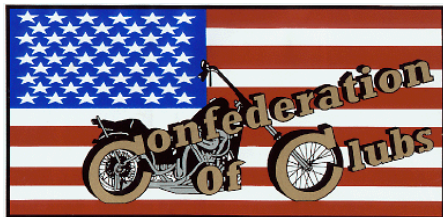


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Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter...

April 2010 – Issue 2...



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...

A Gov't that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. - George Bernard Shaw

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

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

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

Oregon COC donates \$ 25.00 a month...

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

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

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

Welcome **Devils Diciples Donny, Stoneman, and Stumpy** to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Mailing List...

Happy Belated 40th Birthday (Mar 6th) to **BPM Trevin** from *Minnesota*...

Message from Outlaw Hotrod: I want to Thank All of the Biker Brothers at USP Leavenworth that welcomed me & made my transition from State Time to Fed Time easier... I'd also like to let the Biker Brothers at Allen Correctional know that I enjoyed the brotherhood that we shared there and the good times will not be forgotten....

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, France, Finland, Germany, 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 2nd 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 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... I'll do my best to get it completed... Riding season in Minnesota is here now – Today was 70 degrees... Thank you!!!! Mike SFFS

Just a Ride... By James M. *"Dago SFFS"* Marchellino

There ain't no easy answers - I discover as I go
In the things I take for granted - In the things I'll never know -
I'm still torn between the right and wrong,
the brightest lights burn half as long, it seems
Through addiction and subtraction -
The cost in wasted time and broken dreams....

Like others gone before me - there's the ones I've left behind.
All the treasures I've abandoned, seeking things I'll never find -
I drift across these stormy seas,
'til I'm finally washed up on the sand....
'cause for me too much just ain't enough,
But a lot of times it's more than I can stand....

I try to make some sense out of these thoughts inside my head,
All the things that keep me up at night while I'm lying in my bed -
I eat and sleep, I work and play,
I smoke and drink and fight, I fuck and ride....
Just to feed the hungers that I feel
And calm the wild things that live inside....

Sometimes my head is empty - Sometimes my heart is full.
I just abide and wait the tide that cycles through my soul -
And when the muses speak to me
The music and the words come rushing in....
Then the writer in this rider
Tunes it up and lays it down and starts again....

(Bridge)

I am just a passenger, and life is just a ride.
A pilgrimage from dark to light - across a great divide.
And so I try the best I can - to face my trouble like a man -
And I do....
And when it all becomes too much
And I need to feel a gentle touch - it's you....

Yeah, when it all becomes too much
And I need to feel a gentle touch - it's you!

NONAMES – April 2010 - USA - Press Release - Inspired by true events, NONAMES follows Kevin and his family of friends as they struggle within the confines of a small town. After his mother's death, Kevin decides to make a life for himself in his childhood home in spite of his father's decision to move. In the wake of tragedy, Kevin must end his extended adolescence or lose the things he holds most dear. Haunted by unsettled scores, it becomes clear that he must leave the town he loves in order to save himself from it. A new beginning is only a bus ride away.

Sons Of Silence Dago will have 2 of his Songs in the Movie...

Original Music by Takeshi Furukawa - Additional Tracks:

01. "Moons and Stars" by Big on Sleep
02. "Too Young " by Joe Purdy
03. "I've Got a Secret" by Kilroy
04. "Share the Love" by Deep Water Reunion
05. "Grind My Bones" by Dan Hopman
06. "Don't Look Away" by The Floating Men
07. "Water is Wide" by Dan Hopman
08. "Lay Me My Money Down" by White Iron Band
09. "We'll Get High" by Ronnie Hayward
10. "Devil's Gonna Win" by White Iron Band
11. "Shake Em Down" by Kilroy
12. "Georgia" by Jackie Greene
13. *"Throw Me a Line" by Dago*

14. "Crazy Mother F*ckers" by Wolf Ruffin
15. "I Don't Like it" by Ronnie Hayward
16. "When I Get Back" by Sons of William
17. *"Hey Ho" by Dago*
18. "Asked You Twice" by The Alternate Routes
19. "Sweet as the Grain" by The John Henrys
20. "Falling Back" by Jackie Greene
21. "She's a Rail" by Dan Hopman and Chad Krzmarzick
22. "Some of These Days" by Sons of William
23. "Like the Stars" by New Kentucky Quarter

Shot on location in Central Wisconsin, NONAMES, focuses on this particular group of friends and their experiences growing up together while painting a subtle picture of the small town life dealing with topical issues of job loss and what's at stake if they don't change their direction.

"Throw Me a Line" And "Hey Ho"

Written by J.M. Dago Marchellino
Performed by Dago & Criminal History
Published by Dago Music
Website: <http://www.dagomusic.com/>

Throw Me A Line... By James M. *"Dago SFFS"* Marchellino

Throw me a line, 'cause I'm sinking.
I've been drinking and I'm going down slow.
I wanna get high and stop thinking
'bout this hole in my heart.
Baby, where did you go?

I keep thinking of all the time that we spent side-by-side.
I guess I believed that it never would end,
That you'd always be here, we'd be lovers and friends.
Through the good and the bad, I knew I could depend.
On your smile and your heart to carry me through.

So Throw me a line, 'cause I'm sinking.
I've been drinking and I'm going down slow.
I wanna get high and stop thinking
'bout this hole in my heart.
Baby, where did you go?

The house was too quiet when I got home that day,
Then the knock on the door and the look on their face,
And my world fell away as it started to rain. . . .
Now our pictures all haunt me like the rose from your grave,
And the pain never stops. It just won't go away,
But I'm knockin' it down, here, at our favorite place.

Throw me a line, 'cause I'm sinking.
I've been drinking and I'm going down slow.
I wanna get high and stop thinking
'bout that hole in my heart.
Baby, where did you go?

(Where did you go, baby?) (Bridge)

So Cut me some lines out, cause I'm sinking.
I'm gonna keep drinking and going down slow.
I wanna get real high and try to stop thinking
'bout this hole in my heart -
Babe, I'm missing you so. . .

Sons Of Silence J.W.'s theory to playing Pool: "Hit 'em like ya' live, fast & hard!"...

Confederation of Clubs - Goals: A Coming Together Goals:

1. Bring the Patch holders Together...
 - a) Communication between clubs.
 - b) A judicial coming together (not legislative) to protect our rights through the courts.
2. Fight Police Harassment & Discrimination...
 - a) Introduce anti-discrimination legislation, similar to the Unruh Act in California, in Confederation States that presently leave Bikers unprotected; A.I.M. attorney to work with state Motorcycle Rights Organization (MRO) on new laws. A.I.M. attorney to work with state MROs on new laws.
 - b) Form delegation of patch holders & other affected bikers, that together with their local A.I.M. attorney, present police harassment grievances to the police chief and/or civic entity responsible.
 - c) Discriminatory establishments notified by the A.I.M. attorney that suit will be filed if they don't cease & desist.
3. Proclamation of Intent...
 - a) Working with local state MRO on legislative matters (ie. helmet issues, anti-biker discrimination, etc).
 - b) Working with the National Coalition of Motorcyclists on National & Federal matters: (ie. helmet issues, federal Gang Bill, etc).
 - c) Support Aid to Injured Motorcyclists by introducing the A.I.M. numbered card (Special card only for patch holders) & program to the members & allowing A.I.M. to set up at events.

Senate hearing in Philly focuses on laptop spying – Mar 29, 2010 – *Pennsylvania* - By Mary Claire Dale; AP - An electronic privacy expert is urging Congress to update wiretap laws to include secret video surveillance as a Senate subcommittee ponders the issue in Philadelphia. Monday's field hearing is being led by U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa. It comes amid a lawsuit that accuses a Pennsylvania school district of spying on students through webcams on school-issued laptops. Lower Merion school officials say they were only trying to locate missing computers. Kevin Bankston of the Electronic Frontier Foundation is scheduled to testify. Bankston says wiretap laws should include videotaped surveillance the same way they protect secret audio recordings. No one involved in the Lower Merion lawsuit is expected to testify.

Judge Tosses Charges Against Pagan's Defendants – Mar 29, 2010 – *Charleston, West Virginia* - Two New Jersey men have been dropped from federal racketeering case targeting the Pagan's MC. U.S. District Judge Thomas Johnston dismissed gambling, assault & obstruction of justice charges against 48-year-old Rocco Boyd on Monday. The Little Ferry, N.J., resident pleaded guilty earlier this month to a misdemeanor gambling charge in Kanawha County magistrate court. Johnston also dismissed a gambling charge against 61-year-old New Jersey resident Thomas William Connolly. He pleaded to the same misdemeanor charge last week. Both men were fined \$5, plus \$159.50 in court costs. Prosecutors want to shore up the gambling charges against other defendants after Johnston questioned whether club motorcycle raffles violate the law.

When Love Fades: Last night I was sitting on the sofa watching TV when I heard my wife's voice from the kitchen. "What would you like for dinner my Love? Chicken, beef or lamb?" I said, "Thank you, I'll have chicken." She replied "You're having soup, asshole. I was talking to the cat!"

Motorcycle Helmet Law May Be Abolished – Mar 26, 2010 – *Michigan* – By Erika Waddell - Motorcyclists in Michigan may soon have the choice not to wear a helmet. The Michigan House has voted to do away with the law that requires adult bikers to wear a helmet. The vote has sparked strong feelings on both sides of the issue. Police & first responders say riding without a helmet increases the risk of serious injury & death. Many bikers feel they should have the freedom of choice, & that repealing the law would bring in tourism revenue. The legislation now moves on to the Senate. Governor Granholm has vetoed similar legislation twice in recent years.

Bikers inside the Beltway 2010 - Mar 30, 2010 – *Washington, DC* – By Jeff Hennie, MRF V.P. of Gov't Relations - The **Motorcycle Riders Foundation** is holding the 2nd annual ride to the Nations Capitol for Motorcycle Awareness Month. Known as Bikers inside the Beltway, the event will be dedicated to its creator, former MRF Vice President, Michael "Boz" Kerr. The MRF is encouraging as many people to ride their motorcycles to Washington DC for this historic event. We have reserved secure, free parking for motorcycles adjacent to the US Capitol. We will be encouraging all attendees to meet with their Members of Congress & the MRF can assist with facilitating. What: National Motorcycle Awareness Month Ride & Lobby Day. When: May 20th 9am-2:30pm

United's bikie boss Finks Ferret in legal attack – Mar 30, 2010 – *Australia* - His bikie gang was the first in Australia officially outlawed - but Finks sergeant-at-arms Ferret got in early yesterday to stop the move being repeated in NSW. As chairman of the state's United Motorcycle Club, Ferret was invited to talk to law students at the University of Sydney. As he put it - they are the law-makers & politicians of the future. As the Finks are fighting the ban in South Australia, NSW Police are almost ready to use this state's new get-tough anti-bikie laws to apply to have one of the local bikie gangs, said to be the Hells Angels, declared a criminal organisation. Ferret told third-year law students that today the Crimes (Criminal Organisations Control) Act 2009 was being used to hit the bikies but tomorrow it could be applied to ordinary groups such as "church groups & sporting clubs".

Hells Angels Oshawa house demolished – Mar 30, 2010 – *Canada* - By Chris Doucette - Durham Regional Police & biker enforcement unit officers lined the street near Wilson Rd. S. & Hwy. 401 & watched along with area residents Tuesday morning as a backhoe ripped apart the heavily fortified house that has been a hangout for bikers for more than 20 years. For more than 20 years, Brad, Francesca, their family members, friends & anyone who has visited their home has had to deal with being stopped routinely by police because of suspicions they may be affiliated with the biker clubs. "For years people have assumed that because we share a common driveway we were Hells Angels," Brad said.

Widdle Wabbit... A precious little girl walks into a petmart shop & asks, in the sweetest little lisp, between 2 missing teeth, "Excuse me, mither, do you keep widdle wabbits?" As the shopkeeper's heart melts, he gets down on his knees so that he's on her level & asks, "Do you want a widdle white wabbit, or a thoft & fuwwy, wback wabbit, or maybe one like that cute widdle bwown wabbit over there?" She, in turn, blushes, rocks on her heels, puts her hands on her knees, leans forward & says, in a tiny quiet voice, "I don't think my python weally gives a thit."

16 months jail for Warwick bikie – Mar 30, 2010 – *Australia* – By Eloise Handley - A new suit, a braided tuft of hair, gold jeweler, claims of a “super cop” & police conspiracy did little to sway a Brisbane District Court jury who found Warwick Bandidos bikie gang identity Darrell Vincent Cross guilty yesterday. Cross was found guilty of both charges of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle & serious assault of a police officer & was sentenced to 3 years jail, a Queensland Justice Dept spokeswoman confirmed yesterday. The disability pensioner will spend his 49th birthday in a Brisbane correctional facility & the spokeswoman said Cross would be eligible for parole on July 29, next year. “He was also disqualified from driving or a holding a licence for a period of 3 years,” the spokeswoman said. A nervy Cross took the witness stand on Monday & told the court he was specially chosen by the Bandidos president to relocate his Fatboy Harley Davidson motorcycle while the bikie gang relocated its clubhouse. It was the same bike Cross used to mow down Oxley District Police Traffic Branch senior constable Conrad Greenwood, who suffered arm, abdomen & groin injuries as a result of the encounter. During the Crown Public Prosecutor’s closing statement she labelled Cross an “unreliable” witness as he claimed to be a victim as he lay arrested, face-down & handcuffed on the side of the road while Snr Const Greenwood was rushed to hospital after being hit by the 300kg Fatboy. “What about Mr. Cross?” the prosecutor said. “Did you see him backtrack (while on the witness stand)? He wouldn’t say he ran over the copper – that would be stupid – so he did the next best thing & said he (Cross) was the victim. “His story was so far fetched (the jury had) no problem pushing it aside. “There was no jumping in front (of the moving motor bike), no ‘super cop’ as Cross described.” Cross’ defence counsel emphatically told the jurors not to play on prejudice based on his client’s heavily tattooed frame, & said in his closing address, “we all know that the police hate bikies”. Cross’ support network in the public gallery grew as each day of the trial progressed, with only his female family members leaving court to indulge in some Brisbane retail therapy. The verdict marked the conclusion of Cross’ four-day trial which started on Wed. The bikie was found guilty of the 2 charges which related to an incident where he ran down Snr Const Greenwood during a routine traffic speed radar operation in Moorooka last year.

Supreme Court Argument Report: The Justices Add It All Up – Mar 31, 2010 – *USA* – By Laurel Newby - During a Supreme Court argument hour swimming with numbers & studded with a few humorous moments, the justices on Tue wrestled with the standard for calculating good-time credits for Fed prison sentences. The issue before the Court in *Barber v. Thomas* is the interpretation of a “term of imprisonment” under the Fed good-time credit statute. The petitioning Fed inmates argue that they should be eligible for the statutory 54 days of good-time credit for each year of their entire sentence as originally imposed. The position of the Bureau of Prisons is that the calculation of good-time credit is based only on time actually served by the prisoner. Stephen R. Sady, an Oregon public defender representing the petitioners, argued that the Gov’t interpretation of the statute would short-change the prisoners’ opportunity to earn good-time credits, unfairly lengthening their sentences. “If there is a 10-year term of imprisonment, that means there’s 10 opportunities to earn 54 days,” Sady said. “The Bureau of Prisons’ math ends up with 470 days, 70 days less. And the reason for that is that they do not interpret ‘term of imprisonment’ to encompass the possibility of good time.” Assistant to the Solicitor General Jeffrey B. Wall, arguing on behalf of the Gov’t, told the justices that the petitioners’ method of calculating a year of imprisonment,

subtracting the 54 days of credit, wrongly creates a 311-day cycle for good-time credit eligibility. “But what the statute says is you make the determination at the end of the year. And we don’t read “year” to be a 311-day period. We read it to be a 365-day period,” Wall said. Justice Stephen Breyer expressed concern about awarding good-time credit for what he at one point in the argument termed “phantom time” -- time sentenced but not actually served. A prisoner sentenced to 10 years, Breyer said, “is not actually in prison for 10 years. He is going to be released sometime late in year eight(8). And so why should we add 54 days? I mean maybe it would be a nice thing because sentences are awfully long, but -- but why would anybody want to add 54 days in respect to a year that’s never going to be served?” The justices spent much of the argument hour talking through various methods of calculating good-time credit, including how credit days are pro-rated for sentence periods of less than one year. Breyer offered a somewhat lengthy & arithmetic-heavy reading of how the statute might apply to a prison term of 10 years: “At the end of the first year you write the number 54 on a piece of paper if [the prisoner] has done well. Suppose he comes in on Jan. 1, OK? So Jan. 2, after the first year, you write ... the number 54. And you do that each year. And by the time you get to the year eight, what you have done is you have got 432 days.” Breyer continued: “So then you subtract the 430 days from 10 years, & what you get is you are 67 days short of 9 years. So now you look at the last sentence, & what you do is you take 67 days, subtract that from 365, & you’ve got 298, & you simply prorate for those 298. And you subtract that, too, so he gets another 10 days or so, or 15 days credit, & that’s it. “And that’s following the statute; it seems to me, absolutely literally. And it also seems to me to make sense, because you don’t want to give him credit for time he never serves.” That explanation was good enough for Wall, who opened his time at the podium by saying, “Justice Breyer, I think you stole my thunder. I wanted to explain how the bureau does it, & you laid it out exactly right.” Justice John Paul Stevens seemed concerned about the policy implications of the government’s position, telling Wall: “You say there are 195,000 sentences affected by this rule. I don’t know which way that cuts. If there are 195,000 people spending ... significantly more time in jail than they should, that’s kind of troublesome.” “Justice Stevens, I think what I would say is the bureau has been doing it the same way since 1987. Congress has amended this statute 5 times in the last 20 years. It has never moved to alter the bureau’s methods,” Wall answered. “Probably they didn’t understand it because it’s an awfully hard statute to understand,” Stevens offered. “Justice Stevens, with all respect, Justice Breyer got it in the first 5 minutes,” said Wall, to laughter from the audience in the courtroom. “Well, he’s a lot smarter than I am,” Stevens quipped. Justice Antonin Scalia jumped in with a mock-incredulous tone that ratcheted up the laughter: “Even Justice Breyer has got it! Whoa!”

Smart Ass: Two young businessmen in Florida were sitting down for a break in their soon-to-be new store in the shopping mall. As yet, the store wasn’t ready, with only a few shelves & display racks set up. One said to the other, “I’ll bet that any minute now some senior is going to walk by, put his face to the window, & ask what we’re selling.” Sure enough, just a moment later, a curious senior gentleman walked up to the window, looked around intensely & rapped on the glass, then in a loud voice asked, “What are you sellin’ here?” One of the men replied sarcastically, “We’re selling ass-holes. Without skipping a beat, the old timer said, “You’re doing well. Only 2 left.” **Seniors** -- Don’t mess with them, they’ve been around!

Vagos members dispute gang allegations – Mar 31, 2010 – *California* – By John Asbury - Following a predawn raid earlier this month, authorities said they crippled one of Riverside County's largest & most violent motorcycle gangs. Members of the Vagos MC maintain that the group is not a criminal gang & has never been involved in attacks on police. The Vagos were targeted in a March 17 raid by the Riverside County district attorney's office & the Riverside County Gang Task Force during sweeps in Hemet, Murrieta, Riverside, Corona, & Lake Elsinore. At a news conference following the raid, Riverside County District Atty Rod Pacheco said in recent months, the gang had gained "significant attention" from authorities. He did not give a reason for the exact timing of the sweep. Pacheco said the members pose "an extreme threat for law enforcement," but did not name Vagos members as suspects in a series of attacks on police in Hemet. He said additional enforcement on the Vagos were planned. "We've never said they are suspects in this whatsoever. The attacks have been made on gang task force officers. I think it's safe to assume it's not a resident mad at law enforcement," District attorney's spokesman John Hall said. Hemet police have said the raids on the Vagos were unrelated to the attacks on police, which involved booby trapping a building, gate & car related to Hemet Gang Task Force members & burning city vehicles. They have not been named as primary suspects but have not been ruled them out, Hemet police Lt. Duane Wisheart said. "As a Dept, we're leaning more toward it wasn't them than it was," he said. "I think it got taken out of context with the timing of the sweep. Correlations were drawn too quickly."

Two weeks later, 2 of the 33 people arrested during "Operation Everywhere" remains in custody. Several Vagos members & their atty said they did not believe any of the those arrested were actively involved in the group. "They demonize us & start locking everyone up left & right. In their eyes, everyone's a criminal," said Harry "Doc" Hart, 61, a Hemet dentist & Vagos member. "They can cry 'gang' & 'terrorist' to take DNA from people never arrested. We're subject to this because someone cries wolf." Hart said authorities used the raid as a guise to bring the state licensing board into his dental office & harass him in front of his patients. But law enforcement sees a different picture. The Vagos have been identified as a criminal gang by a judge's order that has been confirmed through multiple court cases, said Captain Walter Myer, director of the Riverside County Gang Task Force. "Unfortunately for them, they are a gang," Meyer said. "They're just like other outlaw motorcycle gangs or any other gang. Gangs exist for the sole purpose of supporting themselves. They'll take out violence on any average citizen that gets in their way."

Hemet attacks: Members of the Vagos deny that any members had any involvement in attacks on Hemet police. "Was it us? Absolutely not," Hart said. "I'm not a terrorist & I'm not a gang member." An atty for the Vagos said he sees the raid as a political maneuver by the district atty's office during an election year for Pacheco & Atty General Jerry Brown. Both Pacheco & Brown arrived a day after the raid to vow support for law enforcement & to announce a \$200,000 reward for information leading to arrests in the attacks on Hemet police. "The Vagos are an easy target because they ride motorcycles & authorities love to hate them," said the Vagos' atty Joseph Yanny. "This is for the personal political gain of Gov. Moonbeam, who's behind in the polls & playing this game to get his name in the press at the expense of decent men." The Hemet-San Jacinto Valley Gang Task Force has been targeted at least 3 times by unknown assailants. The first attack Dec. 31 involved drilling a hole

through the Gang Task Force building's roof to reroute a gas line & rig the building to explode. Court documents note it followed the gathering 2 days earlier of about 100 Vagos members who had attended a funeral at a church next door to the former office, a block away from the Hemet police station. Police said other attempts in recent months were designed to kill officers through booby traps attached to gates & an officer's vehicle at his home. Hemet police also think the torching of 4 city code-enforcement trucks just before midnight March 23 at City Hall is related to the attacks on police. The tactics used in the attacks mirror a path by outlaw motorcycle gangs, Meyer said, but he declined to elaborate. "These gangs commit acts to feed their reputation & gain power," Meyer said. "They try to intimidate & threaten others do whatever they want to do."

Vagos history: Authorities say the Vagos have a long criminal history & have been linked to drug trafficking of meth, witness intimidation, assaults & motorcycle thefts, according to the warrant. The gang originated in 1960s as an offshoot of the Psychos Motorcycle gang, with the 1st official chapter based in San Bernardino in 1965. The group now has about 600 members in California. The organization was defined as an "outlaw motorcycle gang by the California Street Terrorism Enforced Prevention Act in 2000. About 130 to 200 members have been documented in Riverside County in the past 5 years, according to a Gang Task Force district atty's search warrant. Members wear green colors & patches to promote each chapter & rank of the organization. The group has elected leadership, follows bylaws & uses the motto, "We give what we get," according to the search warrant. The latest raid was in part tied to an investigation of a 2008 Hemet assault that accused the Vagos of the unprovoked beating of a man as he left a bar, putting him into a coma for 2 weeks. Authorities have tied the Vagos to white supremacy groups & to infiltrating L.E. to gain police intelligence, Meyers said. In some cases, active law enforcement officers have joined the group as members to supply info to the Vagos.

Raids decried: Despite law enforcement's claims, Yanny said any criminal activity in the organization isn't tolerated. District atty's officials said most of the arrests were for weapons, drug & probation violations. The most serious charges were for felony possession or intent to sell drugs, including a meth lab in Lake Elsinore. One charge was a probation violation for failure to pay a \$200 fine. Four of those arrested were never booked at Riverside County jail. In total, police seized a series of Vagos patches, a stolen motorcycle, 6 grams of methamphetamine & 13 grams of marijuana, guns & other weapons. Yanny has filed 5 Fed civil rights lawsuits on behalf of families against authorities for raids in 2006, which are still pending. He added the group has no legal opportunity to defend itself from being labeled as a gang & is instead a brotherhood of mostly middle-aged men, many of whom are veterans, who belong to the motorcycle club. "This is nothing more than an attempt to boost polls at a time we cannot afford that kind of adventurism," Yanny said.

Little Johnny came home from school with a BIG smile on his face. His mother noticed this, of course, & asked him, "Why the big grin, Johnny?" "I showed Sally Brown my weenie today at the playground", proudly replied Johnny. Before his mother could say a word, Johnny went on to say, "She said it reminded her of a peanut." Relaxing with a hidden smile, Johnny's Mom asked, "Really? She thought it was small, did she?" "No," Johnny replied, "salty."

Highwaymen dispute over jury pool denied – Mar 31, 2010 – *Detroit, Michigan* - Outlaw motorcycle gangs are not known for their racial diversity. But white members of the Highwaymen MC set to stand trial Thu on racketeering charges want the charges dismissed or the trial delayed, arguing there aren't enough blacks & Wayne County residents in the jury pool. U.S. District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds denied the motion at a hearing Tuesday, but defendants said an appeal is planned. Defendant Gary Ball Jr. brought the motion, arguing he is entitled to a jury representing a cross-section of the community, but his will be drawn from a pool that under-represents "African-Americans, other minorities & low-income residents of Wayne County." Ball, who is white, was joined in his motion by defendants Leonard "Dad" Moore, Michael "Cocoa" Cichetti, Joseph "Little Joe" Whiting, Gerald Peters, Michael Toney, Keith Hood, Jeff Pittman & Anthony Clark, who are all white, & Aref "Steve" Nagi, who is Yemeni. Underrepresentation of blacks on federal juries in Detroit has been an issue in recent trials involving former Detroit City Councilman Alonzo Bates, prominent Southfield atty Geoffrey Fieger & political consultant Sam Riddle. Wayne County residents make up almost 40% of the Eastern District of Michigan but only 24% of the jury pool, resulting in an underrepresentation of blacks, who mostly live in Wayne County, court records show. Fieger attorney Michael Dezzi, who researched the issue for Fieger's campaign finance case, which ended in acquittal, & Bates' appeal of his theft conviction, which was denied, argued the motion.

Biker Brawl Blamed for Stabbing Death – Mar 31, 2010 – *California* - By Margaret Carrero - An alleged biker brawl may be to blame for the stabbing death of a man in the North Valley over the weekend. Merced County sheriff's officials say 33-year-old Bill James, Jr, of Gustine was stabbed to death Friday night outside a local bar. Investigators say James was stabbed during what appears to be a confrontation between rival biker gangs.

Man shot at Maine motorcycle club – Mar 31, 2010 – *Maine* – By AP - Maine State Police say a 67-year-old man underwent hours of surgery after being shot multiple times near the Saracens motorcycle clubhouse in Turner. Authorities say Bertrand Binette dialed 911 Wed afternoon to report that he'd been shot near his home, which doubles as the motorcycle club's home. Steve McCausland of the Maine Public Safety Dept says Binette was shot 4 times. McCausland says it was likely Binette would survive, but his condition wasn't known. McCausland declined to discuss the investigation. The motorcycle club touts its charity work but the Sun Journal newspaper says U.S. Dept of Justice in 2001 described the club as an "outlaw motorcycle gang" affiliated with groups that distribute drugs

Atlantic Beach Bikefest suit heads to court – Mar 31, 2010 – *South Carolina* - An Atlantic Beach resident & town officials will go to court this week after the 2 sides failed to reach an agreement regarding a lawsuit filed in 2008 concerning the annual Bikefest, officials said Monday. Resident Paul Curry sued the town in 2008 claiming Atlantic Beach did not follow its ordinance on noise, golf carts & alcohol during its annual Memorial Day motorcycle event. Town attorney John Zilinsky said he & the Town Council, during an executive session Thursday, discussed a plan designed to try to settle litigation without having a hearing. He said council members agreed with the plan, but he talked with Curry's attorney on Monday about the plan & they did not agree. Zilinsky would not detail the plan.

Don't look like a Snicker's bar if you don't want to get eaten.

Informant's evidence convicted 8 – Mar 31, 2010 – *Canada* – By Galen Eagle - His bombshell evidence exposed the seedy underbelly of Peterborough's cocaine trade. It involved clandestine drug meetings at Tim Hortons, drug pickups in gas stations & sale after sale of copious amounts of cocaine. It was Sept. 20, 2007 when Mervyn Monteith, then 44, signed a contract to become confidential police agent 3951. He became the central tool in the multi-agency police investigation Project Underground, targeting Robert Pammett's association with the Bandidos motorcycle gang. When the gang disbanded provincially in Oct 2007, the investigation's focus moved from gangs to drugs.

H-D appoints first 5 dealers - Mar 31, 2010 – *India* - The dealerships are in Bangalore, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Mumbai & New Delhi, a company statement said. "Our aim is to create a strong network that will provide our customers a world-class H-D ownership experience, & we are off to a great start," said H-D India Managing Director Anoop Prakash. The dealers will be the sole retailers for H-D motorcycles, genuine parts, accessories & apparel & will also operate authorised service centers across the 5 cities. H-D India commenced operations in Aug 2009, & will offer 12 models from their 2010 line-up, with bookings beginning on April 20, 2010, in each city.

Federal Prisoners Sue over Outside Contact Ban – Apr 1, 2010 – *USA* - The Center for Constitutional Rights is representing several federal prisoners who are suing over restrictions on outside contact. They are suing their jailers for violating their rights to communicate with their families. The inmates housed at several federal prisons around the country claim restrictions on seeing their families violate their right to free association & constitute cruel & unusual punishment, according to Reuters. Many of the 60-70 federal prisoners involved in the lawsuit are Muslim. Some have been convicted of terrorism-related crimes, according to their lawyers. The federal prisoners are being held in Communications Management Units, a highly restrictive prison program. In addition, their lawsuit says the inmates are not treated like other federal prisoners who are afforded communication rights to contact their family members frequently. The 77-page lawsuit calls for the inmates to be sent back to regular prisons or be given adequate justification for detention in Communications Management units. Critics say Communications Management Units discriminate against Muslims. One critic has even called the units, "a stateside Guantanamo." Inside these units, Fed prisoners are allowed 8 hours of visiting time per month. CMU prisoners are may not have any physical contact with family members & are forbidden from hugging, touching or embracing their children or spouses during visits. The CMUs were opened under the Bush administration in 2006 & 2007 respectively & were designed to monitor & control the communications of certain prisoners. There are Communications Management Units in Terre Haute, Ind., & Marion, Ill. & lawyers for the inmates say the units violate Fed law & the Constitution.

Human beings only have 2 ways to deal with one another: reason & force. If you want me to do something for you, you have a choice of either convincing me via argument, or force me to do your bidding under threat of force. Every human interaction falls into one of those 2 categories, without exception. Reason or force, that's It...

The Piper Cub is the safest airplane in the world; it can just barely kill you. - Attributed to Max Stanley (Northrop test pilot)

How biker boss turned on gang – Apr 1, 2010 – *Michigan* – By Paul Egan; The Detroit News - The heinous 2002 execution-style slayings of a Livonia jeweler & his family provided Fed agents a key informant in major crackdowns on 2 Detroit-area motorcycle gangs. William “Billy Wadd” Smith, a former boss of the Devils Diciples MC, was so horrified by the killings of the jeweler, his 3 children & their grandmother that he testified in state court against his own nephew, John Wolfenbarger, who was one of the shooters. But Smith also owned a west side bar called the Copa Lounge that was a popular biker hangout. What’s never been revealed before is that after the Livonia killings, Smith allowed federal agents to secretly wire for sound & video the back room of the Copa, where prosecutors say members of the Outlaws, Highwaymen, & other alleged bike gangs openly discussed past & future crimes. “Everybody hung out there,” said Assistant U.S. Atty Diane Marion, who prosecuted the Outlaws & who begins a 6 to 8-week racketeering trial today for 6 alleged Highwaymen leaders. Agents from the ATF had the Copa’s back room under electronic surveillance in 2003 & 2004, Marion said. Though the evidence gathered at the Copa proved most helpful in the Outlaws case, in which 16 members & associates were indicted, it was an early starting point for both the Outlaws & Highwaymen investigations & led to the conviction of one Highwaymen member in state court, she said. The 6 alleged Highwaymen leaders whose trial begins today are among more than 80 alleged Highwaymen defendants & associates charged after a lengthy FBI investigation in one of the largest cases ever brought in federal court in Detroit. Defendants include attorneys & former police officers accused of corruption. Charges include conspiracy to commit murder, assault, drug dealing, & interstate transport of stolen goods. John Wolfenbarger of Detroit & Dennis D. Lincoln of Flint, the 2 men convicted in the Dec. 21, 2002, home invasion & execution-style slayings of Livonia jeweler Marco Pesce, his mother, & his 3 pre-teen children, were not associated with the Highwaymen or the Outlaws. But Wolfenbarger, 38, now serving a life sentence for murder, went to the Copa Lounge after the killings & made comments suggesting he was involved, Wolfenbarger’s jury was told. The next day, he showed his uncle, Billy “Wadd” Smith, who owned the bar, a bag of jewelry, prompting the longtime Devils Dicile, whose members intentionally misspell “disciple,” to call a Dearborn police officer he knew. Smith later testified at the murder trial. Smith, who keeps his whereabouts a secret, made no mention of allowing Fed agents to wire the Copa in a recent episode of *Gangland*, in which he was featured on cable television’s History Channel. He would not discuss the issue for this article because federal law enforcement officials advised him not to, said Smith’s spokesman Bill Flowers. Donald Dawkins, a spokesman for the ATF, said Friday he would seek info about the electronic surveillance at the bar but later did not return phone calls. Today, the long-vacant Copa on Schoolcraft is a burned-out hulk of a building, just past the Outer Drive exit from westbound Interstate 96. None of the videos that Fed agents secretly recorded there have appeared in court & it’s not clear they will ever be made public. All but 1 or 2 of the defendants in the Outlaws case have pleaded guilty to racketeering, drug dealing or other charges, & none has gone to trial. The videos aren’t directly relevant to the charges in the Highwaymen trial, Marion said. U.S. District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds, who will preside over the Highwaymen trial, said in a March 1 opinion & order that Smith was “a longtime, ‘old school’ member of several different motorcycle clubs,” who allowed the ATF & the FBI to wire his bar. “Numerous conversations about gun & drug deals were taped,” Edmunds said in an order that denied a defense motion to suppress certain wiretap evidence. “Smith dealt primarily with the Outlaws MC, but his friendships

extended to members of other clubs as well. Smith provided info on various members of these clubs & participated in controlled purchases of narcotics & firearms.” Marion said that because Smith owned the Copa, Fed officials did not need a judge’s permission to wire the bar, as they would to tap a telephone. But under a restriction that must have been nerve-racking for the informant Smith, the video & audio recorders could only operate at times when Smith was present with the bikers discussing their deals. Spokesmen for the Highwaymen have said some members may have committed crimes but have denied the club is a criminal organization. In fact, they say the club is known for raising money for charities such as the Make a Wish Foundation. “There seems to be this perception out there that the Highwaymen are this massive, violent, uncontrollable organization, when that’s not the case,” then-Highwaymen president David “Ike” Simon, who is not a defendant in the case, told The Detroit News in 2007.

Club gained infamy in ‘70s: But the Highwaymen, founded in Detroit in 1954, is still seen by many as an outlaw among outlaw clubs -- banned from a federation of Detroit clubs founded by a former Outlaws president. The club, Detroit’s largest, gained infamy in the 1970s when some members were convicted of bombing & raiding the homes & clubhouses of rivals. Until the indictments, the Highwaymen had upwards of 100 members. It has chapters outside of Michigan in Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama & Indiana. Today, alleged current or former leaders Aref “Steve” Nagi; Joseph “Little Joe” Whiting; Michael “Cocoa” Cicchetti; Leonard “Dad” Moore; Gary Ball Jr.; & Anthony “Mad Anthony” Clark are to stand trial in racketeering & other alleged crimes. Whiting, who has been held at Milan, is the only defendant still in custody. Ronald Hatmaker, a former Detroit president of the club, was also to stand trial before he pleaded guilty to racketeering last week. He has not agreed to testify against his co-defendants.

Catholic Parrots: A lady goes to her priest one day & tells him, ‘Father, I have a problem. I have 2 female parrots, But they only know how to say one thing.’ ‘What do they say?’ the priest inquired. They say, ‘Hi, we’re hookers! Do you want to have some fun?’ That’s obscene!’ the priest exclaimed, Then he thought for a moment. ‘You know,’ he said, ‘I may have a solution to your problem. I have 2 male talking parrots, which I have taught to pray & read the Bible. Bring your 2 parrots over to my house, & we’ll put them in the cage with Francis & Peter. My parrots can teach your parrots to praise & worship, & your parrots are sure to stop saying... That phrase... In No time!’ Thank you,’ the woman responded, ‘this may very well be the solution.’ The next day, she brought her female parrots to the priest’s house. As he ushered her in, she saw that his 2 male parrots were inside their cage holding rosary beads & praying. Impressed, she walked over & placed her parrots in with them. After a few minutes, the female parrots cried out in unison: Hi, we’re hookers! Do you want to have some fun?’ There was stunned silence. Shocked, one male parrot looked over at the other male parrot & exclaimed, ‘Put the beads away, Frank. Our prayers have been answered!’

I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than to those attending too small a degree of it. - Thomas Jefferson, to Archibald Stuart, 1791

My reading of history convinces me that most bad Gov’t results from too much Gov’t. - Thomas Jefferson

JCS Motorcycle Association's First Ride – Apr 1, 2010 – *Bremerton, Washington* - By MC3(SW) Jacques Renard - The sound of roaring engines filled the morning air as Sailors from USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Motorcycle Association embarked on the first command motorcycle ride March 3. Eighteen Sailors participated in the 120-mile round trip ride between Bremerton & Sequim, Wash. According to organizers, the ride fostered camaraderie within the command as well as sponsored mentorship & addressed all of the safety concerns with riding motorcycles alone & within groups. Master Chief Master-at-Arms (SW/AW) Clifford Partin, security Dept leading chief petty officer, helped develop a motorcycle riding program at his previous command at Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, Ga., & then brought that experience here. "Once I arrived to Stennis, I got involved in establishing a motorcycle program to help young & inexperienced Sailors enroll in motorcycle courses, & to develop mentorship between experienced riders & novice riders who were just starting out," said Partin. The Stennis Motorcycle Association is open to everybody in the command as well as their spouses, family & friends. "I've been riding on my own for 16 years & there is a bit of a difference in riding in a group, & today I have learned a lot," said Aviation Support Equipment Technician 3rd Class Joe Nielson. Before the road trip, Motorcycle Safety Coordinator Senior Chief Logistic Specialist (SW/AW) Denise Depozo stressed the importance of identifying road hazards, checking the motorcycles before going out on the road & wearing the proper personal protective equipment. "Overall, it was a great ride, & everybody abided by the rules of the road," said Depozo. "We could still have fun riding without having to speed or do all that crazy stuff on the bikes." The JCS Motorcycle Association was invited to ride in the Armed Forces Day Parade in downtown Bremerton, so JCS riders scheduled practice rides to prepare for maneuvering at slow speeds. "We also created a JCS Motorcycle Association patch, & we are considering having a couple of flags so we can represent the command at different functions," said Partin. The motorcycle association brought Sailors together to foster strong camaraderie within the command & addressed the importance of having fun & experiencing the joys of safe riding.

Bikie gangs linked to massive ice lab – Apr 2, 2010- *Australia* - A High-Tech Sydney drug lab allegedly produced large quantities of ice & other drugs which sold for millions of dollars to line the coffers of bikie gangs. Police raided 2 properties across Sydney yesterday & subsequently charged 4 men, alleged to be the "main players" in the syndicate. Police say they found 10kg of the drug known as ice with a street value of \$5 million, plus firearms, ammunition & 4kg of pseudoephedrine commonly used in the manufacture of illegal drugs. Ahmed Nazzal, 27, Hakan Arif, 32, Hussein Kamaledine, 20, & Kagan Keskin, 25, each faced Parramatta Bail Court today charged with manufacturing a commercial quantity of a prohibited drug. Police say Nazzal is a Comanchero member, while Arif, Kamaledine & Keskin each have links to the gang & Keskin is also associated with the Lone Wolves gang. "There is certainly some crossover (between gangs) in some of the individuals involved in this," Insp Jones said. "As to the exact link & whether they are working together, that's still to be determined by police." Solicitor Lesly Randle, who regularly represents Comanchero in court, says none of the men are members & that police have "mis-stated" the association. Police maintain the bikie gang connection & said yesterday's raids "will make a significant dent both in organised crime & in particular outlaw motorcycle gangs".

Two die in motorcycle crash – Apr 3, 2010 – *Australia* – By Dew Cooke & Jared Lynch - Two men were killed yesterday

when their motorcycles exploded in a head-on crash involving up to 60 members of the Outlaws bikie gang. The men were riding on a straight stretch of highway near Shepparton when they collided about 2.20pm. The police & Premier John Brumby were hoping for an Easter long weekend with no road deaths after they launched one of the state's biggest police blitzes earlier this week. Deputy Commissioner Ken Lay had made a fresh plea for motorists to drive safely shortly before the 2 men were killed in the multiple motorcycle crash on the Midland Highway at Pine Lodge. Police believed a 53-year-old Shepparton man was riding east with up to 60 members of the Outlaws MC when he collided with a Yackandandah man, 44, riding in the other direction. Both men died at the scene, about 6 kilometres from Shepparton. Rural Ambulance spokesman John Mullen said it was not immediately clear how many motorcycles were involved in the accident as some had exploded on impact. "There was terrible debris everywhere," he said. An 18-year-old Shepparton woman was riding in a motorcycle sidecar & was flown to the Royal Melbourne Hospital with critical injuries. The motorcycle rider, a 50-year-old man also from Shepparton, was taken to the Goulburn Valley hospital with serious injuries.

Rapides narcotics agents say meth ring had ties to Satan's Tramps – Apr 4, 2010 – *Louisiana* - Rapides Parish sheriff's narcotics agents have arrested 13 suspects in connection with a methamphetamine distribution ring they say is responsible for 40 percent of the meth in the parish. Sheriff's officials said agents executed 5 search warrants Thursday targeting the ring which they said includes ties to the outlaw motorcycle gang known as "Satan's Tramps." During the 8-month investigation, agents identified several people they say distributed drugs provided by Satan's Tramps. During a search at the Pineville home of 58-year-old Derrel Goodman, a known gang member, officers found 5 ounces of glass meth on the kitchen table, authorities reported. Agents said they anticipate more arrests involving others with ties to "outlaw motorcycle gangs" in Rapides Parish & surrounding parishes as the investigation continues.

Turning away bikers prejudicial – Apr 5, 2010 - *Myrtle Beach, South Carolina* - By Dave Carlson - I am still amazed at the prejudice directed at having a bike week in this area. With the recent pullout of H-D from setting up shop in North Myrtle Beach I find the mind-set of the local residents & the politicians absolutely ludicrous. Just what is the problem with the residents here? Ultimately it all comes down to noise, or so it is reported. One small week out of 52 weeks, you are telling those that enjoy coming to this "resort" area that they are unwelcome because their bikes are too loud?

An Indian picks up a hooker. 'How much you charge for hour, sister?' he asks. '\$100,' she replies. He says 'You do Indian style?' 'No' she says. 'I pay you \$200 do it Indian style.' 'No', she says, not knowing what Indian style is. 'I pay you \$300.' 'No', she says. 'I pay you \$400'. 'No', she says. So finally he says, 'OK, I pay you \$1,000 to do it Indian style.' She thinks, 'Well, I've been in the game for over 10 years now. I've had every kind of request from weirdos from every part of the world. How bad could Indian Style be?' So she agrees & has sex with him. They do it in every kind of way & in every possible position. Finally, after several hours, they finish. Exhausted, the hooker turns to him & says, 'Hey, I was expecting something perverted & disgusting. But that was good. So what exactly is 'Indian style'?' The Indian replies 'You send bill to Gov't'

Strong forfeiture safeguards needed (Editorial) – Apr 5, 2010 – *Minnesota* - “Innocent until proven guilty” is the bedrock principle of America’s criminal-justice system. But in Minnesota & elsewhere, forfeiture laws recklessly pervert this cherished ideal. For those whose property was seized under these laws, guilt is assumed, & the burden of proof rests on the shoulders of the accused. Even if you’re not convicted of a crime, getting your property back hinges on proving your innocence, something that often is difficult & costly to accomplish. What’s more, law enforcement can keep property seized, sell it & apply the proceeds to the agency’s needs. While forfeiture laws remain a much-needed weapon against drug kingpins & organized crime, they also allow for un-American abuses of individual property rights & civil rights. Meaningful changes are needed. The good news is that state lawmakers are working hard on fixes, though they really had no choice after the shocking 2009 implosion of the Metro Gang Strike Force. Some strike force officers viewed forfeiture laws as a license to sweep through poor neighborhoods & swipe whatever they wanted. These were rogue officers, to be sure, but conflicts created by state law contributed to this mercenary mentality. Despite the overwhelming number of honest officers who serve this state, reforms are needed to guard against policing for profit. Changes are also needed to restore the power balance between authorities & individuals. It’s too far tilted toward police right now. Lawmakers are weighing several bills, but reforms won’t be adequate unless they include these key elements:

- Property should be forfeited only if there’s a conviction. This would not stop authorities from seizing property, as some law enforcement representatives claim. It would protect innocent people suspected of wrongdoing, yet still deprive criminals of ill-gotten booty.
- Forfeiture funds should go into the state general fund, which would break the financial incentive for police to seize property to help their agencies, though it would also reduce their funding somewhat. (Gross sales of forfeited goods or cash totaled \$3.8 million in Minnesota in 2008, down 21.4% from 2007.) Some law enforcement representatives’ objections to this are disingenuous. They argue that these funds are absolutely critical to police operations, but at the same time insist that this is not an incentive to seize valuable property. It doesn’t add up.

Right now, the best safeguards are in legislation championed by Rep. Tina Lieblich (DFL-Rochester) & Sen. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park). They also offer another proposal worthy of discussion: protections for so-called innocent property owners, who may own a partial interest in a vehicle or other item seized by authorities. Lieblich’s bill, which didn’t make it out of committee, has support from some officers but ran into a buzz saw of law enforcement lobbyists at the state Capitol, who wrongheadedly believe the reforms would deprive authorities of an important crime-fighting tool. Neither she nor Latz should give up. The reform proposals make sense to regular Minnesotans. The lawmakers also made adjustments to accommodate law enforcement concerns, such as how to handle seized property when there’s no conviction & no one claims ownership. Another possible area on which Lieblich & Latz could compromise: phasing out law enforcement funding from forfeiture rather than abruptly cutting it off. Or, designating that forfeiture money be used only for specific law enforcement purposes. The Gang Strike Force preyed on the poor & vulnerable & showed that worst-case scenario forfeiture fears can become reality. In the wake of this shameful chapter in state law enforcement history, Minnesotans deserve the strongest possible reforms.

Biker club portrayals clash – Apr 6, 2010 – *Detroit, Michigan* - By Paul Egan; The Detroit News - Leaders of the Highwaymen MC believed they “owned” Detroit & they protected their criminal enterprise by meting out threats & vicious beatings to those who crossed them, a Fed prosecutor said Mon. But defense lawyers argued the real criminals jurors will see at the trial are the Gov’t’s cooperating witnesses -- who they said received sweetheart deals in connection with their own illegal conduct & more than \$100,000 in cash payments. The racketeering trial for 6 alleged Highwaymen leaders -- the opening chapter in a case that involves more than 80 defendants in one of the largest indictments ever brought in the Eastern District of Michigan -- is expected to last about 6 weeks. “The Highwaymen are exactly who they say they are -- the vilest (expletive) on the highway,” making their money from drug dealing & interstate theft, Assistant U.S. Atty Christopher Graveline told jurors in his opening statement. But Henry Scharg, an atty for defendant Joseph “Little Joe” Whiting, said the Highwaymen are men who share a love of motorcycles & the open road. He said they give to charities such as Toys for Tots & compared the group to “a Knights of Columbus on wheels.” Graveline described Leonard “Dad” Moore, 61, of Lincoln Park as the “godfather” of the Highwaymen. He was the group’s leader but he let others take titles such as Nat’l Pres because he didn’t need a title that could draw Fed attention, Graveline said. Moore is charged with racketeering, threats & assault conspiracy. Nat’l Pres Whiting, 56, of Westland worked closely with Moore & is accused of sending from Milan prison a list of suspected informants titled “Bad Peoples.” He is charged with racketeering, assault, threats & transporting & selling stolen vehicles. Aref “Steve” Nagi, 46, of Sterling Heights is charged with racketeering, drug dealing conspiracy, assault, transporting stolen vehicles, altering or removing vehicle identifications, & a weapons offense. Michael “Cocoa” Cicchetti, 55, of Dearborn Heights is charged with racketeering, drug dealing conspiracy, assault, transporting stolen vehicles & a weapons offense. Anthony “Mad Anthony” Clark, 52, of Allen Park, a former Nat’l Pres, is charged with racketeering, threats & drug dealing conspiracy. Gary “Junior” Ball Jr., 44, of Dearborn is charged with racketeering, drug dealing conspiracy, assault conspiracy, transporting stolen vehicles & altering or removing vehicle identifications. Scharg said the Highwaymen, far from being a wealthy criminal organization, often struggled to pay their rent & utility bills. Four cooperating witnesses expected to testify at the trial are the real criminals, he said. Robert “Bobby” Burton, 41, a club member & co-defendant in the case, made thousands of dollars a week selling cocaine but was in business for himself, not on behalf of the club, Scharg said. Burton is also the man who walked into a bar & smashed an enemy of the club across the face with a shovel, causing serious injury, Scharg said. Burton, who is expected to testify for the Gov’t, faces up to life in prison & “has every reason to say whatever the Gov’t wants him to say,” Scharg said. The Gov’t has paid Burton \$11,000, Scharg said. Another witness, former Nat’l Pres Gerald “Byrd” Peters, was paid \$20,000. Philip “Jocko” McDonald, a former Highwaymen Downriver Pres, was paid \$10,000, Scharg added. Doug Burnett, a former member who became an informant early, wore a wire in the investigation, & made controlled drug purchases, has been paid more than \$70,000, Scharg said. McDonald & Burnett are not charged, though McDonald was charged in a related drug case involving the Latin Counts street gang. Founded in Detroit in 1954, the Highwaymen is Detroit’s largest bike club, with chapters in Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama & Indiana.

Antique Motorcycle Club of America – Apr 6, 2010 – *United States* - AMCA Unveils Its New Custom Culture Class. Motorcycles have always been a form of personal expression. And that's something the Antique Motorcycle Club of America is celebrating with a new exhibition class of bike judging at a pair of National meets this year. In addition to the club's normal classes for beautifully restored classics, perfectly preserved original condition machines & period-correct modified bikes, 2 of this year's AMCA Nationals will feature a special Custom Culture Class, designed to highlight ways that motorcyclists express themselves through their machines. The class will focus specifically on the era of the 1960s & early '70s, when the custom-bike movement blossomed across the United States. And it was prompted by the Club's successful Basket-Case Contest, in which young riders wrote essays in an effort to win a collection of parts from an authentic 1942 H-D WLA model-the bike used by U.S. armed forces in World War II-plus the chance to assemble those parts into a bobber-style custom under the guidance of experts. The Custom Culture Class recalls the era when the custom-bike culture really took off, culminating in the development of the American-style chopper & the European cafe racer. The only eligibility rule is that bikes must have an engine that was sold in a production motorcycle sometime between 1960 and 1975, the most recent machines that fit the AMCA's 35-year rule for antique designation. And although choppers & cafe racers were the major trends in custom machines during that time, entrants are free to take the concept in any direction they choose.

NSW police probe bikie turf war reports – Apr 6, 2010 - *Australia* - NSW Police are examining reports of a possible turf war between bikies & supporters of John Ibrahim for control of Sydney's notorious Kings Cross. "We're having a good look at what has been said," Deputy Police Commissioner Nick Kaldas told reporters on Tuesday. "My first view is that it is embellished a little bit, but we'll certainly keep an eye on it, as we always have." The Daily Telegraph on Tuesday reported that the proclaimed King of the Cross, nightclub entrepreneur John Ibrahim & his circle, face a challenge from Comanchero motorcycle gang member wanting to muscle in on businesses in the area. It said "signs were everywhere" that "the king is under siege." In June last year, John Ibrahim's younger brother Fadi was shot 5 times by a hooded gunman while sitting in his Lamborghini with his girlfriend in Castle Cove. His girlfriend also had a bullet removed from her leg. Fadi Ibrahim was later charged with conspiracy to murder Sydney man John Macris in retaliation for the shooting. He was released on bail from Long Bay jail in November after prosecutors conceded he was not receiving adequate medical treatment while on remand. An elder brother, Hassan "Sam" Ibrahim, was also charged with recklessly damaging a news photographer's camera while picking up Fadi from Long Bay jail. The lucrative Kings Cross entertainment precinct was once dubbed the Golden Mile, which is also the subtitle of the third instalment of the successful Underbelly series due to go to air on April 11. John Ibrahim is due to be portrayed in the new series. Recently, The Tunnel nightclub, the first Kings Cross club part-owned in the late 1980s by John Ibrahim, who has never been convicted of any serious crime, has reappeared on the Kings Cross radar. It is located on the same Earls Place site as the Dragonfly nightclub, where last September there was a street brawl involving 3 alleged members of the Notorious bikie gang.

Illegal Fence – Apr 6, 2010 – *Australia* - An illegal fence surrounding the Balga base of outlaw motorcycle gang the Finks has been torn down. The Stirling Council has reportedly forced the owner of the property to pull down the fence that stopped

police from gaining entry to the property during a raid in Feb. Stirling Mayor David Boothman previously said certain structures, including the club's shed, should be torn down because they had been built in defiance of local planning laws. Mr Boothman said the council had rejected certain building applications, but the club had continued its modifications regardless. The property is believed to be owned by Tammy Cherie Kingdon, the partner of Troy Mercanti - the former head of the Coffin Cheaters who now has links to rival outfit the Finks. Police were forced to call a member of the bikie gang in Feb to ask permission to gain access to the premises. It is believed that police had tried to get inside the property for about half an hour but couldn't because it was heavily locked up. Police seized a small quantity of cannabis & ammunition during the raid on the clubhouse. Police Minister Rob Johnson told media at the time that he would consult Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan about why the bikie gang was allowed to create a fortress when it went against anti-fortification laws.

Hells Angels stiff town on taxes – Apr 6, 2010 - *Montreal, Canada* - The Hells Angels has refused to pay taxes to the town of Trois-Rivières after police seized their bunker in a major anti-gang bust in 2009, according to a media report. The bunker is now off-limits to the gang, which must still pick up the tab for the property upkeep & municipal taxes. The motorcycle gang owes \$12,000 in municipal taxes for 2009, & has yet to make a tax contribution for 2010, LCN reports. The Hells also owe \$6,000 in surveillance & maintenance charges on their property, which was seized during Project SharQc.

Hell on wheels - the cycle of sinners – Apr 6, 2010 – *Australia* - By Chris Masters - The Sydney underworld's war without end, the ongoing battle for temporary supremacy, has in recent years featured the most visible members, bikies. The clearest evidence that the jungle rule book of old has been torn up comes from the prisons. Bikies no longer leave the colors at the gate & suspend hostilities for the period of incarceration. They have instead taken their war inside, creating a more than usually difficult management problem. Since its journey began over half a century ago, the outlaw motorcycle movement has carried in its saddlebags something of a split personality. An enduring question for law enforcement is which is the more dominant character, the club or the gang? The gangs' own actions in the past 12 months have forced a decision upon police about which road to take. Escalating tensions culminated in a more than usually stupid public bashing death at Sydney airport in March last year. The episode forced police & bikies into a state of war, a war that many on either side would prefer not to fight.

Historically, as criminals go, bikies were considered atypically considerate in the way they branded themselves outlaws & dressed the part. Indeed, fashion like the H-D has long been a feature of the identity. When I made a documentary on Australia's largest outlaw motorcycle gang, The Rebels, I was amused when a bikie told me their most common accident was colliding with the vehicle in front because the rider was looking at his reflection in shop windows. At best the clubs delivered brotherhood & belonging, a bit like the army. Formed by ex-soldiers, there is a military hierarchy, a sergeant-at-arms presiding warrant officer-like over adherence to uniform standards & regulation rides. As they told me, the only excuse for not toeing the line was incarceration - in hospital or prison.

When working on the documentary, Eddie Withnal, boss of the Coffin Cheaters & silverback gorilla of the bikie jungle said he was one of a brotherhood of men who had not forgotten how to be men. In his view, civilization had diminished the warrior code of the male. The pretext of masculine honor was not particularly convincing then & is less so now. Not far beneath the handlebars, tattoos & color patches was always an engine of crime. The outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMCGs) embrace civil disobedience, putting their own laws first. Low-level criminality formed around their Harleys, many a signature collaboration of "midnight spares".

They tended to live hard. NSW Police Crime Commander Ken Mackay recalls that in the old days when the undercover officer busted down the door of a bikie den, there would be grime everywhere & a half-built Harley in the lounge room. For a time the OMCGs disdained the use & supply of heavy drugs but, as with other criminals, that soon changed. By the 1970s some were specializing in amphetamine - speed was an easy fit with their road warrior ways. Their apprentices - noms, prospects - could be used to undertake the cooking & transporting, & if caught were expected to shut up & do the time.

There are many ugly corners of the bikie subculture. One is the abuse & exploitation of their own. Eager recruits, once used, can have their bikes & worldly possessions seized for the most vague of transgressions. And they are the lucky ones. More serious forms of excommunication involve torture, tattoos burnt off, kneecapping & execution. Finding anything romantic in the bikie movement has become more difficult as crime has taken more of the driver's seat.

Bikie gangs now have a significant share of the chemical drug market currently dominating the underworld economy. Much of the more public violence can be traced to a battle for supply & distribution rights. The trend is evident across Australia with John Lawler, head of the Australian Crime Commission, noting NSW had had the worst of the bombings & drive-by shootings. The Sydney airport brawl & death of Hells Angel Anthony Zervas was a climax of tensions between the Angels & the Comancheros. A week later Peter Zervas was hit by a burst of gunfire but survived. His inexpert assailants will be worried.

The bikie code of not being seen to back down is one explanation for them to so stupidly allow commonplace violence so visibly. March 2009 turned out to be a bloody month, with 2 other bikies shot & killed in Canberra. One of them I had come to know. Richard Roberts was killed with a shotgun along with associate, Gregory Carrigan. Rebel Ric was as fearsome looking as he was charming, & as popular as he was villainous. As it turned out the murders had no connection to the airport mayhem nor, it seems, to underworld business. Rebel Ric & his mate, it is alleged, were killed because of a quarrel over a girl.

The bloody week brought the bikies' journey closer to crossroads they had been approaching for some time. John Lawler has observed a steady dissolution of the bikie code of exclusivity. "It is a pot pourri," he said. "One of the changes is you have bikies working with West Africans, Asians, Italians & so on." Ken Mackay agrees: "It was once a cold day in hell if bikies dealt with Asians. Now it is very common."

Superintendent Mal Lanyon, commander of the NSW Police Gangs Squad, sees market forces at play: "Business interests move as opportunity changes. They are now recruiting criminals for what the criminals can bring to the group." Since March

2009 the premium brand of OMCGs, the Hells Angels, have undertaken a hasty & unseemly makeover. The gang had long fought above its weight, small in numbers but with cachet enough to sub-contract dirty work through smaller clubs. The Hells Angels are now recruiting as well as arming up, in doing so adjusting entry standards. The Sydney chapter's new president Felix Lyle a former Bandido, is one of a small band of re-patched brothers.

Another factor is that bikies hauled in by police, who once held their tongues, are rolling over & making deals. The lessening of discipline is increasing their vulnerability & exposing their leadership. It just might be they are also losing some toughness.

The newest gang, Notorious, widely disparaged as "Nike bikies" has abandoned the statutes & even the bikes. The trend is not isolated. Many in other gangs have also taken to designer jeans, 5-star accommodation & ringside seats at the fights.

The NSW prisons system has seen a kind of fusing of bikie & organized crime networks with DLASTHR (The Last Hour), MBM (Muslim Brotherhood Movement) & the Bra Boys now joined in a network of conflict & alliances.

At the time of the airport affray the ongoing jostle for supremacy saw the Comancheros moving towards the front of the pack. Some 130 strong in NSW, the Comancheros had realigned its NSW & national chapters & initiated expansion in Melbourne & Perth. Last November the "Comos" partied conspicuously on Sydney Harbour. The image of power & prosperity is attractive to unwitting disciples.

Despite notions of traditional rivalry, the gangs still do business together. As Ken Mackay somewhat ruefully puts it: "If they weren't so loud & stupid we would not focus on them. We need to focus on the major players but bikies kill us because the public demands action."

On the one hand the airport fracas has forced them to become more organized. On the other it has strengthened the arm of police. Now the bikies' renowned talent for self-destruction threatens them with more than the usual fate of prison or a funeral. They also face ignominy, as their soldiers form up one by one within the soulless, anonymous ranks of organized crime.

The Journey of Man: When I was 13, I hoped that one day I would have a girlfriend with big tits. When I was 16 I got a girlfriend with big tits, but there was no passion, so I decided I needed a passionate girl with a zest for life. In college I dated a passionate girl, but she was too emotional. Everything was an emergency; she was a drama queen, cried all the time & threatened suicide. So I decided I needed a girl with stability. When I was 25 I found a very stable girl but she was boring. She was totally predictable & never got excited about anything. Life became so dull that I decided that I needed a girl with some excitement. When I was 28 I found an exciting girl, but I couldn't keep up with her. She rushed from one thing to another, never settling on anything. She did mad impetuous things & made me miserable as often as happy.. She was great fun initially & very energetic, but directionless. So I decided to find a girl with some real ambition. When I turned 30, I found a smart ambitious girl with her feet planted firmly on the ground, so I married her. She was so ambitious that she divorced me & took everything I owned. I am older & wiser now, & I am looking for a girl with big tits.

Man Says Devices Planted By His Former MC – Apr 7, 2010 - *Palm Beach County, Florida* - Suspicious Devices Found At Jupiter Farms Home - A man who found the bombs in his front yard said he suspects a local motorcycle club that he used to be a member of to be responsible. He said he's not sure why they'd target him in such a violent way. "Half of it didn't go off. There was some shrapnel in the bomb & the part that didn't go off was fuel which would've probably burned my house down," said victim Everett Lima. Lima's close call had the Palm Beach County Sheriff's office flying overhead the Jupiter Farms neighborhood. PBSO was called out to Winterhawk Trail after a bomb exploded outside of Lima's house. "I stepped outside & heard sirens & then more sirens & pretty soon it was pretty much of a zoo here. I saw the bomb squad go by & I knew something was amiss," said neighbor Larry Corder. According to PBSO, Lima found 2 explosive devices on his front lawn just after 1 p.m. One had detonated in the early-morning hours, shattering the glass of his pick-up truck. The 2nd device did not explode. "Whoever did this was a coward. Whoever did this had no spine & decided that what they wanted to do was hurt a man's home," Lima said. PBSO & investigators with The ATF spent hours combing through the yard for any evidence & to make sure there were no other dangerous devices in the area. Lima claims it is all retaliation from a motorcycle club. "I was a former member of the Outlaws MC & I left the club in July of this last year & like I said, apparently there's some people out there that aren't too happy about me being around," Lima said. PBSO was forced to evacuate people from 4 of the surrounding homes for several hours, leaving people fearing for their own safety. "I know a couple of my neighbors were locking their doors & we said, 'Should arm ourselves? What's going on?'" said Corder. "It's scary knowing that someone is trying to kill your neighbor," said Matt Brunies.

Driver in fatal Phoenix motorcycle crash booked on 4 manslaughter counts – Apr 7, 2010 – *Arizona* – By Michael Ferraresi - Phoenix police arrested a 46-year-old man on suspicion of driving under the influence of methamphetamine in the March 25 wreck in which his dump truck rear-ended a group of motorcyclists at a red light, leaving 4 dead & others hospitalized. Michael Jakscht walked silently from police headquarters Tuesday, his chin to his chest, as officers took him to be booked at Maricopa County Fourth Avenue Jail on 4 counts of manslaughter, 5 counts of aggravated assault & 7 counts of endangerment. The collision at Carefree Highway & 27th Ave prompted outcries from the Arizona motorcyclist community as biker groups & safety advocates called the police Dept for answers. Toxicology results take up to 6 weeks in most criminal investigations, according to police. Jakscht's blood sample, which police drew after he passed field sobriety tests, was made a priority. "In this case, to get the result, so he doesn't drive more or drive impaired, it was the Dept's decision to make it a priority," Phoenix police Sgt. Trent Crump said. Investigators said Jakscht, who lives in Scottsdale, could face an additional impaired driving charge, & they are looking into the possibility that Jakscht was high on illegal drugs at the time of his arrest Tuesday near the Arizona 51 & Highland Avenue.

The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep & bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in Gov't. - Thomas Jefferson

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots & tyrants. - Thomas Jefferson

Owner of Road Dog may be allowed home – Apr 7, 2010 - *California* - By Leslie Albrecht - Ex-deputy wants out of Fresno halfway house - A judge is expected to rule today on whether Road Dog Cycle shop owner Bob Holloway can leave the Fresno halfway house in which he's confined & return home to Turlock. Defense attorneys say Holloway should be allowed to await trial on federal racketeering charges at his house, where electronic surveillance would track his movements. Prosecutors say Holloway has a propensity for violence & shouldn't be released because he poses a danger to the community.

Guilty plea over secret guns stash – Apr 7, 2010 – *Australia* - A member of the Finks MC has pleaded guilty to having a secret stash of guns & to a charge of drug manufacturing. Adelaide police found semi-automatic assault rifles, shotguns & handguns hidden in a wall cavity of a house at North Haven in Oct 2006. William John Davis, 51, has pleaded guilty in the District Court to 10 counts of possessing a gun without a license & 4 drugs charges. Prosecutors dropped similar charges against Davis's partner, Mary-Jane Woodhart.

No more police motorcycles – Apr 7, 2010 – *Grand Island, Nebraska* – By Tracy Overstreet - Grand Island's police motorcycle unit is no more. Police Chief Steve Lamken disbanded the unit about 2 weeks ago. "Motorcycles have some good, but they have negatives too," Lamken said. Most notably, the motorcycle unit took lots of training time, the bikes were used only half the year when weather was good & the motorcycles could not carry anyone other than the officer. If an arrest was made or a victim taken in for questioning, an officer with a police car had to be called to the scene -- thus taking 2 officers out of patrol. The program, although valuable, simply wasn't cost effective enough during the city's current "fiscal crisis," the chief said.

Attorney General Martha Coakley Recovers Additional \$9 Million in Insurance Premium Overcharges – Apr 7, 2010 – *Boston, Massachusetts* - Total Refunds to Consumers Now Approaching \$20 Million... Today, Atty General Martha Coakley's Office reached settlements with 4 more auto insurance companies regarding allegations that the insurers overcharged Massachusetts consumers for motorcycle insurance. The settlements, which are expected to return \$9 million to consumers, allege that Metropolitan Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Plymouth Rock Assurance, Pilgrim Insurance Company & the United Services Automobile Association used inflated motorcycle values to calculate premiums for many of their Massachusetts customers, resulting in millions of dollars in insurance premium overcharges. The Atty General's Office reached similar settlements with Safety Insurance Company, Liberty Mutual, & Quincy Mutual in Jan of this year. In total, the 7 insurers are expected to return \$20 million to consumers & pay over \$1 million to the Commonwealth.

County commissioners OK motocross track – Apr 7, 2010 - *Salina, Kansas* - By David Clouston - By a 2-1 vote Tue, the Saline County Commission gave approval for a motocross track & recreation area to be located west of Salina at the southeast corner of the Halstead Rd & Interstate Hwy 70 intersection. "They (Duncan's) were very respectable findings. Luckily, not everyone feels that way," Andrew Hammond, who wants to build the track, said after the meeting. "I do realize neighbors are concerned. Their anger & concern is more fear of the unknown.

Marriage is the only war where one sleeps with the enemy.

“The Dragon” closure helping Cherohala Skyway draw – Apr 7, 2010 – *Tennessee* – by Mona Nair - The closure of a section of U.S. 129 known as “The Dragon” is pushing more motorcyclists to ride the Cherohala Skyway. The Skyway connects Tellico Plains, Tennessee, with Robbinsville, North Carolina, & is about 50 miles long. Compared to the popular Dragon, the skyway has fewer curves & is more scenic. On Tue evening, motorcyclist Mike Ginocchi & his friend Stu were riding Cherohala Skyway. The pair is usually very loyal to the Dragon. They switched routes because of the rockslide closure on U.S. 129. “The Cherohala Skyway which we are sitting at the bottom of now is a very relaxing scenic drive. On the Dragon we are not looking at any scenery,” said Ginocchi, comparing the 2 biking experiences.

A Fed Judge Rules Against the Gov’t in a Warrantless Wiretapping Suit – Apr 7, 2010 – *California / USA* - By Michael C. Dorf - Last week, Chief Judge Vaughn Walker of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of CA ruled against the Fed Gov’t in a lawsuit seeking damages for warrantless wiretapping during the Bush Administration. The ruling is only the latest round in lengthy proceedings arising out the Bush policy. Although the particular warrantless wiretapping program at issue was officially terminated in 2007, like much of the handiwork of the Bush Administration in national defense, it casts a long shadow.

Warrantless Wiretapping & FISA: By now it is well known that in 2001, Pres Bush secretly authorized the National Security Agency to conduct warrantless wiretapping of conversations of suspected terrorists & those with whom they were communicating, whether inside or outside the United States. Although the initiative was styled a “Terrorist Surveillance Program”, there was no guarantee that it would only intercept the conversations of terrorists, or even suspected terrorists. The TSP appears to have been illegal, as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act requires a warrant for the Gov’t to wiretap conversations that include Americans. And, although a FISA warrant is easier to obtain than a wiretapping warrant for domestic law enforcement purposes, the Bush Administration nonetheless bypassed FISA.

US v. Everett, No. 09-5111 – Apr 7, 2010 – *USA* - U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals - In a prosecution of defendant for being a felon in possession of a firearm, district court’s denial of defendant’s motion to suppress the shotgun found in his vehicle during a traffic stop is affirmed as an officer’s questions about weapons or illegal drugs did not render the traffic stop an unreasonable seizure under the Fourth Amendment.

Ensnared by Error on Growing U.S. Watch List – Apr 7, 2010 – *USA* – By Mike McIntire - Rahinah Ibrahim, a Stanford University doctoral student, arrived at San Francisco International Airport with her 14-year-old daughter for a 9 a.m. flight home to Malaysia. She asked for a wheelchair, having recently had a hysterectomy. Instead, when a ticket agent found her name on the no-fly list, Ms. Ibrahim was handcuffed, searched & jailed amid a flurry of phone calls involving the local police, the F.B.I. & the Dept of Homeland Security. Two hours after her flight left, Ms. Ibrahim was released without explanation. She flew to Malaysia the next day. But when she tried to return to the United States, she discovered that her visa had been revoked. And when she complained that she did not belong on a terrorist watch list, the government’s response came a year later in a form letter saying only that her case had been reviewed & that any changes warranted had been made. Every year, thousands of people find themselves caught up in the government’s terrorist screening process. Some are legitimate targets of concern; others are victims of errors in judgment or simple mistaken identity. Either way,

their numbers are likely to rise as the Obama administration recalibrates the standards for identifying potential terrorists, in response to intelligence failures that let a would-be bomber fly to Detroit from Amsterdam last Christmas. On Fri, the administration altered rules for identifying which passengers flying to the USA should face extra scrutiny at the gate. And it is reviewing ways to make it easier to place suspects on the watch list. “The entire federal government is leaning very far forward on putting people on lists,” Russell E. Travers, a deputy director of the National Counterterrorism Center, said at a recent Senate hearing. Before the attempted attack on Christmas, Mr. Travers said, “I never had anybody tell me that the list was too small.” Now, he added, “It’s getting bigger, & it will get even bigger.”

ATF Investigating Outlaws MC, Other Leads In Explosion – Apr 8, 2010 – *Florida* - A special agent with the ATF said authorities are taking Tuesday’s Jupiter Farms bomb explosion very seriously & are not discounting the victim’s claim that it may have been the work of the Outlaws MC. Special Agent Carlos Baixauli told WPBF 25 News investigative reporter Terri Parker that his Dept & the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office are following all leads & will leave no stone unturned. Deputies were called to Winterhawk Trail after a bomb exploded in the bed of Everett Lima’s pick-up truck Tuesday afternoon. A second explosive device was found in his front yard. No one was hurt in the explosion & 4 homes on the street were evacuated. The owner of the house, Edward Lima found the explosive devices around 1 p.m. Tue. The first had exploded during the night; the second was not detonated. In an exclusive interview, Lima told WPBF 25 News he suspected members of the Outlaws MC were responsible. “I was a former member of the Outlaws MC & I left the club in July of this last year, & like I said, apparently there’s some people out there that aren’t too happy about me being around,” Lima said.

Bikers’ rough justice for accused abusers – Apr 8, 2010 – *Denmark* - Local neighbors reportedly asked bikers to intervene when details emerged of sexual abuse of minors. Two men, aged 18 & 69, currently being held in jail while the public prosecutor weighs up the charges against them for sexually abusing 6 young children. But reports are emerging of vigilantism, when locals called in a biker gang to take action where they felt that social services were stalling. Police in the West Zealand town of Fårvejlø changed & extended the charges against the grandfather & grandson suspects on Tue, saying what occurred at their home went above & beyond indecent exposure. Local sources spoke to BT newspaper on the condition of anonymity & said that ‘people in the neighborhood knew well that something was wrong’. The source said locals felt that authorities were not taking action after suspicions had been reported & so local bikers were called in to help. The unidentified bikers waited at the man’s house one evening before dragging him inside to beat him up, before also smashing up his swimming pool. The man allegedly used his swimming pool to lure his 6 victims. The area is a stronghold for the Bandidos biker gang & spokesman Jim Tinndahn said he could not confirm reports of the gang’s involvement because if they had done so it would have been illegal. ‘But our attitude to something like this [the alleged sexual abuse], is that we absolutely hate it. We have children just like everyone else,’ he said. The 6 victims are all under the age of 12 & all have been subject to a video deposition so they will not have to face the accused in court. The men were originally charged last Sept.

Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once! - Naval Ops Manual

The Way The Case Ends – Apr 8, 2010 – *California* – By “*The Aging Rebel*” - The Mongols case was never much more than old clothes stuffed with straw. The illusion has been rotting for a year & a half & Good Friday morning the scarecrow finally fell apart. For all practical purposes what is left of the Mongols case is now stored for safekeeping in a locked barn. The case is over because the hollow men who are prosecuting it will do anything to keep it out of court. Between the idea & the reality of the Mongols case lie all the shadows & secrets. For months the prosecution has been lying lies of omission & planting the ground for the really big lie – the lie that this case was somehow a victory somewhere for someone; the lie that what happened did not happen; the lie that something else happened. In the Mongols case the way things were is disturbing & the way things must have been is still unimagined. Not the least of those publically unimagined details is an accounting of how much it cost to invent & prosecute the Mongols menace. Nobody knows. The costs are dispersed among numerous state & federal agencies. You are not supposed to know. The best you can do is guess.

One Plus Two: The case started with a confidential informant. Eventually there were at least 6 & possibly as many as 9 snitches and, with their handlers, they must have cost at least \$45,000 a year. All the snitches were paid. So there goes at least a half million. The best number I could calculate was actually double that. And, now all the snitches must be protected & given better, new starts to their lives so there goes at least another half million. My guess is actually 3 & a half times that. So the informants cost at least a million but might have cost as much \$3.25 million. Call it a million for now. There were 8 ATF Under Cover Agents, male & female, & each pair of agents – with their backups & their pole cams, their wiretaps, their chase cars & electronically surveilled pied a terres, their motorcycle maintenance & all the rest of it – conservatively cost \$3 million a year. So just infiltrating the Mongols probably cost at least \$24 million. That does not include the costs of preparing affidavits, warrants & selling a grand jury a scary story. Of course, all of those costs were offset by the auction value of all those stolen motorcycles & cell phones & personal computers & other “seized property” & by Doc Cavazos’ house, bank account & stolen book & television royalties. But then that credit must be simultaneously balanced by the mobilization of so many Swat heroes & the replacement of so many windows & doors. The anguish, frustration & woe this case has cost everyone was free. The gullible news coverage was free. But, the investigation was just the beginning. The most expensive part of the Mongols case has been the costs of incarcerating & defending the accused & the costs of prosecuting the case. And this was, as almost every court document for the last year & half has emphasized, “a complex case.” Which is what lawyers say when they mean “Laissez les bon temps rouler!”

Billable Hours: Lawyers in Los Angeles typically bill you \$30 to \$50 for making a phone call on your behalf – unless it is a long phone call. Long phone calls cost more. The cost of driving under the influence of a 3rd drink in Los Angeles typically amounts to about \$12,000 & at least \$4,000 of that pays your lawyer. And this was not a drunk driving case. This was a RICO case. And there were, essentially, 77 defendants. Do the math. I get a bare minimum of \$2 million for the defendants’ legal bills alone. What do you get? What do you get when you add in millions of pages of photocopying, 3 judges, 2 US Attys, Gangland, the “exclusive special access” given to America’s Most Wanted, the salaries of the Marshalls who transported the prisoners around, the Magistrate Judges & the cost of lazering off Doc Cavazos’ tattoos? How much for the infrastructure that supported this case

– for the secretaries, phone lines & lightbulbs? How much for monitoring “biker websites?” Go ahead & guess. Two hundred dollars for every mile to the moon? And back? More? Much more? You cannot be wrong because nobody knows. Maybe if you file a Freedom of Information Act request & ask how much the Mongols case cost you will get an answer in 2 or 3 years. Probably not, but maybe. And, if you get an answer do you know what that answer will be? The answer will be, “We don’t know.” All I know is that the USA has chosen to prosecute this case instead of providing some number of college scholarships, instead of saving some number of foreclosed homes or instead of building new levees in New Orleans. The Mongols case is what Jack bought when he went to market to sell the family cow. The Mongols case is our very own bag of magic beans. It is so big that it is almost impossible to hide. But that is what the prosecution has been trying to do since at least last summer. The lies are so numerous that just listing them takes a dozen pages. The lies are so flagrant that the prosecution must be, in order from least to most likely, either dishonest, deluded or deranged.

Shining Light On The Mongols: During the course of Operation Black Rain members of the Mongols MC consumed illicit drugs including marijuana, cocaine & methamphetamine. A significant number, possibly as many as 1 member of the club out of every 30, also sold small amounts of these same drugs. At least 2 members & possibly as many as 5 members of the club sold bulk quantities of cocaine & methamphetamine & paid a percentage of their profits to former Mongols Pres Ruben “Doc” Cavazos. Some members of the club bought & sold firearms in private transactions that appear to have been mostly, if not entirely, legal. Some members of the club may have stolen motorcycles & resold them but probably not. Undercover Agents in 4 states, California, Nevada, Colorado & Oregon tried repeatedly & vigorously to implicate members of the club in motorcycle thefts & failed. The indictment charges the “Mongols criminal enterprise” with “theft” but no specific charge to support that accusation appears in the indictment. The first draft of the indictment was prepared in Feb 2008 & repeatedly revised until it was returned in Oct. So apparently the investigation was never able to substantiate the motorcycle thefts that investigators were convinced must be taking place. During the course of the investigation members of the club committed several serious assaults including a videotaped stabbing and, allegedly, a shooting. And during the 3 years of the investigation members of the club committed 3 homicides. Two of the homicides would probably be charged as manslaughters in a state court. All 3 homicides were spontaneous, rather than premeditated, acts. One of the homicides involved a civilian who had absolutely nothing to do with MC politics or the underworld.

The ATF: All of these offenses are state crimes but they were not investigated or prosecuted under state law. The Club was investigated by a federal police agency, the ATF. The reasons why this happened are complex. Most obviously, the interjection of federal police invited the fiction that the Mongols are a “criminal enterprise.” And, the state of California is strapped for cash & the federal government has money to burn. And, the ATF is drowning. The ATF is a profoundly unhappy place to work. ATF employees loudly, publically & routinely complain about agency red tape & their alienation from their supervisors. There is a pronounced undertone of sexual promiscuity & perversion at the ATF. A majority of ATF Agents learned to be policemen somewhere else which is one of the reasons why ATF investigations are the least disciplined of any Fed police agency. Many agents speak & behave as if they chased a glamorous dream into the Bureau & quickly became disillusioned. The Bureau has

routinely used disinformation as a weapon for decades. The neurotic style of the ATF has become more pronounced since the Bureau was moved out of the Treasury Dept & into the Dept of Justice. ATF officials seem terrified that their Bureau will be absorbed by the FBI & that that consolidation will ruin many careers. The current tension between the FBI & the ATF is not as obvious as it was in Apr 2005 in Seattle when ATF & FBI Agents actually drew guns on each other in an argument over jurisdiction at a crime scene. But ATF upper management actively encourages Field Agents to investigate big, sexy, high profile cases, “for the good of the company.” And motorcycle club investigations are very sexy. Since ATF moved out of the Treasury Dept to investigations analogous to the Mongols case have yielded a half dozen published books, 2 movie deals & numerous television episodes. And, although these cases are difficult & expensive to investigate they are remarkably easy to prosecute simply because the potential penalties for racketeering, which is the offense with which all the Mongols defendants were charged, are draconian. It is highly unlikely that the Mongols investigation would have ever taken place except that ATF Agents were eager to create the case. And the motives of those agents were not public spirited. The case was created to cynically serve the narrow self interest of employees of that agency. Similarly, news coverage of the investigation was cynically manipulated to glorify the ATF & the Dept of Justice & to personally aggrandize & enrich employees of those Gov’t agencies.

Flipping On The Other Lights: During the course of Operation Black Rain ATF Special Agents rode “seized” motorcycles & consumed illicit drugs including marijuana, cocaine & methamphetamine. On at least one occasion, an ATF Special Agent sold drugs. ATF Special Agents committed multiple violent assaults. Three Undercover ATF Agents were intimately involved in the homicide of one Mongol. One Agent was very intimately involved in that homicide. On numerous occasions, ATF Special Agents attempted to criminalize the motorcycle club in order to fabricate a stronger & more prestigious case. That attempted criminalization included both actual entrapment & sentence entrapment. Those same ATF Special Agents were so devious that they passed lie detector tests administered by a consultant hired by the Mongols. Much of the “evidence” against defendants in the Mongols case depends on the veracity & expertise of those disingenuous Agents. Numerous members of the Mongols opposed the admission to membership of all of the Under Cover Agents. At least several Mongols suspected that the ATF Agents were in fact federal police officers. One of those Mongols was murdered. Several others may have been singled out & maliciously overcharged in the indictment because they opposed the Agents’ admission into the club. Many of the “investigative reports” in the case were written well after the fact & are based, at best, on hearsay. Legal errors in the investigation make inadmissible much of the evidence with which defendants have been threatened. And finally, one of the ATF Under Cover Agents in the case was actually expelled from the Mongols Motorcycle Club for trying to tempt other members of the club into joining him in putative criminal activity. In the course of covering this case I was actually told that none of this is much “compared to Training Day.” It is not what you know, the corrupt cop in that movie explains over & over again. “It’s what you can prove.” But even if this case meets the high professional & ethical standard of not being Training Day, exposing any of the ATF Agents to cross examination in a public trial might be catastrophic for them & disastrous for the prosecution. So throughout the last eighteen months the prosecution has stalled the trial & simultaneously pressured defendants to make plea deals. Last week, in

Courtroom 9D in the Ronald Reagan federal Building in Santa Ana, California the prosecution was virtually assured that there will never be a trial in this matter. And, immediately afterward, the prosecution began to spin what it has done.

The rest of the topics not include are: Courtroom 9D, Robert Vincent “Chente” Rios, Harry “Face” Reynolds, Lance “Big El” Eustice, Ismael David “Mouth” Padilla, Anthony Mark “Bengal” Tinoco, Hector “Largo” Gonzalez, Alphonso Solis, & Christopher Brunwin... (I’ll try to include these in the next issue)...

Ventura Hells Angel could face domestic charges – Apr 8, 2010 – **California** - Ventura police arrested a member of the Hells Angels MC on Wed on suspicion of hitting his girlfriend. Police allege Ethan Kains, 34, hit his girlfriend then used his status as a member of the Ventura chapter of the motorcycle club to dissuade her from contacting police & cooperating with them. Police said Akins turned himself in. Akins was taken to the Ventura County Jail where he was being held on \$100,000 bail.

Ventura man arrested on suspicion of attempted child molestation – Apr 8, 2010 – **California** - A Ventura man was arrested Wed on suspicion of attempted child molestation. Police said that Jacob Holder’s arrest came after detectives searched his home in the 100 block of East Simpson St. Police allege Holder had been using his status as a prospective member of the Hells Angels MC to threaten & intimidate a victim into not cooperating with investigators. Holder was taken to the Ventura County jail, where he was booked for attempted child molestation, criminal threats, witness intimidation & street terrorism. His bail was set at \$500,000.

Four Hells Angels Arrested for Torre Vieja Lawyer Murder – Apr 8, 2010 – **Spain** - Four members of Hells Angels were arrested last Tue in relation with the murder of Torre Vieja lawyer Juan José Martínez last Oct. The Hells Angels were arrested in the Valencia City of Torrent, Castellon & Murcia. It is believed that one of those arrested actually shot Martinez, when he refused to hand over the money he had in the office in the road Ramon Gallud. They are 3 Spaniards & 1 Russian citizen, 1 of whom is a female. A firearm was found when their homes were inspected. It will now be analyzed to see if it is the one used in the robbery. Further arrests are expected. An erroneous identification earlier on in the investigation led to the arrest of 2 Russian citizens who had nothing to do with the crime. One of these Russians, Dimitri Dergachev, who runs a well known disco in the Vega Baja, spent 48 hours behind bars, & was released on a bail of 3,000 euros. He is now undergoing psychological treatment to get over the shock of the whole situation. The robbery took place at midday in the notary. The thieves pointed a gun at an employee & demanded that she handed them the money in the till. Her boss rushed to the reception to defend her. A single shot at short range went into his abdomen & destroyed an artery. The 54 year old lawyer bled to death, despite the 40 minutes ambulance workers worked to save his life. He left a widow & 2 children. Hells Angels in Spain have a violent & mafia-like reputation. Many of the members here live from drug trafficking & selling fire arms, robbery & other criminal activities. In 2009 22 members were arrested, 5 of whom were in Altea.

You never know what worse luck your bad luck has saved you from. - Cormac McCarthy, “No Country for Old Men”

You’ve gotta think outside the box,
lest you end up trapped inside of it.

Informant No Longer Protected by Authorities – Apr 9, 2010 – *Minnesota* - Despite promises from prosecutors & federal agents, an undercover informant is now told he doesn't qualify for the federal witness protection program. In another life, he went by the nickname "Hollywood" when he ran with the El Forestero biker gang. It was a life he left behind 3 years ago, when fellow bikers gave his 15-year-old son a nearly fatal dose of cocaine. Hollywood became a police informant for the now defunct Minnesota Gang Strike Force & Fed agents in Minnesota & Missouri. He gives them valuable intelligence on the El Forastero & Galloping Goose motorcycle gangs on drugs, guns, even murder. He named names too. Many of them had aliases like Meathead, Crazy Joe, Shorty & Fast Eddie. But in the end, it was Hollywood's real name that would get out. It happened last summer during a Hells Angels convention in northern Minnesota. Sources described it as a turf battle with law enforcement. Hollywood's cover was blown & his real name ending up in this Fed court document in Missouri. Just before Christmas, he got a panicked call from Fed agents. Federal agents told him they were coming to kill him. Multiple law enforcement sources confirm Hollywood's story. They said he was an informant for Fed & local authorities not only in Missouri but also here in Minnesota. And in the opinion of those sources, Hollywood is a man several biker gangs have marked for death. Hollywood has had to move his family 5 times in the last 4 months. His kids were taken out of school. His home in rural Minnesota's been broken into twice recently. At night, he puts plywood over his windows & doors in case there's gunfire. But after 3 months in witness protection, he's been told he no longer qualifies because he never testified in the Missouri case. In Minnesota, prosecutors don't want to touch a case with connections to the disgraced gang strike force.

Bikers' 'code of honor' brings cycle of violence to sedate Berlin – Apr 9, 2010 – *Germany* – By Derek Scally - Michael was on the way home from the supermarket last Sept when the killer struck, knocking him down from behind & driving a knife into his thigh. The 33-year-old dropped his shopping – jam, a beer & a bottle of cola – & tried to flee when a bullet from a small-calibre pistol penetrated his back & ripped through his heart. He struggled on for another 100 metres before collapsing in a pool of his own blood as his killer disappeared down a side street in Berlin's eastern neighborhood of Hohenschönhausen. Police blame the killing on the victim's decision to leave Berlin's Hells Angels & join the rival Bandidos gang. In the six months since then, the killing has triggered gang warfare unheard of in the normally peaceful German capital, running street battles that have hardened local attitudes to the rocker groups. Until now, you could be forgiven for mistaking the local Hells Angels – heavysset middle-aged men in leather jackets on custom H-Ds – as just another part of Berlin's love affair with the 1980s that includes mullet haircuts, Bonnie Tyler & stone-washed denim. The Hells Angels – apostrophes are for wimps – was founded in California in 1948 & the Berlin Hells Angels arrived in 1990. They also answer to the name "Bad City Crew" but bristle if anyone calls their "motorcycle club" a "gang". Spokesman Django – real name Rudolf – describes the Hells Angels as a "brotherhood" based on 4 principles: respect, honesty, dependability & freedom. "There are some basic rules," he says. "Don't lie, don't cheat, don't take drugs, don't hurt children or animals, don't hang a brother out to dry & don't steal a brother's woman." To believe the Hells Angels, the organization comprises urban cowboys on mechanical horses who, like the Freemasons, are a peace-loving people misunderstood by a cynical world. There are approximately 700 Hells Angels in Germany, but no reliable figures for Berlin. The numbers keep changing because of their

violent feud with the Bandidos. Formed in Texas in 1966, the Bandidos is a much smaller organization with about 2,400 members worldwide. A decade ago the organization came to Germany & began recruiting Hells Angels – a move viewed as an affront in the older organization, where membership is for life. Since the killing of their newest member, Michael, in Berlin, the smaller gang has demonstrated just how seriously they take their motto: "God Forgives, Bandidos Don't". The on-off feud between the two gangs has flared up like never before & has spread around the country. From Duisburg in the west to Leipzig in the east, police report night-time riots, shootings & all-out street battles between the 2 motorcycle gangs. The violence has also spilled over into ordinary life. Last month in Berlin's upmarket Steglitz neighborhood, police were called to a bar that had been stormed by 12 Bandidos brandishing knives & axes, reportedly demanding protection money from the proprietor. Most of the gang members escaped on their motorbikes but 2 were apprehended by police trying to flee in a Volkswagen Golf. Police say they are unable to break the cycle of violence because the Hells Angels & Bandidos see their feud as a private matter & refuse to co-operate with the authorities. So police look on as gang members keep switching sides & fanning the flames. On March 14th, hours after 40 Bandidos defected; their betrayed brothers attacked a Hells Angels club building in Berlin with Molotov cocktails. Shocked, the Hells Angels declared a ceasefire – but that lasted less than 24 hours. At 5am on March 17th, masked men showed up at the Bandidos Berlin headquarters & burned the building down with flame-throwers. Two men inside at the time reported hearing shots before they escaped to safety. Faced with a nationwide gang war, German politicians are divided over whether to ban the gangs or try to lock up their ringleaders. Criminal investigators say any action has to go beyond the testosterone-fuelled street battles & tackle the real war: control over the drug & vice networks the gangs have built up in Germany's major cities, hidden behind respectable fronts of property, security & drinks delivery companies. The Hells Angels insist they are an organization of motorbike & rock-music lovers & blame all racketeering allegations on biased police officers & excitable tabloid journalists. "If it was all about drug dealing & battles for sales areas, then where is the damn money?" asks Django. So, if not racketeering, what lies behind the violence? "Violence is part of human nature, like sex," he says. "This is about material issues, often it's about respect. And we know from history that sometimes a society has fallen over a woman."

Police Continue Investigating MC Shooting – Apr 9, 2010 – *Maine* - Police continue to investigate a shooting outside a MC in Canaan, more than 6 months ago. A 63-year-old man was injured. In Oct, State Police responded to reports of gunshots near the entrance to the Hells Angels clubhouse on Route 23. They found Gary Watson of Madison, wounded in his pick-up truck. Neighbors say he had taken care of the clubhouse for years. Watson was critically injured & had to undergo surgery.

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U.S. Defenders:

- If we all do a little bit, Then no one has to do a lot...
- There can be no "I", there has to be "We"...
- One heart, One Voice...

National Coalition of Motorcyclists...
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