



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...

If you can't convince 'em, confuse 'em. - Harry Truman...

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Thanks goes to **Devils Diciples Tatu** from *Alabama* for his \$ 25.00 donation...  
 Thanks goes to **Road Scholar's Flathead** from *Louisiana* for his \$ 20.00 donation...

Welcome **Devils Diciples Troll** to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter mailing list...

Welcome **Hells Angel Smilin' Rick** to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter mailing list...

Welcome **Sons Of Silence Josh (Colorado)** to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter mailing list...

Welcome **Bandido John** and **Bandido Allen** to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter mailing list...

Welcome **Hells Angel Greg** and **Hells Angel Dirt** to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter mailing list...

Welcome **Hells Angel Jason** and **Hells Angel Joseph** to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter mailing list...

**Condolences from Pagan Strube 13** who is in Federal Prison, but does have limited e-mail access... Damm Mike, I really am becoming a dying Breed. I have known and was friends with Stairway Harry for 30 years. I didn't know he died and he will be greatly missed by me and I am sure many others. Please send my condolences to his Outlaw Brothers, friends and relatives. I would also like to send my Condolences to "BIG FOOT 13's" family, friends and Brothers. He was my friend and Brother since the early 70's and spend many nites at my house partying. I have some photos that I came across the other day of him from about 1975 when I still lived in a mobile home. He was dressed in his trademark Big Boss Flannel shirt and dark sun glasses which he was never without. I think maybe he even slept wearing sun glasses. I'm gonna miss them both!!!

**Editor's Note:** The Outlaws MC Nation has my sincerest condolences on the loss of Stairway Harry...

**Editor's Note:** The Pagan's MC Nation has my sincerest condolences on the loss of Big Foot 13...

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

##### 1. Bring the Patch holders Together...

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

##### 2. Fight Police Harassment & Discrimination...

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) Discriminatory establishments notified by the A.I.M. attorney that suit will be filed if they don't cease & desist.

##### 3. Proclamation of Intent...

- a) Working with local state MRO on legislative matters (ie. helmet issues, anti-biker discrimination, etc).
- b) Working with the National Coalition of Motorcyclists on National & Federal matters (ie. helmet issues, Fed Gang Bill, etc).
- c) 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.

**Editor's Note:** For November there were 3 issues, For December there were 3 issues, For January this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue so far...

**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...

**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...

**Editor's Note:** Being a Patch holder in Good Standings does have it privileges, And this is one of them... If you are not a patch holder of a Motorcycle Club in Good Standings, Don't write me and request that I add you to the mailing list... You will only get rejected, as I only make very few special exceptions...

**Editor's Note:** The current NCOM BBB Mailing List includes 1 Avengers, 35 Bandidos, 2 Banshees, 1 Boozefighters, 2 BPM, 6 Breed, 1 Brother Speed, 1 Christian Motorcycle Association, 3 Death Squad, 7 Devils Diciples, 6 Diablos, 2 El Forasteros, 3 Finks, 1 Free Souls, 1 Forsaken Few, 1 Gypsy Jokers, 16 Hells Angels, 1 Hells Outcast, 1 Hermano, 1 In Country Vietnam, 7 Iron Horsemen, 1 Iron Ranger, 1 Iron Wings, 3 Liberty Riders, 1 Mohawk Valley Riders, 7 Mongols, 42 Outlaws, 14 Pagan's, 2 Phantom's, 4 Pharaoh's, 1 Reapers, 1 Renegades, 1 Salramanials, 1 Scorpions, 9 Sons Of Silence, 1 Sundowners, 1 Thunderbird, 1 Unforegiven, 2 Vagos, 1 Viet Nam Vet, And 5 Warlocks... Of which: 4 - Australia, 2 - Norway, 3 - England & 4 - Sweden... **Total of 198...**

**New Brothers added to the NCOM BBB Newsletter's Mailing List** are approved via their respective Club's Contact Brother.

Contacts are: Bandido Eclipse, Breed Shameless, Diablo Tommy, Devils Diciples Tatu, Iron Horsemen Backwards Bob, Iron Horsemen MF, Mongol Jeff, Outlaw Smitty, Pagan Hose-A, Pagan Ronnie, Pagan White Bear, Solders For Jesus Louie, SOS Bronson, SOS Gary, Vago JR, Vago Greasy Johnny, Warlock TW, And Warlock Big John...

**Editor's Note:** I would like to Thank all of these Club Contacts... If you have a chance, please thank them also!!! L&R, Mike SFFS

### A Letter From My Brothers...

I got a Letter from my Brothers Today,  
They All Gather at Church just to write and say Hey!

I've been Gone for so many Years,  
But yet from my Brothers I Still Hear!

They tell of Parties, and Brothers Past,  
And of Motorcycles that go real Fast!

A letter from my Brothers is like Solid Gold,  
It means more to me than all the fortunes that Men Hold!

A Letter from my Brothers gives me Strength so that I may last,  
And lets me know I'm not a Thing of the Past!

The time will come, when I'll go Home,  
But I'll Never Forget the Letters from my Brothers back Home.

**Love, Honor, Respect** To My Brothers of The  
Sundowner's Nation, Brother Chico Two Guns...

**Big Brother's new target: Tracking of all firearms** – Jan 13, 2009 – USA - U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., is hoping to pass a firearm-licensing bill that will significantly rewrite gun-ownership laws in America. Among the more controversial provisions of the bill are requirements that all handgun owners submit to the Fed Gov't a photo, thumb print & mental health records. Further, the bill would order the attorney general to establish a database of every handgun sale, transfer & owner's address in America. The bill claims its purpose is "to protect the public against the unreasonable risk of injury & death associated with the unrecorded sale or transfer of firearms to criminals & youth." Get "Shooting Back," the incredible DVD that shows once & for all why you should be packing heat for the protection of yourself & your loved ones, only from WND! Columnist David Codrea of Guns Magazine, however, calls it a "ridiculous affront to liberty." "This is nothing less than a declaration of war on American gun owners," Codrea writes on Gun Rights Examiner. Rush's proposed bill, H.R. 45, is alternatively known as "Blair Holt's

Firearm Licensing & Record of Sale Act of 2009," named after an Illinois teenager killed by a gunshot. According to the bill's text, "On the afternoon of May 10, 2007, Blair Holt, a junior at Julian High School in Chicago, was killed on a public bus riding home from school when he used his body to shield a girl who was in the line of fire after a young man boarded the bus & started shooting." The bill then argues that interstate firearm trafficking & children dying from gun violence create legitimate cause for the Fed Gov't to monitor gun ownership & transfers in new ways. If passed, the bill would make it illegal to own or possess a "qualifying firearm" – defined as any handgun or any semiautomatic firearm that takes an ammunition clip – without a "Blair Holt" license. To obtain a "Blair Holt" license, an application must be made that includes a photo, address, all previous aliases, thumb print, completion of a written firearm safety test, release of mental health records to the attorney general & a fee not to exceed \$25. Further, the bill makes it illegal to transfer ownership of a qualifying firearm to anyone who is not a licensed gun dealer or collector. Exceptions to this rule include transfer to family members by gift or bequest & loans, not to exceed 30 days, of a firearm for lawful purposes "between persons who are personally known to each other." The bill also requires qualifying firearm owners to report all transfers to the attorney general's database. It would also be illegal for a licensed gun owner to fail to record a gun loss or theft within 72 hours or fail to report a change of address within 60 days. And if a minor obtains a weapon & injures someone with it, the owner of the gun – if deemed to have failed to meet certain safety requirements – faces a multiple-year jail sentence. H.R. 45 is a resurfacing of 2007's H.R. 2666, which contained much of the same language & was co-sponsored by 15 other representatives & Barack Obama's current chief of staff, Rahm Emmanuel. H.R. 2666 was assigned to the House Judiciary committee, where no action was taken. H.R. 45 currently has no co-sponsors & is likewise assigned to the House Judiciary committee.

**If people let the Gov't** decide what foods they eat & what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as the souls that live in tyranny. - Thomas Jefferson

**Iron Pigs, Hell's Angels, & universal off-duty carry:** Behind the scenes in a critical court case – Jan 14, 2009 – *Sturgis, South Dakota* – By Charles Remsberg - Part one of a two-part series - In the law enforcement blogosphere, as well as the mainstream media, the case was controversial from the get-go: Four off-duty, out-of-state LEOs & a firefighter, all members of the police motorcycle club called the Iron Pigs, get into a heated confrontation with some Hell's Angels at a roadhouse during the annual bike rally in Sturgis, S.D. One of the cops shoots one of the HAs. A county grand jury indicts the officers & the fireman for CCW in a drinking establishment, a violation of South Dakota law. The law enforcement community reacts with major mixed emotions. If the charges stick, that would be the first successful challenge of the hard-fought & much-cherished Fed legislation that allows off-duty & retired peace officers to carry legally in any jurisdiction in the U.S. On the other hand, some asked, why did cops show the “poor judgment” of recreating on the same premises with outlaw bikers at an infamous event like the Sturgis rally? As the operator of one popular LE listserv put it after a South Dakota court threw out the indictments last November: “A correct decision... But again, the core issue is not to go to places while armed where trouble is a certainty & there is no compelling reason to do so.” Is it fair to question the common sense of the officers involved? You be the judge. But first, here are some things about the case you may not know.

**The Setting:** The headlines about cops being in a “brawl” in a “biker bar” were enough to skew the opinions of many civilians & fellow LEOs at the outset—and to distress the involved officers, who felt such terminology unjustly characterized what happened, smeared their reputations, & potentially threatened their careers. Despite its suggestive name, the Loud American Roadhouse where the shooting took place is not the stereotypical biker-gang hangout, according to locals. Instead, it’s “a mainstream, family-type restaurant-bar, with food, live music, & dancing, famous for its steak tips,” says Van Norman, a long-time resident of nearby Rapid City & a partner in the law firm of Nooney, Solay & Van Norman, which defended the accused officers. One of those officers, whom we’ll call Steven Shane (he asked that his real name not be used), told PoliceOne that he’d been assured “by other LEOs that it was a law enforcement-friendly place.” On a previous visit, he says, the owner himself told him he was glad to have out-of-town officers frequenting the place. “I’ve seen Blue Knights, Renegade Pigs, Sentinels, & other cop MCs there,” Shane says. “We all went to the same place, & there was never a problem. OMGs [outlaw motorcycle gangs] never went there. They had places of their own.” But that hot & humid night last August, as the week-long rally wound down, a small contingent of Hell's Angels did show up, after the Iron Pigs were already there. The HAs, wearing their colors, hung around the large four-sided bar in the center of the place where several members of the IPs were eating, socializing, & listening to the band, along with a noisy throng of some 400 other patrons. As we’ll see, the HAs may have been present with a specific purpose in mind.

**The Players:** The accused officers, all from Washington State, were “highly decorated,” seasoned veterans of law enforcement, “not inexperienced young cops out being cowboys,” Van Norman says. Dennis McCoy, a patrol sergeant with Seattle P.D., “has 40 years on the job,” according to Van Norman. Some 50 years’ combined experience is shared by the others, Seattle Det. Ronald Smith; James Rector, assistant port director for U.S. Customs & Border Protection, & Sr. Customs Ofcr. Scott Lalalde, both based in Blaine, Wash. Smith & Lalalde have Military Police experience, as well. Lalalde & his wife had arrived at the

Roadhouse after shopping that evening among the rally’s many vendors for new leathers; theirs had been stolen from their bikes during the long ride from the West Coast. The fireman in the group, Erik Pingel, with the U.S. DoD in Colorado, was with his girlfriend. All the males were flying their colors, like every other MC member at the rally. During the late evening & past midnight, “we were just enjoying a good time socializing before heading home the next day,” says Steven Shane. “We weren’t rubbing elbows & slamming down beers with the Hell’s Angels.” Something that’s called “conjecture” by Van Norman’s associate lawyer, Kenneth Orrock, is considered a very real possibility by Steven Shane: that the HAs had a special interest that night in Det. Ron Smith. Shane explains: Smith, whose nickname is “Kilo” from his days as a narc, “had testified in a RICO case against Hell’s Angels in Seattle. Four of them went to prison. He got threatening phone calls at his house during & after the trial. “This was his first year at Sturgis. The HAs could have known he was there. They’ve got a better intelligence network than cops do.” Certainly history shows that the gang can be violently proactive when it comes to law enforcement. Although they’re only a tiny minority of the thousands of riders who roar into Sturgis for the annual pilgrimage, “the HAs own property there & there’s an informal understanding that they are the top turf holder in & around town during that week,” says Ted Deeds, chief operating officer for the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, which aided in defending the indicted officers. “Many folks believe the HAs are a group of criminal predators,” Deeds says. “They had a chance to seize an opportunity to send a message. I think they were going to take on these cops & leave a mark.”

**The Shooting:** The first contact with HAs at the jam-packed Roadhouse came around 1 a.m., through a biker whose jacket patches indicated he was a gang prospect, according to Shane. “He came up & talked to me, asking where we were from, who we were. I knew he was gathering intelligence. I figured maybe it was part of his initiation. I didn’t know about Ron’s history with the HAs at that point. “The conversation was cordial. We smiled at each other, & he went on to the next guy.” When he reached Smith, the casual cordiality took a nasty turn, Shane says. Soon 2 “full patch” HAs joined the prospect & “they all got in Ron’s face. It was like they’d gone through the crowd, looking for him.” Smith tried to defuse the situation by proposing that the cops & the outlaws stay on opposite sides of the square bar so everyone could enjoy themselves. Sgt. McCoy, known for “a gift of gab that could sweet-talk a rock,” pulled cigars from his pocket & suggested, “Let’s go have a smoke & calm down,” Shane recalls. The HAs didn’t bite. The prospect, meanwhile, was busy text-messaging on his cell phone. “We were telling each other, ‘Let’s get the women together & get out. We don’t need this,’ “ Shane says. “The HAs were still in Ron’s face. They wouldn’t let it go.” As the Iron Pigs worked to pluck their scattered party from the crowd, “an older guy, a civilian, tapped me on the shoulder,” Shane says. “He said he’d heard the HAs talking & ‘They’ve already called their buddies to come here,’ “apparently from a HAs’ bar about a block away. “He said, ‘They’re waiting for you outside. Watch your back.’” It wasn’t long before one of the HAs grabbed Shane’s left arm. “I jerked away. Another off-duty cop we didn’t know tackled him. I heard a bunch of yelling... and all hell broke loose.” Outside, according to attorney Orrock, some HAs were gunning their bikes & peeling rubber down the street, apparently in “an attempt to draw law enforcement away from the Roadhouse.” Perhaps a dozen others “bull-rushed through security” & charged into bar. “Ron Smith was cold-cooked; he doesn’t know where it came from,” Orrock says. “The next he knew, he was down on the floor, with his head against the foot rail

of the bar. He was getting kicked with boots & taking other types of impact.” Shane says: “A Hell’s Angel got a headlock on him & was pounding him in the face with his fist, upper-cuts to his eye socket & nose. They were trying to kill him.” Orrock: “As he was starting to black out, he drew his Glock 23 & fired 2 shots.” One hit the abdomen, the other the leg of a Hell’s Angel from California, later identified as 33-year-old Joseph McGuire, seriously wounding him & stopping the attack. “Absolute bedlam broke out as people tried to flee the place,” Orrock says. “Smith back-peddled himself into a corner, placed his badge on his chest so it could be seen, & laid his gun in his lap in case he needed to further defend himself. His nose was broken, a tooth was chipped, he’d suffered a concussion, his ribs were badly bruised, & his eye was nearly swollen shut.” Attorney Van Norman considers what happened next to be “amazingly selfless.” Scott Lalalde, who moments before had been a target of the HAs’ threatening harassment, grabbed towels & other materials from the bar & worked feverishly to stanch the flow of blood from McGuire’s wounds. “Stay with me!” Lalalde urged him. “Stay with me! You’re gonna be okay.” “There were still a lot of Hell’s Angels around & lots of high emotions,” Van Norman says. “At that moment Scott wasn’t sure even where his wife was in the screaming crowd. But his first aid probably kept this outlaw biker from bleeding out.” LEAA’s Ted Deeds calls Lalalde “a hero.”

**The Grand Jury:** The Iron Pigs involved in the fracas readily admitted to being armed, as permitted with the approval of their respective agencies under the Fed Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 (popularly known as HR 218). They voluntarily surrendered their weapons to Sturgis police, & Smith’s blood was tested. He was found not to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. “There was never any evidence in any way, shape, or form that anyone in their party was intoxicated that night,” Van Norman says. The Meade County grand jury sits continuously during the bike rally, explains Van Norman, & the officers were instructed to appear as “witnesses” on Sunday. During the seven-hour hearing, Shane says they spoke freely & fully about what happened. By contrast, the grand jury transcript shows that a string of Hell’s Angels called before the panel all pleaded the 5th Amendment. Investigation of the shooting had been handed off to the South Dakota attorney general’s Division of Criminal Investigation, a customary procedure. According to Orrock, 2 DCI agents testified before the grand jury that if they’d been in a similar situation, “they would have acted the same way the Iron Pigs did.” “No one ever indicated that we might be in trouble,” Shane says. They went home & returned to their normal routines. Then 2 weeks later the shit-storm broke. “We learned from the media,” Shane says, “that we’d been indicted on criminal charges. “I was flabbergasted. I wondered if that meant I’d lose my job & my house.”

**Next:** The officers’ decision to stand & fight against a misdirected prosecutor takes a heavy toll. Special thanks to Ted Deeds of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America for his valuable cooperation in helping assemble this report.

**Biker gang caught snatching children** – Jan 14, 2009 – *China* - Chinese police have broken up a motorcycle gang which snatched toddlers while they were playing or sleeping to sell for as little as \$125 in faraway provinces. Thirteen people have since been arrested. Most of the children were 2 or 3 & were sold in Yunnan, Sichuan or Fujian provinces, the newspaper said. The children were sold for prices ranging from 860 yuan (\$186) to 26,000 yuan (\$5,600). One child was abandoned when it was found to be a girl.

**Goff willing to work on gang ban** - Jan 14, 2009 – *New Zealand* - By Patrick Gower - Labour leader Phil Goff says South Australia’s world-first step of outlawing gangs is looking positive & he is willing to work in a bipartisan way to get it introduced here. Goff is in Adelaide examining how the ban works & said the enthusiasm of police officers involved “suggests this legislation has the real prospect of working”. The South Australian Government introduced the ban last year aiming to “get gang members to leave the gang or leave the state”. The police have made their first application to outlaw a gang called the Finks, with a decision due from the State’s Atty-General at the end of this month. If it goes ahead, the Finks will be a “declared organisation” with police able to issue control orders against members & ban them from public places. Breaching the ban can be punished with up to 5 years in prison. Goff said there would be a clear picture within a matter of months of its effectiveness. While in Gov’t, Goff said he would introduce the ban if it worked. Yesterday he said he still wanted to see it in action, but felt it would “make a real difference”. Goff said he would discuss it with Justice Minister Simon Power on his return, with a view to working in a bipartisan way to get similar legislation introduced here. Goff said the police briefed him on the Finks, who he described as a motorcycle gang like New Zealand’s Hells Angels or Head Hunters that wanted to get a low profile & focus on drug dealing. Goff said he felt the benefits of the ban would override any civil liberties concerns. South Australian motorcyclists have formed a party called Free Australia in opposition to the ban, saying it is a political stunt designed to marginalise & harass a minority group. Free Australia has written to the Attorney-General opposing the police application for the Finks to be made illegal. Free Australia leader Paul Kuhn said that from the moment a group became a banned organisation “then any of their members become subject to control orders on the say-so of a police officer” without any avenue for review. Power is due to introduce a bill containing measures to help control gangs.

**An old country preacher had a teenage son,** & it was getting time the boy should give some thought to choosing a profession. Like many young men his age, the boy didn’t really know what he wanted to do, & he didn’t seem too concerned about it. One day, while the boy was away at school, his father decided to try an experiment. He went into the boy’s room & placed on his study table 4 objects:

1. A bible.
2. A silver dollar.
3. A bottle of whisky.
4. And a Playboy magazine.

“I’ll just hide behind the door,” the old preacher said to himself. “When he comes home from school today, I’ll see which object he picks up.” “If it’s the bible, he’s going to be a preacher like me, & what a blessing that would be! If he picks up the dollar, he’s going to be a business man, & that would be okay, too. But if he picks up the bottle, he’s going to be a no-good drunken bum, & Lord, what a shame that would be. And worst of all if he picks up that magazine he’s going to be a skirt-chasing womanizer.” The old man waited anxiously, & soon heard his son’s footsteps as he entered the house whistling & headed for his room. The boy tossed his books on the bed, & as he turned to leave the room he spotted the objects on the table. With curiosity in his eye, he walked over to inspect them. Finally, he picked up the Bible & placed it under his arm. He picked up the silver dollar & dropped into his pocket. He uncorked the bottle & took a big drink, while he admired this month’s centerfold. “Lord have mercy,” the old preacher disgustedly whispered. “He’s gonna run for Illinois Governor”

## **Rebels farewell bikie shot at car yard - Jan 14, 2009 – Australia**

– By Dylan Welch - Hundreds of Rebels MC members as well as friends & relatives attended a funeral service today for a bikie shot dead in a Campbelltown used car yard last week. Edin Smajovic, 23, a member of the Rebels, was shot dead during an argument at the Macarthur Auto Centre on Fri afternoon. Smajovic & another man had walked into the car yard about 2.30pm & neighbouring workers reported hearing 2 or 3 shots immediately afterwards. A man named Jason said on the day: “I turned around & a guy has come out of the shop next door ... a big Islander fella ... & he sort of looked at the guy who worked there & goes: ‘It wasn’t me’ & runs off, jumps in his car & goes off in a blaze. “[Then] the owner comes out & says: ‘Call an ambulance. I’m shot. I’m bleeding.’” The car yard’s owner, Alexander Nguyen, also known as Anthony Tan, was shot in the neck but survived. More than 300 members of the Rebels - including their high-profile national president, Alex Vella - attended a funeral service at the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque on North Parade at 1pm today. The body of Smajovic, an ethnic Bosnian Muslim, arrived in a white station wagon in a metal coffin draped in a green cloth with golden Koranic script. As the heavily tattooed men - dressed in jeans, shirts & draped in heavy gold & silver jewellery - milled around in the sweltering afternoon heat, the coffin was taken into the mosque & a traditional Islamic service began. About 150 of the club members remained outside the packed mosque, seeking shelter under the shade of trees. Hundreds of motorbikes, including H-Ds, stood in double rows along an entire street block. Members of the media were not invited into the mosque, but hymns could be heard inside and, after a 25-minute service, the coffin was brought out into the courtyard. More prayers were said as senior Rebels & relatives stood around the coffin, which was then placed back in the car & driven out to Riverstone Cemetery, where Smajovic was to be buried. The car was followed by a procession of Rebels members riding 2 abreast & without their helmets, a funeral tradition known as “dipping the lid”. Campbelltown police are investigating Smajovic’s death. A 34-year-old man was arrested for breach of bail after a car used in the shooting, a maroon Ford Falcon, was found on fire just after midnight on Mon. Smajovic’s family has been told that forensic evidence shows that Smajovic fired his gun first...

**Police agent denies financial interest in accused Hells Angel being convicted - Jan 15, 2009 – Vancouver, Canada** - By Neal Hall, Vancouver Sun - A former strip-club bouncer who became a police agent & infiltrated the East End chapter of the Hells Angels testified Thursday that he has no financial interest in seeing the accused bikers convicted. Cross-examined by defence lawyer Greg DelBigio, the witness, Michael Plante, admitted he was paid \$500,000 for his work as an undercover police agent & will be paid another \$500,000 after he completes his testimony. DelBigio directed Plante’s attention to his answer at a previous court proceeding, where the witness agreed that the remaining \$500,000 was tied to the accused being convicted. “It has nothing to do with convictions,” Plante said, adding he should have taken more time to think about the question before he answered. He said his written police agent agreement with the RCMP states he must attend court & give truthful evidence. DelBigio also pointed out that Plante previously admitted in another proceeding that he was paid up to \$15,000 a month as a police agent. “That was a mistake,” the witness said. “I don’t believe it was 15.” “You were certainly interested in money,” the lawyer suggested. “No I was not,” Plante replied. Plante has been on the witness stand since last October at the trial of Hells Angels members Ronaldo Lising, Randy Potts, John Punko & Jean Joseph Violette. The 28-count indictment alleges the Hells Angels chapter is a criminal

organization & that the accused committed such crimes as extortion & uttering death threats “for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a criminal organization, to wit the East End charter of the Hells Angels.” Plante, 41, is the Crown’s key witness in the case, which is being held in the high-security courtroom at the Vancouver Law Courts. He testified earlier that he contacted police on July 21, 2003, & offered to become a police informant. At the time, he said, he was in custody after being charged with assault with a weapon & extortion with a Mission Hells Angels member. DelBigio, during the first day of cross-examination by the defence, pointed out to Plante that when he was released on bail after his arrest in July 2003, part of his release conditions were that he not commit further criminal activity. The defence lawyer asked Plante if he reported to his bail supervisor that he was continuing to be involved in criminal activity while working as a police agent. “I asked the RCMP about it,” the witness replied. “If I should tell my bail supervisor & they told me not to [inform his bail supervisor].”

### **Cold weather behavior:**

- 60 above zero:** Floridians turn on the heat.  
Minnesotans plant gardens.
- 50 above zero:** Californians shiver uncontrollably.  
People are sunbathing in Duluth.
- 40 above zero:** Import cars won’t start.  
Minnesotans drive with the sunroof open.
- 32 above zero:** Distilled water freezes.  
The water in Bemidji gets thicker.
- 20 above zero:** New Mexicans don long johns, parkas  
and wool hats & mittens.  
Minnesotans throw on a flannel shirt.
- 15 above zero:** New York landlords finally turn on the heat.  
Minnesotans have one last cookout  
before it gets cold.
- Zero:** People in Miami all die.  
Minnesotans close the windows.
- 10 below zero:** Californians fly away to Mexico.  
Minnesotans dig their winter coats out of storage.
- 25 below zero:** Hollywood disintegrates.  
Girl Scouts in Minnesota still  
selling cookies door to door.
- 40 below zero:** Washington, D.C. finally runs out of hot air.  
Minnesotans let their dogs sleep indoors.
- 100 below zero:** Santa Claus abandons the North Pole.  
Minnesotans get upset because the Mini-Van won’t  
start.
- 460 below zero:** ALL atomic motion stops...  
(Absolute zero on the Kelvin scale).  
Minnesotans can be heard to say,  
“Cold ‘nuff fer ya?”
- 500 below zero:** Hell freezes over.  
Minnesota public schools open 2 hours late.

**You cannot legislate the poor** into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The Gov’t cannot give to anybody anything that the Gov’t does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, & when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it.  
- Dr. Adrian Rogers (1931 to 2005)

*As I am sure ALL readers of this newsletter will agree...*

**Many in U.S. Prisons Lack Good Health Care** – Jan 16, 2009 – USA - By Amanda Gardner - The 2.3 million Americans currently being held in correctional facilities across the country suffer a much higher rate of serious & chronic illness than the general population does, a new report finds. These individuals -- representing about 1% of the total U.S. population -- also have difficulty accessing care both inside & outside the correctional system, according to research published online Jan. 15 & set to appear in the April issue of the American Journal of Public Health. It's the 1<sup>st</sup> such study to look at the health of all inmates nationwide at once, the researchers said. "We largely ignore mental health in our society, & its exacerbated here," said Craig Blakely, associate dean for academic affairs & professor of health policy at the Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health in College Station. "The findings suggest that health & mental health problems are linked to higher rates of arrest & incarceration." "Devoting more resources to community mental health care could reduce crime rates & reduce incarceration," added study author Dr. Andrew P. Wilper, an instructor in medicine at the Univ of Washington School of Medicine. Largely due to the war on drugs, the U.S. prison population has increased fourfold in the past 25 years, surpassing any other nation in the world in number of people incarcerated per capita, according to background info in the paper. Prisoners have a constitutional right to health care via the Eighth Amendment concerning cruel & unusual punishment, yet such services are often sorely lacking, the report's authors contend. Good data on the subject is also lacking, Wilper added. He said that he filed 2 Fed Gov't freedom-of-information requests -- both of which were denied -- to review copies of an U.S. Surgeon General's report on prison health care. In their study, the authors analyzed responses contained in 2 Bureau of Justice Statistics surveys: the 2002 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails & the 2004 Survey of Inmates in State & Fed Correctional Facilities. "Of these roughly 2 million inmates, about 800,000 suffered from a chronic condition that generally requires medical attention: diabetes, hypertension, a prior heart attack or a previously diagnosed cancer, among a few other diagnoses," Wilper said. Compared to non-incarcerated citizens, inmates in state jails were 31% more likely to have asthma, 55% more prone to have diabetes, & 90% more likely to have suffered a heart attack. In Fed, state & local jails, 38.5% of inmates, 42.8% of inmates & 38.7% of inmates, respectively, had a chronic medical condition. Among inmates with mental conditions that had been treated on the outside, 69.1% of Fed prison inmates, 68.6% of those in state facilities, & 45.5% of those in local jails were not taking their medication at the time of their arrest. The treatment rate for mental health woes tripled after incarceration. Fourteen% of those in Fed prisons, 20% of state prison inmates & 68.4% of those in local jails had not yet seen a health-care provider since their incarceration, despite persistent health problems, the report found. "There's some alarming data that suggests that those [inmates] with chronic conditions don't get the care they need when incarcerated & that's 8<sup>th</sup>-Amendment illegal," Blakely said. "The whole war on drugs has made a disaster of our judicial system & created a nightmare we can't control." "Given the huge cost of incarceration, we're foolish not to ensure that inmates get the basic care that would allow them to have a better chance of rehabilitation," he continued. "This suggests the need for universal access to health care."

**Town debates pros & cons of bikers** - Jan 16, 2009 – Wisconsin - By Kevin Giles, Star Tribune - When the motorcycles thunder into Prescott, Wis., for a spring rally, Lorraine Eichman will leave the house where she's lived since 1948 to have a look. She finds

the cycle culture fascinating -- except for young riders who give her attitude. "The ones I talk to are very respectful to me," said Eichman, who is 78. "I have totally white hair & they know I'm old." She's yet to click with "the young ones who think they're too cool yet." Prescott, population 4,000, is a city somewhat divided over being a crossroads for motorcyclists who cruise the vistas along the St. Croix & Mississippi rivers. A recent city survey shows that some business owners welcome the thousands of riders who come to eat, drink & shop. Others wish they'd go elsewhere. "People say they're loud, we have some open-container issues," said Jayne Brand, the city's zoning administrator. "We have that side of it, but we hear when they come to town they bring business." City officials haven't decided what to do about motorcycles -- if anything -- but the debate is similar to one that took place in Stillwater 2 years ago when the city decided it had had enough with loud motorcycles. The city invoked a state law that said muffler noise can't be louder than overall engine volume. "We weren't looking to ban motorcycles, but to calm them down," said John Gannaway, Stillwater's police chief. Business owners complained about some bikers who gunned their motors "thinking they're impressing whoever," Gannaway said. Police issued very few citations, he said, but the enforcement warning succeeded in quieting noise & substantially reduced the number of motorcyclists driving through Stillwater. Dwight Smith, president of the 1,250-member St. Croix Valley Riders, said he doesn't approve of riders who gun their motors on city streets to show off. But loud exhaust pipes have valid safety uses on highways, he said. They make vehicle drivers aware that motorcyclists are present. Smith estimates that from 6,000 to 10,000 motorcyclists will pass through Prescott on the spring "flood run" & said that riders stop there on every summer weekend. "They've got a lot of dollars going through there," he said. "I don't think they're going to be putting out a warning to loud motorcyclists to stay away." The Prescott City Council will discuss the issue Feb. 23, although Brand said no ordinance is proposed. "If we look at a motorcycle being loud, it's going to be enforcement across the board, it's not going to be just motorcycles," she said. "They're a pretty well-behaved crowd." A big backer of motorcycle gatherings is the No Name Saloon. In a letter to city officials, owners Paula & Walt Weisbeck defended big rallies in April & Sept as fundraisers that generate substantial donations for the Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul, the Amber Alert missing children program, for guide dogs & other causes. One of the motorcycle runs, they said, benefits the Prescott Volunteer Fire & Rescue Dept. "In this day & age, we should grasp what business we can for our city," they wrote. But other business owners, in responding to the survey, expressed concern for loud mufflers, traffic congestion & problems related to alcohol consumption. "The resulting exposure is painting Prescott as a lawless biker town," one business owner wrote in an unsigned survey. "Families are too afraid to stop." Eichman said she happens to like motorcycles but knows that not everybody does. "They make a terrible lot of noise, I understand that, but the majority of them in Prescott are very nice & friendly," said Eichman, who's retired from her job as a nursing aide. Brand said that Prescott is accustomed to comings & goings including boaters at local marinas. During weekdays, the city exports many of its residents across the Hwy. 10 Bridge to jobs in the Twin Cities metro area. For many motorcyclists, Brand said, Prescott is a short stop on a long ride. Bikers tend to follow the Great River Road south to Bay City, Maiden Rock & other destinations, she said. Smith said that motorcycle groups prefer to work with city officials in Prescott to resolve concerns. Riders, he said, tend to be ordinary people from all walks of life. "It's just your average person who loves to ride motorcycles," he said.

**No, good cops are never off duty** – Jan 17, 2009 – *Minnesota* – By Rubén Rosario; Pioneer Press - Is a good cop ever really off duty? The answer — as it is for a good doctor, nurse, firefighter or even a journalist — is no. Most of the good ones also make sure their off-duty associations do not raise serious ethical or conflict-of-interest questions, or even give the wrong impression. Which brings me to the question I asked in my column last week about off-duty police motorcycle clubs, & in particular a racial-discrimination lawsuit filed by 5 black Minneapolis police officers. Evidence that could be introduced at trial includes Web site pictures of KKK crosses, Iron Crosses with swastikas, “Are you here for the hanging” patches & Confederate flags worn by members of a Chicago-based cop biker club that has a Twin Cities chapter. One member is a Minneapolis police lieutenant mentioned in the lawsuit. The veteran cop did not interpret any pictured symbols as racist or offensive & explained the patch as stemming from a country-and-western song popular with cops that talks of “hanging bad guys.” None of the Minneapolis or St. Paul cops who are members of the club, City Heat, was pictured wearing any items that 2 national hate-crime watchdog groups deem symbols of hate or racism. My question was whether an off-duty cop’s associations should be “beyond reproach,” as many police ethics manuals suggest. I’ve heard from quite a number of you who wrote or called me on this topic. Here’s a representative sample.

**‘Proud To Be White’**: Scott Gardner, of Cottage Grove: “I appreciated your article. ... I do, however, disagree with what you are saying. “In no way should a police officer’s off-duty club membership, associations or activities be linked with his/her on-duty job performance, as long as those memberships / associations / activities are legal. What people do off work is their own decision, whether they are a newspaper columnist or police officer, it makes no difference. Also, your article shows an armpatch saying, ‘I’m proud to be white.’ Are not white people able to display their pride in being white? I am sure you are proud of your heritage.” Scott: I don’t have a big problem with the patch or the message on its own. But I do have a problem when it’s combined with an Iron Cross with a swastika sewn right in its center, as clearly shown in the picture we ran with the column. That pairing speaks volumes; none of it good.

**‘Racism Is Not Tolerated’**: I also heard from “Spanky,” a 30-year retired Chicago cop & City Heat member whose response to my inquiry on its Web site. He described the club as a 20-year-old fraternal organization that conducts road trips & other fundraisers for worthy causes regardless of race or background. He confirmed the Minneapolis cop’s Wild West explanation of the “hanging” patch & said the Iron Cross patches come from chapters of the German American Police Association. “Racism is not tolerated within the organization,” he wrote. “There are no Blacks, Whites, Browns or other colors within law enforcement — there are & should only be Blues!!” I hear you, Spanky, except that the KKK cross is sewn right on top of the “hanging” patch, as shown in the other picture we ran. That to me rings more Jim Crow South than Wyatt Earp Wild West. As for the Iron Cross with the swastika, it was outlawed in postwar Germany & is still considered worldwide as one of the defining symbols of hate.

**‘Confederate Flag Represents Terror’**: Some readers, like Otimio Vasquez, of St. Paul, took issue with the explanation of the Confederate flag as a still-cherished symbol of Southern pride & heritage. “I dare anybody to tell me how in the hell you can be proud to wear or display that terrorist, treacherous, traitor Confederate flag,” Vasquez wrote. “The Southern states raised

arms against the United States of America & started a civil war that killed thousands of brave Americans who defended the union. This Confederate flag represents terror toward a large segment of our population.”

**Work & Personal Feelings**: Others find it absurd that a law enforcement officer could separate personal feelings from his professional work. Barbara Sarapas, of St. Paul: “These officers seek out club membership, showing that they support & are seeking friendships with others who hold similar values (even if they themselves don’t wear a racist patch themselves). With racism, you either join in because you agree, or end your membership because you are appalled. This has to carry over into police work experiences, stressful situations where they have guns in their hands in a community that is not white-male only.” Seiglind Gassman, of St. Paul: “I am horrified & outraged to know that some of our police officers think it’s OK for them to be trained & paid to serve their community at the same time they link arms with those singing ‘hang ‘em high in the street’! Those who choose to socialize around these dangerous liaisons cannot put these activities on the shelf when operating as members of our law enforcement teams. It is the responsibility of the chiefs of police to examine this more closely without waiting for a lawsuit.”

**Iron Cross**: Brian Denny, of Minneapolis, organizer of the Flood Run, [www.floodrun.org](http://www.floodrun.org), praised City Heat. “Great group of people!” Denny said, adding that the local club has raised money for the charity effort. He also noted that his World War II veteran father & a brother killed in Vietnam were awarded medals closely resembling the Iron Cross, which he said dates to Roman times. The Iron Cross with the swastika, however, dates to 1939 Nazi Germany, approved by Hitler & awarded, presumably, to soldiers who killed American & Allied troops. The only U.S. medals that generally resemble the Iron Cross are the Navy Cross & the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross. One has a picture of a clipper, the other a map of Vietnam. No swastikas. Maybe these are the ones the cop bikers should wear instead.

**‘Harmless’**: Brian Nichols, of St. Paul, pointed out the existence of other biker clubs in the area. “I happen to be familiar with the local bike clubs.” Nichols said. “By far & away the clubs centered on sobriety (X Winos) & Jesus (Army of the Lord, Bond-Slaves, Calvary Riders, Faith Riders, Hosanna Bikers, Road Riders for Jesus, The Chaplains Corner, The Spirit Riders) far outnumber any real outlaws. “There are a few real LEO outlaws but you would never guess if you saw one or what he was up to,” he added. “As for the dudes in your story, harmless. The real outlaws that destroy thousands of lives at a time live on Park Avenue & offer a modest return on your investment.”

**‘Beyond Reproach’**: And then there were several readers like Lois Weiss, of South St. Paul, who directly answered the “beyond reproach” question I asked: “Yes. If the actions, attitudes, or appearance of a group or its members include things that the officer might be called upon, in other circumstances, to enforce against, or to maintain the peace in the presence of (due to opinion of segments of the populace he/she is sworn to protect), then the officer should not become associated with the group.” Mike Billington: “After 40 years of living on 14th Avenue & Lake Street & a brother who has been a Minneapolis cop for 20 years, I have an idea of what being a good policeman in Minneapolis requires. “Not associating with a group that tolerates the symbols used by some City Heat members is most definitely one of those requirements. Sorry, City Heat members, you’re out of touch with the people you supposedly protect & serve.”

**Former Gypsy Joker hit with firearm ban** – Jan 17, 2009 – *Australia* - A former member of the Gypsy Jokers biker gang has become the first target of South Australia's new firearm laws. Michael Paul Uzzell has been issued with a firearm prohibition order, banning him from owning, holding or being in the same house as a gun. Police will be able to search Uzzell, his home or his car on sight, & if he breaches the order he faces 15 years in prison. Police Minister Michael Wright says Uzzell is a dangerous criminal with a history of violence & drug offences & this order will not be the last. "These laws, certainly an Australian first, but we think maybe a world first, send home the point blank message that serious violent offending will not be tolerated."

**Polar Bear Ride held Sunday** – Jan 17, 2009 – *Idaho* - It's been a winter tradition longer than some members of the Idaho MC can remember. On Sunday, biking enthusiasts are invited to meet in the Blue Lakes Boulevard parking lot of Wendy's in Twin Falls to participate in the annual Polar Bear Ride.

**Police outnumbered in biker brawl** – Jan 17, 2009 – *Australia* - Police were outnumbered trying to defuse a confrontation between bikers & another group in Subiaco early this morning. Five Coffin Cheaters were arrested & charged with disorderly conduct related charges after arguing with a group of New Zealand men who accused them of causing extensive damage to one of their cars about 1.15am. Police efforts to break up the groups near the Subiaco Hotel were ignored & resulted in the arrests. Extra police resources were in the vicinity at the time of the incident because they had been monitoring the movements of the gang members but officers were still outnumbered. One of the bikers sustained minor injuries when he allegedly resisted arrest, but he did not require treatment from paramedics. Police said it was unknown whether the Coffin Cheaters members had damaged the car & investigations were continuing. The club members are expected to face their charges in court this week.

**Hells Angels acquitted of murder charges** - Jan 18, 2009 – *Canada* - By Peter Edwards - A senior Oshawa Hells Angel & a member of the club's elite Nomads chapter walked free from Whitby court this morning, after a jury rejected charges that they hired a hitman to kill a fellow biker. Remond (Ray) Akleh, 46, formerly of the Hells Angels' Ottawa-based Nomads chapter & Mark Cephes Stephenson, 45, Pres of the Oshawa chapter, hugged their families & then each other in a courtroom hallway after the jury foreperson said "Not guilty" 3 times. The jury reached its verdict this morning on the fourth day of deliberations. "I just want to see my kids & hold them," said Akleh, a father of three, as he walked out of the courthouse, surrounded by wet-eyed family members. He praised the work of the jury in the three-month trial. "God bless them (*Jury*)," Akleh said. "They've got a hard job to do."

**Bikers to start political party** - Jan 18, 2009 – *Australia* – By Geesche Jacobsen, Crime Editor - Motorcyclists are planning to register their own political party in NSW. Bike riders, including some self-declared "one percenters" - members of outlaw motorcycle gangs - have been debating the registration of the F.R.E.E. (Freedom Rights Education Environment) Australia party in NSW on online forums. In South Australia, strict anti-bikie legislation has been introduced allowing organisations to be banned & people prevented from associating with criminals. But Arthur Venno, Monash University expert on motorcycle clubs, said: "It's killing a mosquito with a sledge hammer." The law eroded 1200 years of hard earned freedoms, targeted a small

minority & was likely to be challenged in the High Court, Dr Venno said. Some clubs & chapters had criminal members but other members wanted them gone. He said that in NSW, gangs, including bikies, were responsible for only 0.6percent of all crime. Dr Venno said the legislation came at a time of an established war between the Rebels & Bandidos outlaw motorcycle gangs in South Australia & as a Fed parliamentary committee was reviewing legislative arrangements to outlaw serious & organised crime groups. A spokeswoman for NSW Police said more than half of the state's members of outlaw bike gangs had been convicted for a serious criminal offence in the past 10 years. Paul Kuhn, spokesman for F.R.E.E. Australia said he believed other states would follow the South Australian example & implement legislation to restrict bikies. Mr Kuhn, who rides a scooter, said the party was not supporting or defending criminal activity. "They are not the big crims who would slash your throat for 20 cents," he said, insisting he would trust any of the men he had met with his daughters.

**The AIM/NCOM Motorcycle E-News Service** is brought to you by Aid to Injured Motorcyclists & the Nat'l Coalition of Motorcyclists, & is sponsored by the Law Offices of Richard M. Lester. Biker News Bytes Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish: **2009 NCOM Convention in Reno:** The 24<sup>th</sup> annual NCOM Convention will be held Mother's Day weekend, May 7-10, 2009 at the Nugget Casino & Resort in Reno, Nevada. This annual gathering will draw bikers rights activists from across the country to discuss topics of concern to all motorcyclists. Meetings, seminars & group discussions will focus on safety issues, legal rights, legislative efforts & litigation techniques to benefit our right to ride & Freedom of the Road.

**Ganging Up On Bikers:** In an ongoing effort to reduce crimes committed by criminal street gangs, many states have passed or are considering anti-gang laws that loosely define "gangs", violate Constitutional protections & can be used to harass & intimidate motorcycle clubs & mainstream motorcycle groups. North Carolina recently joined with California & Ohio in enacting tough gang legislation that enhances penalties by adding years onto the sentences for those convicted of a crime who are members of a gang. The N.C. Street Gang Suppression Act is the state's first attempt to legally define a street gang, & it makes membership against the law. The law defines gangs as "any ongoing organization, association, or group of 3 or more persons" that has a primary activity of committing felony acts, has members involved in gang activity & has a common name, identifying sign or symbol." It also gives law enforcement & government the authority to seize property associated with gang activity. Likewise, the Michigan legislature has enacted a set of "Gang Bills" & sent Senate Bill 291 to the governor's desk on January 6th. Based upon a similar definition of a "gang", the bill states that "If a person who is an associate or a member of a gang commits a felony or attempts to commit a felony & the person's association or membership in the gang provides the motive, means, or opportunity to commit the felony, the Person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 20 years." In Utah, a newspaper ad for a Toys For Tots event & flyers distributed by the Vagos MC spurred one Garland, UT citizen to form a Neighborhood Watch & spearhead a grassroots effort to toughen state gang laws, resulting in 5 bills being introduced to toughen punishment for involvement in gang activity & to make associating with or being a member of a criminal street gang illegal in the Beehive State. The latest in a spate of gang legislation, the sponsor of the bills along with gang investigators spent months researching other states' gang laws to

find ideas that may be effective in Utah, such as anti-gang loitering legislation & declaring gang-free zones.

***Making Noise About Noise:*** Numerous communities around the country are attempting to regulate noise, & specifically loud motorcycle exhausts. Although enforceability is questionable, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania is planning a controversial new ordinance to curtail incessant noise. Town officials haven't fully explained why the ordinance is necessary, other than to acknowledge that neighboring municipalities have similar regulations, but the borough does not. "We ought to be regulating our noise pollution," said one Councilman. "How do you pull over 50 motorcycles when one is being loud?" said police chief Joe Dougherty. "It's violating someone's constitutional rights." When asked if the department owns noise equipment, Dougherty quipped: "I'm sure we do, but I don't know where it's at. If I looked for it, I could find it, but we only have one person trained to use the equipment." The ordinance is currently being reviewed for legal sufficiency, including enforceability. Meanwhile, a bill recently introduced in New Hampshire would prohibit motorcycle exhaust modifications, reduce permissible motorcycle noise levels, increase fines for motorcycle noise violations, & requires all motorcycles to have functioning tachometers. House Bill 95 authorizes fines of up to \$500 for operating a motorcycle that has aftermarket mufflers installed, or does not have a working tach. A similar law was enacted in Denver that requires motorcycle mufflers to have a factory-issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sound-test stamp. But some who have protested the ordinance since it took effect in July 2007 have gone as far as to take the issue to court, arguing that the ordinance is vague & unenforceable. One "victim" of the ordinance is Jeffrey Lubbert, who was pulled over on his motorcycle in August 2007 when an officer testified that he heard exhaust pipes that were "louder based on my training & experience," according to court documents. Lubbert fought the citation that he was issued, making it the "test case" for the ordinance, according to his lawyer, Colorado Aid to Injured Motorcyclists Attorney Wade H. Eldridge. Factory-issued pipes come with the EPA stamp & meet the 82-decibel standard. But aftermarket mufflers may not come with the stamp, while still meeting the 82-decibel standard, argues Eldridge. It is nearly impossible to have the pipes certified & officers do not carry decibel readers. "It's unreasonable to stop someone & say your pipes are louder than normal when you don't know what normal is," argues Eldridge, who specializes in defending bikers. "That just doesn't cut it."

***Feds Decline to Increase Tariffs on European Motorcycles:*** U.S. trade officials have decided not to include motorcycles on their lengthy list of European products that will soon face increased tariffs in retaliation for a European Union ban on imports of hormone-fed beef from America. In public comments submitted to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative opposing the possible 100% import duties, many motorcycle organizations, industry groups, manufacturers, dealers & others pointed to the extensive economic impact on businesses & jobs affected by such retaliatory tariffs, as well as a hardship for motorcycle enthusiasts. Also, motorcycle usage should be encouraged for fuel efficiency & easing traffic congestion & parking.

***City will no longer host motorcycle rallies*** – Jan 19, 2009 – ***Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*** – ***Message from the Mayor:*** Myrtle Beach is no longer the location for 2 long-running motorcycle events. After many years, our residents grew weary of 3 weeks of noise & traffic congestion each May, & they asked City Council to end the events. As a result, the H-D Dealers Association Spring Rally & the Atlantic Beach Memorial Day Bikefest will not be held in Myrtle Beach. This was a difficult

decision. Myrtle Beach welcomes visitors year-round, but the giant motorcycle rallies simply grew too large. Our staff, residents & businesses strained to keep up with these huge single-focus events. It may surprise you, but our economy is much healthier with a fully diversified visitor base, instead of a concentration on one or 2 extremely large events. Please know that Myrtle Beach is not anti-biker or anti-motorcycle. We want folks to come on the vehicle of their choice & enjoy all of the things Myrtle Beach has to offer. We are ending the motorcycle-related rallies because they grew too big & lasted too long. The huge rallies even kept visitors away from Myrtle Beach, & that's not good. For everyone's safety & welfare, City Council has added a few new rules & regulations. We believe these new laws will make Myrtle Beach a safer & more friendly destination. For example, with your safety in mind, we now require that all motorcycle riders & passengers wear a helmet & eye protection. We also have a 1:00 to 6:00 a.m. curfew for everyone under 18. These & other rule changes are explained on this web site. Thank you for understanding. As you know, Myrtle Beach is a great place to visit, & we welcome you at any time. I look forward to your next visit & am confident that you will have a great time in Myrtle Beach! Sincerely, John Rhodes; Mayor

***Some of the New Rules & Ordinances:***

- ***No loud mufflers.*** No straight pipes. No revving of engines or excessive noise.
- ***Everyone*** on a motorcycle must wear a safety helmet and protective eyewear (glasses, goggles, face shield, etc.) at all times while the cycle is moving.
- ***No*** more than 2 motorcycles allowed in a public parking space.
- ***Curfew is*** in effect from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. for juveniles under age 18, with certain exceptions. Violators are detained and parents are called.
- ***No alcohol*** sales allowed after 2:00 a.m., unless the bar applies for and receives exemption.
- ***No alcohol*** consumption or open container possession allowed in parking lots and garages of any business.
- ***It is a crime*** not to pay the restaurant or not to leave your name and address if you dispute the bill, service or food.
- ***No loitering*** allowed in posted parking lots of any business. No loitering allowed after hours in parking lots once the business is closed. Store parking is for customers, not parties.
- ***No use*** of parking lots or landscaped areas of any business next to road or street for chairs, coolers, parties, drinking or food.

***Trial puts wiretap expert on hot seat*** - Jan 20, 2009 – ***Canada*** - By Betsy Powell - A veteran Ontario Provincial Police wiretap expert's truthfulness during a massive police investigation into the Satan's Choice MC – & subsequent court case – is at issue in a Superior Court trial that got underway yesterday. John Cavanaugh has pleaded not guilty to 2 counts of perjury & 2 counts of giving contradictory evidence. The charges were laid in 2004. "This is a case designed to address the question whether John Cavanaugh, a police officer, lied to the court," Crown attorney Shawn Porter told the jury. Under the Criminal Code, a person is guilty of perjury if he or she testifies knowing something to be false & does so with the intent of misleading court, Porter explained to jurors. "Give contradictory evidence" is inconsistent testimony given by a person on the same matter before 2 different courts with the intent to mislead, he said. The trial will focus on the mid-1990s OPP-led, joint-forces police operation called Project Dismantle. Its goal was to dismantle the Satan's Choice. Cavanaugh was the project's wiretap co-ordinator who prepared the affidavits used to seek judicial wiretap authorizations. Drug-trafficking charges against several people were eventually laid after several wiretaps were granted.

**Hells Angel's trial nearing an end** – Jan 20, 2009 - *Canada* - By Paul Cherry - The defense lawyer representing Hells Angel Paul Fontaine is expected to make her closing arguments Wed in a jury trial that has the gang member accused of murdering a prison guard more than 11 years ago. Carole Beaucage is expected to give the defence's side for the first time in the trial which began in Oct & is now in its final stages. Fontaine, 41, is charged with the 1<sup>st</sup>-degree murder of Pierre Rondeau, a prison guard who was shot to death on Sept. 8, 1997. He was driving a prison transport bus when he & his partner Robert Corriveau came under attack by two gunmen, including Stephane Gagné, a Hells Angels underling who turned informant & was the key Crown witness in Fontaine's trial. Corriveau was not injured in the shooting.

**Biker's death mystery** – Jan 20, 2009 – *Australia* – By Soraiya Gharakhani – Police are still uncertain how an argument turned into a gun battle that left one man shot dead & another injured. Edin Smajovic's body was found in a garage at Macarthur Auto Centre earlier this month. The 23-year-old was a member of the Rebels MC. Smajovic, a Bosnian Muslim, was farewelled at his funeral at Auburn Gallipoli mosque on Wed. The co-owner of the business Alex Nguyen, 24, also known as Anthony Tan, was shot in the neck during the disagreement. Police are continuing to search for a tall Pacific Islander man, aged in his late 20s, of big build with a rat's tail & a shaved head. "We haven't come up with reasons why the argument sparked," Constable Steven Valentine told the Advertiser. "We found the person of interest's car a maroon Ford burnt out. We're still looking for this other Pacific Islander man, who may have been involved." A man named Jason said on the day: "I turned around & a guy has come out of the shop next door a big Islander fella. "He sort of looked at the guy who worked there & goes, 'It wasn't me,' & runs off, jumps in his car & goes off in a blaze. "[Then] the owner comes out & says, 'Call an ambulance. I'm shot. I'm bleeding.'"

**Mongols members sentenced for shooting** – Jan 21, 2009 – *California* – By Sean Garmire - Four men arrested in connection to the non-fatal shooting of a suspected Hells Angels member in November were sentenced in Humboldt County Superior Court Tuesday afternoon to terms ranging from three years in prison to 180 days in jail. All 4 men, 3 of whom were found to be card carrying members of the Mongols MC, pleaded guilty in a plea agreement offered during their preliminary hearing, after evidence surfaced that the victim -- Robert Thompson -- may have fired first. Deputy District Atty Ben McLaughlin said although there are no current plans to charge Thompson as a felon in possession of a firearm, the matter is still under investigation. The accused gunman in the case, 28-year-old Mongols gang member Eric Gunner Lundin, was sentenced by Judge Dale Reinholtsen to three years in prison for felony charges of assault with a firearm & participating in a criminal street gang. Lundin's attorney, Glenn Brown, said his client will likely serve "a little over 2 years." Dustin Liebes, a 36-year-old who the prosecution named as the president of the area Mongols chapter, was sentenced to one year in jail with 5 years probation. Shasta County resident Eric Garcia, 28, was also given a one year jail sentence with five years probation. Both men had pleaded guilty to participation in a criminal street gang, & both were granted 110 days time served. Brad Miller, 26, was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 110 days credit. The prosecution alleged Miller -- who was not part of the gang -- was a prospective member. Miller pleaded guilty to being an accessory to a felony after the fact, but denied attempting to gain entry to the gang. In addition to various fines, Reinholtsen stipulated that none of the men can associate with one another, or wear clothing or patches identifying them as gang members. At

the sentencing, Reinholtsen heard defense arguments that it was by happenstance the four men had come face to face with Thompson outside a bar in Old Town Eureka in November, & that evidence shows Thompson fired his handgun at the scene, raising the possibility he fired first. Reinholtsen, who did not hear evidence given at the men's preliminary hearing, said he found it to be "an amazing coincidence" the four men happened across each other. After sentencing, the four men were returned to the Humboldt County jail.

**Myrtle Beach Resorts To Bold Lies About Rally Cancellation** – Jan 21, 2009 – *South Carolina* - When the Mayor & Council of Myrtle Beach couldn't persuade the Horry County Commission to go along with its plan to shut down the motorcycle rallies, they decided to take a different approach. They decided to lie & say the rallies have been cancelled. On a website set up specifically for the purpose to intimidate & discourage any motorcyclists who would attend the event, Mayor John Rhodes writes, "After many years, our residents grew weary of three weeks of noise & traffic congestion each May, & they asked City Council to end the events. As a result, the H-D Dealers Association Spring Rally & the Atlantic Beach Memorial Day Bikefest will not be held in Myrtle Beach." The Mayor insinuates that the City controls the dates & the decision to promote the rally but that is a bald face lie, according to Mike Shank, of Festival Promotions in Myrtle Beach. "we're moving forward with the rally in May & just want to be clear no rally has been cancelled & that everybody who has come to Myrtle Beach in the past is certainly welcome again this May." The tradition of motorcyclists in Myrtle Beach was started by the Carolina H-D Dealers Association & was welcomed in years past as a valuable tourism asset to the businesses in the city. But, recent events & the growth of Black Bike Week, held over the Memorial Day Weekend, has prompted town leaders to find ways to shut out the bikers. Shank says it's deplorable but a move he expected. He added, "I guess the biggest thing to clarify too is that it's not the city of Myrtle Beach's event. It's not their event to cancel. It's been a community event for 69 years." Attendance during the Oct event was down from previous years, but apparently that decrease wasn't enough to satisfy the anti-biker crowd. New regulations, including an unconstitutional helmet law, which is in direct conflict with state law, were enacted to directly intimidate & harass the motorcycle community. Mayor Rhodes defended the actions of the council saying, "We believe these new laws will make Myrtle Beach a safer & more friendly destination." In a half hearted attempt to deflect accusations of discrimination against two wheel tourists, Rhodes said, "Myrtle Beach is not anti-biker or anti-motorcycle. We want folks to come on the vehicle of their choice & enjoy all of the things Myrtle Beach has to offer. We are ending the motorcycle-related rallies because they grew too big & lasted too long. The huge rallies even kept visitors away from Myrtle Beach, & that's not good." Horry County Council members disagree with the Mayor's assessment & have publicly stated that the month of May is a "dead" month & if it were not for the motorcycle tourists, the area would suffer economic hardship, especially in this recessionary economy. Since school is still in session, families do not visit during the month of May. Shanks said a special website has been set up to inform & guide motorcyclists who refuse to be intimidated by the council's actions are planning to come to the area during the spring event. As any motorcyclist who has attended the Cruising the Coast events in years past, there are far more destinations & biker bars outside of the city limits than inside.

**Finish your beer!** There are sober kids in Africa. – SOS Maki

**Opportunity arrived on a Harley for biker** – Jan 21, 2009 – *Canada* – By Jeff Mitchell - *How a snitch infiltrated the Hells Angels* (This story is based on testimony presented in court & documents entered into evidence during trial) – Durham - Steven Gault's opportunity arrived on a Harley one day in the fall of 1999. Gault, at that time in his mid-20s, had already settled into a life of brawling, swindling & snitching when a door to the world of outlaw motorcycle clubs opened for him in the form of a long-time biker known among his comrades as Mr. Bill. The chance meeting would lead, almost a decade later, to a massive police strike against bikers based on inside information provided by Gault. It would result in numerous busts on a variety of charges ranging from drug trafficking to murder conspiracy & pay him in excess of \$1 million. And here in Durham Region it would lead to a courtroom showdown between Gault & 2 men he once called brothers. Steven Gault was still a teenager in North Bay when he started sharing information with the police. Among those he helped put behind bars was a brother-in-law with whom he used to travel rural Ontario, targeting seniors in home-renovation scams. Gault was living in Northumberland County in the fall of 1999 when he met Bill (Mr. Bill) Lavoie. Gault said he was working on a house in Warsaw, near Peterborough, when Lavoie, clad in his Satan's Choice MC Colors, rode up on his H-D. The 2 struck up a conversation about motorcycle parts & other matters of mutual interest. The encounter resulted in an invitation to Lavoie's house and, as time went on, to parties hosted by the Satan's Choice at its Oshawa clubhouse. Eventually there was talk of enlistment in the club, but that was postponed as the Choice awaited an expected annexation by the Hells Angels, known among bikers as a patch-over. The patch-over would occur in 2000; in the meantime, Gault was in touch with a police handler. "I contacted one of the officers I was providing information to. . . I told (the cop) if I could make my way into the Hells Angels & make my way up to full patch, I would take down any drug dealers I could," he said. In the spring of 2000 Gault was granted "hang-around" status with the newly minted Angels, meaning he was entitled to fetch beers & take out the trash for full members. He persevered, rising to the rank of prospect & in early 2002 was nominated for full-patch status. "Becoming a Hells Angel is a tough thing," Gault explained. "There's a lot of not very nice guys in there & they're selective about who they take." Lavoie (who died in Sept 2006) vouched for Gault, although he'd known him for only a short time. Gault cultivated an image among his biker brethren as something of a wild man, showing off a handgun & presenting them with press clippings of an assault conviction -- he bit a man's ear off during a bar fight. He also hinted he'd committed a murder. His way of settling a beef was to throw the first punch & keep on throwing until he'd made his point: the new Angel once squared off against the Oshawa club's Sergeant At Arms, who serves as the charter enforcer. "I pretty much mopped the floor with him," Gault said matter-of-factly. As he strove to prove his worth to the Angels Gault was also making his case with the police. In 2005 he signed a contract that made him a paid police agent in the employ of the Biker Enforcement Unit. Terms of the covenant changed somewhat over time but much of the framework remained the same: Gault would be paid \$1,900 each week during the operational phase, while \$15,000 would be paid each month into a trust held by police. Further lump sum payments would come as phases of the contract were completed. The police paid their agent's income taxes, too. During cross-examination in a Whitby court last November, a defence lawyer took Gault through the various terms of the contract & offered the opinion Gault would be paid in excess of \$1 million. Gault thought for a moment. "I'll go with your math," he said. Project Tandem began in 2005 & was scheduled to run less than a year,

during which time Gault was to conduct drug transactions with bikers, doing his deals under the watchful eyes of police handlers. In the end the undercover investigation lasted a year & a half & saw 18 bikers busted, along with several associates. He was nearing the end of his contract when in June 2006, Gault told his handlers he had been approached by 2 bikers -- Mark Stephenson, president of the Oshawa Hells Angels & Remond Akleh, a former Oshawa Angel who had transferred to the Nomads wing of the club -- with a plot to kill Frank Lenti, a Woodbrige man who'd bounced around the biker world for years. His affiliations with various clubs had earned Lenti a reputation as a "velcro" biker, prone to frequently switching patches. Gault had a history with both accused men, of course, most particularly Akleh: the 2 had an acrimonious falling out in 2003 when Akleh learned Gault was a police informant & took this information to the club. Gault managed to convince the Angels he wasn't a snitch, in part by vigorously pursuing Akleh through club "arbitrations" -- internal tribunals held to settle beefs among the bikers. The best defence, he would explain in a courtroom several years later, was a good offence. "I had to show my backbone," he said. "I wanted (Akleh's) patch." Gault would testify that by the time 2006 rolled around, all that bad blood was forgotten -- something Akleh vehemently denied. Gault said the accused men were concerned Lenti was about to revive the moribund Bandidos gang & challenge the Angels for turf in Ontario; the killing, he said, was to benefit the club. And Gault said they chose him as the trigger man to carry out the plot. Gault spent 14 days on the witness stand during a trial that began in Whitby last October & finally concluded last Sunday. He was extensively cross-examined by defence lawyers who assailed his credibility - lawyer Glen Orr said Gault didn't have "the scruples God gave a tomcat" -- & presented to the jury a salient question: Why would the bikers enlist a man who had been outed as a police snitch in a murder plot? The jury returned Sunday to acquit Stephenson & Akleh of the charges against them. Stephenson was freed after 2 1/2 years of pretrial custody; Akleh had lived under strict bail conditions for the same amount of time. By the time the verdict arrived Gault was long gone, walking out of the courtroom & fading into the anonymity of a witness protection program.

**Robert Thompson may face new charge** – Jan 22, 2009 – *California* – By Victor A. Patton - Thompson was acquitted last year of murder charges in the 1986 deaths of Atwater teens Jodi Ragsdale & Sheila Carter... Four bikers convicted of shooting former homicide defendant Robert Thompson were sentenced in Humboldt County Superior Court on Tue. Meanwhile, Humboldt County prosecutors said Thompson himself may face charges on suspicion of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Eric Gunner Lundin, 28, Dustin Liebes, 36, Eric Garcia, 28, & Brad Miller, 26, pleaded no contest last month to charges stemming from the Nov. 7 shooting of Thompson outside a bar called The Shanty. Investigators believe the shooting was connected to a long-standing rivalry between the Hells Angels & Mongols biker gangs, according to Humboldt County Deputy District Attorney Ben McLaughlin. He said Liebes, Lundin & Garcia are all said to be Mongols members, while Thompson is a Hells Angels member. Although Thompson told investigators he wasn't carrying a firearm, Eureka investigators found a .22 caliber Magnum revolver next to his body after the shooting. The gun had one spent round. "We believe that (Thompson) did have the firearm, owing to the location & other testimony," McLaughlin said. As a result, the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office is now reviewing whether Thompson should be charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

**The One Percenters** – Jan 22, 2009 – *Salem, Oregon* – By Tim King - A friend of mine who is the President of a local motorcycle club chapter, explained this week that a college criminology course in Salem, Oregon is teaching students false information about the history of bikers & motorcycle clubs. “Tattoo Mike” of the Gypsy Joker club in Salem, says he was frustrated to discover that the college professor was telling students that the 1% patch on the back of club jackets means that the biker has murdered for his club. That explanation is purely fictitious, & not even close to the actual meaning of what “One Percenter” means. Did you ever see the movie *The Wild One* with Marlon Brando? The tale was inspired & loosely based on a real-life incident that took place over the Fourth of July weekend in 1947 in Hollister, California. Now known as the “Hollister Riot”, the event gained national attention as it was the focus of a Harper’s Magazine article in Jan 1951 article titled, “The Cyclists’ Raid” by Frank Rooney. On that weekend, about 4,000 motorcyclists & other visitors & enthusiasts, roared into the town over a two day period, & overwhelmed the facilities, according to filmsite.org. The movie made the 4th of July event appear to be much more significant than it actually was, according to most reports. In reality, the town was not ransacked, the women were not accosted, & they did not cause a great deal of civil unrest. The press apparently couldn’t resist the opportunity to play Hollister for all it was worth. Wikipedia states that “Several newspaper articles were written that, according to some attendees, sensationalized the event & Life magazine ran an article & a staged photograph of an intoxicated subject on a motorcycle parked in a bar.” This movie actually may have inspired a movement, as other films depicting bikers soon started showing up in theaters, making the hearts of little old ladies grow faint in fear. Soon black leather jackets soared along with H-D sales. And this led to the press asking the “respectable” motorcycle group, the **American Motorcycle Association** to comment on the Hollister incident. The AMA responded by saying that 99% if all motorcyclists were law-abiding citizens, & the last one percent were outlaws. That is when & where the term “1%” came into being, & it was practically an invitation to would-be outlaw bikers to embrace the term, thanks to the AMA. So if you ever hear someone tell you that the 1% patch means anything else, you straighten them out & tell them the story of Hollister & the AMA.

**Charity Work:** I met Tattoo Mike when he & other club members were doing a Christmas Toy Run in 2002. I commented on Mike’s chopper being especially cool & he said, “You want to ride it?” He looked a little surprised as I took his helmet, fired up the chopped Harley with 22” apehanger handlebars & a suicide clutch, & took off down the street. I had never ridden a bike with a suicide clutch in my life up to that point, but I had asked enough questions of my Harley friends over the years to pull it off. He tells me the Gypsy Joker club members still laugh about it; apparently Mike had offered the chance to ride it to several news reporters over the years, & they always declined. He says he had no idea I would jump on it & take off. I know people in this group who are really decent, & while biker’s club patches may be unwelcome in many places, & loud bikes tend to scare people, I see the better side of them, probably because my dad was a serious motorcycle enthusiast. To give you an example, one of his last projects was the restoration of a 1913 H-D. His big, bearded, leather-clad friends who would visit on big chrome choppers were the nicest people you could ever meet. My dad was old school “Mr. Establishment”, but Harleys are a universal language that crosses every boundary. I hate to hear that professors in our local college system are so misinformed that they would actually try to rewrite a historical event & meaning of

a symbol that any biker could explain, if that professor or the people who create their curriculum, took the time to ask.

**11 Hells Angels ordered to stand trial** – Jan 22, 2009 - *Canada* - Eleven Greater Toronto Area Hells Angels & alleged associates were ordered today to stand trial on a variety of criminal organization & drug trafficking charges. Justice Gail Dobney of the Ontario Court of Justice upheld charges that were laid 21 months ago, at the end of a massive police project against the outlaw biker club. Among those ordered to stand trial is Robert Donald (Donny) Petersen, Ontario spokesperson for the Hells Angels. No date has been set for the trials. Six of the bikers remain in custody, pending bail hearings. Petersen, who operates an east-end motorcycle shop & writes books on motorcycle technology, faces the sole charge that he “did contribute to the activities of a criminal organization to commit the indictable offense of trafficking in a controlled substance.” Others ordered to stand trial are Larry Pooler, Lorne Campbell, Douglas Myles, John Neal, Ian Watson, Sean Dwyer, Mehrad Bahman, Omid Bayani, Mark Bodenstein & Vincenzo Sansalone. Pooler, who faces charges of possessing oxycodone & money obtained through crime, is acting as his own lawyer. He remains under house arrest.

**Bikie arrested** – Jan 22, 2009 – *Australia* - A 43-year-old alleged member of the Bandidos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang has been arrested after police allegedly found a loaded handgun secreted in an arm rest in his car. Today’s arrest follows information from Victorian Police who are investigating alleged illicit drug & gun trafficking by members of Outlaw Motor Cycle Gangs across the NSW & Victorian border. This morning State Crime Command Firearms & Registered Industries Crime Squad (FRICS) officers arrested the man at 9.40 as he walked out of his Zetland home, in Sydney’s inner suburbs. During a search of his car, detectives allegedly found a loaded .22 calibre Ruger handgun wrapped in cloth & hidden in the arm rest of the driver’s door. A fold-up knife was also located inside a bum-bag. The man was taken to Redfern Police Station where he is being charged with several offences including possession of unregistered firearm, possession of prohibited firearm & possession of knife in a public place. He is expected to face Central Local Court later today. FRICS Commander Detective Acting Superintendent Jenny Parlett said the man’s arrest follows information from Victorian detectives into alleged illicit gun & drug trafficking by members of OMCGs in both States. “We provided assistance to Victorian police in this investigation & that co-operation will continue as both jurisdictions persist in targeting illegal activities by members of several OMCGs,” Det A/Supt Parlett said. “We will continue to share intelligence in identifying those persons involved in illicit gun trafficking.”

**Four men charged** – Jan 22, 2009 – *Australia* - Four men with alleged links to the Bandidos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang are expected to appear in court this afternoon after being charged in relation to drive-by shootings in Sydney’s south-west last year. Strike Force Highcro, comprising detectives from State Crime Command’s Gangs Squad, North West & South West Metropolitan policing regions, today arrested the men at Burwood. They were questioned at Burwood Police Station in relation to drive-by shootings at Bobbin Road, Sadlier, & Hill Road, Lurnea, on Wed 10 Dec 2008. A 34-year-old Beverly Hills man, a 46-year-old Mascot man & two 21-year-old men from Bexley & Yagoona have all been refused bail to appear in Burwood Local Court this afternoon.

**Harley to cut 1,100 jobs as 4Q profit falls** – Jan 23, 2009 – *USA* – By Dan Strumpf; AP - H-D Inc. said Friday it will cut 1,100 jobs over two years, close some facilities & consolidate others as it grapples with a slowdown in motorcycle sales. The Milwaukee-based company also reported its 4<sup>th</sup>-quarter profit fell nearly 60%, & said it is slashing motorcycle shipments in 2009 to cope with reduced demand. The iconic motorcycle maker said it will consolidate 2 engine & transmission plants in Milwaukee into its facility in Menomonee Falls, Wis. It will shrink its paint & frame operations in its York, Pa., plant & close its distribution facility in Franklin, Wis., whose duties will be handled by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Harley also said it will end its domestic transportation fleet operation. The company said the cuts include 800 hourly production positions & 300 non-production, mostly salaried positions. It said 70% of the job cuts will occur this year & the rest in 2010. The cuts will result in one-time charges of \$110 million to \$140 million over 2009 & 2010, Harley said. Once they are finished, the cuts will save between \$60 million & \$70 million per year. Harley has been stung by the rapid downturn in motorcycle demand. The economic recession has prompted many consumers to put off purchases of its high-end bikes, while the credit crunch has kept some would-be customers from obtaining financing. Meanwhile, the company remains in the midst of a shake-up among top management. Chief Executive Jim Ziemer said last month he would retire in 2009, & the company remains in the process of finding a successor. Sy Naqvi, the head of Harley's troubled financial-services arm, resigned earlier this month. CFO Tom Bergmann has taken on Naqvi's old duties until a replacement is found. Harley said worldwide retail sales fell 13.1% in the fourth quarter, with sales in the U.S. — its biggest market — falling nearly 20%. International sales crept higher, though, & the overall heavyweight motorcycle sales fell 25.5% in the same period, Harley said. For the full year, worldwide retail sales fell 7.1%. Harley said it is slashing new motorcycle shipments in 2009 to between 264,000 & 273,000 to cope with the down market. That would be a drop of 10% to 13% from a year earlier. In 2008, Harley said it shipped 303,479 new motorcycles, down 8% from 330,619 new motorcycles in 2007. Harley said its fourth-quarter profit fell 58% to \$77.8 million, or 34 cents per share, for the quarter ended Dec. 31, compared with \$186.1 million, or 78 cents per share, in the same quarter last year. Revenue fell 6.8% to \$1.29 billion from \$1.39 billion in the year-ago quarter. The results fell short of Wall Street estimates. Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters expected 57 cents per share on sales of \$1.29 billion, on average. Harley said its financial-services division swung to an operating loss of \$24.9 million in fourth quarter, hurt by write-downs totaling \$63.5 million. The company said it is evaluating "a range of options" to provide funding for the ailing Harley-Davidson Financial Services. Many analysts have suggested the lending unit may have to be sold because it has been unable to unload its debt in the financial markets. For the full year, Harley said its earnings fell 30% to \$654.7 million, or \$2.79 per share, from \$933.8 million, or \$3.74 per share, in the same quarter last year. Sales fell 2.3% to \$5.59 billion from \$5.73 billion in 2007. Analysts expected \$3.02 per share on sales of \$5.61 billion in revenue for the year. Harley said it would not provide earnings guidance for 2009, but analysts call for \$2.15 per share. Shares of Harley plunged \$2.20, or 17.7%, to \$10.20 in premarket trading on Friday. The stock is down 69% in the last 52 weeks.

**Politics is not a bad profession.** If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book.  
-Ronald Reagan

**Finks' lock-up plea online for sexy pen pals** – Jan 23, 2009 – *Australia* - They may be big, mean & scary but it appears members of the Finks MC are also a bit lonely. The club -- which has allegedly been involved in shootings, violent assaults & drug busts on the Gold Coast -- is appealing for the public to write to its jailed members & it wants women to include 'sexy pictures of themselves'. Among them is Shane Scott Bowden, in custody & charged with attempted murder for his alleged role in the ballroom blitz brawl between the Finks & the Hells Angels at the Royal Pines Resort in 2006. His MySpace web page contains a plea for pen pals. The MySpace profile is set on private but the 34-year-old's status reads: "Finks forever -- Free all Finks! Write to me, Shane Bowden at Woodford Correctional Centre, Private Mail Bag 1, Woodford, Qld, 4514." Under a photo of Bowden, MySpace member No.5 Elite DC, a 21-year-old Gold Coast girl who says her name is Chanelle, has left the comment: "All you hot bitches drop him a line & say gday! Woodford Correctional centre. Love always X." And 'Free all Finks' says: "If any sexy girls see this comment send my brother a letter & sexy pictures to Woodford Correction Centre." Bowden's plea must have been the work of his friends because a Queensland Corrective Services spokesman said prisoners had no access to social networking sites like MySpace & Facebook. He said prisoners could access a rented, in-cell computer but only for an approved educational or vocational program. As for receiving saucy photographs, all incoming mail was scrutinized to ensure it was not deemed inappropriate. "Prisoners can receive mail of two types, privileged mail & ordinary mail. Incoming mail to correctional centres is searched by a drug detection dog, then opened by staff & checked," he said. "Any inappropriate material is either placed in the prisoner's property (not to be issued) or returned to sender." Bond University criminologist & forensic psychologist Professor Paul Wilson said he was not surprised by the Finks plea for pen pals & believed they would be overflowing with mail. "Often the more notorious you are the more photos you get & the more girls will write & visit you. That seems to be the trend," he said. "People who are often lonely think that they can get out of that loneliness by being associated with someone who is famous. 'I'd be quite surprised if they didn't accumulate a large fan base.'"

**Motorcycle gang Hells Angels to ride into Melbourne** – Jan 23, 2009 – *Australia* – By Anthony Dowsley - Australia's most notorious outlaw motorcycle gang, the Hells Angels, will ride into the city on Sat. Gang members are expected to party in the city's night precincts near where former member Christopher Hudson went on a shooting rampage in July 2007. Sources have told the Herald Sun up to 200 of the gang's members will be on the streets in its first show of force since Hudson shot three people, killing father of three Brendan Keilar. Bikies from NSW began arriving at a Preston hotel yesterday, ready for the event. Police Det-Supt Paul Hollowood said Angels East County branch sergeant-at-arms Peter Hewat had promised there would be no violence. Det-Supt Hollowood said it was not the main national run & a smaller convoy of riders was expected in the city. "If you're talking of numbers of upwards of 200, our understanding is it will be a run but not a large one," he said. "We are aware of what they are doing & where they are going. "We have been given assurances it will be peaceful. It's during these runs that bkie groups behave at their best." He confirmed police would not be giving gang members an escort into the city, as the force did in Oct when the Bandidos rode in convoy from Geelong to the CBD.

**Insanity:** Doing the same thing over & over again & expecting different results. - Albert Einstein, (attributed)

**69<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike Week** - Jan 24, 2009 - *South Carolina* - Myrtle Beach H-D wants bikers to know that although the City of Myrtle Beach, has passed some laws designed to discourage bikers from attending the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Bike Week, May 8-17, the popular event is still on. From Murrells Inlet to Little River, other communities within Myrtle Beach's home county of Horry are gearing up to welcome bikers. The majority of the events for Bike Week will take place in Horry County, outside of the Myrtle Beach City limits. Newly-passed Myrtle Beach rules & regs will not affect bikers who visit or impact any of those activities & events. "Many tourists wrongly believe that Myrtle Beach is synonymous with the 60-mile-long 'Grand Strand' that is visited by more than 14 million tourists annually," said Mike Shank, marketing director for Myrtle Beach H-D. "In reality, the City of Myrtle Beach is just a small town inside of Horry County. It only has 25,000 residents. To the north, south & west of Myrtle Beach is the much-larger Grand Strand community where there are many restaurants, bars, recreational facilities & accommodations. Horry County has more than 250,000 residents & they are preparing their businesses to welcome bikers. "Unfortunately, information being sent out by Myrtle Beach & its Chamber of Commerce paints good, law-abiding motorcycle riders with the same broad brush as those who have broken laws in the past. In addition, their misinformation does not accurately portray the views of Horry County residents. The majority of people & businesses look forward to biker tourism & many rely on Bike Week to provide a significant portion of their yearly income." The City of Myrtle Beach & the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce have initiated an aggressive media campaign that gives the erroneous impression that new laws the city recently passed apply county-wide. However, those laws, which have reportedly been passed to discourage bikers from attending rallies in the area, apply only to the areas within the city limits of Myrtle Beach — not throughout the Grand Strand & Horry County. "Awareness of the new laws will ensure that bikers who plan to come to the Grand Strand have nothing to worry about," said Shank. "There will be plenty of activities & places to congregate outside of the city limits & throughout Horry County. It's unfortunate that the City of Myrtle Beach & the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce don't want biker business in May; but we hope bikers understand that many businesses both within the City & throughout Horry County look forward to bike week during the month of May. As long as you obey the laws & respect our community, you'll always be welcomed by the citizens of Horry County." For the facts, Shank directs bikers to 2 websites. At those sites, bikers can find information about the difference between Horry County & the City of Myrtle Beach, including maps, alternative routes that avoid the city limits, the new City of Myrtle Beach laws, & regular updates. "We want bikers to know the facts so they can make an informed decision about visiting our area," adds Shank. "Grand Strand businesses want your business. The City of Myrtle Beach has never played a significant role in either the spring or fall bike weeks & has made it clear for many years that it doesn't want to play a role. They've raised taxes to eliminate biker tourism, but no other municipality in Horry County has done so. And the City of Myrtle Beach passed new ordinances designed to scare bikers away. No other local municipality or the county has done so. So we hope that bikers won't be discouraged by this campaign of misinformation. We want you to come to Horry County & have a great time this May."

**As I booked into a hotel**, I said to the receptionist, "I hope the porn channel in my room is disabled." "No," she says, "It's regular porn, you sick bastard."

**Cop Club Lawsuit** - Jan 13, 2009 – *Minnesota* - 5 Minneapolis cops, Lt Medaria Arradondo, Lt Donald Harris, Sgt Charles Adams, Sgt Dennis Hamilton, & Lt Lee Edwards are suing the City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis PD, & a cop named Timothy Dolan because Dolan & ten other Minneapolis cops belong to a motorcycle gang.

**City Heat MC**: Dolan & the unnamed cops belong to a gang called the City Heat Motorcycle Club. City Heat wears a three-piece patch. It is one of the so called "Law Enforcement Motorcycle Clubs" that have repeatedly tried to use the police powers of their patch holders to intimidate other bikers & other clubs. For example, last August, Ron Smith, a Seattle police union official & a member of the Iron Pigs motorcycle gang shot a member of the Hells Angels MC named Joseph McGuire in the Loud American Roadhouse in Sturgis. The shooting occurred in the course of a fist fight that followed a verbal altercation.

**Outlaw Cops**: Apparently McGuire had the audacity to ask Smith why the Iron Pigs were allowed to wear their colors in the Roadhouse while the Hells Angels were not. The police were carrying concealed weapons & were released by local police immediately after the incident. Charges were filed against the cops but dropped. The victim, Smith, spent months in hospital & is facing charges of trying to kill the cop who shot him. Clubs like the Iron Pigs, the Wild Pigs, the Untouchables, the Renegades, the Blue Steel & the club central to the Minneapolis suit, the City Heat clearly intend to be outlaws with police privileges. A few cop clubs, like the Blue Knights MC, are clearly family clubs & so rarely have problems with patch holders.

**The Suit**: The Minneapolis suit has been filed in United States District Court & alleges that members of the City Heat have "systematically & continuously discriminated... against persons of color;" that the City Heat is an overtly racist club; that the city & police department of Minneapolis have tolerated membership in the club; & that all of that has created a racist & hostile work place environment for black & Hispanic cops.

**Speaking of increased gang activity** – Jan 24, 2009 –

**Washington** - By Adam Wilson - The Washington State Patrol reports that noise you're hearing isn't retired baby boomer Harleys, but a real gang: Approximately 25 Bandido organized motorcycle gang members have arrived on campus for the ABATE "Black Thursday" event. They are showing their gang colors; however, we do not expect any trouble. WSP troopers will be closely monitoring this group. The Bandidos MC is a "one-percenter" motorcycle gang with a worldwide membership linked to organized crime. The club was formed in 1966 by Don Chambers in Texas. Its slogan is: "We are the people your parents warned you about." It is estimated to have 2,400 members in 195 chapters, located in 14 countries. The club considers itself to be an Outlaw Motorcycle Club. The FBI as well as the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada have named the Bandidos an Outlaw MCs.

**Hells Angels biker to be transferred to Rapid City** – Jan 24, 2009 – *South Dakota* - A Hells Angels biker from Canada indicted on a federal gun charge will soon be headed to Rapid City. Chad Wilson is charged with being a nonimmigrant alien in possession of a firearm. He & John Midmore were acquitted last month of attempted murder for a 2006 gunfight at Custer State Park involving members of the Outlaw MC. At the trial, Wilson testified he fired several rounds with a handgun after the Outlaws confronted them at Legion Lake Resort & had other guns with him. Federal grand jurors in Sioux Falls indicted him on the firearm charge Wed.

**Hells Angel member loses assault appeal** – Jan 24, 2009 – *Canada* - By Neal Hall - Metro Vancouver - The appeal of a Hells Angels member convicted of assaulting a Vancouver police sergeant was dismissed this week. Vincenzo Brienza was charged after his Jeep was stopped by police responding to a 911 call reporting that three men & a sex trade worker were in a Jeep-like vehicle & the vehicle was rocking on April 14, 2005. When officers tried to search the vehicle, Brienza & another passenger struggled with them. Brienza, who was sprayed with pepper spray & struck several times with a baton, was convicted of punching a sergeant in the face. On appeal, Brienza argued the stop & the subsequent investigation were part of a ruse to harass a member of the Angels during a continuing police probe, in which the police & Crown counsel tampered with evidence. B.C. Supreme Court Justice R.T. Johnston, who heard the appeal, could find no error made by the provincial court judge who convicted Brienza.

**Firebomb attack 'payback' theory** – Jan 24, 2009 - *Australia* - By Nicole Cox & Jon Bassett - Police are investigating whether the firebombing of a Maylands gym was a revenge attack linked to a stand-off between bikies & bouncers in Subiaco last weekend. The gym, Kronk Boxing Australia, which is part-owned by WA's only professional female boxer, Erin McGowan, was targeted by arsonists at 3.45am Sat. It took 4 fire crews from Perth & Osborne Park 30 minutes to bring the blaze under control. Damage was estimated at more than \$100,000. The gym, which opened only on Tue, was not insured. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> arson attack on the Whatley Cres property in the past week. Early last Sunday morning, petrol poured through the windows of the gym, between 1am & 3am, started a small fire. Police sources yesterday told The Sunday Times that detectives were investigating links between the arson attacks & last weekend's brawl between bouncers from The Red Sea nightclub in Subiaco & a combined force of Coffin Cheaters bikies & Sword Boys. The Sunday Times understands that another owner of the Kronk gym, Olympic boxer Adam Forsyth, runs a security company that contracts bouncers to The Red Sea. It is believed the club's bouncers, who also train at Kronk, may have been a target of the arson attack. Last Sat up to six bouncers clashed with a gang of 60 Coffin Cheaters & Sword Boys. More than 50 police, including the elite Tactical Response Group, supported by the police helicopter, dealt with the violence. A Mercedes Benz vehicle owned by one of the doormen was damaged in the fight. Arson-squad detectives yesterday scoured the remains of the Maylands gym & seized bottles believed to have contained petrol.

**Getting the goods on the bad guys** – Jan 25, 2009 – *Canada* - By Nadia Moharib - While gang members operate in absolute anarchy, their opponents are handicapped. Restrictive rules handcuffing police mean they face a near-losing battle in their bid to win the game. Gun laws are a joke & the justice system's notorious revolving door means Calgary police have a tough time gaining the upper hand. There are small victories, to be sure, but look across North America & no one seems to have a solution, a winning strategy for police. It seems simplistic & entirely naive - - & it probably is -- but maybe police everywhere dealing with the scourge need to join forces with their opponents. If you can't beat them, join them. University of Manitoba criminologist Rick Linden says a Quebec experience saw police score points on the gang front. For criminals working with police, so to speak, worked against their kind. Police say one of the biggest challenges in seeing gangsters convicted is the inability to get witnesses to talk. And it isn't testimony from a mother from Mount Royal they need, but from gang members, their associates, friends & families -- who are notoriously silent. Calgary police,

for instance, say they have stood before young men with gunshot wounds insisting it was an accident & spoken to people who have been at the scene of a shooting who say they know nothing. "From the victim up, it's difficult," Linden says. "I don't think it's a massive problem of the average good citizen not coming forward, it's close associates & enemies. "I, in my suburban home, don't know who the players are in the drug trade." But bad people know bad people. It's not like police can put word out on the street to invite criminals to come forward. But Linden says if police make a good case against them, then offer deals in court, it can sometimes yield the goods on other bad guys. That was the case with Yves (Apache) Trudeau in Quebec, a former Hells Angels member turned police informant in the mid '80s. "One of the strategies was to get testimony from people in gangs in exchange for being lenient on them & giving them protection," Linden says. "All I can say, is that is a strategy used with some success ... build a really good case against them then give them a lighter sentence." In exchange for his testimony, & part of the controversial deal, Trudeau was handed a new identity, a life sentence but eligible for parole seven years later after confessing to taking part in 43 homicides. "Half the Hells Angels chapter was effectively shut down," Linden says. The ploy has also had some success in mafia prosecutions in the U.S. & is no doubt used by police everywhere whenever possible. One problem might be, however, making it palatable -- to see bad people to get breaks in exchange for testimony -- to good people of the world hoping for justice. But, when there are few options, sometimes you take what you can get. If police can gather the evidence, corner the crooks & then ask them to negotiate, there is some hope of more convictions. And if good citizens are reluctant to come forward, those involved in the criminal realm need an incentive to team up with police & ultimately the justice system. "It's different from (testifying against) an individual who attacks you on the street & is not affiliated, rather than gangs who have a past history of killing those who offend them," Linden says. Offering deals to crooks is a tool for police perhaps as obvious as getting fingerprints & no doubt used whenever possible. But there are other options which have encouraged gangsters & their ilk to work with police. Perhaps if Alberta catches up to several provinces which have created their own witness protection-type programs, it would bolster the game for police here. In Manitoba, where it's working well, the bulk of those in the program & testifying against gang members were involved in that lifestyle themselves -- young men burned on drug deals, who owe money, are unable to escape the gang life -- or fear for their lives. The promise of protection seems to bring them forward. Again, another example, of how working with the enemy works.

**The Captain called the Sergeant in.** "Sarge, I just got a telegram. Private Jones' mother died yesterday. Better go tell him & send him in to see me." So the Sergeant calls for his morning formation & lines up all the troops. "Listen up, men," says the Sergeant. "Johnson, report to the mess hall for KP. Smith, report to Personnel to sign some papers. The rest of you men report to the Motor Pool for maintenance. Oh by the way, Jones, your mother died, report to the commander." Later that day the Captain called the Sergeant into his office. "Hey, Sarge, that was a pretty cold way to inform Jones his mother died. Couldn't you be a bit more tactful, next time?" "Yes, sir," answered the Sarge. A few months later, the Captain called the Sergeant in again with, "Sarge, I just got a telegram. Private McGrath's mother died. You'd better go tell him & send him in to see me. This time be more tactful." So the Sergeant calls for his morning formation. "Ok, men, fall in & listen up. Everybody with a mother, take 2 steps forward -- Not So Fast, McGrath..."

**Dobyns' life with Hells Angels soon to be book; then movie** – Jan 26, 2009 – *Arizona* – By Greg Hansen - Somebody told me the Hells Angels burned down Jay Dobyns' house last summer. Middle of the night. Wife & kids asleep. Flames everywhere. When I spoke with the former Sahuaro High School & UA football player a few weeks ago, I asked: True story or a twisted rumor? "Your house burning down isn't a rumor," he said. "It's horrifying." Dobyns chose not to talk about the August fire, which began at 3:30 on a Sunday morning & caused about \$30,000 in damages. He would not say where he lived, nor confirm that his wife & two teenage children were at home during the Tucson fire. "My family is fine," he said. "Maybe you can understand why I won't go into detail." I understand that from 2001 to 2003, Jay Dobyns, a wide receiver of uncommon toughness in his UA days, 1980-83, infiltrated the Hells Angels as an undercover agent for the ATF. I understand the Hells Angels have made 5 known threats on his life. I understand he has periodically been on the run, moving from one state to another, in an attempt to protect his well-being. But until he supplied me with an advance copy of his new book, "No Angel: My Harrowing Undercover Journey To the Inner Circle of the Hells Angels," I didn't understand the degree of his penetration into such darkness. It is such an absorbing drama that 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox has purchased movie rights to Jay Dobyns' life story. And it won't be about that last-minute touchdown pass he caught to beat UCLA in 1983. "I obviously want to sell books, but 'No Angel' is not for everybody," Dobyns says. "It's a rough story about a rough life, & sometimes it's told in rough terms. I don't want my friends mad at me because they bought it for their kids & later found it to be too aggressive. Consider yourself warned." I read Dobyns' book in two days. It made me sick. It made me feel dirty, almost depressed, but I still couldn't put it down. It is not new turf; movies were made & books were written about the undercover work done by 1960s N.Y. City policeman Frank Serpico & 1980s FBI agent Donnie Brasco. Dobyns' book/movie will become part of this disturbing serial. The 340-page narrative nonfiction book, distributed by Crown Publishers of New York, will be available nationally Feb.10 (information: jaydobyns.com). Until now, Tucson's sketch of Jay Dobyns, ex-Wildcat, has been brief. He was a big part of those powerhouse Sahuaro teams of the late '70s. After initially enrolling at Arkansas, Dobyns returned home & became an over-the-middle, possession receiver for Larry Smith's teams that stunned No. 1 USC, undefeated Notre Dame. Not soon after Dobyns graduated from Arizona, the rookie ATF officer was taken hostage & shot through the chest in the desert near Sahuarita. This is when the post-football picture of Dobyns began to come into focus. "Getting cheered by 80,000 football fans was an incredible feeling," he writes, "but it didn't even register when compared to the rush of walking the line between life & death when no one was watching." Long before he infiltrated the Hells Angels, Dobyns was a daredevil without a motorcycle. The rush he got from chasing bad guys became addictive. His book doesn't leave out any of the sordid details. He became, he writes, a "unit of fear; a spoke in the wheel of violence." The book isn't as much about the Hells Angels as it is about Dobyns' evolution from crime-fighter to a trusted part of a twisted brotherhood. The book's most compelling pieces are those that touch on Dobyns' periodic re-entries into civilian life. Can you imagine what it must have been like to spend two weeks in the presence of a career criminal whose idea of a good day is to drink 16 beers, beat up his girlfriend & arrange to buy \$1,000 worth of illegal guns - & to then drive home to work in the yard & barbecue with your family & friends? "The truth is, the Hells Angels were becoming my family," Dobyns writes. Sometimes he would lie in bed, unable to sleep, weeping about the turmoil created by his double life. In the

years since his penetration of the Hells Angels, Dobyns, 46, has become a motivational speaker for the ATF while simultaneously going public with criticisms about the bureau's inability to keep him & his family safe or to properly meet its financial obligations. Much like Dobyns' spirit for adventure & his passion for risk, nothing is off-limits in "No Angel." I absorbed the book. I can't wait for the movie.

**Hundreds of bikers lobby lawmakers** – Jan 27, 2009 – *Texas* – By Stephanie Wang - Motorcyclists from across Texas filled the halls of the Capitol on Mon to talk with lawmakers about preserving bikers' rights during this legislative session. "We want to remind legislators that this is our house," said the chairman of the Texas Motorcycle Rights Association, a statehouse regular who goes only by the name of Sputnik & has "Free" tattooed across his forehead. Their top concern this year is reinstating a motorcycle education fund. Bikers pay an extra \$8 for motorcycle licenses & license renewals, a fee that is supposed to be earmarked for teaching motorcycle safety. For about 4 years, the money has been funneled into a general pool instead, & motorcyclists are owed about \$8 million for rider training, Sputnik said. Motorcycle clubs also want tougher penalties against inattentive drivers who collide with pedestrians or bikers & equal access to restaurants & hotels that refuse service to riders decked out in leather vests & patches, he said. Bikers have to battle a "bad boy" image that leads many to approach them in fear & classify them as gang members, said Lee Stewart of the Southern Cruisers Riding Club in Austin. This is the eighth time the organization has held a lobby day for bikers to meet their legislators, & event organizers estimated that about 2,000 people rode to the Capitol on a foggy morning to participate. When the House of Representatives convened in the afternoon, motorcycle-riding Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso, read a resolution honoring the motorcyclists for their cooperative legislative work. Wearing a black leather jacket with her name in an emblem on the back, Chavez counted herself & Gov. Rick Perry among the 887,000 licensed motorcycle riders in Texas. Some bikers praised Chavez & other legislators for their receptiveness. Rep. Mark Strama, D-Austin, overcame one stereotype of lawmakers: that they are out of touch with the public. James Merriman, Pres of the Alternative MC in Waterloo, said Strama & his staff researched proposed legislation so that the lawmaker could talk more knowledgeable about it. "His response made me feel that by having the courage to come here, there is an open line of communication between us," he said.

**When you're from the country you look at things a little differently...** A Montana rancher got in his pickup & drove to a neighboring ranch & knocked at the door. A young boy, about 9, opened the door. 'Is yer Dad home?' the rancher asked. 'No sir, he ain't,' the boy replied. 'He went into town.' 'Well,' said the rancher, 'Is yer Mom here?' 'No, sir, she ain't here neither. She went into town with Dad.' 'How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?' 'He went with Mom & Dad.' The rancher stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other & mumbling to himself. 'Is there anything I can do fer ya?' the boy asked politely. 'I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one. Or maybe I could take a message fer Dad.' 'Well,' said the rancher uncomfortably, 'I really wanted to talk to yer Dad. It's about your brother Howard getting my daughter, Pearly Mae, pregnant.' The boy considered for a moment. 'You would have to talk to Pa about that', he finally conceded. 'If it helps you any, I know that Pa charges \$500 for the bull & \$50 for the hog, but I really don't know how much he gets fer Howard.'