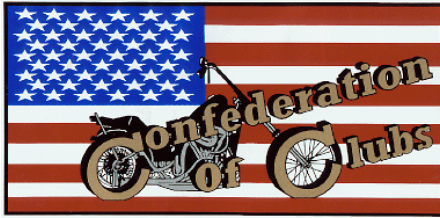


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Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter...

April 2010 – Issue 1...



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...

There is only one human right, the right to do as you damn well please. . .

And with it comes the only basic human duty, the duty to take the consequences... - P.J. O'Rourke

NCOM Sponsors this Newsletter with a donation of \$225.00 per month.

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

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

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LA. Rider Kajun; Lafayette, Louisiana Chapter donates \$ 20.00 a month.

Vagos MC from Orange County California donates \$ 25.00 a month.

Michigan SteelHorse Riders MC Cappy, Chino, & Hammer donates \$ 20.00 a month...

SOS MC/ Silent Thunder MC Clubhouse in Fargo, North Dakota makes a Great donations each month...

NCOM; Richard And Joseph Lester; Attorneys At Law...

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

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

Prairie Rattlers MC, North Dakota donates \$ 25.00 a month...

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

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Devils Diciples Tatu donates \$ 25.00 a month...

Traveling Light Ministries donates \$ 50.00 a month...

Road Scholars News donates \$ 20.00 a month...

In memory of El Forastero Kelley's Father from Iowa who just passed away... May he R.I.P.

Welcome North Coast XII John to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter Mailing List...

Happy belated Birthday to Hells Outcasts MC (Minnesota) member Chris who is currently at McCreary, Kentucky...

Soon you will all be receiving a color brochure from A-Z Chic Pics from Nena Nyland on behalf of Bandido Angelo who is currently Huntsville, Texas (State Prison)... You can order photos of gals that qualify to get in... If you don't order, please pass the brochure around... P.S. Happy Birthday Bandido Angelo on April 2nd... Turning 52!!! Have a Great One!!!

Editor's Note: It is too hard to keep up with counts, But for your info here are the Clubs that are getting the Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter (56 Clubs): Avengers, Bandidos, Banshees, Barons, Black Pistons, Boozefighters, BPM, Breed, Brother Speed, Damned Deacon, Death Squad, Derelicts, Devils Diciples, Diablos, El Forastero, Finks, Fly-In-Wheels, Forsaken Few, Free Souls, Galloping Goose, Grim Reapers, Gypsy Jokers, Hells Angels, **Hells Outcasts**, Hermanos, Hessians, Highwaymen, In Country Vietnam, Iron Horsemen, Invaders, Iron Wings, Iron Mustangs, Liberty Riders, Long Riders, Mohawk Valley Riders, Mongols, Nomads, Outlaws, Pagan's, Phantom's, Pharoahs, Reapers, Renegades, Sadistics, Sacramaniacs, Scorpions, Sons Of Silence, Sovereign, Sundowners, Thunderbirds, Unforegiven, Vagos, Vietnam Vets, Y Rohirrin, Warlocks & Warlocks...

With newsletters going to Australia, Canada, England, Germany, France, Finland, Norway, & Sweden...

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 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 a Patch Holder in Good Standings And contact me, include your Chapter too...* If you are NOT a patch holder of a Motorcycle Club in Good Standings, Don't write me & 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: Currently we are sending over 300 copies of this newsletter to members of 56 Motorcycle Clubs...

Editor's Note: For February there were 2 issues, For March there were 3 issues, For April this is the 1st issue ...

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 News & Becky Cakes...

Disclaimer: The News Media does NOT always tell the Whole Truth...

It tends to sensationalize the News to Sell Newspapers... *In Fact, Many Times the News Media gets the Facts Wrong!!!*

If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. - Mark Twain...

Editor's Note: Been swamped with address changes, adding new Brothers and etc and etc, so it is very possible I did not get your request or something completed, you will have to write me again... **Minor note:** I can't make specific "Shut Outs" here... Thank you!!!! Mike SFFS

The Diamond... By Dago SFFS USSA...

This life is like a river that I wind my way along:
There's times I get so tired don't know if I can go on --
But I guess I'll keep on moving,
I've got things to do and promises to keep.
There'll be lots of time to get some rest
When I lay down in my grave and go to sleep.

This centerpiece and rocker's from the family that I'm in.
I wear 'em on my leathers and they're tattooed on my skin.
And this diamond on my heart means I'm not a part
Of your "great society".
So you understand why Uncle Sam
Ain't got no use for Scooter Trash like me.

And you'll see us out there on the road,
On the highways where we ride.
We're living by a forgotten code
And we're standing side by side.
We're honor bound to a brotherhood
And we know the price we pay when we dare to be.
But we say "Freedom's just an empty word
Unless you've got the balls for living free."

(Bridge)

And these sleds we ride are as different
As the colors that we fly.
But underneath it's all the same --
We've got to ride or die.
The Club life ain't for everyone
And I wouldn't want to do it if it was;
'Cause it takes a certain kind of man
To live the way a One Percenter does.

Yeah, it takes a better kind of man
To live the way a One Percenter does.

Booby traps targeting police prompt arrests of biker gang members in West – Mar 18, 2010 – *Riverside, California* - Three booby-trap attacks on an anti-gang task force in Southern California prompted the arrests of about 30 members of California's largest motorcycle gang, prosecutors said Wed. Members of the Vagos were arrested as part of the crackdown in Riverside & Shasta counties in California, Arizona, Nevada & Utah after the attacks on police in Hemet, Calif. "In the last few months, they've gotten our attention. Today we gave them some attention back," Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco said. "Our goal is to eliminate the significant threat to law enforcement that the Vagos represent." Pacheco declined to detail evidence he said links the Vagos to those stealth attacks because the investigation was ongoing. But he described the ambush devices as insidious & cowardly. On Dec. 31, someone drilled a hole in the roof of the gang unit's headquarters & diverted a natural gas line from a heater, filling the space with flammable gas. The trap was discovered before anyone was hurt. Last month, a gun rigged to shoot when a headquarters security gate was opened sent a bullet whizzing past an officer. Again, nobody was hurt. The third incident involved the discovery of a dangerous device near an officer's car. Pacheco said the Vagos specialize in methamphetamine sales, weapons trafficking & violence, particularly toward law enforcement officers. About 400 heavily armed police, sheriff's deputies & Fed agents visited 73 locations early Wed in search of 94 gang members. They seized weapons & illegal drugs. Prosecutors said a meth lab was

found at the home of one gang member in Lake Elsinore. Officials said there are about 600 Vagos in the Western U.S., including about 200 in Riverside County, where the gang was started in the late 1960s.

Riverside gang sweep nets 30 suspects – Mar 18, 2010 – *California* – By KABC - In the Inland Empire, dozens of motorcycle gang members are under arrest. Well before dawn, dozens of local & federal agents launched a major sweep in California & several other western states. The sweep was called Operation Everywhere. The target is the largest motorcycle gang in the state of California. They are called the Vagos. The gang sweep began around 7:00 a.m. Wed & it spread all across 4 states in the western part of the United States. In Riverside County, 73 locations were targeted by 400 officers. Of the more than 100 Vagos members in the county the officers hit 94 of them on Wed, making 30 arrests. Illegal drugs & several weapons were seized including a motorcycle gas cap with a long blade attached. The operation was coordinated by the Riverside County Gang Taskforce which has been the target of booby traps in recent months. On New Year's Eve members of the Hemet & San Jacinto Valley Gang Task Force discovered a rerouted gas line at their office which investigators said could have leveled the building if ignited. The Vagos have a history of violence against law enforcement so district attorney Rod Pacheco was asked on Wednesday if the Vagos were connected to that Hemet case. "Within the last few months, the Vagos Outlaw Motorcycle gang has gotten our significant attention," said Pacheco. "Today we've delivered & returned some of that significant attention & we intend to continue in that effort. There's over a hundred them here in Riverside County & their time has come. We will not go quietly into that good night. We will respond aggressively & forcefully for a significant period of time until that threat has been eliminated, not reduced or minimized, but eliminated." The district atty wanted to make it clear that this is only the beginning. The sweep also included cities in Nevada & Utah & Arizona.

Guilty plea; Road Dog - Mar 19, 2010 – *California* - The 1-time lawman accused of running a criminal enterprise out of a Denair motorcycle shop is ready to make a deal with prosecutors - if other defendants in the case do, too. Attys for Robert Holloway filed a document Thu in Fed court in Fresno saying Holloway will plead guilty if the other defendants in the case take deals. But such a deal isn't likely to happen, defense atty Roger Vehrs said. Some defendants have worked in law enforcement & don't want felonies on their records, he said. Holloway made the offer to show that he's willing to cooperate, Vehrs said. Holloway was arrested with 11 other men in July 2008. Holloway's supporters say law enforcement has been after Holloway since then, pursuing him at any cost. Prosecutors say Holloway ran Road Dog as a haven for the Hells Angels & other outlaw motorcycle gangs. The FBI & ATF investigated Holloway for several years starting in the 1990s. Investigators taped thousands of calls on Holloway's cell, business & home phones. When the FBI tapped Holloway's phones in 2007, agents told Wanger they expected to catch Holloway involved in money laundering, firearms violations, & manufacturing, importing & selling meth & marijuana. Holloway isn't charged with any of those crimes. Three defendants have pleaded guilty. Remaining defendants include a retired California HP officer, a retired corrections officer & a former Stanislaus County sheriff's deputy who was a court bailiff. At a hearing Tuesday, defense attorneys & prosecutors will review confidential ATF files on Holloway, then decide which files can be released to Holloway's lawyers.

Son of Pagan's VP held pending trial – Mar 19, 2010 - **Charleston, West Virginia** - By Andrew Clevenger - The son of the Nat'l V.P. of the Pagan's MC will remain in custody after a Fed judge overruled a magistrate's decision to release him. Elmer Luke "Tramp" Moore, 45, is accused of ordering the beating of a suspected informant in a N.J. hotel room in Jan 2009. He also faces charges of being an armed bodyguard for his father, Floyd B. "Jesse" Moore & being an unlawful user of cocaine in possession of a gun. On March 5, U.S. Magistrate Judge Mary E. Stanley reversed her October ruling & ordered the younger Moore released to home confinement with electronic monitoring at his Buckhannon home. His atty, Jim Roncaglione, had asked the judge to revisit her decision after reviewing info turned over by prosecutors since a sweeping, 44-count racketeering indictment against 55 Pagan's members & associates was unsealed in Oct. One co-defendant -- unnamed for fear of reprisal -- has been debriefed several times since he entered a guilty plea, saying at first he couldn't remember the beating because he was drunk & high at the time, Roncaglione maintained. His later statements, where he provided details about the incident, were therefore suspect, he said. Another cooperating witness who reported overhearing Moore tell his father about the beating was convicted of perjury for lying to a Fed grand jury, he said. In Feb, the Gov't also disclosed that the purported victim of the beating, who was a confidential informant registered with the ATF, had bought & used numerous drugs repeatedly without his handlers' permission. Roncaglione wondered why the Gov't would trust these "despicable people" over his client, an Army veteran with 2 honorable discharges & no criminal record. During that hearing, Assistant U.S. Atty Steve Loew said that the Gov't's case against Elmer Moore had gotten stronger. One co-defendant, James R. "Bones" Claypool II, of French Creek, said Elmer Moore ordered him to hit the suspected informant when Claypool pleaded guilty in Dec, Loew said. He also reminded the judge of an audio recording in which Luke Moore purportedly threatens to assault a cocaine dealer for selling him "1.5 grams of [expletive]." As Pres of the Pagan's' Buckhannon chapter, Elmer Moore is in a position to order underlings to threaten or harm potential witnesses, Loew said. "[Moore] doesn't necessarily perform violence on his own," he said. "He orders other people to do it for him." When Stanley ordered Moore released, saying it would be "incredibly stupid" for him to harass potential witnesses, Loew immediately asked for a stay so that U.S. District Judge Thomas E. Johnston could review the decision. On Tue, Johnston overruled Stanley's decision. "Of particular concern is that the alleged conduct suggests that [Moore] poses an acute danger to persons he knows to be cooperating with Gov't authorities," Johnston's order states. "[T]he Gov't has proffered evidence demonstrating that [Moore] recently threatened the lives of a co-defendant & that defendant's 'old lady' if that co-defendant cooperates with the Gov't in this case." The potential for Moore to either commit acts of violence against potential witnesses or to instruct other Pagan's to commit violence on his behalf is greatly diminished if he is in custody, Johnston wrote. To date, 19 of the 55 defendants have entered plea deals with prosecutors. The remaining 36 defendants are scheduled to go to trial on May 4. Johnston has not yet ruled on many issues raised during an all-day motions hearing on Monday, including efforts to dismiss numerous charges in the indictment. Several defense attorneys maintain that the bodyguard charge against Elmer Moore & others should be thrown out because it is not against the law to carry a gun at the behest of a superior in a social club, even if he is a convicted felon.

A day after biker gang arrests – Mar 19, 2010 – **California** – By Robert Lopez - A day after a sweep of a local motorcycle gang, top law enforcement officials on Thu will talk about new developments in a series of attacks on Riverside County officers. Thirty members of the Vagos motorcycle gang were arrested Wed in Riverside County in an ongoing investigation against the group, which authorities described as "an extreme" threat to law enforcement officers. Officials would not elaborate, but the arrests come after 5 apparent booby traps were found targeting gang enforcement officers in the Hemet area. No arrests have been made in that case. Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown will be in Riverside on Thu to discuss the attacks. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wed issued a \$50,000 reward related to the cases, which took place over the last few months. On Wed, about 400 officers took part in the multi-agency operation, targeting 73 locations & seizing weapons & illegal drugs, authorities said. "They represent an extreme threat to law enforcement," Riverside County Dist. Atty. Rod Pacheco said in an interview. "The goal is to eliminate this threat." Citing the ongoing probe, Pacheco declined to say whether any members of the gang had planned to target law enforcement personnel. In Lake Elsinore, authorities found a methamphetamine lab at the home of one of the Vagos members. The Vagos gang has at least 600 members in the Western U.S., half of them in California, authorities said. About 100 members are in Riverside County. Pacheco said the group, which he described as the largest motorcycle gang in California, should expect continued law-enforcement actions. "This is just the beginning," he said.

DRB OKs Mudder's Day event – Mar 19, 2010 - **Vermont** - By Neal Goswami - Town officials have again signed off on a local resident's annual "Mudder's Day" party, & local police say concerns they once had with the event have subsided. The Bennington Development Review Board granted Milo Campbell a permit for a gathering on his Gulley Lane property that has been dubbed Mudder's Day because of its proximity to Mother's Day, & because it features mud pits. Hells Angels Campbell & about a half dozen supporters attended the DRB meeting Tuesday evening in attire featuring Hells Angels patches. The Hells Angels MC, founded in 1948, is a worldwide club with members typically riding H-D motorcycles. Members say they are a law-abiding group, but federal, state & local law enforcement agencies say the club routinely engages in violence, drug dealing, trafficking stolen goods & extortion. The presence of Hells Angels members at Campbell's events in the past has drawn considerable attention from police. Police even utilized a helicopter to monitor the party one year. Campbell once organized a similar party without seeking a town permit, causing the town to seek an emergency injunction from the Vermont Environmental Court to prevent the event from taking place. But Campbell's willingness to abide by the town's rules & regulations over the past few years, & the success of the events in the past, have local law enforcement officers backing off.

Traffic Camera: Joe was driving when he saw the flash of a traffic camera. Joe figured that my picture had been taken for exceeding the limit even though he knew that he was not speeding. Just to be sure, Joe went around the block & passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed. Now Joe began to think that this was quite funny, so he drove even slower as he passed the area once more, but the traffic camera again flashed. Joe tried a 4th & 5th time with the same results & was now laughing as the camera flashed while he rolled past at a snail's pace. Two weeks later, Joe got 5 tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt. *You can't fix stupid...*

Judge takes Hells Angels gang patch in test case – Mar 19, 2010 - *New Zealand* – By The Dominion Post - Whanganui's anti-gang patch law has had its first victory. In a test case against the controversial bylaw, a Wanganui District Court judge has ordered a Hells Angels gang member to hand in his patch to be destroyed after finding that the man had illegally worn it in public. Anti-gang patch supporter Mayor Michael Laws said the court decision was "one up for the good guys". The decision upheld the council's bylaw, he said. "The Whanganui community wanted this law, Parliament obliged, & now the courts have upheld it. This is something of a rejoinder to those council critics who argued that our bylaw wouldn't survive a judicial test." Hastings Hells Angels member Bryan Vincent Moore had pleaded not guilty to a wearing a T-shirt with the words "Hells Angels MC Hastings" in Bell St, Whanganui last Sept. Under the Wanganui District Council (Prohibition of Gang Insignia) Act 2009 section 12, it is illegal to display gang insignia without reasonable excuse. Moore's lawyer said the bylaw had no geographical boundaries, was unreasonable & limited freedom of expression. In a reserved decision yesterday, Judge Peter Butler found the defendant guilty. As it was a test case, a fine was not warranted, he said. Moore was convicted & ordered to forfeit his gang patch for destruction. The council & police are currently seeking a court order to dismantle gang fortifications at the Hells Angels address in Whanganui.

Township accepts bylaw to prevent fortifications – Mar 19, 2010 – *Canada* – By David Meyer - It appears a bylaw that would prevent out-law motorcycle gangs from fortifying buildings in Wellington County will finally be approved. The issue has been dragged through committees & meet-ings since 2003, but Centre Wellington council approved the latest draft on Monday at its committee of the whole meeting.

Hells Angel member charged after repairman finds bag of cash stashed in furnace – Mar 19, 2010 – *Calgary, Canada* - A member of the Hells Angels Nomads has been charged by police in Red Deer after a furnace repairman found a bag full of money stashed away in a furnace. Red Deer RCMP say on Nov 25, 2009 the repairman went to a Michener Hill area house to fix the furnace but found tens of thousands of dollars. A man came forward claiming it was his money & police investigated his claim. "In an attempt to prove that the money was his & legitimately his, it's alleged he committed fraud," said Const. Sabrina Grunow. RCMP say the money was from drug trafficking. On Tue morning, police searched the house & found documents, data, prohibited weapons & an undisclosed amount of cash. Leonard Desjarlais, 36, whom police say is a member of the outlaw motorcycle gang, was arrested on Tue. There are anywhere from 15 to 20 members of the Red Deer Hells Angels, said Grunow. "Any time we can make any kind of impact against this type of behaviour such as organized crime or drug trafficking, we look at the benefits to our community," she said.

Hells Angels sue the city of Amsterdam – Mar 19, 2010 - *Holland* - The Amsterdam Hells Angels are suing the city of Amsterdam. This is the result of the municipality's order to tear down the clubhouse within 8 weeks. If the requirement is not met, the municipality imposes a fine of 142,500 euros on them. According to the city, the housing of motorcyclists does not fit into the future building plans, & as a result they can't build a new clubhouse anywhere in the city. The Hells Angels refused to yield to the demand, says lawyer Huib Struycken on Fri. They can object, but they have to demolish the clubhouse before the deadline, whatever the final decision on the subject is. Struycken

states that the municipality, as owners of the land on which the present clubhouse stands, has given permission for its construction. This happened in 2002, after the previous clubhouse was destroyed by a fire. On Feb 8, 2000 the municipality agreed that a suitable place would be found. The lawyer indicates that the Angels are quite willing to move, but only if an alternative site or financial compensation are offered. "This would be the last great last act of mayor Cohen to the public, to show he has balls."

44 arrested in major outlaw motorcycle drug trafficking – Mar 19, 2010 - *Australia* - Police have ended a nine-month investigation into a Queensland outlaw motorcycle gang's drug trafficking network with the arrest of 44 people & the seizure of more than \$2 million in drugs, assets & property. The operation focused on alleged trafficking of methylamphetamine, cocaine & cannabis across Queensland & resulted in the seizure of more than \$1 million in drugs, \$470,000 in property & \$700,000 worth of assets. The operation, named Hotel Formation, began in July 2009 by members of the state drug investigation unit & initially focused on central Queensland. A total of 44 people were charged with over 100 offences, including 18 for allegedly trafficking dangerous drugs. Today, members of the state drug investigation unit & the Outlaw Motor Cycle Gang (OMCG) Task Force Hydra executed search warrants on an alleged cocaine trafficking syndicate operating out of the Gold Coast with distribution networks into Hervey Bay. On the Gold Coast, 4 people were charged with 17 drug-related offences, including trafficking dangerous drugs. OMCG Task Force Hydra's Detective Inspector Garry Watts said search warrants were executed on 8 addresses across Hervey Bay, including the Hervey Bay Rebels' club house.

Bikie boss bailed, cops canned – Mar 19, 2010 - *Australia* -By Lisa Davies - The newest boss of the Comanchero bikie gang spent a night in custody on a charge a Sydney magistrate could not even bring himself to comment on. Daux Hohepa Ngakuru, 31, was arrested yesterday after an incident at a premises in Kings Cross at about 11.30pm on Sat night, when he allegedly intimidated a police officer. In a media release, police said "investigations into the alleged incident continued", & when Ngakuru was allegedly detected speaking on a mobile phone whilst driving at about 3.20pm yesterday, he was arrested & charged with the intimidation. Officers told him he would be released on bail if he agreed to a whole host of bail conditions, including one that he not go within 1km of Kings Cross railway station. On legal advice he declined & faced Central Local Court this morning.

Bikie facing extortion charge – Mar 19, 2010 - *Australia* - A Comanchero bikie & a gang associate have been charged with extorting \$3000 from a 20-year-old man. Police will alleged the bikie spoke to the victim by telephone on March 9 & discussed an insult directed at a member of his family. The victim denied making the comment but the next day he received a call from another man claiming to be an associate member of the gang who allegedly demanded \$3000 to resolve the matter.

I filled out the E-Harmony compatibility form & they matched me up with a jar of Vaseline & a porno video...

You know what I did before I married?
Anything I wanted to. - Henny Youngman

My wife & I were happy for twenty years.
Then we met. - Rodney Dangerfield

Father wants to bless clubhouse of Comancheros – Mar 19, 2010 – *Australia* - Father Bob Maguire wants to bless the South Melbourne clubhouse of an outlaw motorcycle gang. The outspoken Catholic priest said while he had not been approached by the Comancheros, he was keen to bless their new clubhouse in Thistlethwaite St. “I saw it in the newspaper last week & I said I should go & make them an offer,” he said. “I’m a blessing, I blessed the casino years ago & got in trouble for that, I blessed a 10-metre tall cork bottle yesterday down on Southbank ... & you’ve got 2 other joints I’m after. One of them is the Comancheros & the other is Neverland.” Fr Maguire said he was only doing the work of Jesus. “What would Jesus do? According to the reading of the gospels he was criticized because he spent more time with the undesirables than he did with the desirables,” he said. “It’s a hard road to hoe, but one would feel one ought to.” Fr Maguire said he had not yet approached the Comancheros with a proposal. “Keep your ears peeled. I haven’t made an approach,” he said. “I’ll end up with the Archbishop on the phone in a minute saying ‘What’s this I hear?’.”

California declares war on biker gang accused of ‘booby trap’ plot – Mar 20, 2010 – *California* – By Guy Adams - The FBI calls it “a ruthless criminal organization” which deals in “guns, drugs, & death”. The Justice Dept holds members responsible for “assault, extortion, insurance fraud, money-laundering, murder, vehicle theft, witness intimidation & weapons violations”. But it turns out that one of America’s most notorious biker gangs is also pretty handy at DIY. Police in California have arrested 30 members of the Vagos MC, a group of 300 H-D riders, amid allegations that they have been attempting to use home-made booby traps to maim & kill the detectives who keep an eye on their nefarious daily activities. In recent weeks, a series of potentially deadly devices, built largely from materials bought at local hardware stores, were discovered at the homes & workplaces of a police gang-enforcement unit in Hemet, a suburban town in Riverside County, on the eastern fringes of Los Angeles. The Vagos gang, also known as “The Green Nation”, is suspected of planting them. Members of the Vagos, who wear green bandanas & leather jackets embroidered with pictures of Loki, the Norse god of mischief, are, as with most biker gangs, suspected of drug-smuggling & running protection rackets. Their territory extends across Mexico & America’s south-western states. They have a loose alliance with the Mongols & Bandidos, 2 other mostly Hispanic organizations, & in the past have chiefly made headlines for sporadic clashes with the Hells Angels, which was also founded in San Bernardino.

New threat puts Hemet officers on heightened alert – Mar 20, 2010 – *California* – By Thomas Watkins - The tense atmosphere surrounding a California police department plagued by booby trap attacks has been stepped up a notch following the latest threat against officers. Someone called 911 at about 5:45 p.m. Friday saying a police car would be blown up in the Hemet-San Jacinto area in the next 24 to 48 hours, Hemet Police Chief Richard Dana said. “We’re heightening the alert,” Dana told The Press-Enterprise. The caller said the attack would be in retaliation for the law enforcement sweep against the Vagos MC earlier this week. The Riverside County Sheriff’s Dept has not been able to confirm the threat, Deputy Herlinda Valenzuela said. About 30 members of the Vagos, California’s largest motorcycle gang, were arrested in Riverside County on Wednesday, as part of a crackdown across the state & in Arizona, Nevada & Utah. The gang specializes in methamphetamine sales, identity theft & violence, Riverside County sheriff’s Capt. Walter Meyer said. Dana said someone he believes may have been a gang member

tried to get into a news conference Thursday at the district attorney’s office in Riverside. The person was turned away, he said, because he didn’t have a press credential.

Police blame motorcycle club of threats – Mar 21, 2010 - *Malibu, California*- By Leanne Suter; KABC - A motorcycle club in Southern California is fighting back against allegations that its members have repeatedly threatened the lives of police in Riverside County. The atty representing the Vagos MC says claims that the club members are involved in threats against the Inland Empire PD are simply not true. This week, Vagos members were targeted in a parole & probation sweep according to police. Authorities say that 30 members of the club were arrested, but the group’s attorney Joe Yanny states that is not true & that no club members were arrested. However, Yanny did say that search warrants were served at the homes & business of about a dozen members, but no one was arrested. Yanny said that the group is being harassed from law enforcement from local to state level. “Enough is enough. We want to draw the line in the sand. We will use every legal means available to us to stop the terrorizing of the members of this club because as far as we’re concerned, it’s illegal without probable cause,” said Yanny. Yanny also said that the club is willing to go as far as a law suit to try to end the harassment. According to Yanny, members of the club will be speaking out later in the following week to clear up what is really going on in the Inland Empire.

Hemet police remain alert after 24-hour period passes – Mar 21, 2010 – *California* - Hemet police say a threat on officers in the San Jacinto Valley during a 24-hour period has passed, but officers remain on high alert. The Riverside County sheriff’s Dept reported hearing of a threat Friday evening to blow up a “black & white” patrol vehicle somewhere in the Hemet & San Jacinto area in the following 24 hours, Hemet police Lt. Mark Richards said. The warning was broadcast over police radio airwaves about 6 p.m. Friday where it was first heard by Hemet police detectives. It’s still unclear where the threat originated or if it was credible, Richards said. The threat was not directed to Hemet police specifically, but Hemet police treated the threat as real & increased security measures & patrols Friday evening & through Sat afternoon. By Sat evening, when the 24-hour threat period expired, police remained on heightened alert, but believe the specific threat was over. Sheriff’s dispatchers reported the threat was in retaliation to a sweep of the Vagos MC by the Riverside County Gang Task Force & district attorney’s office. On Wed, police arrested 30 members of the Vagos, during parole & probation sweeps, calling them a criminal street gang related to drug trafficking & a white supremacist group. The Hemet-San Jacinto Valley Gang Task force has been targeted 3 times in assassination plots since Dec 31. Authorities have not named specific suspects in the attacks, but Riverside County District Attorney has alluded to a link between the Vagos group. Federal, state & Riverside County officials have offered up to a \$200,000 reward for information leading to a conviction in the 3 attacks.

When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane, you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash.
- Multi-Engine Training Manual

The 3 most useless things in aviation are: Fuel in the bowser; Runway behind you; & Air above you.
- Basic Flight Training Manual

You’ve never been lost until you’ve been lost at Mach 3.
- Paul F. Crickmore (SR71 test pilot)

Raging bull bikies in deadly airport brawl – Mar 21, 2010 - *Australia* - By Lisa Davies - They have no names, only numbers. But evidence from more than 300 anonymous witnesses is the backbone of the case against 13 bikies accused over the Sydney Airport melee that a year ago today left Hells Angels associate Anthony Zervas dead. One witness, numbered 301, alleges the participants were “crazy, like raging bulls” with “fists smashing into each other’s bodies”. The details of the Crown case can be revealed for the first time today from a brief of evidence tendered to Central Local Court ahead of a July committal hearing.

Man Faces Sentencing In Pagan’s Case – Mar 22, 2010 – *Charleston, West Virginia* - John N. Maggio, an electrical contractor from Alexandria, VA, is scheduled to be sentenced Monday morning in Charleston. He would be the 1st person sentenced, though District Judge Thomas Johnston has expressed reservations about the validity of plea deals reached in the case. Maggio admitted asking former Pagan’s Nat’l V.P. Floyd “Diamond Jesse” Moore for help collecting business debts. Prosecutors say he also was recorded describing the extortion victims to a Moore associate & telling the man he didn’t care how badly they might be injured. Maggio faces up to 20 years.

Hells Angels kids’ club – Mar 22, 2010 - *Denmark* - Those under the age of 18 given option to join the Viking Defence League by Hells Angels bikers. The Hells Angels bikers have been in the spotlight of the authorities for some time, but now they have awakened even more concern by founding a youth group for children & teens. Hells Angels spokesman Jørn Jønke Nielsen told BT newspaper that the Viking Defence League offers an option for those who are too young to join the official bikers’ support group AK81. ‘We don’t take people under the age of 18 into AK81. So this is a place for people who are maybe a little too young to become AK81 members or for people who just want to support us a bit. So they can sort of come in & check out the environment,’ Nielsen said. But Nielsen added that the club will not be bringing members on visits to Hells Angels club houses. Head of the police’s National Centre of Investigation, Kim Kliver, has expressed concern that the club is no more than a feeder group for future Hells Angels members. ‘Children can’t see the consequence of being a part of it, or criticise the requirements for being in that environment. There is a very great danger that they will end up involved in criminality & become part of the armed conflicts taking place right now,’ he said. New members who join the club pay an annual fee of 300 kroner & get a t-shirt with the club’s logo on it. So far, more than 500 people have expressed support for the Viking Defence League on the group’s recently created Facebook page. Justice minister Lars Barfoed has described the club as a ‘giant provocation to the rest of society’. ‘I’m ready to look at all the options we have to prevent recruitment to the criminal environment,’ the minister said this week, as both his Gov’t & opposition parliamentary colleagues gave him their backing.

Alleged bikie charged over firearm – Mar 22, 2010 - *Australia* - Police have charged an alleged member of the Notorious bikie gang with firearm offences in Sydney’s west. Officers stopped a Mitsubishi utility at a service station on Flushcombe Road, Blacktown. They searched the vehicle & allegedly found a loaded revolver. The driver, a 32-year-old Greystanes man, was charged with a number of firearms offences, including possessing an unregistered pistol & possessing ammunition without being licensed. He was also charged with being a disqualified driver & breach of bail.

The Hemet Hoax – Mar 22, 2010 – *California / USA* – By “The Aging Rebel” - In 1954 a satirist named Leonard Wibberley wrote a 6 part serial for the Saturday Evening Post magazine called “The Day New York Was Invaded.” The next year the story was published by Little, Brown & Company with a title most people recognize, *The Mouse That Roared*. The comedy became a Peter Sellers movie 4 years after that. It failed as a television series in 1963 but was successfully produced as a play. The play is still an amateur theater standard. It will probably half fill some high school auditorium somewhere this year. *The Mouse That Roared* is about a tiny, backward & insignificant European Country called the Duchy of Grand Fenwick that declares war on the United States. Grand Fenwick expects to quickly lose & then apply for the same sort of American foreign aid the United States bestowed on Japan & Germany after World War II. Grand Fenwick must lose. It does not want to win. Its army wears chain mail & is armed with bows & arrows. All it wants is the money. Unfortunately the prank takes off in unexpected directions. The United States does not notice the invasion for 2 months. Then officials mistake the medieval Fenwickians for space aliens.

Mouse Meets Wild One: I keep waiting for somebody to call the city of Hemet, California the Duchy of Grand Fenwick. So far no one else has so I will. Hemet is the Duchy of Grand Fenwick. The plucky, little, Hemet P.D. is now at war with & under siege by the by the big, bad Vagos MC. Right this minute an agent in Beverly Hills is pitching this farce as “The Mouse That Roared meets The Wild One.” Clint Eastwood should play the police chief. The principal Vagos should be Shrek, the Hulk & Kermit the Frog. The happy ending will come when Hemet learns it has finally won that big pile of federal money & its police force has been saved. Okay, probably the movie will fail. The great, Hemet motorcycle club war has already proven that the greater part of modern policing is theatrical performance. So a movie would just be superfluous. And, even if the movie was made nobody would laugh. The other thing the Hemet hoax proves is that in the last fifty years America has become a lot more stupid & a lot less fun. Fifty years ago a cynical press would have instantly recognized that someone in Riverside County, on behalf of the Hemet Police, has made this whole Hemet story up. The story was invented because the Hemet Police really wants the money. Because Hemet has been hit particularly hard by the ongoing sequel to the Great Depression. And, keeping the peace has become an extravagant, insane cargo cult. The worth of modern police forces is now measured by how much money a Dept can get & spend on symbols of policing.

The Hero Has A Serious Problem: The current Hemet Police Chief is Richard Dana. Dana looks & sounds a lot like Clint Eastwood. He put on a badge in 1965. He took the Hemet job when he was 62. He replaced a man named Pete Hewitt who retired from the job at 61. Dana took the job because he “can’t imagine doing anything else.” And, also the job pays \$163,000 a year. So besides pursuing his passion for goodness & justice Dana also gets to put a few dollars in his pocket. In his mid-sixties Dana still looks like a leading man. He might be able to stay on the job for another ten years, for another million & ½ dollars. And, he is about to enter the 4th year of a 5 year contract. When he took the job Dana’s supporters anticipated that he would be “growing” the Hemet PD. He was actually able to grow the force to 93 officers. The housing bubble made Hemet, which has about 70,000 residents, look like a budding metropolis. Then the Hemet of the future turned out to be just another illusion in a long con. The Los Angeles Times describes the city as “foreclosure-stricken.” Sales

tax revenue dropped 27% in the 1st 2 months of 2009. During Dana's administration the police force has declined to 68 officers.

To Serve And Protect Cops: The depression has left Hemet & Dana to fend largely for themselves. As part of the Economic Stimulus Package the Obama Administration promised \$1 billion to keep cops employed. But nationally police forces applied for \$8.3 billion to offset police layoffs. Hemet had to compete with all those other police departments in big mean cities like Oakland & Detroit for money. And, it probably did not help Hemet's cause that crime in the city actually declined 10% from 2007 to 2008. Hemet applied for & did not get a \$312,000 federal grant for traffic enforcement. The city also sought a \$772,000 grant to pay for its police force & got less than half that amount. The police department also got a \$213,000 grant to buy new computers & dispatch equipment but Hemet was forbidden to use the money to pay cops. About a year ago the Hemet SWAT – of course Hemet has a "Special Operations Unit" – bought a \$270,000 armored vehicle called a BearCat with a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. But again the money could not be used to pay for cop's salaries. The money had to be used for an armored car. Hemet invested, as many foundering police Depts have, in the red light camera racket. The reason why these cameras are a racket is because they do not do what they are advertised to do & they make insiders rich by preying on innocuous citizens. Almost all of the infractions these robots ticket are for a rolling stop when a motorist makes a right turn on red. Last summer, on Dana's recommendation, Hemet signed a contract with a company named Nestor Traffic Systems. Nestor was in bankruptcy at the time. The penalty for a right turn on red after a rolling stop in Hemet was set at \$446 & the city guaranteed Nestor Traffic Systems \$60,000 a month. Anything more than \$720,000 dollars a year, which works out to about 1,600 tickets, will be gravy for Hemet. So if the ticket robots issue a mere 9,100 tickets a year Dana can get his force back up to 93 officers. A study of the busiest intersection in Hemet discovered around 1,600 rolling stop right turns on red in a single day. So it seemed very feasible that the Hemet Police might be saved by robot red light cameras.

Save Our Police: Alas, by last fall Hemet was running about \$800,000 in the red. Several radicals suggested that Hemet fire its entire police force & contract out the job of policing Hemet to another agency like the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. The situation had degenerated that far. People had begun to ask unthinkable questions. Did Sheriff Andy make \$163,000 a year. Did Mayberry have a BearCat? A Swat team? How much did Barney Fife make? People began to ask rude, despicable, naïve, uninformed, stupid, sarcastic questions like that. City Manager Len Wood, who was sitting next to Chief Dana at the time by the way, explained at a "roundtable:" "I just don't think that (contracting out police services) is a viable option. My experience includes contracting & full service. I found that while initially there might be some saving from contracting, what usually happens & what does happen is you lose control of how you set your rates. What generally happens is, whether it's the county or whatever, they set the rates, they set the salary levels, they set the retirement levels & you're going to pay for it. If the contract is cheaper, it usually means the service level has suffered considerably. "The current state of the economy has put many police forces on the defensive. Thoughtful people of disparate political philosophies have questions why America needs so many police investigating & prosecuting so many people, why the police must be so elaborately militarized & technologically equipped & what will result from America imprisoning a higher%age of its citizens than any other nation in the world."

Gangs Gone Wild: Fortunately for Hemet, this is an interesting time in human evolution when people's understanding of life & the world around them is shaped at least as much by mass media as by direct, actual experience. Mass media are also, for the most part, self-perpetuating, profit seeking, competitive businesses. And, in the 2 decades since Cops & America's Most Wanted both debuted on Fox a symbiotic relationship has grown like a cancer connecting the mass media business to the police business. A media critic named Colin Gunckel has named this weird development "Gangs Gone Wild." Gunckel uses the phrase to describe one way conventional journalism has "begun to compete with & incorporate the conventions of reality programming." More & more, police get praise & cash for attracting media attention. As the world becomes increasingly "post-literate" the line between Sons of Anarchy, Gangland, America Most Wanted, TMZ, the Associated Press & the Los Angeles Times grows ever fainter. Unless you live in a cardboard box you know that an ever more hysterical, mass-media fueled panic about safety & crime has been growing for years. And, even if you do live in a cardboard box you must have noticed that policing everywhere has become increasingly "performative" – a word coined by social scientists to describe how the mundane behavior of ordinary people has begun to mimic the behavior of Heidi & Spencer & Snooki & Tha Situation on MTV. The cops are not immune to the social forces that buffet everyone else. Some police agencies, like the ATF, are very sophisticated about mass media. And, even if people are much stupider than they once were there will still pause to read the alarming phrases "Terrorist Threat" & "Outlaw Motorcycle Gang."

COPS: There is always federal money to fight terrorism & gangs. Especially for smart, old cops who get how the world really works now. Much, but hardly all, of the money comes from a federal program called COPS. COPS is an acronym for Community Oriented Policing Services. According to its web site: "The COPS Office serves a noble purpose. In alignment with our component partners within the Department of Justice, our mission is to create safer communities across this country through the advancement of community policing. "Community Policing, in its simplest terms, is about building relationships & solving problems. Our Office strives to make it possible for Police Chiefs & Sheriffs across the country to achieve these objectives in the most effective manner possible, consistent with their local requirements." And really, what could be a nobler than trying to save a town that is being overrun by menacing outlaw bikers? Policing in Hemet in general has become more performative as the survival of the department has become more tenuous. If people are going to be so rude as to ask why Hemet needs a police department then the Hemet police are left with no choice but to show them. Last June, Hemet lost 3 police sergeants, a detective & 2 officers. And later that same month, a regional gang task force announced the arrests of 16 adults & one juvenile during a gang "sweep operation" of the Hemet-San Jacinto area. "We target violent gangs every day in the city of Hemet," Dana said in his press release. "But today we gave them a little extra attention. The regional gang task forces are very effective in their communities, but when we bring them together like this, they are able to strike multiple targets at once. It's impressive & effective. The citizens win & the bad guys lose when we pool our resources." In just the last month Hemet has absurdly over-reacted to a couple of "possible terrorist threats." On Feb 22nd a Filipino immigrant left a suitcase at the federal building in Hemet that houses the Social Security Administration & Immigration & Customs Enforcement. Hemet cops evacuated the building,

detonated the suitcase, & took the disgruntled man into custody. It was categorized as a bomb threat although there was never any bomb. Just last Thursday, as Chief Dana was trumpeting another threat, police closed much of downtown Hemet because a homeless woman had abandoned 2 empty suitcases. She later claimed the cases were not hers after police destroyed them with a water cannon. The remote controlled destruction of the 2 empty suitcases was supervised by a "hazardous materials team."

Lord Deliver Us From The Fury Of The Vagos: All of this is the context in which Hemet police & the Riverside County District Attorney announced the arrest last Wednesday, Saint Patrick's Day, of at least 30 members of the Vagos MC. Riverside (California) County District Attorney Rod Pacheco called a press conference to announce that some unknown number of police, but more than 400, from more than "sixty local & federal police agencies" raided 94 locations in 4 states. Pacheco & Chief Dana, who also attended the media event, both implied in the strongest possible way that the raids were retaliation for a series of attacks on police in Hemet by the Vagos. Pacheco even gave the purported series of raids an ATF style name. He called them "Operation Everywhere." But unlike most large scale, multi-agency police operations, neither Pacheco nor Dana nor anyone else has ever produced an indictment, a list of departments involved, a list of arrestees or an elaboration of the crimes with which they have been charged. The details of "Operation Everywhere" are like Joe McCarthy's list of hundreds of known communists in the State Department. The details are a piece of paper to be waved around in plain sight but never read. Last New Year's Eve somebody improvised a way to fill the "Hemet/San Jacinto Valley Gang Task Force" headquarters with natural gas. It was very smelly. Somebody was forced to find a wrench, turn off the gas, & let the building air out. The more time that passed the more dramatically this "deliberate act" has been described. Last week a Hemet cop described it as an attempt to take "out half a city block." In February a zip gun was attached to a black steel gate. When a cop opened the gate the zip gun fired. The more days pass the closer the small caliber bullet is said to have come to the cop's head. On March 5th, somebody attached an explosive device, presumably a pipe bomb, to another cop's car. The fact that neither Pacheco or Dana would actually come out & say that the Vagos were attacking police in Hemet only emphasized the mendacity of both these men & the hoax they have perpetrated for their own cynical gain. Pacheco & Dana just stood next to a table covered with Vagos paraphernalia & insisted that the press draw its own conclusions. The press has been more than willing to oblige. That almost everything Pacheco & Dana said at the news conference was an obvious lie has gone unreported. The story continues to run. Yesterday the story was advanced by "news" that a threat to bomb "a police vehicle in retaliation for the Vagos arrests" had been phoned into Hemet Police headquarters. Saturday night, television reporters in Los Angeles were still reporting this story at the top of the news & doing their "stand-ups" outside a dramatically fortified Hemet PD. Thomas Watkins, who is flamboyantly & incompetently covering the story for the Associated Press, reported the other day that, "Investigators are trying to determine what may have prompted an outlaw motorcycle gang to set 3 booby traps on gang enforcement officers in Riverside County." Watkins does not hesitate to report as fact that the Vagos have gone to war with Hemet. He goes on to report that, "one theory is that members of the Vagos gang could have been affronted when a gang enforcement unit in Hemet monitored their group as they attended a funeral." Sure. Or maybe the Hemet PD is just looking for some attention & some money.

Letting The Story Run: Sunday morning this story ran in China. And, the AP was reporting, "The tense atmosphere surrounding a California police department plagued by booby trap attacks has been stepped up a notch following the latest threat against officers... About 30 members of the Vagos, California's largest motorcycle gang, were arrested in Riverside County on Wednesday, as part of a crackdown across the state & in Arizona, Nevada & Utah. The gang specializes in methamphetamine sales, identity theft & violence... Dana said someone he believes may have been a gang member tried to get into a news conference Thursday at the district attorney's office in Riverside. The person was turned away, he said, because he didn't have a press credential." Heaven forbid any outsider should get into the press conference. That might mark the end of the world. Better to let the real pros like Tom Watkins cover this stinking, heaping pile of news product. Sunday morning this story was being headlined: "The evolution of crime: Urban terrorism." That angle on the story was coined by Jerry Brown, who is one of the 3 multi-millionaires in the running to become the next Governor of California. "It is incredible & even unprecedented for police officers here to be subject to terrorist attack," Brown said at the news conference which skeptical journalist were forbidden to attend... "We have seen it south of the border, but not here yet." Hemet hasn't gotten its money yet but it has already gotten more attention than the Duchy of Grand Fenwick ever did. So far this phony news story manufactured on behalf of the money hungry Hemet Police Department seems to have made a pretty good start. The only real question is how long news coverage of this absurd hoax is going to go on.

The Snitch in Your Pocket – Feb 19, 2010 – USA – By Michael Isikoff; Newsweek - LEOs is tracking Americans' cell phones in real time-without the benefit of a warrant. Amid all the furor over the Bush administration's warrantless wiretapping program a few years ago, a mini-revolt was brewing over another type of Fed snooping that was getting no public attention at all. Fed prosecutors were seeking what seemed to be unusually sensitive records: internal data from telecommunications companies that showed the locations of their customers' cell phones—sometimes in real time, sometimes after the fact. The prosecutors said they needed the records to trace the movements of suspected drug traffickers, human smugglers, even corrupt public officials. But many federal magistrates—whose job is to sign off on search warrants & handle other routine court duties—were spooked by the requests. Some in N.Y., Penn., & TX balked. Prosecutors "were using the cell phone as a surreptitious tracking device," said Stephen W. Smith, a federal magistrate in Houston. "And I started asking the U.S. Atty's Office, 'What is the legal authority for this? What is the legal standard for getting this info?'" Those questions are now at the core of a constitutional clash between Pres Obama's Justice Dept & civil libertarians alarmed by what they see as the Gov't's relentless intrusion into the private lives of citizens. There are numerous other fronts in the privacy wars—about the content of e-mails, for instance, & access to bank records & credit-card transactions. The Feds now can quietly get all that info. But cell-phone tracking is among the more unsettling forms of Gov't surveillance, conjuring up Orwellian images of Big Brother secretly following your movements through the small device in your pocket. How many of the owners of the country's 277 million cell phones even know that companies like AT&T, Verizon, & Sprint can track their devices in real time? Most "don't have a clue," says privacy advocate James Dempsey. The tracking is possible because either the phones have tiny GPS units inside or each phone call is routed through towers that can be used to pinpoint a phone's location to areas as small as a city block.

Club Members Sentenced – Mar 23, 2010 – *Oregon* – By Tim King - The Oregon Atty General's Office sent out a news release today stating that "A total of 7 members of the North Valley Chapter of the Vagos outlaw MC have been convicted of charges ranging from robbery & kidnapping to burglary & coercion." The statement from Atty General John Kroger goes on to state how his office convicted a "Grants Pass-based outlaw motorcycle gang member" on charges of coercion & unlawful use of a weapon.

Now, is it a gang or a club? I don't know the Vagos, but I know a lot of bikers who are having a very hard time with their civil rights these days, & the semantics are important. Police & prosecutors are in a new time when words like "terrorist" instantly mean that a person loses their treasured Civil Rights, simply over a charge, an allegation. "Gang member" isn't as bad, yet... but where does it end? This is where the rubber of real Civil Liberty meets the asphalt. There is no clause in the U.S. Constitution that states "Unless the person is wearing a patch on their jacket" that I have ever seen. I know that these law enforcement officials, keen on the key words, play out their strategies & that 99% of the media in this nation knows not the first thing about this unique American culture, so they aren't much help, simply parroting the words of law enforcement bent on seeing bikers removed from our streets. There are many clubs that exist without excessive legal difficulties, but when motorcycles are involved, the term club frequently becomes gang when police talk about it, & it is a matter of legal maneuvering. I think this type of "news" from a state office looks an awful lot like propaganda when the facts are skewed. I remember when my niece was in high school, cruising around with a few of her friends at night, & they were pulled over by the "gang unit" because there were 6 kids together in a car. A car that belonged to a girl's mom.

The police use these terms out of context. "Outlaw motorcycle gangs pose a major threat to public safety," said Atty General Kroger. "This case put a major dent in outlaw motorcycle gang activity in Southern OR." Apparently they had an issue with a club member & somebody tried to steal a motorcycle. One person reportedly, "chased 2 individuals with a sawed-off shotgun." OK, I wouldn't want to be chased around by a pissed off biker with a shotgun, I admit that, but the way this story is laid out you would think they had just brought Charles Manson to justice.

Robbery & Coercion. Those are the crimes that the motorcycle club member in question was convicted of. No drugs, no Murder, nothing like that. The news release states that the conviction led to a 26 month (slightly over 2 years) prison sentence for 52-year old Richard Coelho. The AG says it was "the final case in a multi-year prosecution of the North Valley Chapter of the Vagos outlaw MC." Years? And all they did was convict some bikers for apparently hassling one of their own? It doesn't exactly fit the bill for public menace, based on the conviction. The other Vagos who were prosecuted include 43-year old Chris Jorgenson, who was sentenced to 70 months in prison for robbery, coercion & burglary; 44-year old Chris Church, who was sentenced to 70 months in prison for kidnapping & coercion (2 counts); 63-year old Gary Jones, who was sentenced to probation for coercion; & 52-year old James Lloyd, who was convicted at trial & sentenced to probation for robbery & coercion. 49-year old Jack Sanders, & 56-year old Bob Moore, were each convicted of coercion (2 counts), have not yet been sentenced. It reminds me of another recent story where vast amounts of tax dollars were spent funding a tremendous list of Oregon police agencies that busted a drug dealer. Rafael Martinez Ayala sold meth ten times to narc cops, & made drug deals while his kids were in the house. He was

sentenced to 269 months in prison. Taxpayers will pick up the tab for 269 months, more than 22 years of prison incarceration. Yet in the same timeframe, a couple who repeatedly harmed other human beings, children no less, who refused a lawyer, behaved disrespectfully to the judge, & left children with lifetime scars on their bodies & souls, will serve a sentence less than 1/3 third the length of Ayala's. Hispanics & bikers; huge lengthy sentences. A white couple that is extremely dangerous & abusive; a comparative slap on the wrist. What gives?

The public needs to realize that motorcycle clubs are as All-American as apple pie, whether people like it or not. Most bikers are U.S. military veterans. Many served in war, starting with WWII, which is what launched the American biker movement. Yet in the biker circuit, are a whole bunch of undercover cops posing as bikers. They infiltrate these clubs & if they were simply doing it to arrest people for illegal activity that is one thing. But that is not what they do. It seems the biggest goal of police intervention in motorcycle clubs is to incite problems between the various clubs. I know for a fact that this is & has been taking place, & these are serious allegations. If the bikers themselves did anything remotely similar they would be arrested & face heavy charges, almost certainly on a Fed level. Inciting violence is totally unacceptable criminal police behavior. Some of these actions by police have resulted in clubs taking violent action against each other over the years. Police should not be allowed to do this. Being deceptive is a specialty of undercover 'narcs' & anyone who relies on deceit as their main tool reeks of dishonesty & their word is stained. Nobody writes about this because there is such a shortage of reporters who cross over in these areas of knowledge. Bikers are largely mistrusting of media, & I understand why. Sometimes though they need a break. I am not making excuses for breaking the law; that is not the point. According to the news release from the Oregon AG, "Testimony established that the Vagos members considered themselves a 1% club, a reference to a 1960s claim that to 99% of motorcyclists are law-abiding citizens, but the last one percent are outlaws."

History: More than anything, the term 'one percenter' is figurative. It represents a lifestyle, & the term's origins date back to the post-WWII years. Hundreds of thousands of Americans were sent off to the vicious deadly fighting of WWII. They were made into killers of other men, made to do things most human beings could not do, & would never want to do. They returned from the war & there was a need to keep living a certain way. There were 2 main American motorcycles at the time; H-D & Indian. These were the machines of our veteran American riders & they were probably pretty tough for people to take in the years following the war, at places like Hollister, California, but that is how it goes. This is the town that bikers visited in 1947, that would later be the basis for the movie "Wild Ones" with Marlon Brando. The main club that day, the Boozefighters in California, still exist. What really happened wasn't much, some drinking & partying, riding bikes around the small town. It was Hollywood that demonized that event, & possibly one posed photo of a biker leaning back on a Harley with beer cans everywhere. And this led to the press asking the "respectable" motorcycle group, the American Motorcycle Association (AMA) 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. It happened in the wake of the 1947 event at Hollister.

I am going to close by noting one more very interesting thing in the news release from the OR Atty General. It is the statement, "The Criminal Justice Division focuses on public corruption & Gov't misconduct, complex drug cases, organized crime & gangs, mortgage fraud & internet sex predators." We know of at least one specific case of Gov't misconduct here in Oregon; this is the tragic case involving our writer, Coral Theill. To encapsulate: her former husband was physically & sexually abusive. He was also a member of a right leaning church in Polk County, Oregon. This ex-husband, Marty Warner, was tight with the cops, the judge, everybody. When Coral turned Warner in for marital rape, she was told that if she tried to report this a second time, that she would be arrested. Coral today is living in hiding & the state of Oregon is on her tail all the time to pay back child support. That is the kind of justice Oregon is known for. We have tried repeatedly to schedule time to talk with the AG about this, but for some reason they just never have time. We are also carrying the ball for an elderly woman in Oregon who was bilked out of over a million dollars by her son in California, yet Oregon leaves it out to dry. So they can wave their banner telling everyone they busted a dangerous "biker" - but the spirit of the law here is the same one that has always been here. It has preferences built in, & the whole idea of the AG being the only state office where you can take a grievance about an Oregon DA, is the biggest conflict of interest in the world. I have a feeling that much bigger convictions than this one have taken place in Oregon this week, & that this was simply singled out in an effort to negatively affect the image of people who ride motorcycles & belong to clubs. I hope I am wrong, I don't think I am.

Comancheros believed to have smashed Holden Commodore – Mar 23, 2010 - *Australia* - By Matthew Schulz - Outlaw bikies are believed to have been behind a road rage attack on a man who dared to overtake them on their way to Melbourne. Police have called on witnesses to come forward, but the man whose car was damaged in the attack along the Hume Hwy is believed to be badly shaken. All but one panel of his green Holden SSV Commodore was kicked in. The Saturday, March 20 incident coincided with a mass visit to Melbourne later that day by the NSW-based Comancheros to celebrate the creation of their first year in their new headquarters in South Melbourne. Police said most of the vehicles carried NSW plates, but they could not confirm the identity of the bikers. According to police, the weekend attack happened along the Hume Hwy near Glenrowan, when the man attempted to overtake the group comprising up to 70 motorcycles & several cars about 10.55am. The driver told police he had been stuck behind the group, which had taken up both lanes & were travelling much less than the 110km/h limit. "When the male driver took the opportunity to pass the convoy by passing in the left hand side emergency lane he was pursued by several of the cars & forced to stop in the left lane of the highway," Sgt Adrian Keltie said today. Attackers then leapt from the cars, surrounding the Commodore & kicking in all but one of the panels. Once the car was trashed the attackers, continued their slow journey south towards Melbourne. The Comancheros rolled into the city later in the day, where one of the country's most feared bikie groups partied with strippers, podium dancers & loud music. They converged on the gang's headquarters, a leased warehouse in Thistlethwaite St, South Melbourne, which underwent a security upgrade for the party.

There are worse things in life than dying;

I know because I've been told I'm one of them.

Judge delays sentencing Va man in Pagan's case – Mar 23, 2010 – *Charleston, West Virginia* – AP - A Fed judge has delayed sentencing a Virginia businessman who pleaded guilty to extortion in a Fed racketeering case targeting the Pagan's MC. John Maggio, an electrical contractor from Alexandria, Va., has admitted asking former Pagan's Nat'l V.P. Floyd "Jesse" Moore for help extorting nearly \$30,000 from 2 business associates. Maggio was later recorded telling group member Ronnie Howerton to threaten the associates & that he didn't care how badly they might be hurt. But U.S. District Judge Thomas Johnston raised concerns Monday that Maggio's plea agreement didn't contain enough info to show the victims' businesses affected interstate commerce, a key element of the crime.

Finks court fight over solitary cell – Mar 23, 2010 - *Australia* - A Finks bikie has asked the South Australian Supreme Court to review a Correctional Services decision to put him in solitary confinement. The bikie asked for a judicial review after he was twice put in the high-security G-division at Yatala Prison in Adelaide. The man cannot be identified & is being held on allegations of blackmail & assault. His lawyer Craig Caldicott told the court the second time the man was sent to G-division, he was not given a written notice as required under the Correctional Services Act. But the state's lawyer countered that the case was futile because the man was no longer in Yatala. The court heard the prisoner was now in the mainstream population at the Adelaide Remand Centre. Justice Richard White adjourned the case for the prisoner to provide more evidence & consider whether to proceed.

Angels ordered to quit Amsterdam territory – Mar 23, 2010 – *Netherlands* - The court of appeal in Amsterdam has ordered the Hells Angels MC to abandon most of its territory in the city by 25 June. The Amsterdam city council is the owner of the land – situated along the Weesper Canal in the south east of the city – & wants to redevelop it with new housing. The Hells Angels have occupied the site for the last 36 years. Now they have been ordered to leave, the city council must compensate them for the construction of a new clubhouse.

Mongols biker pleads not guilty to acts with minor – Mar 24, 2010 - *Hollister, California* - A 56-year-old Hollister man & a known member of the Mongols motorcycle gang pleaded not guilty today to 16 felony counts in connection with allegations he continually raped & assaulted a minor over an eight-year span. Michael Reyes, 56, was arrested by the Hollister PD on March 11, a day after an adult reported the crimes, while the suspected victim still is a minor. Reyes appeared at the San Benito County Courthouse this afternoon for an arraignment. Deputy District Atty Karen Forcum followed up by noting prosecutors planned to file an amended complaint because the suspected crimes occurred in the other jurisdictions.

Biker sentenced to 15 years - Mar 24, 2010 - *Canada* - The one-time Pres of the Los Brovos MC was given a 15-year sentence in connection with a series of charges stemming from a massive police investigation into organized crime. Al Lebras was 1 of 17 people arrested in Dec 2007 as part of a 13-month police investigation called Project Drill. He was charged with conspiracy to traffic in cocaine, laundering proceeds of crime & participating in a criminal organization. Out of all those arrested during Project Drill, Lebras is now the 15th to plead guilty. Lebras, a longtime biker, was recorded by police selling 1 kilo of cocaine to a friend he'd known for 20 years. At the time of the sale, Lebras was unaware his friend was working as an agent for police.

Bandidos gang in turmoil after arrests – Mar 24, 2010 – *Louisiana* - By David J. Mitchell - A motorcycle gang linked to criminal activity suspected someone was tipping law enforcement about 3 months before the arrests of 5 gang members, the robbery of another gang member & the shooting of an ex-member who was recently kicked out of the gang, authorities said. Law enforcement officials said they do not know whether the Feb 5 arrest of former Bandidos chapter Pres Johnny Dean Daigle on drug counts triggered the gang's troubles in the 2 weeks afterward. Authorities also said they are not actively investigating whether the incidents are linked to Daigle's arrest but are sharing information with other agencies. "I really couldn't tell you why they (the Bandidos) have surfaced as far as being in the news all of sudden," said Milton Bonaventure, resident agent in charge of the ATF's Baton Rouge field office. Unnamed Bandidos, the LA Riders - a Bandido "support gang" - & others met Nov. 11 at the Greenwell Springs home of "R.T." to discuss who might be providing information to authorities, according to a federal indictment. Bonaventure confirmed that "R.T." referred to then-Bandido Raymond Tullier. The Jan. 28 indictment does not say whom gang members suspected or whether anyone was providing information but it charges William B. Creel, who is not believed to be a Bandido, with lying about whether he was at the meeting. Creel has pleaded innocent to making a false statement to an ATF agent & has been released pending trial. U.S. Atty David Dugas, of the Middle District of Louisiana in Baton Rouge, said Louisiana State Police & the ATF have been investigating the Bandidos since Jan 2009. The Bandidos are 1 of the 2 largest outlaw motorcycle gangs in Louisiana, with more than 50 members in chapters across the state & more than 2,400 members nationally, State Police troopers & Fed prosecutors have said. The group has been described by Fed law enforcement authorities nationally as a criminal enterprise involved with extortion, witness tampering & drug distribution for 4 Mexican drug cartels. Three months after the Nov. 11 gang meeting, U.S. Marshal's Service deputies arrested Daigle on 2 counts of methamphetamine distribution under a separate Jan. 28 indictment brought as part of that ongoing investigation. Daigle was also charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm stemming from an incident unrelated to the investigation, Dugas said. Daigle has a Fed illegal firearms transportation conviction from 2000. He has been denied bond & pleaded innocent to his new charges, court records show. With Daigle in Fed custody, Joe Louis "Bandido Joe" Flores, 31, of Denham Springs, replaced him in Feb as Baton Rouge Bandidos Pres, Bonaventure said. On Feb. 11, Flores, Bandido Derrick Johnson, 35, of Walker, & another Bandido went to Tullier's house & told him he was out of the gang, a State Police warrant says. Tullier was also robbed at gunpoint of his motorcycle & gang paraphernalia, the warrant says. Tullier's home has the same Hooper Rd address where the U.S. Marshal's Service had arrested Daigle 6 days before the robbery, an arrest warrant says. On Feb. 24, Ascension Parish sheriff's deputies arrested Flores & 3 other gang members in the beating & shooting of ex-Bandido Steven Hoff, 31, of Denham Springs, at Fred's on the River. Flores has been booked on counts of attempted 2nd-degree murder, possession of a firearm in an alcoholic beverage outlet & 2nd-degree battery. He remained in jail on a \$ 250,000 bond Tue & a State Police hold, deputies said. Johnson & the other Bandidos with Flores at Tullier's house also were with Flores during the shooting at Fred's on Feb. 24, deputies said. On March 10, State Police took Johnson from Ascension Parish Prison & booked him in Baton Rouge in the armed robbery of Tullier, said Trooper Russell Graham, a spokesman for State Police Troop A. Johnson also faces counts of 2nd-degree battery & disturbing the peace in Ascension. He remained in East Baton

Rouge Parish Prison Tue on a \$ 150,000 bond, deputies said. Ascension Parish Sheriff's Chief Deputy Tony Bacala said deputies have solid cases in the attack on Hoff, but no motive. "What the triggering event was, the people who are involved aren't saying," he said.

American Legion Riders ready to roll, serve – Mar 24, 2010 – *Spencer, Iowa* - By Kris Todd - Their aim is to serve others & to have fun. The American Legion Riders are a diverse group of motorcycle enthusiasts united by patriotism. They answer the call to ride in service to America's military, her veterans & for the children & youth of the country. Charter & chapter members alike of the Lakes Area Chapter of the American Legion Riders are gearing up to assist area service families & local underprivileged children out of respect & love for their country. The local chapter, which was initiated Nov. 1, has 16 charter members & 20 chapter members currently. The group's goal is to double its membership by the end of this year. "Twenty going on 40 we hope," Jack "Cracker Jack" St. Peters, the chapter's treasurer, said recently. "Membership is pretty expensive, though," he added with a smile. "Twelve dollars is what we charge." While the group hopes to draw additional chapter members & business sponsorships from Spencer, Milford, Spirit Lake, Hartley, Everly & places in between, its mission will be serving veterans in escorts, send-offs, welcome home celebrations, funerals & other events. Each American Legion Rider chapter manages its programs at the post level. "I haven't heard no yet," Tracey "T-Bone" Larsen, the group's vice president, said of the response received to date from Glen Pedersen post members. "Everything we've asked them, they've said, 'Go for it. Do it.'" Current chapter members acknowledge that while their activities supplement those of the local American Legion post, they also realize the Lakes Area Chapter of the American Legion Riders tends to appeal to a new, somewhat younger member. "We've got 20-year-old kids in the American Legion Riders group because there's something new offered to them there: Riding & allowing them to give back to the community," St. Peters said.

Bikers kick off riding season at memorial, blessing – Mar 24, 2010 – *Illinois* - Despite the rain, hundreds of motorcycle riders showed up for the 12th annual Bike Blessing & Memorial Ceremony Sunday in front of Rox-Arena. The roaring "potato, potato, potato" sound thundered throughout the park as dozens of Harley-Davidson riders drove alongside bikers on BMWs, Hondas, Kawasakis, Suzukis & custom trikes. Everyone came to the park for one thing - to receive a blessing for safe keeping on future rides. The event kick-starts the beginning of motorcycle-riding season. Nearly 450 people attended the annual event, sponsored by the Outlanders MC.

The Pope & Tiger Woods die on the same day & because of an administrative mix up the Pope went to Hell & Tiger Woods went to Heaven. The Pope explains the situation to the administrative clerk in Hell, & after checking the paperwork admits that there is an error. "However", the clerk explains, "it would be 24 hours before it can be rectified". Next day the Pope is called & Hells staff bids him farewell. On the way up, the Pope meets Tiger Woods coming down from Heaven & they stop to have a chat. "Sorry about the mix up", apologizes the Pope. "No problem" replied Tiger Woods. Pope: "I am really anxious to get to Heaven" Tiger: "Why is that?" Pope: "All my life I have wanted to meet the Virgin Mary" Tiger: "You're a day late."

Drunkness is nothing but voluntary madness!!!

Four city vehicles torched in Hemet - Mar 24, 2010 - California

- By John Asbury - 4 Hemet city code enforcement pickups were torched late Tue night & police suspect the incident is related to 3 previous attacks on police officers. The fires were reported to police at 11:30 p.m. off Florida Ave at City Hall, across the street from the Hemet P.D. & the former Gang Task Force office that was targeted twice before. A Gang Task Force Officer was targeted in a 3rd assassination attempt on his vehicle. Both the vehicles & City Hall were vacant. No one was injured, Hemet Police Chief Richard Dana said. Police arrived within about a minute of the fire & found the trucks completely destroyed. Authorities were not sure who reported the fire, Dana said. "We will prevail on this thing," Dana said, walking to his office at the police station alone shortly after 1 a.m. The white pickups were parked in an open lot, adorned with the city seal & amber rooftop lights. Detectives have not determined how the vehicles were ignited, but reported no explosions. One man was detained as police arrived when he was seen running from the fire. He was released after police determined he was not involved in the arson & had arrived shortly after the fire started. The Riverside County sheriff's bomb squad deployed a robot to canvas the parking lot & inspect any suspicious devices, but none were found. A Hemet police SWAT team swept the vicinity in an armored Bearcat tank, with an officer perched as lookout with a rifle. The armored vehicle circled city hall & neighboring streets & buildings looking for any secondary explosives or suspects. The attack led police to close several blocks of Florida Ave & evacuate businesses. Police hoped to have Florida Ave open by daylight & were waiting until this morning for Hemet police & Hemet fire arson investigators to begin their investigation.

No prime suspects: No suspects have been identified in any of the threats. Police are looking at multiple gangs in the San Jacinto Valley that the Gang Task Force has contacted. The Riverside County district atty last week alluded to involvement by the Vagos MC, but stopped short of linking the group to the attacks. Hemet police said they have not been identified any Vagos members as primary suspects & a sweep of club members was unrelated. On New Year's Eve, the gas line to the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley Gang Task Force headquarters was rerouted to fill the office with natural gas. Authorities say it could have triggered an explosion when officers went inside to start working. The same building was targeted again in Feb when a gun was rigged to the parking lot entrance gate of the office. It fired, but missed an officer. A week later, a Hemet gang officer discovered a deadly device beneath his car. Investigators said it was designed to kill the officer, before fell off in a gas station parking lot. Several Riverside County, state & Fed agencies have offered up to a \$200,000 reward for info leading to a conviction in the case.

Increased threats: Police have received multiple verbal threats in the last several weeks, Dana said. None of the threats involved public facilities or vehicles at city hall, he said. Dana pondered what triggered Tuesday night's attack & the recent spree of violence toward the Dept. He said the fires at city hall could have been used as a tool to ambush officers responding or the vehicles could have been seen as an easier target since police have increased security. It could also be an isolated incident from someone angry at the city, Dana said. The chief stressed that these attacks have come against police officers & average citizens are not in danger. "The idea that this has gone on long enough passed through my head a long time ago," Dana said. "How am I going to get the word out that this is not typical of Hemet? This is still a superb Police Dept that has acquired an enemy engaged in terrorist activity. We clearly irritated somebody." But the latest

threat will not deter Hemet investigators, Dana said. He said the investigation will continue with help from FBI & ATF agents working in Hemet, plus Sheriff & district atty investigators.

Security improvements: The Dept is also working on making improvements to its 1959 police station, which still has a horse-hitching post in the back parking lot. Hemet police, who have been decimated by budget cuts & staff reductions, has now been promised \$55,000 from the city to make security improvements. Dana said the police station being used is unsafe, but the city council has promised to aid police in improving the office & possibly to find a new location in better economic times. The former Gang Task Force office is now vacant, though lights remained on early this morning. Police have also installed a gate where officers enter the building & prisoners can be unloaded. Police plan to add additional wrought iron fencing around the perimeter of the parking lots & install additional lighting, bullet proof glass & barriers at the front entrance. The open front customer lobby will be closed. Instead, visitors will speak to police staff through a window, Dana said. Dana said the recent threats are more brazen than any types of threat against law enforcement he's ever seen. "You used to hear about some kind of things in the '60s & '70s, but never anything like this," Dana said. "Every time we go through this, we know someone's looking for us somewhere else. It really wears on you."

Barrio Azteca threat targets law officers - Mar 25, 2010 - El Paso, Texas - By Daniel Borunda - The Barrio Azteca gang could be plotting to kill El Paso law enforcement officers in retaliation for a recent crackdown on gang members, an alert issued by the U.S. Dept of Homeland Security warned. "The Barrio Azteca gang may issue a 'green light' authorizing the attempted murder of LEOs (law enforcement officers) in the El Paso area," stated a copy of the alert obtained by the El Paso Times. A "green light" is a murder sanctioned by the military-style leadership of the gang. The gang works with the Juárez drug cartel & is under scrutiny for its possible involvement in the unsolved murders in Juárez of three people tied to the U.S. Consulate. "We understand it's uncorroborated information so we don't know how serious a threat it is," said Special Agent Andrea Simmons, spokeswoman for the FBI in El Paso.

Signs target noisy motorcycles - Mar 25, 2010 - Alton, Illinois - By Linda N. Weller - The first of at least 115 signs warning motorcyclists to "ssshhhh" a bit went up Wed afternoon on a northern boundary to the city as at least one biker whizzed by. "Welcome to Alton, When in Town, Keep it Down," reads the sign that Alton Public Works Dept employees affixed to a post on Humbert Rd at Pebblecreek Ln. Beneath the wordage is a silhouette of a motorcyclist. Businessman Don Wallace provided \$1,563 for the two sizes of signs, working with ABATE (A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education) & the Alton Police Dept to reduce noise in the city. "I think it's a great idea; it will help out the city of Alton," said Wallace, of Godfrey. "They will help keep motorcycle riders aware to 'keep it down.' I always like to do my part & help the city, if need be." Wallace & his wife, Tina, own Danny's Lounge, 118 W. Fourth St. in Downtown Alton, which he said is frequented by motorcyclists, & also the D&T Wedge bar in Godfrey. He also is half-owner of the 94 West Tavern in West Alton, Mo. The city's only cost is the manpower to attach the signs to existing posts.

**It is better to live one day as a lion
than a hundred years as a sheep. - Italian proverb**

Ex-Highwaymen leader pleads guilty to racketeering – Mar 25, 2010 – *Detroit, Michigan* – By Paul Egan - A former Detroit president of the Highwaymen MC could face more than 15 years in prison after he pleaded guilty this morning to racketeering. Ronald Hatmaker, 51, admitted to knowing about or participating in crimes including extortion, drug dealing & illegal gambling but has not agreed to cooperate or testify against 6 other current or former Highwaymen leaders scheduled to stand trial in U.S. District Court in Detroit on April 1. That trial, which kicks off the Gov't's prosecution of more than 80 defendants charged in a lengthy FBI investigation of the club that was born in Detroit & has branches around the country, is expected to last 2 months. Hatmaker told U.S. District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds he joined the Highwaymen in 2002 & served as Detroit president for parts of 2005 & 2006. He admitted to threatening violence against a member who owed back dues & said he knew about illegal gambling & cocaine distribution inside the club's Michigan Ave headquarters, in addition to other crimes. Assistant U.S. Atty Christopher Graveline said sharp disagreement remains between the Gov't & Hatmaker's defense atty, Jeffrey Cojocar, over Hatmaker's sentencing guideline range. Prosecutors believe Hatmaker was involved in murder conspiracies against confidential informants in the racketeering case & say his sentencing guidelines, which are advisory only, are in the 15- to 20-year range, Graveline said. Hatmaker denies he was involved in any murder conspiracy & says his guidelines should be about 2 years & 6 months to 3 years. Edmunds allowed Hatmaker to remain free on bond & set his sentencing for Oct. 5. Six alleged former or current leaders of the Highwaymen -- Aref "Steve" Nagi, Joseph "Little Joe" Whiting, Michael "Cocoa" Cicchetti, Leonard "Dad" Moore, Gary Ball Jr. & Anthony "Mad Anthony" Clark -- are to stand trial April 1.

Germany goes full throttle against biker gangs after cop killing – Mar 25, 2010 – *Germany* - A police officer was allegedly killed by a member of the Hells Angels motorcycle gang during a house search in central Germany, officials said. The prosecutor's office in Koblenz said in a statement on Wed that a 43-year-old member of the Hells Angels shot twice at a police officer who tried to open the suspect's apartment door during a raid related to prostitution in the city of Anhausen. The 42-year-old officer died from internal bleeding & the suspect was arrested. In recent weeks across Germany, police have been cracking down on illegal activities they say motorcycle gangs like the Hells Angels & Bandidos have been involved in.

Bandidos bikie pleads not guilty – Mar 25, 2010 - *Australia* - By Eloise Handley - A Sharply-dressed Darrell Vincent Cross pleaded not guilty in the Brisbane District Court yesterday to dangerous operation of a motor vehicle & seriously assaulting a police officer. The Warwick Bandidos bikie gang identity faced the 2 charges which related to an incident where Cross allegedly tried to run down a police officer in Moorooka on April 23, 2009.

Lone Wolf bikie jailed – Mar 25, 2010 – *Australia* - A Gold Coast bikie who cut off a man's ears over a disputed drug debt has been jailed for 16 years. But amid emotion-charged scenes in Southport District Court today, former Lone Wolf bikie gang member Aaron Scheers vowed to appeal as he was led away to the cells. Scheers' tearful mother cried out at the judge as he left the courtroom & his father said the truth had not come out. "If the truth was told, we'd all be dead," he told reporters.

Even if you're on the right track,
You'll get run over if you just sit there.... Will Rogers

Police Gear Up For Third Annual Motorcycle Safety Event – Mar 25, 2010 – *Kentucky* - Last year, over 200 motorcyclists & enthusiasts from across the Commonwealth attended the annual 'Motorcycle Safety Awareness Day' event. This year's event is scheduled for May 12 & promises to be bigger & better. A full day of activities is scheduled that include motorcycle safety exhibits, vendor displays, a free safety seminar, news conference & the 'Cruise for Safety Awareness' ride. Highway Safety Branch Commander, Lt. David Jude is organizing the 2010 event in an effort to bring awareness to both motorists & riders about the importance of sharing the road. "It is all about safety & changing driving behavior to reduce the number of motorcycle deaths in Kentucky. Last week was our 1st warm-weather week, which brought out the motorcycles," said Jude. "Unfortunately, during that time, there were 21 crashes involving motorcycles where 3 motorcyclists were killed." In 2009, Kentucky had 1,873 crashes involving motorcycles with 78 of those crashes resulted in death. Of those, 51 of the victims were not wearing helmets. Last year, there were 104,687 motorcycles licensed in the Commonwealth. Jude is reaching out to riders, the motoring public & the motorcycle industry in an effort to bring all parties to the venue. "Our principle concern is to increase driver recognition of motorcyclists in traffic, while at the same time encouraging cyclists to engage in the overall safe operation of their bikes."

More than mobs to worry about – Mar 26, 2010 - *Pennsylvania* - Already reeling from flash mobs, city police have another concern to deal with in Center City this weekend: biker gangs. The wildly popular 12th annual Philadelphia Tattoo Arts Convention, which returns Friday through Sunday, was marred last March by a fight between motorcycle gang members just outside the Sheraton at 17th & Race streets. "We're doing no 'MC colors' this year by order of the local police & hotel," convention organizer Troy Timpel said Thursday, referring to the color patches worn by different biker gangs. As if flash mobs weren't enough to deal with, officers will again closely monitor the Center City convention. Undercover officers last year saw a skirmish break out between Pagans & Outlaws, which included about 20 brawlers before some 30 officers arrested them & recovered some handguns. The city's new approach to flash mobs is similarly proactive in the aftermath of three flash mobs since February, & Timpel described the bikers' fight at the convention much like Mayor Michael Nutter described flash mob participants. "There were 20 motorcycle enthusiasts who got in a minor scuffle & left the hotel. They were fighting amongst themselves," Timpel said. "It was bad publicity."

A blind man wanders into an all girls biker bar by mistake.
He finds his way to a bar stool & orders some coffee. After sitting there for awhile, he yells to the waiter, "Hey, you wanna hear a blond joke?" The bar immediately falls absolutely silent. In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says, "Before you tell that joke, sir, I think it is only fair, given that you are blind, that you should know 5 things:
1. The bartender is a blond girl with a baseball bat.
2. The bouncer is a blond girl.
3. I'm a 6 ft tall, 175 lb. blond woman with a black belt in karate.
4. The woman sitting next to me is blond & a pro weightlifter.
5. The lady to your right is blond & a professional wrestler.
Now, think about it seriously, Mister. Do you still wanna tell that joke?" The blind man thinks for a second, shakes his head, & mutters, "No . . . Not if I'm gonna have to explain it 5 times."

Pagan's want seized material barred from trial – Mar 26, 2010 – *Charleston, West Virginia* - By Andrew Clevenger – Gov't is wrongly criminalizing membership & violating 1st Amendment, defense - In the early hours of Oct. 6, 2009, scores of Fed agents fanned out across West Virginia & several other states, armed with arrest warrants for dozens of members & associates of the Pagan's MC. Several teams also carried search warrants for any Pagan's paraphernalia in the suspects' homes.

On Thu, 4 defendants argued that the Gov't had wrongly collected various items & statements, & asked U.S. District Judge Thomas Johnston to ban prosecutors from using them at trial. The Gov't is using circular logic to support its racketeering case, defense attorneys suggested. According to them, prosecutors are saying the Pagan's are a criminal organization, & evidence of membership is relevant to the criminal activity -- but proof of membership is needed to prove that Pagan's acted together to commit racketeering crimes. This wrongly criminalizes being a member of the Pagan's, in violation of their freedom of association under the 1st Amendment, defense attys said.

Assistant U.S. Atty Steve Loew said the Gov't has to prove the defendants are part of the organization, & limiting the Gov't's ability to lawfully collect evidence would impede the prosecution's case. Linking defendants to the Pagan's helps to establish the underlying racketeering offense, as well as their participation within the criminal organization as a whole, Loew wrote in court filings.

Nicholas Preservati, who represents the Pagan's' Orlando chapter Pres, Martin Craig Nuss, said Thu that his client readily admitted being a member of the Pagan's. "These individuals aren't embarrassed that they are Pagan's," he said. "They aren't trying to hide it." Seizing Pagan's paraphernalia from his house doesn't have anything to do with whether Nuss mailed & personally delivered proceeds from an illegal motorcycle raffle across state lines, the lawyer said. "They're trying to obtain evidence [of membership in the Pagan's] to prove that he sold raffle tickets," Preservati said. "How do shirts & jackets & coffee mugs show that he sold raffle tickets?"

Loew said that members' "cuts," or "colors," as bikers' sleeveless denim jackets are called, not only show membership, but the location of particular patches on the vests indicates rank within the organization. In addition to Pagan's paraphernalia, defendants tried to suppress other items found during searches.

Tim Carrico, who represents Eric W. "Fritz" Wolfe, said agents with the ATF had no reason to believe Wolfe couldn't legally possess a gun when they recovered a pistol using a pawn ticket they found at Wolfe's St. Albans house. Wolfe & his wife pawned the gun on May 26, 2009. Prosecutors later charged him with possessing a gun while being an illegal user of cocaine, but there was no evidence in Oct to suggest the gun was evidence of a crime, Carrico said.

Gov't is wrongly criminalizing membership & violating 1st Amendment, defense says. He also argued that agents found the pawn ticket when they illegally searched the couple's cars, which were not covered by the search warrant. Agents testified that Wolfe's wife voluntarily gave them the pawn ticket, & that she also gave them permission to search the cars.

Another defendant, Kirk Norman "Razor" Dean, said that he gave permission to search his truck under duress after he was handcuffed at the door to his Dunbar house when agents rushed in

with guns drawn. He told agents that he had a properly licensed gun in a compartment between the truck's front seats. They also found 2 axe handles under the truck's rear seats. "I had nothing to hide," he said when his lawyer, Jim Cagle, asked him why he agreed to the search. "And if I had refused consent, they would've gotten a search warrant [for the truck] anyway."

ATF Special Agent Jesse Hooker said that after the initial rush into the house, Dean & his girlfriend were very cordial as they sat on a couch in the living room as agents looked around. There was even laughter when agents found a T-shirt emblazoned with the letters ATF -- short for All Those Fools, Hooker said. Dewayne Haddix, an ATF agent based in Clarksburg, said that when he asked Elmer Luke "Tramp" Moore if there were any drugs in his Weston house, Moore said there might be some cocaine residue in a container by his bed. Moore said cocaine was cheaper than Viagra, & he didn't have to visit a doctor to get it, Haddix said. Indians had been using it for hundreds of years, Moore said, according to Haddix. Moore's lawyer, Jim Roncaglione, asked the judge to suppress Moore's statements because they were made before he had been read his rights.

Of the 55 defendants named in a sweeping, 44-count indictment unsealed in October, 35 are scheduled to go to trial on May 4, including Nuss, Wolfe, Dean & Moore. Nineteen have entered guilty pleas to charges that include helping stockpile explosives as part of an ongoing feud with the Hells Angels MC, intimidating other motorcycle clubs, extortion & selling drugs.

Earlier this week, federal prosecutors dropped all charges against Rocco J. "Rocky" Boyd, of Little Ferry, N.J., after he pleaded guilty to unlawfully aiding & abetting in the promotion of a raffle, a misdemeanor, in Kanawha Magistrate Court on Mar 19. Boyd, who was accused in federal court of transporting raffle proceeds across state lines & participating in the alleged beating of a confidential informant in a New Jersey hotel room in January 2009, was fined \$5 plus court costs.

Bikies lead checked in missing Engin Ozdemir case – Mar 29, 2010 - *Australia* - The last time Huliya Ozdemir saw her younger brother Engin, he told her he had "this feeling" that someone might be out to get him. Almost 22 months later, Engin Ozdemir, a 46-year-old Shepparton drug user, is yet to surface, dead or alive. Yesterday, Victorian detectives said they had not ruled out the possibility that Hells Angels bikies might have played some role in his disappearance. As Detective Inspector Steve Clark said police strongly believed Ozdemir had "met with foul play".

A man on his Harley was riding along a California beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, God said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish!" The biker pulled over & said, 'Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can ride over anytime I want!' And God replied, 'Your request is materialistic; think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking; the supports required reaching the bottom of the Pacific & the concrete & steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time & think of something that could possibly help mankind!' The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, 'God, I wish that I, & all men, could understand women; I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, why she snaps & complains when I try to help, & how I can make a woman truly happy!' And God replied, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?"

What is happening in Hemet? – Mar 26, 2010 – *California* - By Richard Dana, chief of Hemet police - I am being asked about what is happening in Hemet more & more often by citizens who are concerned about their safety & the quality of life in the Valley. Certainly, the Police Dept & the Gang Task Force have been attacked by someone trying to harm or even kill a police officer. These attacks have, understandably, resulted in a great deal of news coverage. A very high-profile murder investigation that resulted in two arrests has also captured the interest of the public. With regard to the attacks on police officers, I would like to assure everyone that the Hemet P.D. is working hard to resolve the case & that we are receiving significant assistance from the Riverside County Sheriff's Dept, the District Atty's Office, the State Dept of Justice, the FBI, & other Fed, state, & local law enforcement agencies. Strong speculation abounds that tries to connect the attacks to a particular motorcycle gang. We are looking at all gangs in the area with a great interest because the attacks seem to have been directed toward the Gang Task Force. But to interpret the recent raids on one motorcycle gang as meaning that they are the primary suspect in this matter is not accurate. That raid was a part of our continuing commitment to provide the best protection possible for the citizens of the Valley. While these incidents have brought unwanted publicity to the city of Hemet & will continue to do so until arrest(s) are made, this continues to be a safe city for the people who have chosen to make this their home. The Police Dept has not lost sight of the needs of the community, & we have not been distracted from our basic duty of protecting the lives & property of the people we serve. Despite the constant stress of an unknown attacker lurking, officers are still giving the safety of this community our top priority. We are certainly constrained by the reductions in our force due to the budget cuts of the past two years but remain committed to continue to provide the caring & professional service that this community has come to expect. We are here to protect you & to enhance the quality of life in this Valley. The news will continue to focus on the violent exceptions, but some person or a couple of individuals with a grudge against our Gang Task Force cannot be allowed to make a community feel threatened. I appreciate the concerns that people have expressed for the well being of our officers & I want to assure our community that Hemet is still a safe place to live, work, & shop.

Hemet residents rally in support of city – Mar 27, 2010 – *California* – By Jose Arballo Jr - The 20-minute rally held at the Ramona Bowl brought together residents, politicians, community leaders & scores of costumed members of the Ramona Outdoor Pageant. Saying they are tired of their city getting a bum rap in media reports, hundreds of people gathered in Hemet Sat to let others know the community is safe & not overrun by street gangs. Police in Hemet have not arrested anyone & stop short of blaming the Vagos Motorcycle club, 30 of whose members were arrested on suspicion of parole & weapons violations. *Police Chief Richard Dana told the Los Angeles Times he did not believe the Vagos were responsible for the attacks.* Franchville said the attacks appear to be the work of one person & not the Vagos motorcycle gang that has been suggested by some. He predicted the person responsible would be captured soon.

Feds want NJ man dropped from Pagan's case – Mar 29, 2010 – *Charleston, West Virginia* - Prosecutors want to drop a New Jersey man from a federal racketeering case targeting the Pagan's MC. They say in a court filing that the single charge against 61-year-old Thomas William Connolly should be dismissed. Connolly is one of several defendants accused of interstate travel in support of racketeering for allegedly transporting money from

illegal raffles to West Virginia for club leaders. Connolly pleaded guilty last week in Kanawha County Circuit Court to a misdemeanor gambling charge. He was fined \$5, plus \$159.50 in court costs. Connolly agreed to plead even though the time limit for bringing the charge had passed. Prosecutors want to shore up the gambling charges against other defendants. A Fed judge questioned whether the raffles violate the law.

Bunny, bikers bring Easter joy to local church food pantry – Mar 29, 2010 – *Ohio* – By Teresa Moore - Easter bunnies are not an uncommon sight this time of year. They peek from yard signs & storefronts & holiday displays. But the one spotted in Ironton Sat afternoon was definitely not your run-of-the-mill cottontail. It was straddling a Harley. The Bunny, along with members of 2 motorcycle clubs, The Outlaws & Brothers of the Wheel, brought Easter baskets to the First United Methodist Church Food Pantry. The visit was also sponsored by Boomer's restaurant & American Bikers Aimed Toward Education. "This is what we do," Theresa Knipp, of Ironton, explained. "We love doing charity. Everyone has Christmas runs but no one thinks of Easter." Colleen Massey, director of the food pantry, said she was happy to get the baskets. They will be given to needy children whose families visit the food pantry this week. "We can always use donations, food & money," Massey said. Massey said 400 families visit the food pantry each month. Such items as laundry detergent & toilet paper are always useful as well all nonperishable food items. Those who want to donate may call the church at 532-1196. The food pantry is open 9 a.m.-noon Mons, Weds & Fris. The church is located at 101 N. 5th St. The motorcycle clubs, Boomers & ABATE are also sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt 6-7 p.m. Tue at the restaurant. The hunt is for children ages 7 & under.

Bikers Raise \$10K For Crash Victims – Mar 29, 2010 – *Arizona* – By Elias Johnson - Friends & strangers raised more than \$10,000 over the weekend for the families of four bikers who died Thursday when a dump truck slammed into 8 motorcyclists stopped at a red light. Two motorcycles were raffled Sunday & all proceeds went into an account established at Wells Fargo for victims & members of their families. For most motorcycle riders, the open road is a sanctuary.

Court hears bikie Cross's story – Mar 29, 2010 – *Australia* - By Eloise Handley - Warwick bikie Darrell Vincent Cross stuttered his way through his time in the Brisbane District Court witness stand yesterday as it was revealed he was riding the Bandidos president's Fatboy Harley Davidson when he allegedly ran down a police officer last year. Cross was told a number of times by Judge Leanne Clare SC & his defence counsel to speak clearly, loudly & slowly in the court yesterday, where he pleaded not guilty last Wednesday to dangerous operation of a motor vehicle & serious assault of a police officer during an incident in Moorooka on April 23 last year. The 48-year-old told the court he drove a car to Brisbane to help his "brothers" relocate the Bandidos club house & had not intended to ride a motorbike that day but was chosen by the Bandidos president to move the bike because of his "age & (riding) experience". The disability pensioner said he was not wearing his usual riding prescription contact lenses & had donned "stubbies, work boots & a Eureka flag singlet" for the club house move. "Can I also add my smokes & wallet were in my jocks. Had all that in my undies so I didn't think I (would ride motorbikes that day), I had no pockets," he said. Cross said his former job as a kangaroo shooter had contributed to hearing loss, meaning he could not understand an Oxley District police officer's Indian accent when told to pull over after he was clocked speeding.

Duisburg braces for trial amid biker war – Mar 29, 2010 – *Germany* - The Hells Angels & Bandidos biker gangs are at war in Germany. Michael Remmert reports on how Duisburg is bracing for what's being billed as the most dangerous trial of the year. Last week, more than 600 police officers locked down the centre of the Duisburg to prevent a gang war from spilling out onto the streets of the gritty industrial city in North Rhine-Westphalia. The massive police presence was aimed at discouraging open confrontation between rival bikers – the infamous Hells Angels & Bandidos. The two sides are involved in a bloody turf war across Germany that culminated in the murder of a police officer earlier this month. “Germany is in the midst of a war between these gangs,” said Thomas Jungbluth, a lead investigator with North Rhine-Westphalia’s state police. “When it comes to defending their turfs, they can be brutal & ruthless.” The authorities in Duisburg are now afraid the trial of Timur A., a pimp with ties to the Hells Angels, could lead to more violence. Timur A. is accused of shooting dead Rudolf Heinz “Ashley” E., a 32-year old member of the Bandidos, in Oct 2009. He also faces 2 counts of attempted manslaughter for narrowly missing two women suspected of working as prostitutes for the Bandidos. The first day of the trial last week ended prematurely due to a legal technicality postponing it until March 31, but police will be on alert for as long as it continues to prevent another spasm of biker violence. Immediately after Ashley E.’s death, the Duisburg Chapter of the Bandidos declared war on the Hells Angels on their website by posting: “Expect no mercy.” The state police believe the Bandidos have already mapped out several routes of revenge. “A lot of it is about losing face & money,” said Jungbluth. “The Bandidos & Hells Angels are involved in gambling, both legal & illegal, prostitution, arms dealing, extortion, money laundering & drug trafficking.” But the Hells Angels, with strongholds in nearby Düsseldorf & Dortmund, signaled that they were not in the least afraid of their rivals. There was an uncontrollable melee involving more than 100 bikers last Nov as Bandidos attempted to storm a Duisburg bordello controlled by the Hells Angels. Police only managed to restore order after several hours of violence & a state-wide call for backup. That sparked the German authorities to crack down on both gangs with a series of raids, confiscating illegal weapons, drugs, counterfeit money, stolen motorcycle parts & other contraband. Several powerful members from both the Hells Angels & the Bandidos were arrested & taken out of circulation for months, leading to relative calm. Until March 17. On that day, a Hells Angel allegedly murdered a member of Rhineland-Palatinate’s special police unit by firing two shots through the door of his house when officers were trying to serve a search warrant. This led Germany’s powerful police union GdP to demand a total ban on bikers gangs. But Udo Potthoff, a spokesman for the Duisburg police, said that would drive criminal biker elements underground. “If we let them operate under their colours & from their various headquarters in different cities, at least we’re able to know where they are & keep some control over their actions,” he told The Local. The biker war began to escalate about 6 years ago in the northern German state of Schleswig-Holstein. Cities like Kiel, Flensburg, Lübeck & Hamburg used to be “controlled” by the Hells Angels, but the Bandidos – who began their march through Europe after gaining their first bridgeheads in Denmark & Sweden in the early to mid 1990’s – are moving southward into the lucrative German market. The result is an angry & fearful public caught in the crossfire. Gina Holstenbrink, 31-year old mother of two young children, lamented the exorbitant cost of security in Duisburg during the 13-day trial. “They said on the radio that the cost of having this excessive police force here in Duisburg is roughly €180,000 per

day,” she said outside of the courthouse. “That’s insane. How many meals can be cooked for kids at kindergarten? How many unemployed folks could start on schooling programs for that kind of money?” But the authorities are determined not let the bikers have any opportunity for violence. “We won’t be caught with our guard down, that’s for sure,” said Potthoff. “We’ll be here with those big numbers, each & every day.”

Moua backs down on gang database ban – Mar 29, 2010 – *Minnesota* – By Paul Dermko - Sen. Mee Moua has dropped her proposal to prohibit law enforcement agencies from maintaining electronic databases of gang members. The proposed ban — designed to protect privacy & civil liberties — had drawn pointed criticism from some law enforcement officials. “I have to be honest with you that the communities that have been most affected by these profiling databases are not pleased with my taking this position,” Moua acknowledged to members of the Senate’s Public Safety Budget Division at today’s hearing. Moua’s amendment would instead explicitly allow police Depts to maintain computerized criminal gang databases & to share that information with other law enforcement agencies. It also sets up a working group to study the issue & report back to the legislature with recommendations by Feb 1. “These meetings are going to be open to the public; they’re going to be transparent,” said Moua. “Because that’s the only way it can be done.” The proposed ban on gang databases was prompted in part by revelations last year about misbehavior by officers assigned to the Metro Gang Strike Force. The agency has subsequently been shut down & is the subject of an ongoing Fed criminal investigation. The gang database prohibition was also inspired by a study looking at files maintained by the Minn BCA & the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office. The report, released by the Univ of St. Thomas School of Law & the St. Paul NAACP, was particularly critical of Ramsey County’s GangNet database. It concluded that records were shoddily maintained & that it disproportionately targeted minorities. But LEOs, particularly the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office, fought the prohibition measure ferociously. Moua initially proposed delaying the ban by 1 year, but eventually relented in the face of the blowback. St. Paul Police Chief John Harrington testified in a favor of the modified proposal. He acknowledged, however, that there have been serious problems with gang databases in the past. “The GangNet program has been so closely connected with the gang strike force that it has lost community support,” Harrington testified. “You can’t have good law enforcement if you don’t have community backing.” Moua’s bill passed out of the budget committee on a voice vote. It will now proceed to the Senate Finance Committee. Moua said after the hearing that she still intends to tweak the language of the bill as it moves forward. She continues to support an outright ban on gang databases, but believes the compromise legislation will still be an improvement on existing state law. “I’m not about unproductive proposals,” she said. “I’m about real results.” Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher is also concerned about the exact language in the bill & how it might impact law enforcement’s gang-suppression efforts. But he’s generally sounding much more conciliatory. “We appreciate Sen. Moua’s willingness to incorporate our concerns into her bill,” Fletcher said after the hearing. “We’re going to work with the working group to improve our system of collecting data where it can be improved. I think we both share the same goals.”

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