos in June 2006. The alleged plot was never carried out. Gault told court he has been selling criminals' secrets to the police since he was in high school & that he joined the Hells Angels with the intention of selling them out, too. He testified that he generally received less than \$1,000 for passing information to more than a half-dozen officers in North Bay, Cobourg & Oshawa, but that he snitched on his former brothers-in-law free. He told police that he & one former brother-in-law were part of a loosely knit criminal group which called itself "the Wanderers" that victimized elderly farmers with barn & home renovation scams. He said he sold out the Wanderers to police, driving down rural roads in eastern Ontario with a police officer & pointing out barns the gang had likely worked on. "What was it about the work that you could recognize?" Grys asked. "That it was horrible," Gault replied in a flat voice. He said he couldn't recall, but believes he snitched to police free on another brother-in-law, Manny, for his role in a small-town marijuana operation. Gault acknowledged to court that he has taken part in a variety of crimes, including drug rip-offs & renovation frauds, but said he was drawn into the crimes by others. He dismissed a suggestion from Grys that he & the other Wanderers preyed on the elderly because they are vulnerable. He said they defrauded elderly farmers "because they have a lot of money." During a drug rip-off in the Cobourg area, Gault admitted he held a loaded 12-gauge shotgun while an accomplice clubbed a dog with a shovel after they had broken into a home. He said the shotgun was necessary because their victim was "a complete psychopath who carries a gun everywhere he goes & I didn't really want to get killed."

There are 3 kinds of people in the world. There are wolves & there are sheep. And then there are those who protect the sheep from the wolves.....

Bikies banned – Nov 21, 2008 - *Australia* - By Tori Mainey - Publicans across Warwick have made a bold move, banning all bikie gangs decked in their club colours from entering their hotels. After meeting with members from Queensland Liquor Licensing & the Warwick Police this week, hotel owners voted to include a sixth point to their mission statement, to "refuse entry to any person wearing colours or other identification of a nature synonymous with those associated with outlaw motorcycle gangs." A Warwick licensee said Rose City hotel owners were in agreement gang members were affecting their trade. "We have come to an agreement as far as they are intimidating the customers & it's more preferable they don't wear colours or jackets into the hotel," the owner said. "That is what happens when 20 people are walking in with their black leather jackets." Warwick Police liquor co-ordinator Sergeant Cameron Slater said publicans came to the decision "in light of recent events". "We have been approached by licensees who have had groups of 20 (bikies) walking in & their customers have got up & left," Sgt Slater said. "This (mission statement) makes sure they are all on the same page to say to the community they won't be tolerating this activity. "I'm sure this will help to ensure people can go to these premises without feelings of apprehension & the environment will be much safer as a result." Sgt Slater congratulated the licensees for taking "a stand which will help to ensure a safer atmosphere for all patrons & staff". Another Warwick owner said their vote came from pressure from the reforms to the Liquor Act. "New laws coming in January mean if you have major incident & it could be caused by bikies they can put your licence up \$20,000 the following year," the owner said. The publican said motorcycle gang members within Warwick were the cause of trouble. "I had already banned the local bikies indefinitely but the other out-of-towners have never caused any trouble," the owner said. The owner said they felt they had been put in a hard position because visiting motorcycle clubs had injected considerable income into Rose City pubs. "I would be first one if they were causing problems & rioting when coming to town to want them out but that hasn't happened. "We can hardly have customers during the week & come weekend we want to make money; do we turn people away because they might cause people trouble? "If I have a football team come in here & smash the place up do I ban all football teams?" Other points agreed upon were to provide a safe environment for staff & patrons to promote the responsible service of alcohol & to refuse entry or to evict anyone exhibiting disorderly or disruptive behaviour. Senior Sgt Mike Curtin said the police fully supported the move. "It is obvious when you look at this initiative, as well as the banning policy which now has more than 20 people banned for between 3 months to life bans, that the licensees are serious about creating appropriate standards of behaviour," Snr Sgt Curtin said. "The community as a whole benefits from this & the local police fully support their efforts in these areas." Horse & Jockey owner Mel Tait said the Warwick Liquor Industry Action Group aimed to be proactive when dealing with the community. "The idea is for the community & patrons to be aware of our code of conduct & to say we support & adhere to the following," Mrs Tait said. The mission statement has been distributed to all hotels & clubs in Warwick & will be on display for all patrons to see from today.

We, as criminal defense lawyers, are forced to deal with some of the lowest people on earth, people who have no sense of right & wrong, people who will lie in court to get what they want, people who do not care who gets hurt in the process. It is our job - our sworn duty – as criminal defense lawyers, to protect our clients from those people. - Cynthia Rosenberry...

Hells Angels member pleads guilty in fatal melee – Nov 22, 2008 – *Las Vegas, Nevada* - By Ken Ritter, Associated Press - A Hells Angels member pleaded guilty Fri to a Fed racketeering charge in a fatal 2002 brawl with rival motorcycle gang members in a southern Nevada casino, authorities said. Frederick Donahue became the final biker to take a plea deal in the melee that left 3 dead, dozens injured & marred the annual Laughlin River Run motorcycle rally. Donahue, 43, of Rodeo, Calif., pleaded guilty to one charge of violent crime in aid of racketeering, during a brief appearance before U.S. District Judge James Mahan in Las Vegas, a court clerk said. Donahue remained in Fed custody pending sentencing Feb. 23. He is expected to be sentenced to no more than 5 years in prison, said Natalie Collins, spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Gregory Brower. Donahue's lawyer, Alan Kaplan of San Francisco, declined comment. Donahue acknowledged shooting Mongols MC member Alexander Alcantar in the April 2002 brawl inside Harrah's casino. But he pleaded guilty to an extortion allegation under the terms of the plea agreement. Alcantar, 35, of Los Angeles, also was stabbed but recovered from his wounds. He was sentenced last January to 18 to 45 months in a Nevada state prison after pleading guilty to manslaughter in the slayings of Hells Angels members Robert Tumelty Jr. & Jeramie Bell. Prosecutors say Bell fatally stabbed Mongols member Anthony Salvador Barrera, 43, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. Donahue was a fugitive for 6 years before surrendering to Fed authorities in Las Vegas last July. His plea on Friday avoided trial in February, & made him the seventh Hells Angels member to take a plea deal in the case. The pleas each involved admissions that the men conducted a criminal "enterprise" across state lines. But it spared the entire Hells Angels club from being branded a criminal enterprise. Six other Hells Angels members pleaded guilty or no contest in Oct 2006 to Fed charges of violent crime in aid of racketeering, battery. Most were sentenced to about 30 months. Charges against 36 other Hells Angels members were dropped. Alcantar was among 6 Mongols members who pleaded guilty in November 2007 to various state felony charges. They avoided trial in state court on charges including murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, battery & assault that could have carried sentences of up to life in prison. Most were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 2 ½ to 5 years.

Fed Judge Dismisses Vagos Suit – Nov 22, 2008 - *Oregon* - On Wed, Fed Judge Owen Panner dismissed a lawsuit that had been filed against the City of Grants Pass, Josephine County & other agencies that had participated in patrol & enforcement activities in June 2005 involving members of the Vagos motorcycle gang. The lawsuit was filed in July 2006 by 70 people who participated in the Vagos-sponsored event. It alleged unreasonable search & seizure, violations of the Fourth & First Amendments, excessive force, assault, negligence, malicious prosecution, tortious interference with a business contract & outrageous conduct. Panner ordered & adjudged that the matter was dismissed without prejudice & that judgement was entered in favor of all the defendants.

2008 16th Annual Teddy Bear Ride – Nov 22, 2008 – *Texas* – By Fred & Dora Morn - **Biker Rally for Mesquite Foster Children:** Approximately 150 bikers from 52 area motorcycle clubs will deliver toys for children in foster care in the Metroplex in a ride that will take them from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center in Dallas to the foster care offices of Lutheran Social Services in Mesquite. To take part in the rally, each biker will bring a toy or donate \$10 to help cover expenses for the annual Christmas party hosted by Lutheran Social Services for its foster children. The toys will be gift-wrapped & given to the foster

children for Christmas. The "motorcade" leaves the MLK Center at 1 p.m. Approximate arrival time in Mesquite is 2:00 p.m. Ride begins from 2922 Martin Luther King Blvd., Dallas. Ride ends at 18601 LBJ Freeway, Mesquite. **Tilt's Toy Run:** A parade of motorcycles will leave Brown's Cycle, Inc. located at 5223 Military Parkway at 11:30 am & proceed to Elks Lodge, 4201 Gus Thomason, Mesquite, TX. Since 1988 this run has provided toys to over 12,000 area children, who otherwise would not have had Christmas presents. In addition to the children who will be provided toys collected at this years run through Mesquite Social Services, Elk's Lodge & Genesis Women's Shelter proceeds will help provide for area families in the form of "Secret Santa". Tilt's Toy Run is a part of Wishing on the Lone Star (a 501(c)(3) organization), which in addition to the toy run, grants wishes to terminally ill patients over the age of 17.

No charges planned in Maine 'shotgun pool' sign – Nov 22, 2008 - *Portland, Maine* - Authorities say no charges are planned against the owner of a store where a sign invited customers to bet on a date when Pres-elect Barack Obama would be assassinated. Cumberland County Sheriff Mark Dion said Friday that Oak Hill General Store owner Steve Collins denied any knowledge of the "Osama Obama Shotgun Pool" sign. Dion added that the sign was gone when a deputy visited the store in Standish to investigate the report on Nov. 7. Dion said posting the sign would not necessarily constitute a threat or a terrorizing incident.

Four injured by police motorcycle stunt – Nov 22, 2008 – *Florida* - Lynn Connor felt like she was at a parade. Tuesday was the Plant City Police Department's annual opportunity to shine before local business leaders. Four officers on motorcycles weaved around cones & drove in figure-eights at their headquarters Tuesday. The chamber of commerce's Leadership Plant City group had lunch at the police station. Now about 20 members were sitting in the bleachers, watching fancy maneuvers. Time for a demonstration of the department's radar gun as it clocked Officer Chad Rader on his motorcycle. Rader took off from the far corner of the lot & started "flying directly toward the bleachers," Connor, 42, said. Pamela Knight, who was sitting in the front row near Connor, remembers thinking "Man, I hope his brakes work." As Rader got closer, Connor realized he wasn't going to stop. Knight recalls a puff of white smoke, & the motorcycle falling on its side, then careening into the bleachers, tearing up Connor's leg & Knight's ankle, & injuring the police chief & Rader. Connor & Knight were rushed to South Florida Baptist Hospital, where they're expected to remain at least through Monday. Connor has had 2 surgeries & a blood transfusion, & Knight has had one surgery. Both expect long rehabilitations. Police Chief Bill McDaniel confirmed the incident, but declined to release a report about the crash, citing the advice of his attorney. He said the matter is under investigation. The Dept had already been contacted about the possibility of legal action, he said.

A strong body makes the mind strong. As to the species of exercises, I advise the gun. While this gives moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise & independence to the mind. Games played with the ball, & others of that nature, are too violent for the body & stamp no character on the mind. Let your gun therefore be your constant companion of your walks."
-Thomas Jefferson to Peter Carr, 1785.

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear-not absence of fear.
Mark Twain

Biker feud unlikely to reignite in Sturgis – Nov 23, 2008 – *South Dakota* - By Matthew Gruchow & Jeff Martin - Hells Angels, Outlaws probably would clash at home, officers say. One day after a jury cleared a Hells Angels member & a club prospect of attempted murder charges, both men have been freed from jail. But they still face conspiracy charges that could result in life sentences if convicted. Their lawyer Friday lashed out at prosecutors for pursuing those charges, calling the plan “despicable.” Hells Angel Chad Wilson, 33, of San Diego, & prospect John Midmore, 35, of Valparaiso, Ind., were found not guilty of attempted murder in the Aug. 8, 2006, shootings of 5 members of the rival Outlaws at Custer State Park. One day after the verdict was read, little is known about the jury members involved in the trial. They will remain anonymous because of a new law that went into effect Nov. 1. And while the feud between the Hells Angels & Outlaws probably will continue, it’s unlikely to resurface at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally again, law enforcement officers say. Prosecutors said they still plan to try both men on a more serious charge of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder, which carries a punishment of life in prison if convicted. Lawyers have until Dec. 10 to submit legal briefs on whether that would be double jeopardy. Defense lawyer David Kenner said if there’s no attempted murder, there can be no conspiracy. “I think this is a despicable act by the state,” he said of the decision to keep the charge alive. Wilson also has an immigration hold & probably will be deported to Canada, said Custer County State’s Attorney Tracy Kelley, one of the prosecutors in the case. **No end to the feud, Fed agent predicts:** The Outlaws & the Hells Angels have long been rivals & have violently clashed several times. Thursday’s verdict in Sioux Falls probably will not change that, said Robert Boland, resident agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives in Sioux Falls. “I can’t predict the future, but I don’t anticipate this is the end of anything between these 2 groups,” he said. Violence more likely on home turfs than Sturgis: But South Dakota & the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally would be unlikely locations for further violence between the 2 gangs, Boland said. Violence is more apt to occur in places where the 2 gangs have overlapping territory, he said. “These 2 groups don’t claim (South Dakota) as part of their territory,” Boland said. Since March 2006, violence between the Hells Angels & Outlaws has escalated, mostly because of the expansion of Outlaws’ activity in states controlled by the Hells Angels, according to an FBI intelligence bulletin issued a few months before the Custer State Park shootings. The bulletin, filed in a Fed court case, said “a potential war” may be developing between the 2 groups. Conflict thought possible at 2006 Sturgis Rally It also singled out the 2006 Sturgis Rally as a possible site for violence. “The 2 most significant upcoming summer events that could lead to violence are the HAMC World Run in July 2006 & the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in August 2006,” the bulletin states. Wilson & Midmore’s case also was unusual among the 2 groups because the Outlaws are infrequent participants at Sturgis rallies, Boland said. The Outlaws have shown up in significant numbers only twice, in 1990 & 2006, he said. The FBI report said leaders of the Outlaws ordered members to attend Sturgis in 2006, threatening them with \$500 fines & possible demotions in rank if they didn’t show up. Most years, though, the Outlaws “don’t typically come out west anyway,” Boland said. “We don’t anticipate them coming back anytime soon.” The Hells Angels, however, regularly have a large presence at the rally, he said. “We have concerns about the Hells Angels all the time. That’s a constant,” Boland said. **If jurors felt intimidated, rule keeps that a secret:** A new rule that took effect Nov. 1 will protect the identities of jurors who acquitted the men in the Sioux Falls trial. From the start,

prospective jurors in the case expressed fear of revenge. During jury selection, one prospective juror expressed concerns whether “one or the other gangs would take revenge on jurors. Another said “They, I’m sure, stick together. They might seek revenge.” However, the new rule may have a downside as well. Without knowing who the jurors are, it’s not possible to find answers to a key question: Did fear of retaliation influence their decision? The S.D. Supreme Court this year decided that all records created during jury selections should be closed to the public unless the trial judge rules otherwise. The rule was partly the result of concerns about identity theft & fears of someone trying to embarrass jurors for the way they answered questions. Judge Gene Kean on Friday denied an Argus Leader request for names of the jurors in the biker trial, said Court Admin Karl Thoennes.

Security A Success In Hells Angels Trial – Nov 23, 2008 – *South Dakota* - The bikers are gone but at its peak, the Hells Angels attempted murder trial brought nearly 2 dozen motorcycle club members into a Sioux Falls courtroom. It also brought extra security to the Minnehaha County Courthouse. And, even with the not guilty verdict, the Sheriff is calling the case a success. When Hells Angels members swarmed the Minnehaha County courthouse, Sheriff Mike Milstead prepared for the worst. Minnehaha Sheriff Mike Milstead says, “We always knew that if nothing happens we probably did too much. If something happened, somebody would probably say we didn’t do enough, but I think we did the right level.” On any given day Milstead says 12 different agencies were present in & around the courthouse in uniform & undercover. All the extra metal detectors, officers & patrols were all part of the plan to keep the peace. Milstead says, “I wouldn’t want to get into exactly how many there were, but I will say that you saw some of them, but not all of them. Certainly we were geared up as we felt appropriate to make sure that we’d have a safe environment for a trial.” Now that the trial is over, Milstead says his deputies & local law enforcement can learn from the security lockdown. Milstead says, “We’ve had a good experience here in operating certain systems & certain plans, & I think it will be beneficial for us in the long run.” As for how much the 3 week trial cost the county, Milstead says they’re still totaling up those bills. But, because the case was moved from Custer county all of the overtime, jail expenses & court costs will be sent to Custer county.

We Seek Snitches, Police Want Ad - Nov 23, 2008 - *Albuquerque, New Mexico* - The Albuquerque PD has turned to the want ads for snitches. An ad this week in the alternative newspaper The Alibi asks “people who hang out with crooks” to do part-time work for the police. It reads in part: “Make some extra cash! Drug use & criminal record OK.” Capt. Joe Hudson says police received more than 30 responses in 2 days. He says one tip was a “big one” but wouldn’t elaborate. An informant whose tip helps officers arrest a drug dealer could earn \$50. A tip about a murder suspect could bring up to \$700. It’s not the first time department has run ads. In a program 10 years ago, police received so many calls they turned the phones off.

A husband & wife were at a party chatting with some friends when the subject of marriage counseling came up. “Oh, we’ll never need that. My husband & I have a great relationship,” the wife explained. “He was a communications major in college & I majored in theater arts. He communicates real well & I just act like I’m listening.”

People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf. - George Orwell

Billy Lane DUI trial delayed – Nov 23, 2008 - *Florida* - Scheduling problems have forced the delay of celebrity motorcycle builder Billy Lane's DUI manslaughter trial until next year, his attorney said. During a hearing Friday in Viera, Circuit Judge Meryl Allawas canceled the planned December trial after the defense & state's witnesses were unable to move existing schedule conflicts, lawyer Greg Eisenmenger said. Trials are typically scheduled months in advance to avoid such scheduling problems, Assistant State Atty Tom Brown told Florida Today last week. The trial was tentatively rescheduled for Feb. 9 before Circuit Judge Robert Burger, who will take over Allawas' docket when she leaves the bench in January, Eisenmenger said. Allawas lost her re-election bid in Nov. Lane, 38, faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted on one count of DUI manslaughter in connection with a Labor Day 2006 traffic accident in which 56-year-old Sebastian Inlet park ranger Gerald Morelock died. Police said Lane's blood-alcohol level was more than twice the legal limit when he crossed a double yellow line to pass several cars near Melbourne Beach, striking Morelock's motorcycle head-on. Attys said they expect Lane's trial to last up to 2 weeks & they anticipate pre-trial publicity could result in a lengthy jury selection process.

Myrtle Beach may put off helmet law – Nov 23, 2008 – *South Carolina* - Motorcyclists worried about being ticketed for riding without a helmet in Myrtle Beach might have a little longer to ride bare-headed. The City Council on Tuesday will consider a request from city staff members to postpone implementing the rest of the 15 anti-bike-rally ordinances & amendments until late February to give City Manager Tom Leath more time to set up the administrative hearing system that will deal with those citations. Myrtle Beach's leaders this summer passed the new regulations after years of hearing from residents every May about the traffic, noise, garbage, reckless driving & lewd acts they say typify the 2 weeks of Harley-Davidson & sport bike rallies every May.

Bikie gangs illegal soon – Nov 23, 2008 – *Australia* - South Australia's Police Minister, Michael Wright, expects some bikie gangs to be declared illegal by Christmas. New laws came into force in September giving the Police Commissioner added powers, but so far they have not been used. However Minister Wright says the new crime gangs taskforce is making a serious dent in the bikie gangs, arresting 96 members in the past year. "We know that they've seized over half a million dollars in cash, they've also made busts in amphetamine, over 13,000, cannabis, over 31,000 & ecstasy, over 5,000," he said. "The fact that there's been so many drug busts & so many arrests, the seizure of cash, they're obviously making an impact where it really hurts these bikie gangs." The taskforce took over from Operation Avatar & has 44 investigators, double the previous number.

Randy Mark 'Mad' Yager for Murder, Arson, Robbery & More – Nov 24, 2008 – *Indiana* – By Diane Macedo - This is part of a FOXNews.com series of looking at some of the most wanted criminals being sought by U.S. authorities. To neighbors in Gary, Ind., Randy Mark Yager was a nice guy, always eager to lend a helping hand. But to the Outlaw MC, "Mad" was a vicious leader who was feared by his enemies & allies alike. And to the U.S. Marshalls office, he is one of America's 15 most wanted fugitives. As regional president of the Outlaws, Yager was one of 17 members indicted in a massive racketeering conspiracy case that included murder, arson & use of explosives, among a long list of charges. "A lot of it was from an ongoing feud that the Outlaws had with a subgroup of the Hells Angels, the Hells Henchmen," said Deputy U.S. Marshal Patrick

Amerson. "They had bombed the Hells Henchmen clubhouse on the north side of Chicago, they had planted incendiary devices on several of known Hells Henchmen's vehicles. ...They were also accused of what started out as a robbery & turned into the murder of an elderly couple in Northern Illinois." Fed agents investigated the Outlaws for well over 18 months & found that Yager was considered one of their most violent members. "One of the positions they have in the club is a sergeant-at-arms, & if there was any corporal punishment, the sergeant-at-arms was normally the one that would carry that out," Amerson said. "But when Yager was the president, he took relish in doing that himself. A lot of the guys were scared because they thought he was just crazy." But in June 1997, when the Bureau of ATF made raids & arrests in the case, Yager avoided the sweep. "ATF went to his home address, couldn't find him there, then some other places in Indiana. They found out later that he was in Las Vegas, Nevada, with a girl named Margaret Jelovcic," Amerson said. The fluke trip allowed Yager to become the only Outlaw who was not arrested in the indictment, & it began his life on the lam. Jelovcic returned to Gary, but not for long. "Margaret came back for about 2 & a half, 3 months, she liquidated all of his assets from the used car lot he owned & then took off," Amerson said. The then 30-year-old refused to talk to the police during her stay. Whether she was an accomplice helping Yager evade arrest remains unknown. "Friend told us later, after she'd left, that she was afraid for her life, that's why she wouldn't cooperate at all. As far as bringing criminal charges, we never got to that point - couldn't really prove anything." Amerson said. "Her family says no way she'd be gone this long without being held against her will. But I have nothing to lead me to believe that." Jelovcic has been listed as a missing person; Neither she nor Yager has been found. Some officials believe Yager has been able to hide for so long because he had been preparing for life on the run for quite some time. "There were rumors that the senior members of the gang put together false identification & had been funneling club dues into their own accounts, so that when the time came & the arrest warrants were finally served, they were able to grab their false ID - they had their slush fund - & hit the road," Amerson said. Authorities also believe that the motorcycle club continues to play a part in Yager's run from justice. "I think that he's still being assisted & aided by the Outlaws, & he probably still has a say," Amerson said. Fellow bikers have described Yager as looking Hispanic. They say he likes to drink Crown Royal whiskey & Corona beer. They also say he is arrogant & likes to be "large & in charge." But his violent nature is not always apparent. "His neighbors said he was the nicest guy you could ever want, that he'd come over & help you with your car if it broke down. They'd offer him money & he wouldn't take it. They said he was a decent guy that way," Amerson said. The U.S. Marshals consider him armed & dangerous. Authorities suspect Margie Jelovcic is traveling with Yager.

Finally, Someone has Explained the Mystery!!! For centuries, Hindu women have worn a dot on their foreheads. Most of us have naively thought this was connected with marriage or religion, but the Indian Embassy in Washington, DC has recently revealed the true story. When a Hindu woman gets married, she brings a dowry into the union. On her wedding night, the husband scratches off the dot to see whether he has won a convenience store, a gas station, a liquor store or a motel in the United States. If there is nothing under the dot, he must take a job in India answering telephones & giving unintelligible technical advice to frustrated Americans & Canadians.

Bikie 'threatened' officers during arrest – Nov 24, 2008 – *Australia* - By Aleisha Preedy - A 39-year-old Busselton man, believed to be a member of an outlaw motorcycle gang, allegedly threatened police with a large wooden pallet during an arrest in the South West last night. Police allege about 7pm they tried to stop a white Ford falcon sedan while on patrol on Bussell Highway in Busselton. The car allegedly sped off & stopped in the driveway of a house on Blue Crescent. Police chased the man after he allegedly ran from the car & caught him while he tried to jump a fence. The man struggled with police & was later handcuffed after back up officers arrived. Two passengers from the car, who police believe to be members of an outlaw motorcycle gang, approached the officers & allegedly tried to intervene in the struggle. Police allege one of the men threatened officers with a large wooden pallet.

Anti-bikie squad arrest 283 – Nov 24, 2008 – *Australia* - By Larine Statham - The arrest of 187 people, who associate with outlaw motorcycle gang members, is nothing more than a witch-hunt, a South Australian bikie gang member says. The State Gov't today released figures showing that of the 283 people arrested or reported by a new anti-bikie police task force, which was created 12 months ago, almost two-thirds were not actually outlaw club members. "This law is designed exactly to find people guilty by association," Descendants club member Tom Mackie said. "I think the latest stats I've seen ... shows that bikie related crime makes up about 0.6 per cent of all the crime (police) deal with & there is some pretty heavy duty legislation going on for a crime wave that doesn't even get above one per cent," he said. "You've got to think, jeez this smells like it's an election witch-hunt, rather than a real crime solving problem. "If you lock us up, you watch the crime stats, they won't move a bit." However, South Australian Police Minister Michael Wright said the 44-member task force had already reduced mass bike run participation by almost half & had stopped about 50,000 street drug deals. "Police seizures at criminal bikie gang properties have included full, prohibited & dangerous weapons, including double edged knives, stun guns & knuckle dusters," Mr Wright said. "We know that the only thing these gangs are interested in is the illegal drug trade, murder, extortion & other forms of violence & intimidation." Mackie said he was concerned tough anti-bikie laws expected to be enforced by Christmas, which would see some bikie gangs declared illegal, would mean all bikies were labelled as being the same. "We are a lot of the things that are said about us, but we are not all of them," he said. Mackie said he had no problems with police using previous laws to "find the bad seeds amongst them". "The laws that existed took care of the few who play up a little bit & then there's the rest of us who just toe the line, enjoy the comradeship & the motorbikes & the lifestyle that goes with it," he said. "What we do have a problem with is Mums, Dads & Uncles going to jail with them. "The legislation should never be that open ended that the innocent can go to jail with the guilty ... what about our civil liberties." Employed as a rigger for an entertainment company, Mackie has 8 children & has been a member of the Adelaide-based Descendants club for 34 years. "It takes just about all of my day to get them to school, from school & all their sports ... doesn't leave you much time to be a villain."

Two guilty of murdering Hells Angels biker – Nov 24, 2008 – *United Kingdom* - 'Fully patched' club member was shot dead on M40 by members of rival Outlaws gang in Aug 2007. Two members of the Outlaws biker gang have been convicted of murdering Gerry Tobin, the Hells Angel who was shot dead on the M40 motorway in 2007. Simon Turner, 41, of Nuneaton, &

Dane Garside, 42, of Coventry, were found guilty today by a jury at Birmingham crown court. The jury has yet to return verdicts on 4 other defendants: Malcolm Bull, 53, of Milton Keynes, & 3 men from Coventry, Karl Garside, 45, Dean Taylor, 47, & Ian Cameron, 46. All have denied murder & the possession of 2 guns. Tobin, a mechanic from Mottingham, south-east London, was riding a H-D motorcycle back from the annual Bulldog Bash festival when he was killed with a single bullet to the back of the head near Warwick services on August 12 2007. Turner & Garside were members of the Outlaws gang, which the prosecution said singled out Tobin because he was a "fully patched" member of the rival Hells Angels.

Hostilities between the Bandidos & Rebels – Nov 24, 2008 – *Australia* - The killing of Ross Brand marked the 2nd shooting at the Bandidos' Geelong headquarters in less than 2 years. Police have confirmed they are investigating the possibility his murder was gang-related. In Feb 2007, the Bandidos clubhouse in Bayldon Court, Breakwater, was peppered with more than 30 bullets, leading to reports that Bandidos from around Victoria had been "called to arms" against the Rebels. In April, arsonists set fire to the Rebels MC headquarters in Edols Place, North Geelong, in an early-morning attack, & just days later a molotov cocktail was launched at a Werribee property owned by the club. April also saw a series of shootings police believed were connected to a turf war between the 2 gangs. A 21-year-old man was shot in the knee after answering the door a Whittington home on April 2. On April 19, a 22-year-old man was shot in the lower leg in Corio, & later the same day a group of men stormed a Torquay home & fired up to 5 shots into walls & doors. Shots were fired at a house in Whittington on April 21 and, again the same day, a car parked at the Wauron Ponds Hotel was riddled with bullets while the owner was sitting inside the hotel. Last July, Bandidos heavyweight Kim Sloane challenged police claims of a Geelong bikie war, saying: "We are not at war with anyone & that's the truth." But the same month, police charged 2 members of the Rebels MC's offshoot gang, Death Before Dishonour, with false imprisonment after a man was grabbed at Newcomb's Bellarine Village & forced to provide details about a Bandidos gang member. A number of criminal trials ensued following the months of violence & hostility. But, after a seemingly quiet period lasting almost a year, violence erupted again last month with the shooting of Bandido Ross Brand outside the gang's headquarters.

A young farm couple, Homer & Darlene, got married & just couldn't seem to get enough lovin'. In the morning, before Homer left the house for the fields, they made love. When Homer came back from the fields, they made love. After supper, they made love. And again at bedtime, they made love. The problem was their nooner: it took Homer a half hour to travel home & another half hour to return to the fields & he just wasn't getting enough work done. Finally Homer asked the town doctor what to do. "Homer," said the doctor, "just take your rifle out to the fields with you & when you're in the mood, fire off a shot into the air. That will be Darlene's signal to come out to you. Then you won't lose any field time." They tried Doc's advice & it worked well for a while until one day when Homer came back to the doctor's office. "What's wrong?" asked the Doc. "Didn't my idea work?" "Oh, it worked good," said Homer. "Whenever I was in the mood, I fired off a shot like you said & Darlene'd come runnin'. We'd find a secluded place, make love, & then she'd go back home again." "Good, Homer. So what's the problem?" asked the Doc. "Ah mighta trained her too good. I ain't seen her since huntin' season opened!"

There may be more mob indictments – Nov 25, 2008 – *Illinois* - A Fed prosecutor said Tuesday more indictments may be coming in the investigation of a bomb blast that allegedly was to scare a suburban company out of competition with organized crime in the video gaming business. Assistant U.S. Attorney T. Markus Funk told U.S. District Judge Ronald A. Guzman the Gov't may add several defendants to the 2 already charged in the February 2003 bombing that ripped apart the offices of C & S Coin Operated Amusements in Berwyn. The case is the latest major organized crime investigation to surface in the Chicago area following last year's Operation Family Secrets case in which 5 men were convicted & 3 are awaiting sentencing for their role in mob murders. Prosecutors say organized crime has long had a monopoly on the \$13-million-a-year video gaming business in Chicago's western suburbs. Authorities also say the mob bombed C & S offices to let the company know that it would not be allowed to horn in on the illegal profits. A defendant in the Family Secrets case who pleaded guilty before the trial began, Michael Marcello, was the owner of a video gambling company & 2 of the other defendants who pleaded guilty worked for him. Those charged in the latest case are Mark Polchan, 41, & Samuel Volpendesto, 84, both of whom have pleaded not guilty. They are being held without bond in the Gov'ts Metropolitan Correctional Center. In court on Tuesday, attorneys revealed that the Gov't has made audio & video recordings that it most likely would show jurors if the case went to trial. Defense attorney Damon Cheronis said the Gov't has turned over evidence that includes 24 DVDs & 24,000 pages of FBI reports & "audio & video that fills up a hard drive." The case surfaced in July when Fed agents, one group equipped with an armored car, raided a headquarters of the Outlaws MC & several other locations where members of the club have been known to gather. Polchan's attorneys acknowledged in court that he is a member of the club. But prosecutors have said since then that the mob instigated the explosion that is the focus of the investigation.

Rebels bikies charged after Gang Crime investigation – Nov 25, 2009 – *Australia* - WA Gang Crime Squad officers have charged senior Rebels bikies, including the club's president, following a lengthy investigation into the gang's activities. Police have released few details of the probe but say 7 members or associates were arrested. The gang's 39-year-old president was charged with assault with intent to rob, causing grievous bodily harm, deprivation of liberty & making threats with intent to gain a benefit. The gang's 43-year-old Sergeant-at-Arms was also charged with numerous offences, including assault, stealing, making threats with intent to gain benefit & drug possession. Five other members or associates were charged with numerous similar offences.

Bikies hope to fight Rann where it hurts – Nov 25, 2008 – *Australia* - A group of South Australian motorcyclists, including members of opposing outlaw bikie gangs, have formed an unlikely alliance to take on the state Gov't. The FREE Australia party, standing for freedom, rights, education & environment, has gained the necessary 150 members & is expected to lodge its formal application for registration this week. Founded on a platform opposing the Rann Gov'ts anti-bikie legislation, called the Serious & Organised Crime Control Act, the party will contest the March 2010 election. A committee member of the Motorcycle Riders Association of South Australia & Justice of the Peace, Paul Kuhn, said the group was formed because of deep concern that anyone who associated with a member of a club could be found guilty under the law. "This Gov't is now controlling & dictating relationships," he said. The 51-year-old

scooter rider said Premier Mike Rann used the stereotypical bikie image to instil fear & gain community support for the Act. "This draconian law applies to all people & nowhere in the Act does it make reference to bikies," he said. "Not all bikers are criminals & this Act doesn't differentiate between the two." Having raised his strong opposition to the laws in the past, Law Society of South Australia president John Goldberg said he understood the group's opposition to the law, but that he was not sure how much support the party would get from the general public. "I haven't detected a huge amount of public concern, & don't forget the legislation has had bi-partisan support in parliament," he said. Goldberg said the success of FREE Australia would depend on the individuals involved. "Who would have ever predicted that (Independent senator) Nick Xenophon would have been able to win 2 upper house seats or a Fed Senate seat on the basis of a no pokies platform," he said. "Stranger things have happened. "But I can't imagine that it will get a flood of popular support unless there is some reasonably charismatic leadership." With the registration application taking 28 days to be processed, Mr Kuhn said he was expecting strong opposition to the party from both the current state Gov't & opposition, but that FREE Australia would not back down. He said the party was yet to nominate a leader. "If we can get a seat, we will push for politicians to speak on behalf of the people instead of on their own agenda," he said. "We will continue the Democrats' fight for an Independent Commission Against Crime & Corruption. "And we support teachers & police for better pay; no public servant should be put in that situation."

This was found on "Gangland" web site – Nov 26, 2008 – *USA* - The Sons of Silence, one of the country's biggest outlaw biker gangs. With its headquarters in Colorado, the Sons of Silence (SOS) are known as "one-percenters" — the term given to those that operate on the fringes of an otherwise law-abiding motorcycle community. One-percenters are dedicated to principles of personal freedom & the right to self-expression. Membership is by invitation only & their motto is Donec mors non separat — Latin that is intended to translate as "Until death separates us". At first sight, an alliance of white supremacists & biker gang members seems an odd one. Edward Winterhalder, former leader of a rival biker gang known as the Bandidos & now an author on gang culture, said: "Most of them are just regular guys who work during the week & have a little too much fun at the weekends. The majority of them are law-abiding, have families. They're just regular neighbourhood guys. "They love their Harley-Davidson motorcycles & love their brotherhood & the camaraderie of riding their bikes. They are very pro-government, they stand behind the flag. This is something they would never be involved in. Working with white supremacists would be an extremely unusual partnership." But Steve Cook, president of the Mid-West Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigations Association, said that the gangs were known to have a sub-culture — & a bad element — that could sit comfortably with racist extremism. "I have personally seen SOS members wearing hats that say 'Dirty White Boy', T-shirts with swastikas & other Nazi regalia. "I don't believe that even a group like the SOS would knowingly, as an organisation, get themselves involved in something like this because nothing good can come of it for them. "But would it be out of the realms for some of their associates or a member to do something like this on his own? No. Anything is in play."

No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his well-being, to risk his body, to risk his life, in a great cause.
- Theodore Roosevelt

Acquitted Canadian Hells Angel still in jail – Nov 26, 2008 - *Sioux Falls, South Dakota* - The second of 2 Hells Angels bikers acquitted of trying to kill a group of Outlaws MC members is still in the county jail in Sioux Falls. After deliberating over 3 days, jurors on Thursday found Chad Wilson of San Diego & John Midmore of Valparaiso, Ind., not guilty of sparking an Aug. 8, 2006, gunfight at Custer State Park during the Sturgis motorcycle rally. Midmore has dual citizenship in Canada & Australia but is a resident alien. He was released on bail that evening. Wilson was held because he's reportedly in the country illegally, so he was to be deported back to Canada. The jail on Friday said he had been released, but he's still listed as an inmate.

Bikie murder accused runs from court – Nov 26, 2008 – *Australia* – By Paul Miller - One of the men charged with murdering Bandidos member Ross Brand had to be excused from the Geelong magistrate's court this morning to vomit. John Bedson, 25, from Ocean Grove doubled over, looked pale, took a sip of water & then ran into the back room where he could be heard vomiting violently. John Bedson & his brother Derrick 21 from Highton have both been charged with murder & intentionally causing serious injury. Both have been remanded in custody to appear at a committal mention hearing on February 13. John Bedson's solicitor Jack Dalziel said that his client was suffering from a wound which needed treatment.

Witness denies framing biker – Nov 26, 2008 – *Canada* - Oshawa Hells Angel Steven Gault has bilked seniors, sold out his friends, bitten off a chunk of a man's ear in a fight, & threatened to blow up his common-law wife, but he would never lie under oath, a Whitby murder conspiracy trial has been told. "You've lied many times in the past," defence lawyer Glenn Orr said yesterday in his cross-examination of the outlaw biker-turned-police agent. "Didn't you say that under oath?" "That's correct," replied Gault, a prosecution witness in the trial of Hells Angels Mark (Cephes) Stephenson & Remond (Ray) Akleh, who are accused of conspiracy to commit murder & counselling to commit murder. "How do we know when you're lying?" Orr continued. "... I'm under oath," replied Gault, who was on his 10th day on the witness stand. Gault dismissed the suggestion he set out to frame Akleh because the 2 men had a turbulent relationship, after Akleh had accused Gault of being a police informer. Akleh & Stephenson are charged with attempting to recruit Gault to kill Frank (Cisco) Lenti of the Bandidos club. The alleged plot was never carried out. Court has heard Gault was paid more than \$1 million for his work as a police agent in an operation from May 2005 to September 2006. In caustic cross-examination, Orr asked if Akleh said to him: "Mr. Gault, I no longer believe you're a pipeline to the police. I want you to go & kill Frank Lenti." "He didn't do that, did he?" "No," Gault replied. Court has heard Gault has several assault & fraud convictions. Orr asked Gault if he realized that Akleh began feeding information on Gault to the same Oshawa officer, after Akleh failed to have Gault kicked out of the Hells Angels for being a suspected police informer. "He didn't tell you that, did he?" Orr asked. "No," Gault replied, smiling.

A Loss in the SOS family – Nov 27, 2008 – *Mankato, Minnesota* - Brothers, Ron's father just passed away. Please keep our Brother in your thoughts & prayers.

Happy Thanksgiving – Nov 27, 2008 – *USA* - I wish the Indians would have given the pilgrims a donkey instead of a turkey, then we would all be having a piece of ass today!!! Strube 13

The Thanksgiving Divorce: A man in Phoenix calls his son in New York the day before Thanksgiving & says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother & I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough. "Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams. We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father says. "We're sick of each other, & I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago & tell her." Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this," She calls Phoenix immediately, & screams at her father, "You are not getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, & we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, Do You Hear Me?" & hangs up. The old man hangs up his phone & turns to his wife. "Okay," he says, "they're coming for Thanksgiving & paying their own way."

Hierarchy of the biker gangs – Nov 27, 2008 – *World* - Hells Angels, Outlaws & Bandidos lead the pack - There are 3 main international "outlaw" clubs: Hells Angels, the Outlaws & the Bandidos. There are many other lesser-known clubs, from the Bandits, Mongols & Satan's Slaves to the Outcasts & the Pagans, but the 2 main rivals are Hells Angels & the Outlaws. The Outlaws were founded in McCook on Route 66 in Illinois in 1935, & have been expanding ever since. Their website promises "Coming soon to a city near you" & announced recent new chapters in Russia, Japan & the Philippines. A squadron of daredevil fighter pilots in the first world war is credited with coining the name of the Hells Angels but the first club of that name was formed in 1948 by a breakaway group of the Pissed Off Bastards in Berdoo, San Bernardino, California. The "outlaw" clubs are also sometimes known as "one per centres" & may carry tattoos or patches to this effect. This dates from a statement in 1947 by the American Motorcycle Association, in the wake of a violent bikers' gathering in California, that "99% of motorcyclists are law-abiding". The main clubs have chapters – which have to be officially recognised as affiliated – in the UK. Hells Angels opened their first chapter in London in 1969 while the Outlaws' first British chapters – 14 of them in England & Wales – were affiliated in 2000. There are 4 stages of bikerdom: the supporter, the "hangaround," the probationer/prospect/probate & the "fully patched" member who requires a 100% vote of the chapter. Clubs have a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer & sergeant-at-arms who is responsible for discipline & weapons. Some of the posts are jointly held as chapters can be small: the entire south Warwickshire chapter was alleged to have been involved in the death of Tobin. The police believe that some clubs may require a would-be member to commit an act of violence so as to exclude any would-be undercover officer who would not be authorised by his police force to break the law. Tobin's death was an isolated event but there have been precedents. In 2001, a Hells Angel was shot in the leg with a shotgun on the M40 but survived. No one was arrested & neither club cooperated with the police investigation. In 2006, there was a murder of an Outlaw in Germany. There was a clash between the 2 clubs in Germany in March this year. Hells Angels have been on the other end of a bikers' feud. In January 1998, about 30 of them armed with an axe, knives, metal bars & baseball bats gathered outside the Rockers Reunion in Battersea, south London. By the end of the evening, 2 members of the rival Outcasts, Malcolm 'the Terminator' St Clair & Keith 'Flipper' Armstrong, were dead. Witnesses said the killings were carried out in silence & appeared "ritualistic". Only one man, Ron "Gut" Wait, was convicted for the attack. He was jailed for 15 years for conspiring to cause grievous bodily harm & died in jail of a heart attack in 2001.

Police bug missed murder order – Nov 27, 2008 – *Canada* - A hidden police recording device didn't pick up the president of the Oshawa Hells Angels approving the murder of a fellow Hells Angel, a Whitby murder conspiracy trial heard. A jury heard audio today from a secret recording made on July 13, 2006 by Steven Gault, a Hells Angel-turned-police-agent, as he spoke on July 13, 2006 with Mark Cephes Stephenson, president of the Oshawa Hells Angels. The conversation took place at Stephenson's secluded home near the town of Sunderland in north Durham Region, 3 weeks after Gault said he was originally recruited by Stephenson & Remond (Ray) Akleh of the Hells Angels elite Nomads chapter to murder Frank (Cisco) Lenti of the Bandidos MC. Gault testified that Stephenson mouthed the words, "Kill him too" to him during the meeting, when he asked what he should do if Akleh somehow got in the way of the plot to murder Lenti. Under cross-examination from Akleh's lawyer, Glenn Orr, Gault acknowledged the words "Kill him too" don't appear on the recording. "One can't hear Mr. Stephenson say, 'Kill him too,' ..,?" Orr asked. "That's correct," replied Gault, who's on his eleventh day on the witness stand. Gault testified that Stephenson mouthed the words approving Akleh's murder, but didn't actually speak them. "All we have is your word alone?," Orr continued. "Correct," Gault said.

Armed guard as biker gang jailed – Nov 28, 2008 – *United Kingdom* - Armed police guarded Birmingham Crown Court as about 100 bikers supported gang members who were being jailed for murdering a rival Hells Angel. Seven members of The Outlaws gang took part in the "ruthlessly planned ambush" of Gerry Tobin, 35, who was shot on the M40 last August. He was travelling home to London from the Bulldog Bash biker festival in Warwickshire when he was murdered. His killers will serve minimum terms of between 25 & 30 years. As Outlaws members wearing the colours of their chapters from around the UK stood outside the court, Mr Justice Treacy told the defendants they had committed an "appalling murder". He said: "A totally innocent man was executed with a firearm in broad daylight on a busy motorway for no reason other than that he belonged to a different motorcycle club than yours." Tobin, a Canadian mechanic who lived in Mottingham, south-east London, had been targeted because he was wearing Hells Angels regalia marking him as a "fully patched" - meaning fully initiated - member. His fiancée Rebecca Smith, 26, had earlier arrived at court wearing an armband with the words "Gentleman Gerry" on it. The judge said he was a decent & innocent man. Sean Creighton & Simon Turner had fired at Mr Tobin from a Rover car, but the judge said the other defendants played a part in the "cold-blooded, premeditated, almost military plan". Creighton, 44, from Coventry, described as president of the south Warwickshire Outlaws, will serve a minimum of 28 years & 6 months after pleading guilty to murder & firearms offences. Simon Turner, 41, from Nuneaton, was said to be the gang's sergeant-at-arms, & was given a minimum term of 30 years for murder & possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. Malcolm Bull, 53, of Milton Keynes, will serve 25 years & Dean Taylor, 47, of Coventry, will serve 30 years. Both were convicted of murder & a firearms offence after the seven-week trial. Karl Garside, 45, Dane Garside, 42, & Ian Cameron, 46, all of Coventry, were also found guilty of murdering Tobin. Karl Garside was given a minimum term of 26 years, Dane Garside 27 years, & Cameron was told he must serve at least 25 years in jail. In sentencing the 7 men, the judge also spoke of the effect Mr Tobin's murder had on those closest to him. He said Tobin's parents had found it difficult to come to terms with the fact their only son had been "cold-

bloodedly executed". And he said the life of Mr Tobin's fiancée Rebecca Smith, 26, had been "utterly changed". "She had hoped to marry him, have a family life with him, to have children with him," he said. The judge added: "None of you has showed the remotest feeling, consideration or remorse for what you did." The court heard that several of the gang had previous convictions. Turner was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 1993 for throwing petrol over a stranger & stabbing him to settle a debt. Dane Garside had been involved in an axe attack in 1990 & various assaults while his brother Karl had convictions including battery, taking a knuckleduster to court & grievous bodily harm. Taylor was charged with aggravated burglary after being involved in a biker-related incident in 1984. He & 7 other men had travelled to Leicester with 3 sawn-off shotguns over a dispute with the Hells Angels.

BPM Toys of Tots Party – Nov 29, 2008 – *St. Cloud, Minnesota* – Bubba Bar today...

Officer's help may have saved biker – Nov 29, 2008 – *Sturgis, South Dakota* - By Scott Gutierrez; P-I Reporter - The Hells Angels member shot by an off-duty Seattle police detective during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally may have survived because another off-duty officer from Washington rushed to save him. Relying on his first-aid training, Scott Lazalde, a U.S. Customs & Border Protection officer based in Blaine, knelt beside the wounded biker & pressed towels against the wounds. He grabbed the man's hand & told him to "stay with me," hoping to keep him from shock, said witnesses & Lazalde's atty, Robert Van Norman in Rapid City, S.D. Lazalde, 38, attended the famous rally in August with the Iron Pigs, a MC for police officers & firefighters who ride American-made V-Twin motorcycles. He is a close friend of Seattle Detective Ron Smith, who fired his gun in the midst of a bar brawl. He & Smith were among 4 officers who had misdemeanor weapons charges against them dismissed last week. "There were still lots of Hells Angels around & lots of high emotions & people trying to get out of this very crowded bar," Van Norman said, recounting witness testimony & police reports. "I think it was pretty amazing, particularly when one of his buddies was the object of the assault. It was pretty selfless & a good reaction." The shots were fired just after 1 a.m. Aug. 9 at the Loud American Roadhouse, scattering patrons toward exits & wounding Joseph McGuire, 33, of Imperial Beach, Calif. Lazalde didn't immediately know who fired the gun, but he saw the man, who allegedly jumped his friend, bleeding on the floor. McGuire, who is charged with aggravated assault, was hospitalized for several weeks. His attorney could not be reached for comment. Smith suffered a black eye, a nose fracture & a chipped tooth. Smith's forehead was bruised & one eye was swollen shut within a few hours, Van Norman said. Lazalde declined comment for this story while his superiors are reviewing the incident. Lazalde & 4 other Iron Pigs members, including Smith, Seattle police Sgt. Dennis McCoy, 59, & fellow Customs officer James Rector, 44, of Ferndale, were initially indicted on misdemeanor charges of carrying a concealed weapon into the bar, which is illegal under South Dakota law. Meade County Circuit Judge Warren Johnson dismissed the case Nov. 16, saying that the Iron Pigs were exempt under a Fed law that allows qualified police officers to carry concealed firearms anywhere in the country. The judge found no evidence the officers were under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the confrontation, which could have disqualified them from the law's protections. Lazalde, a 13-year, "heavily decorated" officer was frustrated that some blamed the officers for the fight because they were dressed in biker attire & attending the rally. As a motorcycle hobbyist, this was Lazalde's second trip to

Sturgis. “To be here as tourists is an entirely innocent act,” Van Norman said. “To paint it as anything else, is just a disservice to them,” he said. In the scuffle, someone grabbed Lazalde’s arm, but he broke free. Then shots were fired & he immediately rushed to McGuire, even though he briefly lost sight of his own wife in the crowd. He yelled for towels & kept pressure on the wounds until medics arrived. He was splattered with blood, & later had to ask for a wet-nap from another officer to wipe his hands. “He probably kept this guy from bleeding out right there,” Van Norman said. The fight started as the officers were at a table eating when a Hells Angel “prospect” approached & started ribbing them, Van Norman says. The prospect kept returning & each time he walked away, he could be seen text-messaging with his cell phone. Police later obtained some of the messages to discover the prospect had been texting other Hells Angels to meet at the bar. The Iron Pigs, meanwhile, said they would remain on one side of the bar & wanted no trouble. After they sensed a confrontation brewing, the Iron Pigs members gathered their wives & friends to leave when Smith was jumped, allegedly by McGuire, Van Norman said. A bar manager called police, but a SWAT team en route didn’t arrive in time. Smith was initially indicted on assault & perjury charges, although both were dismissed. He & McCoy remain on restricted duty while the Seattle Police Department determines whether the officers broke any policies, a department spokesman said. A misdemeanor charge remains against Erik Pingel, a Department of Defense firefighter in Colorado, who was not covered by the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act. Pingel had a concealed weapons permit, but still violated South Dakota law by bringing the gun into the bar, officials said. The reasons behind the assault remain unclear, Van Norman said. Smith told other media outlets he may have been targeted because he had testified against Hells Angels members before. Witnesses told the Seattle P-I that it started because the Hells Angels spotted the Iron Pigs wearing their “colors,” or patches, into the bar. Van Norman, who has represented Hells Angels members in other cases, said he thinks it was more likely the latter. He said outlaw clubs claim turf with their patches & that the Hells Angels consider Sturgis their territory. “Why Ron Smith is still a bit of a mystery,” he said. “Out of all the police officers, he was the biggest one at the bar. It may have been that old bar-fight mentality: ‘Let’s take on the biggest guy there.’”

Asgard MC 24th annual toy run – Nov 29, 2008 – *Mississippi* – Toy run & charity motorcycle ride, 10 a.m. start, Sawdoff, Mississippi 603, Kiln. 11 a.m. start at the Gulfport Dragway, Canal Road, south of Interstate 10. 11 a.m. start, Ocean Springs BPI Shell Station, exit 57, Mississippi 57 & I-10. Noon start, Home Depot, Cedar Lake Road, Biloxi. Riders will travel to the Knights of Columbus offices, Biloxi. 2 p.m. party after the ride at Harley-Davidson, Cedar Lake Road, Biloxi.

Jumbo-sized toy run rides again – Nov 30, 2008 – *Washington* - By Leslie Slape - When Warren Hubbard & Frank Horton rode in Jumbo’s first toy run in 1983, 35 people participated. The Kelso men have returned every year & have seen the number of participants grow into the hundreds. “This is the largest group we’ve had so far,” Horton said Sunday at a post-parade party at the Moose Lodge in Longview. “I’m going to take a shot & say it’s probably 300 people at least.” Jim “Jumbo” Demakos organized the first run 25 years ago & collected 2 pickup loads of toys for needy children. A few months later, the R.A. Long High School teacher & Harley-Davidson rider drowned in the Cowlitz River. A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactment (ABATE) carried on & named the event for its founder. “It’s a beautiful,

wonderful turnout,” said first-timer Alice Willette of Longview. Riders strapped toys to their bikes & roared out of Twin City Glass to begin a parade that stretched at least 6 blocks through downtown. Tom Barnes, 61, of Clatskanie put a teddy bear on his Harley. “She’s going for a ride today,” he said. Sheila Bradley of Longview said she usually can’t participate in the toy run because of her job at Longview Fibre, but a machine shutdown over Thanksgiving gave her the time this year. She & her husband, Richard Yapple, rode together. “We do as many memorial runs & fundraiser runs as we can,” said Bradley, clad in bright red-fringed leather & carrying a doll. Motorcycle leathers displayed patches of widely disparate clubs — such as the Bandidos, Christian Motorcycle Association, Gypsy Jokers, Retreads & Road Brothers Northwest — united in the common goal of Christmas giving. Bringing up the rear was a school bus full of canned food & toys collected by Kelso school employees. After unloading the toys at the Moose Lodge, the bus delivered the food to the staff of Community House on Broadway. “They were in tears,” said participant Richard Gowler. “It was quite a sight. They were really happy.”

New Database To Help Police Share Info On Gangs – Nov 30, 2008 – *Boston, Massachusetts* - Police across Massachusetts will soon be able to share detailed information on gang members, from criminal histories & known associates to the tattoos that indicate gang affiliation. In January, the Criminal History Systems Board, which handles the state’s telecommunications network for law enforcement agencies, plans to launch the new database, called MassGangs. The system is funded by a \$1.2 million Fed Department of Justice grant & will let investigators share the gang-related information as soon as it becomes available. The board’s executive director Curt Wood tells the Boston Globe that the system will also be used by the Department of Correction to monitor potential gang-related security threats in prisons.

Hell Angels MC is not a criminal organization – Nov 30, 2008 – *Canada* - The Hell Angels MC is not a criminal organization & its members deserve the same rights as anyone else. On March 17 a landmark ruling by a B.C. judge ruled that “a full-patch Hells Angels member & 2 of his associates are not members of a criminal organization.” The trial was a key test of new ‘federal anti-gang legislation’, & if the Hells Angels were deemed a criminal organization, police would have been able to seize their assets. There are so many false urban legends around the Hells Angels, all perpetrated by law enforcement & eaten up by the public. The Angels are an easy target. It is not fair that a select few have rights violated, including those prohibiting “arbitrary detention” & guaranteeing “security of the person.” A recent decision in Alberta (only Alberta for now), has some legal experts saying publicly that it could eventually place limits on the way police try to control the movement of biker gangs. The fact that the Hells Angels & other clubs are prepared to spend so much time fighting the police in court indicates that they do have rights. I maintain that these cases revolve around fundamental rights that all citizens are entitled to, whether they drive motorcycles or not, or whether they are north or south of the 49th parallel.

Entire Outlaws chapter sentenced in murder trial – Nov 30, 2008 - *United Kingdom* - 7 members of the Outlaws motorcycle gang have been jailed for life for murdering a Hell’s Angel. The entire South Warwickshire chapter of the Outlaws was sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court after being convicted of shooting Gerry Tobin as he rode along the M40 on Aug 12 last year.

Military will put 20,000 soldiers in U.S. for homeland security role – Dec 1, 2008 – *Washington, DC* - The U.S. military expects to have 20,000 uniformed troops inside the US by 2011 trained to help state & local officials respond to a nuclear terrorist attack or other domestic catastrophe, according to Pentagon officials. The long-planned shift in the Defense Department's role in homeland security was recently backed with funding & troop commitments after years of prodding by Congress & outside experts, defense analysts said. There are critics of the change, in the military & among civil liberties groups & libertarians who express concern that the new homeland emphasis threatens to strain the military & possibly undermine the Posse Comitatus Act, a 130-year-old Fed law restricting the military's role in domestic law enforcement. But the Bush administration & some in Congress have pushed for a heightened homeland military role since the middle of this decade, saying the greatest domestic threat is terrorists exploiting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, dedicating 20,000 troops to domestic response -- a nearly sevenfold increase in 5 years -- "would have been extraordinary to the point of unbelievable," Paul McHale, assistant defense secretary for homeland defense, said in remarks last month at the Center for Strategic & International Studies. But the realization that civilian authorities may be overwhelmed in a catastrophe prompted "a fundamental change in military culture," he said. **Rapid-reaction units:** The Pentagon's plan calls for 3 rapid-reaction forces to be ready for emergency response by September 2011. The first 4,700-person unit, built around an active-duty combat brigade based at Fort Stewart, Ga., was available as of Oct. 1, said Gen. Victor Renuart, commander of the U.S. Northern Command.

Club on the run 25 years collecting toys – Dec 1, 2008 – *Arizona* – by Jayne Hanson - A local MChas been collecting toys for less fortunate children of Lake Havasu City for the past 25 years. River Riders MC Havasu AZ celebrates 25 years of helping local children have a happy Christmas. This year's event is scheduled for Sunday, & will occur "rain or shine." "Last year, we raised over \$11,000 worth of toys," said Mike Miskowsky, vice president of River Riders MCHavasu AZ. The first toy run the River Riders organized was in 1983 & approximately 60 riders joined to ride, Miskowsky said. Last year, approximately 850 motorcyclists, from towns & cities in the tri-state area, participated in the yearly toy run. Miskowsky believes this year's event will draw at least 800 riders & counting passengers, maybe more. "Some (riders) have passengers, so there could be over a thousand people," he said.

Motorcycle clubs to run toys for Toy Shop – Dec 1, 2008 – *Oklahoma* – By Derrick Miller - There's nothing quite like the feel of the cool chrome of a motorcycle or the soft plush of a toy. Chapter F of the Vietnam Vets MC & the Legacy Vets MC will participate in the annual Toy Run for the Duncan Toy Shop at 1 p.m. Dec. 14. The motorcycle clubs will gather in the Carmike Cinema parking lot & head south to the Toy Shop building. Spider, with the Vietnam Vets MC, said, "It happens rain or shine. It's open to everyone, whether you have a car or bike." Kathy Snider & Lynn Samples said it provides a chance for the community to help children have a good Christmas. It also is a chance to give back. "It's an opportunity for them to come together," Snider said.

Roaring Thunder MC holds coat drive – Dec 1, 2008 – *Pennsylvania*- By Mark Zimmaro - Javier Rodriguez looked down at a full box of newly collected coats, & smiled. "You know motorcycle clubs aren't gangs," he explained. "A lot of

people think that." Rodriguez, the president of the Roaring Thunder MC of Westampton, has been trying for years to erase the stereotype for his club, as well as do something positive for the community. Roaring Thunder has been collecting coats & food for local charities, including area hospitals & the Extended Hands Ministries in Mount Holly, since Nov. 15. The coat drive will continue gathering the much needed materials until Dec. 19.

State Gov't under attack over crime fighting fund – Dec 1, 2008 – *Australia* - There has been criticism of the State Gov'ts announcement that it is increasing funding to police & the director of public prosecutions to investigate outlaw biker gangs & other organized crime. The money will come from the Criminal Property Confiscation fund & will amount to more than \$13 million over 3 years. Police will get \$3.45 million to target biker gangs & suspicious people with unexplained wealth; the DPP gets an extra \$1 million a year. They will also get a further 30-cents each for every dollar collected when the fund exceeds \$9 million per year.

Biker shot in arm, chest during drive-by – Dec 2, 2008 – *Australia* - A Motorcyclist was shot twice in the arm & once in the chest last night in the second drive-by shooting in Sydney's west in a matter of days. The man fell from his motorcycle after being shot as he rode along the Great Western Hwy at Wentworthville just before midnight. It was unclear where the shots were fired from. Witnesses said the man's H-D motorcycle bore a sticker saying "Respect your local Gypsy Jokers" referring to the notorious biker gang. The man was taken to Westmead Hospital. Four days ago, a man was shot in the head when a car was riddled with bullets at Seven Hills, not far from this attack.

Bandidos leader not guilty – Dec 2, 2008 – *Denmark* - The leader of the Danish Bandidos biker group has been found not guilty of theft. A court in Helsingborg in Sweden has found Jim Tinndahn, the leader of the Danish Bandidos biker organisation, not guilty of fencing in connection with the theft of 3 motorbikes. The prosecution claimed that Tinndahn was involved in extensive crime & that he was, among other things involved in the theft of 3 expensive motorbikes from a garage in Falkenberg.

Drug ring charges tied to trucking company – Dec 2, 2008 – *Canada* – By Kim Bolan - A Langley trucking company is linked to 2 men facing charges in the U.S. as part of an international drug trafficking ring allegedly run by the Hells Angels, The Vancouver Sun has learned. The local trucking firm, Image Logistics Ltd., was founded in 2002 by Robert J. Shannon, Richard Jansen, & Jody York, according to corporate documents obtained by The Sun. York's million-dollar Langley house was the target of a drive-by shooting in October, just 2 weeks before his associate Joe Krantz was gunned down at his Abbotsford extreme fighting club. Krantz, a member of the Independent Soldiers' gang, & York were facing charges laid in Kelowna earlier this year for allegedly "causing a disturbance." Both Shannon & Jansen are going to trial in Seattle in February, charged with conspiracy to traffic drugs & money laundering related to a marijuana & cocaine smuggling ring alleged to have moved \$19 million US worth of product.

No one can read our Constitution without concluding that the people who wrote it wanted their Gov't severely limited; the words 'no' & 'not' employed in restraint of Gov't power occur 24 times in the first 7 articles of the Constitution & 22 more times in the Bill of Rights. - Edmund A. Opitz

Physics is like sex: sure it has a practical purpose, but that's not why we do it.

MC acts as Santa's helping hands – Dec 2, 2008 - *Michigan* - Attention Christmas shoppers. While shopping for toys this year, don't be alarmed if you bump into a large group of bikers - big guys dressed in black leather. Some have long hair. Most of them are veterans. And they drive Harleys. Most likely they are the guys from the Iron Wheels MC on a Christmas shopping spree for area foster children. "This is our eighth year," explained Jody Brohn of Kalkaska, a member of the northern chapter of the club. "Our club in the Flint area has been doing this for 20 years. So we started this as a continuation of what they are doing down there to help our local kids." Every year club members have a fundraising event by teaming up with American Legion Post 94. Proceeds are used to buy Christmas presents for local children in foster care.

New trial ordered – Dec 2, 2008 – *Missouri* – By Mark Morris - A federal appeals court panel on Monday ordered a new trial for a Jackson County man who was sentenced to life in prison last year for a 1998 killing. Jurors in Dec 2006 convicted John P. Street of murdering Douglas C. Weil in 1998. They acquitted him of a firearms charge & of murdering a federal witness. A previous jury had deadlocked on Street's guilt. Weil, 38, was beaten, stabbed & shot before his body was dumped in a car trunk. Witnesses testified that Street implicated himself in conversations after authorities found Weil's body in a car parked outside a motel on Kansas City's East Side. At his sentencing hearing, Street continued to proclaim his innocence, saying that Weil was a friend whom he hoped to see again in heaven. Street, 46, also is serving a 15-year sentence on federal gun convictions. In calling for a third trial, the three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals noted that improper evidence probably had harmed Street's chances for acquittal. In one instance, a prosecution witness testified that Street told him he had failed a polygraph examination. Trial judge Gary Fenner also allowed extensive evidence about the violent culture of a local motorcycle gang of which Street was not a member. Writing for the panel, 8th Circuit Judge Diana E. Murphy said Street deserved a new trial. "This was a close case," Murphy wrote. "The government had little if any physical evidence tying Street to Weil's death. His first trial ended in a hung jury; the second trial ended in acquittal on two of three counts; & in the penalty phase five jurors revealed lingering doubts as to the one count on which Street was convicted. Given this record we cannot conclude that the admission of evidence on gang culture & attitudes was harmless error." Street's attorney, Frederick A. Duchardt, applauded the ruling. "We're obviously really gratified by the decision of the court," Duchardt said. "We're looking forward to having another opportunity to present this case to a jury without all the problematic evidence."

Man with gun under pillow forfeits license – Dec 2, 2008 – *Germany* - A German man who slept with a loaded revolver under his pillow has lost his gun license after a court ruled it to be irresponsible behavior. The 56-year-old was stripped of his license for failing to store the weapon properly, Braunschweig administrative court judge Torsten Baumgarten told Reuters Tuesday. The gun was only discovered by chance during a police inspection. "His home was being checked because he had threatened to throw a hand grenade if the city council approved plans to build a high-voltage power line in his neighborhood," Baumgarten said. "The decision to take his license was made independently." Baumgarten said the ruling, which sets a legal precedent in Germany, in effect outlaws sleeping on top of a firearm -- because the owner of the gun is not in control of the weapon & is therefore putting himself & others at risk. "Anyone could come along & take the gun away from him, his wife for example," Baumgarten said. The man, who also owned several

other weapons, said he kept the gun under his pillow because he feared burglars.

Secret police files leaked to alleged crime bosses – Dec 2, 2008 – *Australia* - Top-Secret Victoria Police files have been leaked to alleged crime bosses & killers, compromising federal & state drug trafficking investigations. In one of the most serious security breaches in Australian law enforcement, the leaked information came from the state surveillance squad, which conducts physical & technical surveillance on crime targets. Alleged drug baron John Higgs, a founder of the Black Uhlans outlaw motorcycle gang, received information from the leaked files, as did other members of his syndicate.

'Hells Angels' in Hannover machen mit Neonazis gemeinsame Sache – Dec 2, 2008 - Nach Recherchen des Weser Kurier (Bremen) machen die "Hell's Angels" in Hannover mit Rechtsextremisten gemeinsame Sache. Bei ihrer alljährlichen "Tattoo-Convention" (Tätowiermesse) zeigen auch einschlägige Szenetätowierer wie Thomas W. ihr "Können". In dessen Läden in Seesen (Kreis Goslar) und Halberstadt (Sachsen-Anhalt) stellte das Landeskriminalamt erst vor wenigen Monaten verbotene rechtsextreme Propaganda und NS-Devotionalien sicher. Mit Hannes F. und Marcel U. haben es zudem zwei polizeibekannte rechte Gewalttäter bei Hannovers Rockeranführer Frank Hanebuth von "Hangarounds" (Anhängern) zu "Prospects" (Anwärtern) gebracht. Hannes F. musste sich im Frühjahr dieses Jahres in Halle vor Gericht verantworten, weil er für das verbotene Neonazi-Netzwerk "Blood & Honour" ("Blut und Ehre") gearbeitet hat. Marcel U. machte vor allem als "Freikämpfer" in "Fight Nights" ("Kampfnächten") von sich reden, an denen auch Rechtsextremisten beteiligt waren. In Diensten von Rockeranführer Hanebuth arbeiten Hannes F. und Marcel U. auch für dessen Sicherheitsfirma. Als Macher der "Tattoo-Convention" mit ihrem einschlägigen Angebot gilt Markus W. Er sorgte 1998 als "Schläger von Lens" weltweit für Negativschlagzeilen: Der heute 36-Jährige war einer der rechten Hooligans, die während der Fußballweltmeisterschaft in Frankreich den Polizisten Daniel Nivel zum Krüppel schlugen. Schon damals gehörte der "Maxe" genannte Rocker zu Hanebuths Truppe. Als "Secretary" (Schriftführer) hat er es heute in die Führungsriege der "Hell's Angels" geschafft. Die "Hell's Angels" gelten weltweit als extrem gewaltbereite "Outlaw Motorcycle Gang" (OMCG, Motorradbande außerhalb des Gesetzes) und werden der organisierten Kriminalität zugerechnet. Europol-Chef Max-Peter Ratzel sagte dem WESER-KURIER, in Deutschland seien die OMCGs "außerordentlich stark repräsentiert" und deutsche Mitglieder innerhalb der Banden "sehr einflussreich". Hierzulande fällt Polizeiexperten da bundesweit vor allen anderen der Name Frank Hanebuth ein. Dessen "Charter", wie die "Hell's Angels" ihre regionalen Organisationen nennen, gilt als das mächtigste in ganz Europa.

Donald Duck & Daisy Duck were spending the night together in a hotel room & Donald wanted to have sex with Daisy. The first thing Daisy asked was, "Do you have a condom?" Donald frowned & said "No." Daisy told Donald that if he didn't get a condom, they could not have sex. "Maybe they sell them at the front desk," she suggested. So Donald went down to the lobby & asked the hotel clerk if they had condoms. "Yes, we do," the clerk said, & pulled one out from under the counter & gave it to Donald. The clerk asked, "Would you like me to put that on your bill?" "No!" Donald quacked, "What kind of a friggen' pervert do you think I am?"

Annual toy run expects 7,500 riders – Dec 2, 2008 – *Florida* - Motorcyclists are revving up for their annual toy run. ABATE Brevard County Chapter is expecting more than 7,500 motorcyclists to participate in the 27th Annual Motorcycle Toy Run. The ABATE & Azan Shriners event is scheduled for Dec. 7, with the run going from Merritt Island to Melbourne. ABATE stands for American Bikers Aiming Toward Education. "Anybody can participate," said Mike Pope, president of the ABATE Brevard County Chapter. "You show up, & when you get there you sign up." To enter the event, motorcyclists must bring one unwrapped toy or \$10. The thousands of toys collected will benefit the Shriners Hospitals for Children & local charities. Motorcycles begin lining up at 8 a.m. & the ride kicks off at noon at Merritt Square Mall. The parade of motorcycles will cruise west on State Road 520 to U.S.1 south to Post Road. It will continue west on Post Road to Wickham Park Pavilion at 3865 N. Wickham Road. Police escort the riders for the 20-mile run from Merritt Island to Melbourne. The run, the largest event of its kind in Brevard County, usually slows traffic, so motorists should plan accordingly. The year's run will honor veterans of Pearl Harbor. It takes place on the 67th anniversary of the Japanese attack. The grand marshal is Hatcher James, a Pearl Harbor survivor.

More than 1,000 bikers join Toys for Tots – Dec 2, 2008 – *California* - Santa Claus wasn't riding a sleigh, but sitting on top of a sea of motorcycles in West Sacramento on Sunday. With a roar of their engines, more than 1,000 bikers streamed out of Raley Field for the 32nd annual Modified Motorcycle Association of California's toy drive. A plethora of toys was spotted strapped onto bikes headed out for a five-mile toy ride on Sacramento freeways: a teddy bear, Tigger & Winnie the Pooh stuffed animals, a Razor scooter, a tea set & even a tricycle. Bikers showed up for the event to donate toys that the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve will distribute to churches & local social service organizations to hand out for Christmas. Sunday's event is the largest toy drive for the Toys for Tots program in the Sacramento area, said Staff Sgt. Michael Crane, one of the coordinators of the Toys for Tots program. "We want every needy child to get a toy for Christmas," he said. The hope was that 2,000 to 3,000 toys would be collected from Sunday's toy ride. With the tough economic times, the need from groups that assist needy families is likely to increase, Crane said. The program collects new toys for children, from newborns up to 17 years of age. All the donations in the Sacramento area are distributed to local groups, he said.

Hog wild days in Santa Cruz over – Dec 3, 2008 – *California* - For Mike James, watching the failure of his Santa Cruz Harley Davidson dealership was a little like watching a slow motion car crash. He knew months ago that the economy was in trouble. Motorcycle sales began to slide and he could see a day when he wouldn't be able to cover his costs and make payments on the debt he took on to start and expand his business. In March, he closed a small branch location he'd opened in Watsonville. He even sought out buyers, eventually finding one who was willing to take over the Santa Cruz dealership provided he and James could extract concessions from James' lenders. Those concessions never materialized and last month James closed his doors for good. "I don't think you can fully anticipate how ugly it is unless you've witnessed it first hand," says James, 47, who opened the dealership nearly 13 years ago. "I don't wish it on anybody." James doesn't mean ugly just for him. In fact, his story holds a larger truth: Often in cases like this, a community loses not only a business but also a piece of itself. "It's like a death in the family," says Keri Baughman, a regular customer and member of the Santa Cruz Harley Ownership Group. "We're pretty sad. We've shed

some tears." No question Harley customers are passionate. But the same sadness is likely to play out again and again as the nation spirals deeper into recession and other Mike Jameses find they can't make it. Book stores, cafes, mom-and-pop shops will close, leaving voids in storefronts and hearts. "I think Christmas for retailers is going to be devastating," James says. James knows devastation. His sales dropped from 50 motorcycles a little over a year ago to 15 in October. "It's consumer confidence," James says. "People are scared to death." He is not making excuses. James says he was in charge. And he feels terrible when he thinks about the way the closing of his shop will ripple through Santa Cruz and beyond. It starts with the 24 employees who were laid off when the store closed. "What I had been suffering most from," James says, "was that I had these employees who right before the holidays were being put out of work." And there are customers like Baughman and others who came from throughout California and beyond for camaraderie and to visit the small museum of Harley artifacts that James set up. Bikers would gather at the store at Seabright and Soquel avenues, sipping free coffee, swapping stories and planning road trips. James kept them in touch with a blog and an e-mail newsletter that had 28,000 subscribers at the end. When he posted news of the closing, he received more than 700 e-mails. The Saturday after the store closed, bikers came to the parking lot to pay their final respects. James says he counted about 350 bikers pull up over the course of the day. "It was almost like a herd of elephants coming back to mourn the dead," he says. The ripples don't stop with laid-off employees and customers. James says he thinks about the crepe restaurant next door. His customers won't wander over any more and order. He thinks about his landlords — two elderly women — who won't receive his rent check anymore. And he thinks about the city and his dealership's spot as one of the top 20 sales tax generators in town. James has turned over the dealership's assets to Harley Davidson, which is his lead lender. He suspects the company and a secondary lender will come after him for the balance of his loans. Harley spokesman Bob Klein said the company does not comment on issues involving individual dealerships. No, James is not sure how he'll pay his lenders. And his plans are hardly specific. "I'm going to be out there with my employees," he says, "looking for a job." The ripples continue.

The UPS Man: One Monday morning the UPS man is driving the neighborhood on his usual route. As he approaches one of the homes he noticed that both cars were in the driveway. His wonder was cut short by Bob, the homeowner, coming out with a load of empty beer and liquor bottles. 'Wow Bob, looks like you guys had one hell of a party last night,' the UPS man comments. Bob, in obvious pain, replies 'Actually we had it Saturday night. This is the first I have felt like moving since 4:00 am Sunday morning. We had about fifteen couples from around the neighborhood over for some weekend fun and it got a bit wild.' 'Hell, we all got so drunk around midnight that we started playing Who Am I.' The UPS man thinks a moment and says, 'How do you play Who Am I?' 'Well, all the guys go in the bedroom and we come out one at a time with a sheet covering us and with only our 'privates' showing through a hole in the sheet. Then the women try to guess who it is.' The UPS man laughs and says, 'Damn, I'm sorry I missed that.' 'Probably a good thing you did,' Bob responded. 'Your name came up seven times.....'

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