

News From The Western Slope VP

By Carl Dodson

By the time this is published, the Legislative session will be over. We did ok for ourselves as we stopped two 18 and under helmets bills before they were submitted as bills. They are still on the backburner and could move at any given time yet. The .08 bill passed in the Senate, now it goes back to the House due to Amendments. It's a done deal people. We are stuck with this one. Senator Ron Teck of Grand Junction stood up against this bill all the way. He needs a note of thanks since he did not cave into federal blackmail.

I want to thank everyone that attended the seminar back in April. It was well worth it and I would like to pass some of the info on. By September I'll have a handout packet on how the laws get started, how they are formed into laws, and when and what to do after that.

The Gateway party is set for June 5th, and is for RFJ members and guests only. You will be responsible for your guests. We are going to have a BIKERS WEDDING!! We'll need some bikes, so bring one if you can. For those who have never seen one it is a real experience to witness. We are not sure yet as to what the porta-potties will cost us, so decided to set the gate fee at \$20.00 a person so we can cover our butts. It has been sometime now since we had an increase in the fee. Beer and cooking supplies provided, but bring your own food and bed. Remember that camping conditions are primitive. To the new members, here is how to get there. When you drive through Gateway you will cross the bridge. Make a sharp right just behind the bridge and go about 4.5 miles down that road. The party will be on your right and you can't miss it.

Connie Mayernick asked me to post an event for July 4th. So here it is: Tree's 3rd annual pig roast, July 4th, 1443 Haystack Rd., Montrose CO. Bring your tent and bedroll. Some tent spaces are still available. Saturday arrivals welcome. Let's have some fun.

On the federal front from Miles France at the MRF: He told me that Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell's National Awareness and Safety bill is moving. The bill passed in the Senate and Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave has sponsored the bill in the House. This is some good news for a change.

In closing I want to again to say thanks to everyone. This is what made RFJ what it is today. A BIG THANK YOU for your hard work and dedication.

Wherever you end up going this summer, please have a good ride and be safe. See ya in Sept.

Thought for the road: If most people would put their foresight ahead of their hindsight, they would be better off by a damn sight.

Notes From The Denver Metro VP

By Tiger Chandler

Is it me or is spring finally getting to our state? This winter seems to me to have been a long cold one. There has been so much going on that time has flown by toooooo fast. We as motorcyclist here in Colorado had a good year as far as actual motorcycle issues at the State House go, but we as citizens have lost some more of our rights. With the Governor signing the bill that will limit us to one (yes I said one) test for liquor (dui test) I believe we loose. I have heard that there is suppose to be only a 3% error in the testing but do you want to be one of the 3%? I know that some of us worked hard to get this one out the door and have made numerous attempts to get our message heard by Owens, but with no luck. So I tell you as I have been telling everyone that I come in contact with: first do not drink and drive, second if you do get some one else to drive, and last if your caught you can refuse but what good would that do – you now only get one chance and you had better hope that you are not one of those in the 3% group. It is enough to make one want to scream. But wait there is more – I am sure that if you read on in this issue you will read about Owens pulling another one on us with his support of “Coors” for Ben's seat. I have had many talks with Lucky on this and I support Lucky 1000% with his call to NOT support Owens for NOT supporting us. I have asked till I am blue in the face “what has Coors done for us that we need him in DC?” Last night at caucus I asked again with no real answer. What we need in DC is someone with a proven track record not someone with a pocket full of money. Owens seems to need a set of hearing aids, and a reminder sheet of what he says from one day to the next. So PLEASE read what I am sure is one of Lucky's greatest articles and make up your own mind. We need strong leadership and we are the only one's who can do that.

With the warmer weather comes more motorcycles and more runs so I hope I am going to open a few minds with my next thoughts. This is an issue that I have been working on for years and it seems to be continuing right under our noses – **discrimination**. Some of you maybe asking what is she talking about? Well I bet most of you have been witness to it without even knowing you are in the mist of it. Have you gone into an establishment that advertises “motorcycle friendly” and there are only a select group of people there or there are signs up that state “no leathers, no colors, etc” but there are motorcyclist's there. I know several “motorcycle friendly” places that encourage select motorcyclists as patrons but will ask others to leave. Even though there are

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1. The organizations’s purpose is to defend and promote the rights of bikers, as well as, to associate for social reasons.
2. Persons speaking on behalf of RFJ must be the elected officers of a representative designated by the membership or officers.
3. All officers must be a registered voter and have a valid motorcycle license.
4. The membership can by a 3/4 majority, effect an election of officers at any regular meeting.
5. The membership can by a 3/4 majority vote, deny new membership, if any member questions the new membership.
6. In order for anyone to vote at the meetings, they must be a paid member.
7. Renewal of membership dues are from October to October.
8. Should this organization be dissolved, all funds shall be donated to a similar organization.

Purpose of Riders For Justice

1. We intend to support our current Constitution and keep as much of it intact as we can.
2. We also advise our membership of the best candidates for which to vote. When they are sometimes equally good or bad, we do not make a recommendation.
3. We DO NOT and WILL NOT receive money from any government entity.
4. Our officers are available through email and/or direct telephone.
5. None of our officers are paid for their work or reimbursed for food, travel or lodging.
6. We hire a lobbying firm to represent us at the state capitol.
7. The officers also lobby at the capitol and at town meetings with state and federal congressmen.
8. We ARE NOT and DO NOT intend to be politically correct.
9. We print in our newsletter, articles of political and social interest for members, as well as, keeping them abreast of current and potential bills.

those who choose to wear colors that does not mean that they are no less a motorcyclist than the next person. When I am riding and I see a group of bikes out side a bar for instance I will pull into find out what kind of a place it is and if I want to hang out there. Usually the first thing I do is ask the person behind the bar what their policy is on colors. Sometimes it is visible with a sign; sometimes it is not so clear. When they tell me that colors are not allowed my next question is – why, who, when, what happened to make your policy this? I have found that 9 times out of 10 it is due to the old “we don’t want trouble”. So my next question is - did you have trouble in the past? Usually the answer is no. Some of these bars have even gone so far to state that some clubs are allowed but other are not. And to add fuel to the fire there are even those bars that have signs up that state “no colors” because they do not want trouble with the law. They will allow colors in but the local law enforcement has told them that if there is trouble they may not get there in a speedy fashion. So the point to my ravings is that when you are out there and you’re having a great time look around you, do you see what I see? I have been around clubs for over 25yrs, my husband wears a patch, and I have seen the worst in this state. I have walked out of even restaurants because my brothers would not be able to come in the next day to eat. Now I know that some of you are saying this is only a club problem but it has even gone as far as people wearing motorcycle rights patches/t-shirts. Where will it end? Oh yeah they will even welcome **all** motorcyclist on a poker run on Saturday but on Sunday they will ban certain people. I ask all of you to look and learn, look around you and then learn about the place where you hang around. We need to make “motorcycle friendly” mean just that. If there is a problem with an individual let that be with the individual not the rest of those who choose to ride in the wind. If you know of a place with such practices please let me know, I have been working with the Confederation of Clubs for years to stop these practices. Let’s all ride free no matter what we ride, how we look or who we choose to ride with, otherwise we might as well sit at home and watch old movies about riding motorcycles.

Just one more thought comes to mind with the warmth of the sun – with more motorcyclists on the road there are still those other moving vehicles out there – be careful, we are our only friend on the road. It is up to us to take care of us because those other drivers most certainly are not watching for us. I must say that I am looking forward to riding warmer since this year was the first that I got frost bite in my fingers, but I ride year round. In fact I have been asked if I if my husband and I own an auto since there are those who have not seen us out without our motorcycles. **BE CAREFULL**

Words to Live By

Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming—WOW—What A RIDE!!

Notes from the East VP

By Lucky

This month has been long in coming. The legislature is out! We escaped a helmet bill, but got federal extortion instead. Yes, after convincing the legislature for four years that the .08 BAC thing just wasn’t right, they finally passed a law, only now we can have tastings at liquor stores! Gee, what a trade. Our chance of losing that \$50million in road funds over what we have already spent (\$800million) just doesn’t give me a warm fuzzy.

Other bills that passed; we now can get our drivers licenses over the internet. Left lane for passing on the open hiway. Proof of insurance before you acquire license plates for vehicles. Most of these go into effect in July. It looks like English is our official language. Tea-21LU passed with alot of pork. What will become of Tabor, and Amendment 23? And the budget did not get balanced. Does this mean a special session?

But seriously now, when the Governor dropped Bob Schaffer for the wealthy real estate mogul, and he steps down, and then the Governor supports Bob once again-until they shake another millionaire out of the bushes, well it tripped my trigger. I usually don’t like run-on sentences like the last one, but I feel like the Governor is a turncoat!

To me it makes it look like the Retardicans are only after the money. Well, we already know that the Dummycrats are like that! The real question here is who is better suited to represent us in the Senate than Bob? Pete Coors has lots of money, but where is the experience? The same with Salazar, so he is the Attorney General, what does he know of the process at Capitol Hill? It seems to me that with Bob’s record, he IS best suited to be Colorado’s next Senator.

Mr. Schaffer has done everything he said he would do in his three terms as Rep. He did step down after self-imposing term limits. He has a 100% voting record. He has shown us dignity, and integrity. That’s hard to do! (Just look at Ted Kennedy-ooo, barf).

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So I guess that by now my point is, I am endorsing Bob Schaffer for Senate. He will be as much of an asset as Ben Nighthorse was for us. In fact, Bob has been a member of RFJ for several years! So let the Governor know how you feel, and tell him to go back to Tejas! The call is toll free.

Now that I'm done with that rant, let us look towards the Feds. We will at some point be looking at a national seatbelt law. Remember federal extortion? Just like the ol' .08 BAC. The patRIOT act II, and several terror minded bills. What constitutes a gang, and maybe even a decibel level for loud pipes! You can rest assured that our gun rights are going to be on the hot seat. The liberals just don't get the 2nd Amendment! Don't they read the Constitution?

The loud pipe thing is already happening here in Colorado. Example- Loveland. There one of our members was stopped and the brown-shirt stuck his thingy up the dudes pipe! It was fun for the cop, but not so for our friend. Ticketed and fined. Loud pipes saves lives, and generates revenue for municipalities!

On a better note, we did a bang-up job with the Loop for Lupus Poker Run! I would like to thank everyone who donated-helped, and participated! Much needed revenue was brought in to the tune of over \$4 grand! It is always nice to see the community in action. I did hear that we had one accident though. Someone out there bring me up to speed on this? I wasn't informed as to who or where, and the extent of injuries. Please let me know if there is anything I can do, or if we can help in anyway.

Since May has at the end of the month a very important holiday, everyone should get out and thank a Vet! After all they are the ones who fought to protect our country. Even with the prison scandal in Iraq, they are just a minority. It doesn't reflect what hundreds of thousands of others do to protect our freedom.

Pussies like Rene Gonzales, and other so called editors of these left-wing anti American college newspapers, are calling our troops baby killers, etc. Remnants of Vietnam, which none of them were even thought of yet. Dissing Pat Tillman the NFL player who left a fat contract, to go into the Special Forces and die for our country. Let me say this, why don't you freaks enlist for a two year stint, and then come back? Then you all can act just like John Kerry This message has been approved by me.

Hope everyone has a nice summer. We are going to hold a meeting Sunday July 18 at the American Legion Windsor, 12 noon. If anyone has ideas to get together, for fun and or ideas to raise more money let's get it on! I would like to do a couple of bikini bike/car washes. This is a popular way to make some dough! We do have one bar that would participate already. Needed is dates times, and girls in bikinis. No, I won't be wearing one, even if I do have man-boobs!

Quotes to live by: "No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation" Douglas McArthur

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former." Albert Einstein

"The United States is a nation of laws, badly written and randomly enforced." Frank Zappa

"Modern definition of a racist is someone who is winning an argument with a liberal." Peter Brimelow

NCOM COAST TO COAST BIKER NEWS

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish,
National Coalition of Motorcyclists

HOUSE APPROVES TRANSPORTATION ACT, INCLUDING MOTORCYCLE SAFETY INITIATIVES The U.S. House of Representatives has voted overwhelmingly to approve a six-year \$284 billion transportation funding measure, which includes provisions to expand state rider training programs and other motorcycle safety initiatives. H.R. 3550, the "Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users" (TEA LU), was passed by a vote of 357-56 on April 2, 2004.

The U.S. Senate approved a similar measure, S. 1072, the "Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act" (SAFE-TEA), by a vote of 76-21 on February 12. The Senate version reauthorizes \$318 billion over the next six years to fund highway, mass transit and safety programs, but does not include language specifically addressing motorcycle safety concerns.

Both bills will now go to a conference committee, comprised of both Senators and Representatives, to iron out discrepancies between the two and submit a final bill to the President for his signature or veto. The White House has proposed an alternative \$256 billion transportation package, and President Bush has threatened to veto the legislation if costs exceeded that amount.

WISCONSIN LAW PROTECTS HELMETLESS RIDERS Wisconsin Governor James Doyle signed a bill on Monday, March 15, that will ensure that motorcyclists who choose not to wear helmets do not face reduced awards in personal injury cases if they are involved in accidents.

In ruling on an ATV accident two years ago, the Wisconsin Supreme Court said that a jury could consider a person's decision not to wear a helmet if they received a head injury in a crash involving a "high speed open air motor vehicle," and reduce the amount of lawsuit damages paid to that person by up to 100%. Wisconsin only requires helmets be worn by motorcycle riders and passengers under 18 years old. "What we're saying in Wis-

consin is that if you do something that is in compliance with the law, it will not be held against you," said Governor Doyle in signing Senate Bill 223.

S.223, which effectively nullifies the court's 2002 decision by dropping the allowable reduction amount to zero%, was authored by ardent motorcyclist Senator Dave Zien at the request of ABATE of Wisconsin. Zien, one of the founders of the bikers' rights movement in Wisconsin and a longtime member of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists Legislative Task Force (NCOM-LTF), says the new law prevents discrimination against motorcyclists by courts and insurance companies.

Zien maintains that helmets contribute to accidents by reducing head mobility, vision and hearing. Helmet chin straps also can contribute to neck injuries during accidents, he said. "For the motorcycle community, we don't want to be forced to wear helmets," Zien told the Lacrosse Tribune.

HELMET WEARING MAY BE A TAXING PROPOSITION Safety or protective helmets will be exempt from Pennsylvania's state sales tax under legislation sponsored by Representative Allan Egolf (R-Perry and Franklin) and unanimously approved by the House on March 24th.

"Many children and adults enjoy activities such as horseback riding, bicycling, roller-blading and motorcycle riding where helmets are either required or recommended for the safety of the participant," said Egolf, an avid bicyclist. "I believe it is important to encourage the use of safety helmets whether they are mandated or not," he said. "I believe that eliminating the sales tax on these purchases is an incentive to encourage helmet use."

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“What parent would refuse to buy something they believed would help protect their kids because they didn’t want to pay a few dollars in sales tax?,” queried John Mullendore, ABATE of Pennsylvania’s Legislative Coordinator and a member of the NCOM Board of Directors, adding “It passed 194-0.” Pennsylvania repealed their helmet law for adult motorcyclists last year.

HB-417 will now be considered in the Senate.

BAY STATE RIDERS WIN RIGHT TO LIDLESS PARADES

Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney signed House Bill 206, an act allowing adult motorcyclists the “freedom of choice” to not wear a helmet while riding in a parade.

HB 206, sponsored by Representative Demetrius Atsalis, provides an exception to the state’s mandatory helmet law that “No protective head gear be required if a motorcyclist is participating in a properly permitted public parade and is 18 years or older,” explained Paul Cote, Legislative Director for the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association (MMA), adding that “This is the fifth motorcyclists’ bill passed in the last four years!”

The new law is scheduled to take effect in 90 days, which lands right before the MMA’s “STORM the State House” lobbying day on Thursday, May 20th. MMA leaders have already begun securing “parade permits” from the cities of Somerville and Boston, so the “STORM” could be one of the first helmet “choice” permitted parades; riding to the State House to thank legislators and lobby for other bills still pending, including Senate Bill 1363 — the full “helmet choice” for all adult riders.

BILL FILED TO RE-ENACT LOUISIANA HELMET LAW

A bill that would reverse a law pushed through the Legislature by former Governor Mike “Big Daddy” Foster giving adult motorcycle riders the option of wearing helmets has been filed in the Senate. Senator Joel Chaisson II, D-Destrehan, filed Senate Bill 29, which mandates all motorcycle riders to wear helmets with padding, a visor and a chin strap. That was the law until five years ago when Foster helped persuade lawmakers to allow a choice for riders older than 18 who are covered by at least a \$10,000 health insurance policy and furnish proof of insurance to police if stopped. Foster, an avid motorcyclist, has always characterized the law he promoted as one aimed at giving adults a choice of wearing or not wearing a helmet. No state has enacted a helmet law since Maryland in 1996, but six states have repealed their helmet laws since then; Arkansas, Texas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Florida and Pennsylvania, making 31 states that currently allow adult freedom of choice. Let’s not go backwards!

AUSTRALIAN RIDERS MOUNT FRONT PLATE PROTEST

The Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA) of Victoria is up in arms over a proposal to require Aussie bikers to affix license plates to the front of their motorcycles so that they can be identified from the front for tolls and for speed cameras.

MRA Victorian president Alex Money said the group is planning a protest to alert the general public as to how much money the government would waste in the move. “We just want the public to know the Victorian government is spending \$14 million to introduce motorcycle front number plates,” he explained, noting that speed cameras in New South Wales take photographs from behind.

Tollway operator Transurban has said it would consider introducing motorcycle tolls if bikes could be photographed from the front.

CELEBRITIES IN THE NEWS

Daytona Harley-Davidson is

crying foul against Los Angeles Lakers basketball star Shaquille O’Neal, claiming he reneged on the purchase of a custom motorcycle. The dealership filed a breach of contract suit recently in circuit court seeking at least \$15,000 in damages against the Orlando-area resident. Because the bike was built for someone of the 7-foot-1 Shaq’s size, the Harley dealer claims it is stuck with a motorcycle it can’t sell. The Beach Street-based company claims in its suit that the Lakers star center, who started his NBA career with the Orlando Magic, agreed to pay the company to build him a “custom motorcycle, with the design specifications requested by defendant being that the motorcycle be ‘out there’ and ‘blow everything else away.’” The motorcycle was delivered to O’Neal on Sept. 12, 2003, but he refused to pay for it, the suit claims.

AIMING FOR JUSTICE Justice was finally served to 26 bikers who had been ticketed during a “routine” traffic stop for running a stop sign last October while on their way to the Concerned Bikers Association (CBA) Swap Meet in Charlotte, N.C.

All the ticketed bikers were represented by North Carolina Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) Attorney Robert A. Donat, who’s courtroom strategy was to show that it is common practice for riders to do a “stop and go” when traveling in large groups. The Assistant District Attorney was also informed that no one was going to plead guilty to the charges and that each and every rider desired a trial (there were four different trial dates, as four different officers wrote tickets that day). Furthermore, that this “routine” stop was nothing more than a harassing intelligence operation, and there was evidence that the whole operation was pre-planned, including statements made by one of the ticketing officers, and the fact that a DMV inspector appeared at the scene. Mr. Donat also found an eyewitness passerby who could confirm that there was a person wearing a ski mask at the scene, and that the bikers were videotaped. The DA finally agreed that this was not worth prosecuting, and every one of the charges was dropped.

Robert Donat (“RAD”) serves as legal counsel for the Concerned Bikers Association and the North Carolina Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs. “The N.C. COC is currently considering its options now that the charges have been dismissed,” said Donat.

WEIRD NEWS OF THE MONTH: SADDAM’S MOTORCYCLE LOOTED

The man who swung the first blow when Saddam Hussein’s infamous statue was toppled from the middle of Firdos Square in Baghdad has been arrested for looting the tyrant’s motorcycle from a museum.

Armed with a sledgehammer, Khadom Sharif Hassan — Iraq’s weightlifting champion — started pounding away at the statue last April, to cheers from the jubilant crowd and praise from President George W. Bush, who watched the action unfold on the White House television. “They got it down,” the president said approvingly.

But today the beefy hero is languishing in jail, accused of looting Baghdad’s National Army Museum of one of the former dictator’s most treasured exhibits: the 50-year-old black Norton motorcycle on which the young Saddam claimed he fled to Syria in 1959 after a botched American-sponsored assassination attempt on Iraq’s then prime minister, Gen Abd al-Karim Qasim, who a year earlier had overthrown the British-backed monarchy to seize power. Though the plan failed, it sparked the Ba’ath party’s rise to power.

Mr. Hassan explained that he felt he had a legitimate claim to the bike, which until the looting frenzy had stood on a pedestal in the museum, but was later found in his workshop during

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a raid by Iraq’s special crimes squad. As the chief motorbike mechanic for Saddam’s elder son Uday, Hassan had spent countless hours lavishing care on the Norton. What’s more, he said, Uday used to cherry-pick the best motorcycles that he imported into Iraq, paying him just a fraction of their value.

Hassan, 50, who is married with three children, said he had looked after more than 100 motorbikes belonging to Uday for 16 years, working on them round the clock. “I would be ordered to tune a bike at 3 a.m. if Uday decided after a night out that he wanted to ride the next day,” he said. “His favorite was a red Honda 750cc bike which he used for jumping because he was tall and strong enough to drive a big bike.”

Uday preferred Japanese models to American Harley-Davidsons, Hassan said, but also liked a BMW that was a present from King Abdullah of Jordan. When Uday was hospitalized from an accident, he ordered scores of his motorbikes to be lined up outside his window so that he could admire them.

Officials from the serious crimes squad have described the case against Hassan as “open and shut,” but from the special police headquarters in Baghdad, he denies stealing the bike. “I bought the Norton from a looter,” he said. “I knew he had stolen it, but I had a duty to take it and look after it. I love that bike. Of course, I hate Saddam, but what he did wasn’t the bike’s fault. It is a special thing in Iraq’s history.”

CONGRATULATIONS to Skip Gravatt, a former Lone Star activist who is graduating from Regent University in Virginia with a Masters Degree in Public Policy, so that he can carry the fight right into the State House.

“I would encourage others to follow into academia and achieve accreditation that represents the pedigree to carry the fight into the hollowed halls of our legislative bodies and the previously closed doors of academia,” said a newly edited Gravatt. “I assure you I will continue to fight for our personal liberties, and I will always remember my days with Texas ABATE with a smile on my heart.”

Skip adds that, “I will return to Texas and compete for public office at the earliest opportunity.”

Go get ‘em, Skip. The only thing better than a biker-friendly legislator is a legislator who IS a biker!

Blonde Moments! A guy took a blonde out on a date. Eventually they ended up parked at a “lovers point” where they started making out. After things started getting pretty good, he thought he might get lucky, so he asked her “Do you want to go in the back seat?” “NO!” she answered. Okay, he thought, maybe she’s not ready yet. Now he has her shirt and skirt off, the windows are steamed, and things are getting really hot, so he asks again, “Do you want to go in the back seat?” “NO!” she answers again. Now he has her bra off, they’re both very sweaty, and she even has his pants unzipped. Okay, he thinks, she HAS to want to now. “Do you want to go in the back seat?” he asks again. NO!” she answers yet again. Frustrated, he demands “Well, why not! “Because I want to stay up here with you!”

Louisiana State Senator Joel Chaisson II (D-Destrehan) has filed Senate Bill 29, which mandates all motorcycle riders to wear helmets with padding, a visor and a chin strap. That was the law until five years ago when former Governor Mike Foster, an avid motorcyclist, helped persuade lawmakers to allow a choice for riders older than 18. Chaisson said his bill is backed by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission.

With Foster not around to promote an optional bill or threaten a veto, Chaisson said, the chances are good the law will pass. Chaisson said he intends to present medical experts to testify on the need for a mandatory helmet law.

Under the existing law any adult who chooses not to wear a helmet must be covered by at least a \$10,000 health insurance policy and furnish proof of insurance to police. (*Times-Picayune*)

Vermont Governor James Douglas announced he is appointing a special working group to identify issues and opportunities relating to all-terrain vehicle use in Vermont.

Douglas appointed former House Republican Leader Michael Bernhardt of Londonderry to lead a working group that will seek to develop a report with recommendations to work out some of the land use issues and provide a statewide recreational resource. Bernhardt said he expected to begin public meetings of the task force in March and make policy recommendations to the governor late this year. (*Barre-Montpelier Times Argus*)

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle signed into law an act that will ensure that motorcycle, snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle riders who do not wear helmets won't face reduced awards in personal injury cases because of that fact. Helmets are not required for adult motorcycle riders in Wisconsin.

In a ruling two years ago, the state Supreme Court said a jury could consider a person's decision not to wear a helmet to reduce the amount of damages paid to that person.

Doyle signed the bill, authored by ardent motorcyclist Senator Dave Zien (R-Eau Claire) and Representative Barbara Gronemus (D-Whitehall), surrounded by motorcyclists including members of ABATE of Wisconsin, Motorcycle Riders Foundation, and American Motorcyclist Association. Also in attendance were representatives from Accident Scene Management, who played key roles in drafting and getting this legislation passed.

Wisconsin does not have a law requiring adult motorcyclists to wear helmets, and the Legislature formally rejected such an idea when it overrode a gubernatorial veto in 1978. Under this new law, a person's decision to go without a helmet, as state law allows, cannot be used against that person in a personal injury suit.

The US Senate Approved the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFE-TEA), despite the threat of President Bush's first veto since taking office. The Senate voted 76-21 on February 12, 2004, to pass S. 1072, a six-year \$318 billion transportation bill to fund highway, mass transit, and safety programs. Included in S1072 are many items championed by the American Motorcyclist Association including the Recreational Trails Program; a comprehensive motorcycle crash causation study; and inclusion of motorcycles in Intelligent Transportation initiatives.

The Senate rejected, by 56-42, an amendment that would have required states to enact primary enforcement seat belt laws or forfeit federal highway funds. The Senate measure also does

not include several motorcycle safety objectives proposed by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska). However, similar promotorcycle language may be amended into a version of the bill now making its way through the House of Representatives.

Once passed by the House, both versions of the bill will go to a conference committee to iron out any discrepancies between the two, and a final bill will be submitted to President Bush for his signature or veto. Bush has indicated that he would veto the legislation if costs exceeded \$300 billion.

European Union (EU) proposed legislation on driving licenses has been introduced and begins its way through the democratic process. Motorcyclists urge legislators to find the right balance between road safety, accessibility and affordability.

In drafting this recently published proposal on EU Driving Licenses, the European Commission's (EC) main objectives were to reduce possibilities of fraud, ensure a true freedom of movement to EU drivers and improve road safety.

The EC believes that the best way to achieve better road safety for motorcycles is to reinforce progressive access to the most powerful motorcycles by varying the minimum age between 16 and 24 years, depending on the technical characteristics of the motorcycle and the experience of the rider. A new license category for mopeds is also proposed. The Commission is proposing a practical test in between each category of motorcycle license.

The Federation of European Motorcyclist Associations (FEMA), while encouraging safety on European roads, seeks to make sure that motorcycling remains attractive through accessible and affordable procedures in order to get a motorcycle license. They believe the proposed minimum age of 24 to directly access all categories of motorcycles is far too high, and could discourage people to start riding a motorcycle. The current minimum age is 21.

The full position taken by European Motorcyclists on the Third Driving License Directive can be found at www.fema.kaalium.com.

The AMA's popular "Introduction to Washington" seminar in Washington, D.C., March 6-9 taught motorcycling and ATV enthusiasts what they need to know to make their voices heard in government circles. More than 30 participants gathered at the Phoenix Park Hotel to meet and learn from the AMA's Washington staff as well as other political experts. In addition to learning about state and federal issues facing motorcyclists and ATV riders today, participants got tips on building relationships with government-agency officials and on lobbying elected officials. Seminar participants also put what they learned into practice, lobbying their members of Con-

gress face-to-face on issues ranging from health-insurance discrimination against motorcyclists to the need for comprehensive research into the causes of motorcycle crashes.

An Ohio resident, a repeat DUI offender, has bargained to donate his motorcycle to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) following a judge's recent decision.

Last September Jeffrey D. Fulton of Shadyside was arrested for driving drunk and hitting another vehicle. In January, he was ordered by Belmont County Eastern Division Court Judge D. William Davis to restore the motorcycle and turn it and title in to the court. The vehicle was then forfeited to MADD who subsequently announced plans to auction the motorcycle. Proceeds will help educate the public about the dangers and consequences of driving drunk.

MADD representatives, Ohio State Highway Patrol in St. Clairsville, and Belmont County Prosecutor Frank Pierce all expressed approval of Judge Davis's decision. MADD Ohio Valley chapter president Celeste Teresh says she hopes Judge Davis's decision will set a precedent.

Prosecutor Pierce says he hopes this kind of sentencing will attach a stigma of guilt and responsibility when it comes to drinking and driving...and people will think before they decide to get behind the wheel. (*Martin's Ferry Times Leader*)

New York State Senator Joseph Robach (R-Monroe County) has introduced S6367 to amend the public authorities' law and the vehicle and traffic law to exempt motorcycles from tolls collected from the New York state thruway authority.

S6367 is currently in the Senate Transportation Committee. Empire State riders should contact their state senators and

Continued on page 6

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Continued from page 5

assembly members to express support for this legislation. By clicking on the AMA "StateWatch" selection of the "Rights" page at www.AMADirectlink.com you can send a letter in support of this legislation.

Public Lands near San Diego, due to fire damage, are temporarily closed to motorized vehicles. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will implement the closures to protect public health and safety, cultural and natural resources, and implement soil stabilization treatments recommended in the Department of the Interior Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Restoration (BAER) Plan for the Otay, Cedar and Paradise fires.

The closure will be in effect through October 30, 2004. The temporary closure may be lifted sooner if the BLM determines road repairs, revegetation, and stabilization efforts have reduced safety hazards, and if treatments result in successful regrowth of vegetation.

The closures will encompass BLM-managed public lands within the boundary of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (Jamul Mountains), and the public lands south of State Highway 94 to the U.S. - Mexico border, east of Otay Lakes Road and west of Marron Valley Road. (*BLM - California Desert District Office*)

The American Automobile Club Foundation for Traffic Safety (AAAF) just released *Pay Attention!*, a guide about driver distraction and ways drivers can better manage the multitude of distractions that occur while driving.

For more information or to obtain the free brochure, contact AAAF at 202-638-5944 or on their website www.aaafoundation.org.

American Trails 17th National Trails Symposium, *The Emerging Role of Trails in American Lifestyles*, will be held October 21-24, 2004 in Austin, TX. The Symposium is an opportunity for greenways and trails advocates, managers, planners, builders, and users, as well as environmental, tourism, real estate developers, and business interests, to come together to strengthen America's network of trails and experience an inspirational, educational, and fun-filled conference.

American Trails press release states that "trails are no longer the exclusive domain of the solitude-loving wilderness seeker or the dedicated fitness enthusiast. Whether facilitating transportation alternatives, providing recreational and educational opportunities, encouraging well-being, exploring history and heritage, or bringing together people of all ages and connecting communities, trails have become a prominent factor in how and where we choose to live our lives."

National Trails also invites you to submit ideas for presentations in support of the Symposium's theme. They expect to offer 60 to 65 sessions, each lasting 75 minutes. For more information visit www.AmericanTrails.org, or contact the American Trails office at (530) 547-2060 or by email at Symposium@AmericanTrails.org. Proposals are due by May 7, 2004.

The United Kingdom just increased the maximum prison term from 10 to 14 years for drivers who are sentenced for killing someone by driving dangerously. This includes those who drive while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol or are "joyriding." The new law comes into effect through the Criminal Justice Act of 2003.

Tougher sentencing is also part of the American Motorcyclist Association's (AMA) Motorcyclists Matter campaign and the recently announced "Justice for All," a nationwide initiative that focuses on inadequate sentencing of those who seriously injure or kill motorcyclists.

More details about "Justice for All" will be announced soon on the AMA's website, AMADirectlink.com, and in *American Motorcyclist* magazine.

Get a degree in Off-highway vehicle recreation. Students attending Marshall University, in Huntington, West Virginia, can graduate with a minor in OHV Recreation. The Park and Recreational Resources program at Marshall University offers a Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in parks and conservation.

The objective is to provide both university students and professional employees of planning and land management agencies with state-of-the-art courses covering the broad aspects of off-highway vehicle recreation, planning and construction of OHV trails and facilities, and operation and management of OHV trail systems. In addition, plans are currently being made to

offer the OHV course series via the Internet.

The National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) partnered with Marshall University and the Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute to produce this curriculum.

For more information contact the NOHVCC at (800) 348-6487, by email at trailhead@nohvcc.org or visit them on the web at www.nohvcc.org.



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House Overwhelmingly Passes TEA LU

Motorcycle Riders Foundation

The United States House of Representatives today overwhelmingly approved H.R. 3550, "The Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users" (TEA LU). The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) is pleased to announce that all of our motorcycle safety initiatives are included in this 6-year surface transport bill passed by the House today.

"This is a significant victory for the MRF, as well as the state motorcyclists' rights organizations (SMROs) and motorcyclists nationwide who have worked hand in hand with us on our motorcycle safety initiatives for the better part of two years," said MRF President Karen Bolin. "We still have work to do, but this is definitely a step in the right direction."

Passage of the \$284 billion TEA LU bill sends a resounding message to the White House that both the Senate and House favor significant increases in highway and transit spending, despite a veto threat from the Bush administration if the final package exceeds \$256 billion. The Senate passed a \$318 billion surface transport measure a few weeks ago, and the final vote today of 357-56 in favor of TEA LU signals enough support in the House to override a veto.

The next step will be a House and Senate conference to combine the two bills and develop a compromise bill for passage by the full House and Senate and then presentation to the White House. It is possible that conferees may begin pre-conferencing by the end of next week, but significant progress is not anticipated until after Congress re-convenes on April 19 following their Spring break.

The MRF would like to thank everyone who took the time to contact their Congressmen to solicit support for our motorcycle safety initiatives. To find out how your Congressman voted on H.R. 3550, you can visit the U.S. House of Representatives website at <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/roll114.xml>. If your Congressman did vote in favor of this bill, you might want to send him or her a big "thank you" for supporting the motorcycle safety initiatives included in the bill.

As always, we will keep you posted regarding all developments on the MRF's ground-breaking motorcycle safety legislation!

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AMERICANS NEED TO READ WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

By Pastor Chuck Baldwin

NewsWithViews.com Our first and greatest President, George Washington, delivered what many regard as the greatest political speech ever given on American soil. It is simply called, "Washington's Farewell Address." The principles contained in this address formed the direction of this republic to one degree or another for nearly the following century.

Believe it or not, I even remember studying Washington's Farewell Address in elementary school. Even more astonishing is the fact that it was a public school. (Of course, in those days, we even prayed and read the Bible in public schools, too.)

One of the more intriguing elements of Washington's Farewell Address is his warning regarding an overemphasis on political parties. Bear with me as I quote George Washington.

"Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party, generally.

"This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists, under different shapes, in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but, in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly their

worst enemy.

"The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later, the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of Public Liberty.

"Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight), the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

"It serves always to distract the Public Councils, and enfeeble the Public Administration. It agitates the Community with ill founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one part against another; foment, occasionally, riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

"From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And, there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be, by force of public opinion, to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not

RIDERS FOR JUSTICE 7.

to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame, lest, instead of warming, it should consume."

A careful reading of Washington's warning should convince anyone of its merits, because virtually everything he warned against has come to pass. The two major parties have become an end and aim of themselves, and people blindly loyal to them tend to constantly compromise the principles of liberty in order to obtain victory for the party. The result of this lack of vision and purpose is a willingness to promote that which is bad for the country in preference for what is deemed good for the party.

Blind loyalists to the two major parties seem to have forgotten that parties are to serve the best interests of the country, not the other way around. As with many special interest groups (on both the right and the left), party survival and success is considered more important than the survival and success of our nation's founding principles.

This "spirit of party" has also opened the door to corruption and undue foreign influence just as Washington warned. The lust for money, power, and influence has opened the doors of our country to every conceivable treachery and evil. This has produced unconscionable results, especially during the last half of the 20th Century, as our fighting men have mostly been used as pawns for self-serving politicians, not as defenders of America's national security.

Furthermore, we can thank the loss of American jobs and industries to overseas interests, an ever widening trade defi-

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The RFJ Gateway party offers primitive camping. We urge all partiers to stay overnight. Port-a-potties are provided.

Let's celebrate 27 years of no helmet law riding!!

This party is only open to Riders For Justice members and their guests this year! If you aren't a member, you can join in advance or at the gate.

cit, and a dangerous explosion of illegal immigration to this same "spirit of party."

So deep is party loyalty today that many people actually believe that they are being patriotic by serving the narrow and shallow schemes of the party. However, doesn't anyone stop to notice how eerily similar such an attitude is to that of communist or fascist ideology? I guess not.

Until the American people are willing to cast aside this insipid infatuation with party loyalty and are willing to once again hold their elected representatives accountable to the Constitution, it will not matter which party prevails in the elections.

A contemplative and studious reading of Washington's Farewell Address would be a good beginning for every American citizen who values his or her freedom. And it wouldn't hurt if our president and congressmen read it, either!

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A Prison State, If Not a Police State

by Paul Craig Roberts

www.lewrockwell.com The US has a unique distinction: It is the world's greatest prison state.

The US, "the land of the free," has the biggest prison population in the world and the highest rate of prisoners per capita of all countries - including countries that President Bush be-

lieves need liberating by US armed forces.

Even China, with one party rule and a population that is 4.5 times larger than the US population, has 30% fewer total prisoners than the US. China's per capita rate is a small fraction of the US rate.

The US prison population per capita is three times higher than "axis of evil" country Iran, five times higher than Tanzania, and seven times higher than a civilized European country like Germany.

One out of every 142 Americans is in prison - and this does not include military prisons or INS jails.

The conservatives' war on drugs, launched during President Reagan's first term, bears much of the blame. Between 1980 and 2000, a period during which the US population grew by 21%, the number of state and federal inmates soared by 312%.

Almost one-half million Americans are in prison for drugs-only offenses. Many of them are innocent or were encouraged by federal agents or informers posing as friends to transport small amounts of drugs as a favor.

Consider Elaine Bartlett, pardoned by New York Gov. George Pataki in 2000 after serving 16 years of a 20-year-sentence. Bartlett was tricked by an acquaintance, who turned out to be a government informant, into taking four ounces of cocaine to Albany. Bartlett was given 20 years even though she had no history of arrests or convictions and left 4 children behind, the oldest being 10 years old.

Most government informants are real criminals who escape charges or are given lenient plea bargains in exchange for helping prosecutors boost their conviction rates by entrapping innocent people. It is a disgrace to the US legal system that judges permit such false convictions.

Many other innocents are in jail because police dropped small packets of drugs - or in the Texas cases bags of ground up wallboard - into their cars when stopped, allegedly for traffic offenses.

Society gained nothing but more criminals by locking up Bartlett. Her six-year-old son was traumatized by his mother's absence. At the end of every prison visit he had to be forcefully removed by prison guards from clinging to his mother. By the time he was 10 years old, he was a drug runner. He bought his first gun at age 12 and was in prison by age 16. You can read the whole story in the book, *Life on the Outside*, by Jennifer Gonnerman.

With a legal system that mass-produces criminals, prisons are being constructed at a breathtaking rate. An Urban Institute study, "The New Landscape of Imprisonment," released on April 29, documents the boom in prison construction during the last two decades.

Jeremy Travis, one of the authors, says: "The prison network is now deeply intertwined with American

life, deeply integrated into the physical and economic infrastructure of a large number of American counties. It provides jobs for construction workers and guards, and because the inmates are counted as residents of the counties where they are incarcerated, it means more federal and state funding and greater political representation for these counties."

A number of states now have prisons in almost one-third of their counties. Florida has at least one prison in 78% of its counties! In 1923 there were only 61 prisons in the entire US.

Another conservative idea - prison privatization - has created a contractual monster that must be fed with a constant stream of inmates. A variety of new police Gestapos have been created that help to keep the massive prison complex - our own Gulag Archipelago - filled.

The most dangerous is Child Protective Services, created by Walter Mondale in response to his constituency of anti-family feminists and "child therapists" in need of employment. CPS was set up on the insane assumption that a large percentage of families committed "child abuse." CPS offices are everywhere, and employees outnumber child abusers.

The child sex abuse witch hunt in Wenatchee, Washington, was set off when the local CPS office was told to find some cases to justify its budget. It took years to expose and overturn one of the greatest cases of prosecutorial misconduct in human history. Dozens of families were destroyed and 50 children were put into foster care.

The latest report from Child Protective Services Watch documents that children placed in our "child protection system" are 5 times more likely to die from physical abuse and 11 times more likely to be sexually abused than they would be from remaining in the homes from which they are removed!

Mondale and his "child advocates" got their Gestapo legislation passed in 1974. A quarter century later there are 500,000 US kids in the "child protection system." Soon there will be one million because of the perverse incentive that funds the system. The federal government pays state and country child welfare services a bounty for each child seized from a family. Linda Wallace Pate, a California attorney specialized in foster cases, calls it a "kids for cash" system.

The evidence is overwhelming that children are extremely traumatized by being ripped from families and placed in foster care.

It turns out that the overwhelming majority of abused children suffer the abuse from their single mother's live-in boyfriends or overnight lovers.

Child abuse is rare in two-parent families, so CPS has expanded abuse to cover spanking - even playground bruises are grounds for seizing children - and shouting ("verbal abuse").

The war on crime has turned even parenting into a dangerous occupation.

One can't help but wonder whether the US itself is in need of liberation.



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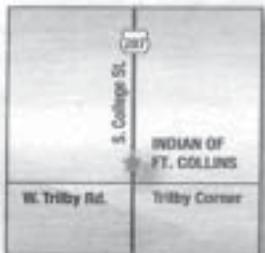
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Continued from page 8

Dr. Roberts is John M. Olin Fellow at the Institute for Political Economy and Research Fellow at the Independent Institute. He is a former associate editor of the Wall Street Journal and a former assistant secretary of the U.S. Treasury. He is the co-author of The Tyranny of Good Intentions.

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A quarter of English are victims of crime

By Sean O'Neill

PEOPLE living in England and Wales are at greater risk of falling victim to crime than citizens of most other industrialised nations, according to a study published yesterday.

Crime figures



The International Crime Victims Survey, based on 34,000 telephone interviews across 17 countries, found that 26 per cent of people - more than one in four - in England and Wales had been victims of crime in 1999. The figure for Scotland was 23 per cent and in Northern Ireland 15 per cent.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said the research confirmed previous evidence "that levels of victimisation are higher than

in most comparable countries in most categories of crime". Mr Straw said that although the police and other agencies were working hard to reduce crime, "no one should be under any illusions about the challenges ahead".

England and Wales were second only to Australia in the examination of "victimisation rates", details of which appeared in the Economist. There was a downward trend in crime levels from previous surveys in 1991 and 1999. People in England and Wales were at greater risk than anywhere else of having their cars stolen: 2.6 per cent fell victim to vehicle theft.

The average rate was 1.2 per cent and the Japanese were least likely to have their cars stolen with a victim rate of just 0.1 per cent. Theft from cars was highest in Poland, where nine per cent of people had items stolen from their vehicles. In England and Wales the level was eight per cent.

The percentage of the population which suffered "contact crime" in England and Wales was 3.6 per cent, compared with 1.9 per cent in the United States and 0.4 per cent in Japan. Burglary rates in England and Wales were also among the highest recorded. Australia (3.9 per cent) and Denmark (3.1 per cent) had higher rates of burglary with entry than England and Wales (2.8 per cent).

The risk of robbery was comparatively low in all the countries surveyed. Highest rates were in Poland, where 1.8 per cent of the population said they had been robbed in 1999, followed by Australia and England and Wales (both 1.2 per cent). By far the lowest robbery risks were in Japan and Northern Ireland (both 0.1 per cent).

After Australia and England and Wales, the highest prevalence of crime was in Holland (25 per cent), Sweden (25 per cent) and Canada (24 per cent). The United States, despite its high murder rate, was among the middle ranking countries with a 21 per cent victimisation rate.

Portugal, Japan and Northern Ireland, each with 15 per cent, recorded the lowest overall victimisation rates in the survey which was conducted by Leiden University in Holland and published by the Dutch justice ministry.

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Scores Killed, Hundreds Injured As Para-Military Extremists Riot

BOSTON, April 19, 1775 - Armed federal agents, seeking to confiscate a cache of recently banned assault weapons were ambushed on April 19th by elements of a para-military extremist faction. Military and law enforcement sources estimated that 72 were killed and more than 20 injured before government forces were compelled to withdraw.

Speaking after the clash, Massachusetts Governor Thomas Gage declared that the extremist faction, which was made up of local citizens, has links to the radical right-wing tax protest movement. Gage blamed the extremists for recent incidents of vandalism directed against internal revenue offices.

The governor, who described the group's organizers as "criminals," issued an executive order authorizing the summary arrest of any individual who has interfered with the government's efforts

to secure law and order.

The military raid on the extremist arsenal followed wide-spread refusal by the local citizenry to turn over recently outlawed assault weapons. Gage issued a ban on military-style assault weapons and ammunition earlier in the week. This decision followed a meeting in early April between government and military leaders at which the governor authorized the forcible confiscation of illegal arms. One government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, pointed out that "none of these people would have been killed had the extremists obeyed the law and turned their weapons over voluntarily."

"Government forces initially succeeded in confiscating a large supply of outlawed weapons and ammunition. However, troops attempting to seize arms and ammunition in Lexington met with resistance from heavily-armed extremists who had been tipped off regarding the government's plans.

During a tense standoff in Lexington's town park, Special Agent Francis Smith, commander of the government operation, ordered the armed group to surrender and return to their homes. The impasse was broken by a single shot, which was reportedly fired by one of the right-wing extremists. Eight civilians were killed in the ensuing exchange.

Ironically, the local citizenry blamed government forces rather than the extremists for the civilian deaths. Before order could be restored, armed citizens from surrounding areas had descended upon the federal units. Colonel Smith, finding his forces overmatched by the armed mob, ordered a retreat.

Governor Gage has called upon citizens to support the state/national joint task force in its effort to restore law and order. The governor has also demanded the surrender of those responsible for planning and leading the attack against the government troops. Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, and John Hancock, who have been identified as "ringleaders" of the extremist faction, remain at large.

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The Christian Case Against Gun Control

By David Yeagley

FrontPageMagazine.com Most people can't imagine Christ with a weapon. Therefore, it doesn't seem right that a Christian should have one. Leftists and their anti-gun laws seem more Christian in their attitude toward guns. But early American Christians would call them cowards, unworthy of the Christian commonwealth.

In 1619, the colony of Virginia had statutes that not only required everyone to attend church on Sunday, but "all such as bear arms shall bring their pieces, swords, powder and shot" or be subject to a three-shilling fine. That same statute was renewed in 1632, and again in 1738.

Connecticut law in 1636 declared that the militia leader of each settlement must have "two pounds of gunpowder and 20 bullets" in his home, and must make sure the other men's arms were serviceable. A year later, 1637, a fine of five shillings was imposed on anyone failing to meet the law. In 1650, Connecticut required every man above the age of sixteen to possess "a good musket or other gun, fit for service."

Evidently early American Christians saw the weapon, the firearm, the gun, as an essential element of Christian deportment.

Why? Their social establishments were on a frontier with many enemies, both European and native.

American Indians were a constant threat (since the early Americans staked themselves out on the Indian homeland). They'd certainly better be prepared to defend themselves against the righteous resistance of Indians.

England itself was always a menace to the colonies. The Pilgrims and Puritans came to the new land to be free from the repressions of abused monarchy, and oppressions of ecclesiastical authority of both Rome and the Church of England.

The colonists were prepared to fight, with arms, for every breath they drew.

To the early Americans, a gun was as sacred as the Bible. In fact, in many early homesteads and cabins, the gun was displayed over the family hearth, just above the Bible itself. The gun was a tool of freedom. The gun was an absolute necessity.

The early laws of America are very clear about this. The people were responsible for their own defense. At that time, there was no concept of a professional army, created and paid to defend the colonies. The idea that a standing army would one day exist was never thought of as a reason to revise the Constitution, and disarm the population.

The fact that America does have a professional army now does not mean that it is a sin for the people to have their own weapons. On the contrary, public disarmament is insulting to the very core of American ideologies of freedom and individual responsibility.

Cora Weiss detests such American ideologies. Weiss, career peacenik of world renown, and president of the UN affiliate The Hague Appeal for Peace, said to the UN in June, 2000, "There are only three documents that you need...to be an informed, effective member of an organized civil society: The Charter of the United Nations, the International Declaration of Human Rights, and The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century." (Notice she doesn't reference the Declaration of Independence, or the Constitution of the United States.)

Of course, the tyrannical world order sentiments eschew the thought that civilians should have weapons. The globalists could never wreak their fascist will on an armed populace.

They want everyone to surrender his weapon, voluntarily, in the name of peace. Like the peace the UN created in Rwanda in 1994 when they disarmed the Tutsis, and then supported the government genocide. Then the lying peaceniks blamed the United States, naturally. But they'll never live down the personal testimonies of Lt. Gen. Romeo Dallaire-who exposed them all as the manipulative mass murderers they are.

Demicide is always preceded by public disarmament. Ask the Bolsheviks, the Nazis, or the Khmer Rouge. For that matter, ask the ancient Philistines. They once even confiscated the sharpening tools from the Israelites, "lest the Hebrew make swords or spears." (I Samuel 13:19. See also Artisans of Exodus.)

But the leftists will never be able to talk Christian Americans out of their guns unless they first remove American history from public knowledge, unless they erase the story of America's Christian founders.

Take it from a Comanche: turning your weapon over to someone else means only one thing - surrender. It has never meant anything else. It means you submit to a greater power. Do you really want to give government - any government - that power? It's a poor gamble; take it from an Indian.

Dr. David A. Yeagley teaches humanities at the College of Liberal Studies, University of Oklahoma. His opinions are independent. He holds degrees from Yale, Emory, Oberlin, University of Arizona and University of Hartford. He is a member of the Comanche Tribe, Lawton, OK. For more information on Dr. Yeagley's initiative to teach patriotism in the schools, click here. E-mail him at badeagle2000@yahoo.com. View his website at <http://www.badeagle.com>.

An Indian walks into a cafe with a shotgun in one hand and a bucket of buffalo manure in the other. He says to the waiter, "Me want coffee."

The waiter says, "Sure chief, coming right up." He gets the Indian a tall mug of coffee, and the Indian drinks it down in one gulp, picks up the bucket of manure, throws it into the air, blasts it with the shotgun, then just walks out.

The next morning the Indian returns. He has his shotgun in one hand and a bucket of buffalo manure in the other. He walks up to the counter and says to the waiter, "Me want coffee."

The waiter says, "Whoa, Tonto. We're still cleaning up your mess from the last time you were here. What the heck was all that about, anyway?"

The Indian smiles and proudly says, "Me training for upper management position: Come in, drink coffee, shoot shit, leave mess for others to clean up, disappear for rest of day."

Kerry on the Record: Brandishing the Gun Issue

Dave Eberhart

NewsMax.com On the Record: Kerry voted for the assault weapons ban contained in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1993, restricting the manufacture, transfer, and possession of certain semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices. On November 17, 1993, the amendment passed 56-43.

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Kerry voted for the Brady Bill in November 1993. The legislation required a 5-day waiting period on handgun purchases, to allow local officials to conduct a background check. The bill passed the House on November 10 and on November 20, 1993, the bill passed the Senate 63-36.

Kerry voted against the motion to table (defeat) the Boxer/Kohl Amendment, requiring that all handguns sold in the United States be sold with a child safety lock. On July 21, 1998, a motion was made to table the amendment. The motion to table passed 61-39.

Kerry voted against the Craig Amendment that would have required that gun stores have trigger locks in stock and available for sale. The vote on the Craig amendment was immediately prior to a vote on the stronger Boxer/Kohl amendment to require all handguns sold in the United States be sold with a child safety lock. The Craig Amendment was an effort to undercut support for the stronger Boxer/Kohl amendment. On July 21, 1998, the amendment passed 72-28.

Kerry voted against the Large Ammunition Magazine Ban Amendment to ban the importation of large capacity ammunition feeding devices. On July 21, 1998, a motion was made to table the amendment. The motion to table passed 54-44.

Kerry voted against the motion to table (defeat) the Child Access Prevention Amendment to increase penalties for individuals who permit juvenile access to firearms. On July 21, 1998, a motion was made to table the amendment. The motion to table passed 69-31.

Kerry voted for the Lautenberg Gun Show Amendment to the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999 to close the loophole allowing individuals to sell guns from their private collections at gun shows without completing background checks for purchasers. On May 20, 1999, with Vice President Al Gore casting the tie-breaking vote, the amendment passed 51-50.

Kerry voted against the motion to table (defeat) the Ban on Unlicensed Sale of Guns on Internet, an amendment to the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999 banning the unlicensed sale of guns on the Internet by requiring websites clearly designed to sell guns to be federally licensed firearms dealers and to comply with all such federal laws. A motion was offered to table the amendment. On May 14, 1999, the motion to table passed 50-43.

Kerry voted against the motion to table (defeat) Large-Capacity Clips, an amendment to the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999, to ban the importation of large-capacity magazines (ammunition feeding devices that can hold more than ten rounds). A motion was offered to table the amendment. On May 13, 1999, the motion to table failed 39-59. In 2000, Kerry signed the Democrat manifesto, "A New Agenda for the New Decade," which, among a host of other things, calls for the development and use of "smart gun" technology to prevent use of firearms by unauthorized persons.

2nd Amendment Caucus Created In The U.S. House

Washington, DC: Today, Congressmen Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) and Virgil Goode (VA-05) announced the creation of the Congressional Second Amendment Caucus. Comprised of 38 Members of Congress, this caucus is solely dedicated to the right of lawful individuals to own firearms as granted in the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

“As lawmakers in our nation’s highest legislative body, we must fight to preserve the Constitutional right for individual citizens to keep and bear arms,” said Musgrave. “While many in our nation’s capital seek to chip away at the right of firearm ownership and possession, the 2nd Amendment Caucus is committed to defending lawful gun owner’s constitutional rights in our nation, without compromise. Their voice will be heard in Congress.”

“In fighting for and protecting our Second Amendment rights, it is important to be vigilant,” said Virgil Goode. “I hope that this caucus will further that goal.”

The caucus was created by Musgrave and Goode to ensure lawful gun owners are tenaciously defended in Congress. Its mission statement states:

The members of the Congressional Second Amendment Caucus know and understand that the Second Amendment to the Constitution is clearly written to protect the fundamental and individual right to keep and bear arms.

Furthermore, we understand that the Second Amendment does not refer to a collective right of federal or state governments. The Second Amendment refers to the individual citizen’s right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of defense, recreation, and collection.

We oppose the banning of firearms, their accessories, their manufacture and their importation. Furthermore, we support recognizing the right of lawful citizens to carry a weapon both at home and while traveling the nation.

In upholding these principles we have joined the Congressional Second Amendment Caucus. This caucus’ purpose for existence is solely to accomplish the above stated goals and protect the Second Amendment as it is written.

At its inception, the caucus consists of 38 Representatives, including: Roscoe Bartlett, Eric Cantor, Steve Chabot, Jo Ann Davis, Jim DeMint, J.D. Hayworth, Peter Hoekstra, John Hostettler, Ernest Istook, Sam Johnson, Sue Myrick, Mike Pence, Steve Pearce, Joe Pitts, John Shadegg, Tom Tancredo, and Pat Toomey.

Marilyn Musgrave was elected to the United State House of Representative in January 2003, and she represents Colorado’s Fourth Congressional District. Musgrave is a member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Small Business. To learn more about Rep. Musgrave please visit her official website at <http://www.house.gov/musgrave>.

City boy, Kenny, moved to the country and bought a donkey from an old farmer for \$100.00. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.

The next day the farmer drove up and said, “Sorry son, but I have some bad news, the donkey died.”

Kenny replied, “Well then, just give me my money back.”

The farmer said, “Can’t do that. I went and spent it already.”

Kenny said, “OK then, just unload the donkey.”

The farmer asked, “What ya gonna do with him?”

Kenny, “I’m going to raffle him off.”

Farmer, “You can’t raffle off a dead donkey!”

Kenny, “Sure I can. Watch me. I just won’t tell anybody he is dead.”

A month later the farmer met up with Kenny and asked, “What happened with that dead donkey?”

Kenny, “I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars a piece and made a profit of \$898.00.”

Farmer, “Didn’t anyone complain?”

Kenny, “Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two dollars back.”

Kenny grew up and eventually became the chairman of Enron.

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