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…

Loyalty shouldn’t depend on my Presence… Have my Back Behind My Back…

The Law Offices of Richard M. Lester is the only motorcycle accident lawyer network that gives back to the motorcycle community! And this is one of the ways… Thank You…

NCOM Sponsors this Newsletter with a donation of $300.00 per month. NCOM; Richard And Joseph Lester; Attorneys At Law…

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Wildman PA donates $20.00 a month.
Jimbo Lafayette LA donates $20.00 a month…
Solid Brotherhood MC Minnesota donates $25.00 a month…
Sons Of Silence MC North Dakota donates $100.00 a month…
SOS MC Western North Dakota donates $25.00 a month.
SOS Supporter Knucklehead Fred donates $20.00 a month…
SOS Nomad Skunk FMC Springfield donates $25.00 a month…
Tramp in prison El Dorado, Kansas donates $5.00 a month…

Editor’s Note: Benefit for those arrested in Waco. Here is a list of the Items… Bids will be taken until July 4th at Midnight… I’ll put together a weekly Email of what the price of the highest bid is on each item in the Silent Auction… To bid, Email me what item you are bidding on with your bid…

The 1st Item for the Waco Benefit was painted & donated by Satans Soldier Angelo… Oil Painting… Thank You Angelo…
The 2nd Item for the Waco Benefit was painted & donated by Satans Soldier Angelo… Oil Painting… Thank You Angelo…
The 3rd Item for this Benefit was made by Pagan Supporter Opie… Leather Wallet… Thank You Opie…
The 4th Item for this Benefit was donated by Sons Of Silence Supporter Kolby & by John H. Wilson Sr (who actually made it) ...

The 5th Item for this Benefit was made by Bandido Cowboy… Leather H-D Wallet Thank You Cowboy…
The 6th Item for this Benefit was made by Bandido Cowboy… Leather H-D Wallet Thank You Cowboy…
The 7th Item for this Benefit was made by Bandido Cowboy… Leather H-D Wallet Thank You Cowboy…
The 8th Item for this Benefit was made by & donated by Avenger Pork Chop. Leather Belt - Size 38 - “COC” on the Belt Buckle— WACO on the back - GBNF on both sides. Thank you Pork Chop…
The 9th Item for this Benefit was donated by Sons Of Silence Supporter Kolby. Lyon oil painting… Thank You Kolby…

Items 5 thru 9 are on top of Page 2…
The 10th Item for this Benefit was donated by Iron Horsemen Crooked Nose Mike… Support Waco Bikers… Thank You Mike…

The 11th Item for this Benefit was donated by Ghost Rider White Boy… Skull & Cross Bones… Thank You White Boy…

The 12th Item for this Benefit was donated by Friend Kevin… Little Biker Bear… Thank You Kevin…

The 13th Item for this Benefit was donated by Painted Tree… Dot H-D Art (372,830 Dots). Thank You Painted Tree…

The 14th Item for this Benefit was donated by Painted Tree… Dot Devil Art (167,000 Dots). Thank You Painted Tree…

The 15th Item for this Benefit was donated by Filthy White Boy Travis 1%ER Knit Stocking Cap. Thank You Travis…

The 16th Item for this Benefit was donated by Kari Davis H-D Smokin Hot Sign… Thank You Kari…

The 17th Item for this Benefit was donated by Ciera Davis H-D Parts & Service Sign… Thank You Ciera…

The 18th Items for this Benefit was made by Bandido T-Black… Great Leather Gauntlet… Thank You T-Black…

The 19th Items for this Benefit was made by Bandido T-Black… Great Leather Belt… Thank You T-Black…
The 20th Item for this Benefit was made by Bandido Gorilla...
The 21st Item for this Benefit was made by Bandido Gorilla...
The 22nd Item for this Benefit was made by Bandido Gorilla...

The 23rd Item for this Benefit was made by Jimmy Fisher @ Gatesville, Texas.

The 24th Item for this Benefit was made by Outlaw Milwaukee Jack...
The 25th Item for this Benefit was made by Outlaw Milwaukee Jack...

The 26th Item for this Benefit was made by Jimmy Fisher @ Gatesville, Texas.
The 27th Item for this Benefit was made by Jimmy Fisher @ Gatesville, Texas.

The 28th Item for this Benefit was made by Pagan’s MC Supporter Brandon Sandford

The 29th Item for this Benefit was made by Pagan’s MC Supporter Brandon Sandford
The 30th Item for this Benefit was made by Pagan’s MC Supporter Brandon Sandford

Leather BBB Koozie…
Leather H-D Koozie…
Leather COC Koozie…

Thank You Gorilla…
Thank You Gorilla…
Thank You Gorilla…

Leather Gun Case…
Leather H-D Wallet
Leather Ladies Clutch

Thank You Milwaukee Jack…
Thank You Milwaukee Jack…
Thank You Milwaukee Jack…

Leather Koozie…
Leather Snuff Case…

Thank You Jimmy…

Oil Paintings (Eagle / Red White Blue)…
Oil Paintings (Eagle / Strength & Honor)…
Oil Paintings (Waco / Brotherhood)…
The 31st Item for this Benefit was made by Misfit Cannibal… Drawing of Murder Cycles - Highly Dangerous… Thank You Cannibal…
The 32nd Item for this Benefit was made by Tramp @ El Dorado, KS. Knit Crochet Banner–NCOM BBB COC… Thank You Tramp…
The 33rd Item for this Benefit was made by Filthy White Boy Travis… Wooden Motorcycle… Thank You Travis…

Item 32.

The 34th Item for this Benefit was made by Filthy White Boy Travis… Waco Oil painting… Thank You Travis…
Note: This painting includes an Eagle, H-D Shield, Babe on a Ride, Skull, & WACO over the State of Texas…

Item 31. Item 33.

The 35th Item for this Benefit was donated by Boos Iron Wings MC Retired Waco Cups… Thank You Boos…
The 36th Item for this Benefit was donated by Boos Iron Wings MC Retired Waco Cups… Thank You Boos…
Note: The Cups were turned on a wheel from a block of clay by Londel White…
The 37th Items for this Benefit was donated by SOS Big John(R.I.P.)’s son Neil who was at USP Leavenworth… Thank You Neil …

Items 35 & 36. 

The 38th Item for this Benefit was donated by ABATE of Minnesota Lake Chapter; 2003 VRSCA V-Rod Print. Thanks You ABATE… from Harley-Davidson… Note: This Print also comes with a protective heavy duty envelope, as seen in picture 2 here…
The 39th Items for this Benefit was donated by Mongol Stonee & Nathan Vert… Envelope Drawings… Thank You Stonee …
The 40th Items for this Benefit was donated by SOS Big John(R.I.P.)’s son Neil who was at USP Leavenworth… Thank You Neil …

38. 39. 40.

Editor’s Note: February there were 2 Issues; March there was 1 Issue; April this is the 2nd Issue…
Editor’s Note: Currently we are sending over 350 copies of this newsletter to members of 85 Motorcycle Clubs…
Editor’s Note: I would like to Thank my Wife “Kari” for getting these Newsletters ready to be mail…
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!!!

Editor’s Note (For BBB Only): 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 & contact me, include your Chapter too… If you are Not a patch holder of a MC 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: I would like to Thank all of the contacts from all of the MCs that verify if requesting member is in Good Standing with their Club; & all of the other assistance that you give me, such as address changes, being released, & soliciting donations…

Editor’s Note: I produce this National Coalition of Motorcyclists Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter which is a non-partisan newsletter for Bikers by Bikers. 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, And Confederations Of Clubs…

Updated News Article Sources: All News Articles contained in this NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter, unless source is specified, are obtained from the following 7 (Seven) Web Sites: Motorcycle Profiling Project (David “Double D” Devereaux), FreeRoadBlock (Outlaw RoadBlock 1%er), The Aging Rebel, Road Scholars (Wolf From Atlanta), Outlaw Biker World, White Trash News & Becky Cakes…

Editor’s Note: In the interest of Cost Savings, If you can share One copy of this Newsletter where I am sending multiple copies to the same institution, please let me know… Thanks, Mike

Gov't Threatening To Revoke Biker Bar Licenses Nationally – April 4, 2017 – U.S.A. – By David “Double D” Devereaux; www.MotorcycleProfilingProject.com - The Dept of Alcoholic Beverage Control of Virginia recently sent 30 letters to bars & restaurants in the Central part of the state warning that their licenses could be revoked for allowing Outlaw Motorcycle Gang members to patronize their establishments.[1] Although not directly demanding action in the form of “no MC colors” policies, that is the intended result of this coercion. Gov’t discrimination is illegal in any form. Wearing MC colors, including those labeled OMG’s by LE, is protected by the 1st Amendment. Independently, coercing bar owners violates their constitutional right to pursue an occupation as established by case law. Unfortunately, what’s happening in Virginia is a Nat'l epidemic occurring in states coast-to-coast. The unconstitutional practice of Govt agents coercing public establishments that serve club members must stop. The 1st & 14th Amendments demand it.

LE Coercion Is A Nat'l Epidemic: According to the Nat’l Motorcycle Profiling Survey 2015-2016, an alarming 42% of survey participants reported knowing of a business being forced not serve club members. Forms of harassment & coercion includes excessive code enforcement violations, threatening denial or renewal of liquor license & or permits, & police harassment of customers & business owners.

Are you aware of any businesses that have been forced by local officials to post "No Colors" or "No Club Colors" signs and deny access and services to motorcyclist based on their attire? Answered: 4,153, Skipped: 1,339

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It’s not about who is real to your face; it’s about who stays loyal behind your back…

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**MC Colors & the 1st Amendment:** There is a fundamental friction between the idea that wearing MC colors is expressive conduct protected by the 1st Amendment & the idea that MC colors are gang colors that represent a threat to the public environment. The ABC in Virginia, like agencies across the country, justifypressuring bars to not allow members of MCs labeled OMG’s to patronize their establishments based on a generalized gang stereotype or historical actions of other members. Although maintaining a safe environment is definitely in the state’s interest, Fed case precedent says that Gov’t restrictions on MC colors are unreasonable, & therefore unconstitutional, “absent a showing in the record of an actual (or realistic threat of) interference or disruption.” Any restrictions must be narrow & “specific to particular cases involving rival organizations.”[2] The Gov’tpressuring for a general access ban on persons wearing MC clothing (including clubs labeled OMG’s) would therefore be an unreasonable restriction on 1st Amendment expression.

**Fed Case Precedent Specific To MC Colors:** The longtime Supreme Court Precedent case Cohen v. California (1971) says individuals have the 1st Amendment right to wear clothing which displays writing or designs free from unreasonable Gov’t restrictions. [3] This precedent has been specifically applied to MC colors, including those labeled OMG’s by LE. In Sammartano v. First Judicial District Court (2002), 10 members of MCs, including the Hells Angels MC, were denied access to a courthouse in Carson City, Nevada based on the fact that they were wearing their club colors. They refused to remove their colors & were arrested for trespassing. The Court of Appeals concluded that this was unconstitutional because it violated their 1st Amendment rights to express. [4]

**Fed courts reject the general gang argument:** Police often assert that MC colors are gang attire & could cause a potential threat of violence & intimidation. But the Court finds these generalizations insufficient, concluding that “a total ban on this expressive activity...is an unreasonable means” of preserving a safe environment. Any restrictions must be narrow & specific “to particular (apparently hypothetical) cases involving rival organizations.” But a general ban on MC colors is unconstitutional “absent a showing in the record of actual (or realistic threat of) interference or disruption.”

**General Restrictions Violate The Doctrine Of Personal Guilt:** There is “no evidence that by merely wearing [1% MC] “colors,” an individual is “involved in or associated with the alleged violent or criminal activity of other [1% MC] members. It is a fundamental principle that the Gov’t may not impose restrictions on an individual “merely because an individual belong[s] to a group, some members of which committed acts of violence.” In fact, the Supreme Court has long “disapproved governmental action...denying rights & privileges solely because of a citizen’s association with an unpopular organization.” Healy v. James, 408 U.S. 169, 185-86 (1972). To permit [LE officers] to impose restrictions on any person “who wears the insignia of [a 1% MC], without regard to or knowledge of that individual’s specific intent to engage in the alleged violent activities committed by other members, is antithetical to the basic principles enshrined in the First Amendment & repugnant to the fundamental doctrine of personal guilt that is a hallmark of American jurisprudence.”[5]

**Coercion Infringes on Constitutional Right to Pursue an Occupation:** The implication of coercion goes beyond the 1st Amendment. The practice of LE or other Gov’t actors, such as liquor control agents, harassing & threatening owners of public establishments because they allow MCs to patronize their establishments is unconstitutional. The right to pursue an occupation is a fundamental liberty protected under the Due Process Clause. According to the Supreme Court, the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amend protects a liberty or property interest in pursuing the “common occupations or professions of life.”[6] The constitutional right infringed in cases of excessive & unreasonable LE conduct is “the right to pursue an occupation.”[7]

[2] Sammartano v. First Judicial District Court, 303 F.3d 959 (9th Cir.2002)
[4] Sammartano v. First Judicial District Court, 303 F.3d 959 (9th Cir.2002)

**Cell Phone:** After a tiring day, a commuter settled down in his seat & closed his eyes. As the train rolled out of the station, the young woman sitting next to him pulled out her cell phone & started talking in a loud voice: “Hi sweetheart. It’s Sue. I’m on the train”. “Yes, I know it’s the 6-thirty & not the 4-thirty, but I had a long meeting”. “No, honey, not with that Kevin from the accounting office. It was with the boss”. “No sweetheart, you’re the only one in my life”. “Yes, I’m sure, cross my heart!” 15 minutes later, she was still talking loudly. When the man sitting next to her had enough, he leaned over & said into the phone, “Sue, hang up the phone & come back to bed.” Sue doesn’t use her cell phone in public any longer!
Mongols MC member lost Oregon Youth Authority internship after agency learned of his club ties – April 6, 2017 – Oregon – By www.OregonLive.com – A George Fox Univ graduate student, required to complete an internship at a social service agency to obtain a master’s degree in social work, started a year ago at the Oregon Youth Authority. Justin DeLoretto was excited to get the internship, hoped to use what he learned to work with gang-affected youth in the criminal justice system when he completed his studies. But 4 months later, the state agency ended his internship after learning he was a member of the Mongols MC. Now the student has filed a Fed lawsuit against OYA, claiming it violated his constitutional rights of free speech & due process.

“Justin’s internship was terminated solely because of his Mongols MC membership,” wrote Atty Jim L. Guse in the suit filed in U.S. District Court in Eugene. DeLoretto, 35, is seeking undetermined monetary damages for the loss of the internship & punitive damages. Oregon Youth Authority spokesman Benjamin Chambers said he couldn’t comment about the details of DeLoretto’s case. The authority doesn’t have any policies that would restrict a gang member from employment, & has had youth offenders later return & work with children in custody, Chambers said. “It’s not out of the question,” Chambers said.

But since the Oregon Youth Authority’s mission is to provide opportunities for youth offenders to change & reform, “we don’t want to employ people who are going to stand in the way of reformation,” he added. OYA does criminal background checks on interns & job applicants but that doesn’t necessarily turn up gang involvement, he said. “If they acknowledge they’re currently involved, that’s going to raise red flags,” Chambers said. The agency did do a criminal background check on DeLoretto & he passed it, according to his lawyers. It would have turned up DeLoretto’s prior arrests. A Google search also would have revealed that police & Fed agents have described him as a founder of the Mongols MC’s Oregon chapters. The Mongols MC is considered one of the nation’s most violent biker gangs.

The suit alleges that DeLoretto was offered an unpaid internship on April 8 after his application & background check were approved. He began training & orientation on Aug. 8 to work with children with gang ties at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility. On Aug. 9, the youth authority’s Asst Dir Clint McClellan asked him if he was a member of the MC & DeLoretto confirmed he was, the suit said. That night, McClellan told DeLoretto he had to end his internship due to his affiliation with the MC. McClellan questioned DeLoretto after receiving complaints from 5 LE officials about DeLoretto’s ties to the club, according to the suit. “At no time was Justin afforded any opportunity or procedure to contest the termination of his internship,” the suit says. “Termination of employment for exercising freedom of speech, expression & association violates the 1st Amendment’s protection from Gov’t intrusion on these guaranteed constitutional rights.”

In 2008, DeLoretto was arrested in Lane County, accused of trying to run a ATF agent & a Eugene police detective off the road during a rush-hour confrontation. The 2 had driven to DeLoretto’s Turner home as part of a separate assault investigation. DeLoretto was convicted of 5 misdemeanor charges - 2 counts each of recklessly endangering another person & menacing & 1 count of reckless driving - but acquitted of 8 felonies. Although he was sentenced to one year in custody, he was released a day after the sentencing, found to be a low-risk offender. Evidence in DeLoretto’s trial showed he followed the investigators 90 miles - including along I-5 - after they had turned into the driveway of his rural Turner home. Eugene police Detective Dave Burroughs & ATF Agent James Packard were investigating an assault at a Eugene bar that allegedly involved club members. DeLoretto, during trial, testified that he did not know the men he had followed were LE. DeLoretto followed their unmarked SUV while summoning 2 associates who joined him to box-in the vehicle. DeLoretto also has prior 3rd-degree & 4th-degree assault convictions in Lane County.

Since then, DeLoretto obtained his bachelor’s degree in social & behavioral studies from George Fox Univ, said Seattle Atty Mike Myers, another lawyer working on his Fed lawsuit. In 2015, he enrolled in the social work graduate program at George Fox. DeLoretto currently is an intern with the Marion County branch of the Oregon Dept of Human Services, working in the Child Welfare Division’s teen unit, Myers said. Myers declined any comment about DeLoretto’s continued involvement in the Mongols MC.

Limerick bikers robbed jacket & colors from rival club member – April 6, 2017 – Ireland – By www.Limerick2leader.ie - Incident happened outside village pub… 3 members of a County Limerick MC who attacked & robbed a member of a rival club have each been ordered to raise €2,000 for charity. The defendants have pleaded guilty to robbing a “sleeveless black leather jacket” from Alan ‘Cookie’ McNamara 2 days before he allegedly committed a murder in Murroe. They are Seamus Duggan, 51, of Cappawhite; James McCormack, 41, Tipperary Town & Raymond Neilon, 51 of Cappawhite. All 3 are members of the Road Tramps MC which is based in Murroe. During a sentencing hearing this Wed, Garda Chris Cowan told Limerick Court the incident happened at Main St, shortly after 10pm on June 19, 2015 as McNamara & his wife were leaving a pub in the village. He told Michael Collins BL, prosecuting, the 49-year-old was wearing the ‘colors’ of the rival Caballeros MC & that his actions were regarded as a major insult to members of the Road Tramps MC as they were known to frequent Doon. CCTV footage shows the defendant being struck & knocked to the ground by Neilon & McCormack who then proceeded to remove his jacket. Duggan, who was also present, restrained McNamara’s wife during the robbery which lasted for less than 90 seconds. “The purpose of the attack was to take the biker’s jacket from him,” said Collins who added that none of the defendants have previous convictions. Lawyers for each of the defendants accepted that their client’s respective actions were out of order but all pointed to the fact that what happened was completely out of character. Each of the defendants are married with teenage children & all 3 have a strong work history. A nbr of testimonials were submitted to the court in support of the defendants individually including from a parish priest & a local councilor. Adjourning the matter to Oct, Judge Tom O’Donnell said he found the actions of the defendants to be “childish in the extreme” & a “complete & utter nonsense”. The judge added that he was flabbergasted that 3 “seriously mature adults” had found themselves before the court facing a robbery charge which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. He what had happened was like “something out of a John Grisham novel” with a local, Nat’l & Internat’l flavor. In adjoining the case, the judge commented that he was aware of the impact that a criminal conviction would have on each of the defendants & their future careers. He asked that Garda contact McNamara to request that he nominate a charity to which the monies raised the defendants will be donated.
HAs hold annual ‘Screwy ride’ to honor slain East End biker
– April 8, 2017 – **Canada** – By [www.TheProvince.com](http://www.TheProvince.com) - Despite the recent murder of a senior Hells Angel & a record sentence for another longtime member, B.C.’s most notorious biker gang showed up in force Sat for an annual ride to honor a slain comrade. Close to 100 Hells Angels & associates met at the East End Chapter’s clubhouse at 3598 East Georgia St. for the event in memory of Dave (Screwy) Swartz. Swartz was a full-patch member of the East End chapter when he was gunned down in Surrey on April 6, 1988 by a friend after an all-night drinking party. The friend then killed himself with the same gun. There was a heavy police presence around the clubhouse Sat, starting early in the morning & lasting until the bikers left for the ride to a Burnaby cemetery about 2 p.m. Vancouver Police watch over members of the Hells Angels during their ride from Oceanview Cemetery in Burnaby during their annual Screwy Ride to honour the murdered friend Dave “Screwy” Schwartz in Vancouver, BC, April 8, 2017. Both Vancouver Police & members of the RCMP’s Outlaw Motorcycle Gang unit were on the scene - some in unmarked cars. Several officers snapped photos of the bikers as they arrived & parked outside the clubhouse. The police then followed the parade of patches along Boundary to 49th until they turned into Burnaby & headed to the Ocean View Cemetery on Imperial St. They returned to the clubhouse a short time later.

VPD Const. Jason Doucette said, “police closely monitor gang functions to prevent criminal organizations such as the Hells Angels from disrupting the general public.” “Other than a few driving behaviours that required enforcement, there were no major problems reported.” Doucette said. HAs spokesman Rick Ciarniello did not respond to a request for comment about the ride. There have been several major events involving B.C. HAs in recent months. Prominent member Bob Green was shot to death in Langley in Oct after an all-night party. A member of the 856 gang turned himself into police the next day & was charged with murder. Jason Wallace remains in custody & is due back in Surrey provincial court Tue. On March 8, a prospect for the Nanaimo HA gang, Michael Widner, was reported missing near Sooke, days before his body was found. He was also murdered. Last weekend bikers from across Canada rode in his honour on Vancouver Island. On March 17, B.C. bikers celebrated the opening of a new chapter called Hardside — the 10th since the gang started in the province in 1983. Then on March 31, David Giles, a 35-year member of the HAs, was sentenced to 18 years in prison for leading a cocaine smuggling operation that was part of a police sting. It was the longest-ever sentence handed to a B.C. Hells Angel. Giles, 66, is now believed to be on the outs with his club.

Self-defense suggested in fatal shooting – April 12, 2017 – **Colorado** – By [www.giSentinel.com](http://www.giSentinel.com) - Members of the Sin City Deciples MC have told police that the 38-year-old shooting victim in a deadly March shoot-out with other club members might have fired his gun 1st, according to recently unsealed court documents. Dion Nixon was fatally wounded March 15 inside the door of his home in the James Park Trailer Court while several children & his girlfriend took cover inside, according to police records. Suspected club members Richard Byrd, 48, Rufus Billups, 41, & Gregory Clark, 39, have all been arrested on 1st-degree murder charges in connection with the gun battle that left the ground outside Nixon’s trailer littered with about 24 spent 9mm & .40 caliber shell casings. A club member who cooperated with LE after Nixon’s death told police that earlier in the evening, a group of club members went to Billups’ home in the 2900 block of Bunting Page 9. The member, who said several of the club members’ wives & girlfriends were present, said Nixon & Billups were on the phone & “Nixon was disrespecting Rufus,” according to a recently unsealed affidavit for Clark’s arrest. Billups told a similar story when he was interviewed by LE. A 2nd club member who spoke to police said the phone conversation with Nixon related to Nixon’s alleged treatment of his girlfriend, who is the ex-wife of a man who either is or was a Sin City Deciple, the affidavit said. The 2nd member described a conversation where Billups told Nixon the woman was “property, & he can’t treat their sister like that,” according to the affidavit. The Deciples’ accounts clash with the version of events told to police earlier by Nixon’s girlfriend, who said Nixon angered Byrd & Billups that night by telling them he didn’t want to join the Sin City Deciples, according to earlier reports. Both club members said a group of the gang members drove to the trailer park at 480 28 1/4 Road, parked their bikes on 28 1/4 Road & confronted Nixon, who was outside & armed with a handgun, the report said. “They followed Nixon to 480 28 1/2, No. 15,” the report quoted one club member as saying. “They were all taunting Nixon as they (were) following him.” When Nixon arrived at his trailer, he stood on the porch, the affidavit said. “(The club member) indicated a shot was fired, & he believed it was from Nixon toward them, but was not sure,” the report said. The club member said he saw Byrd & Clark with handguns, & that Billups “always carries.” After the shooting – which left bullet holes in Nixon’s front door & window – the club members fled, the report said. Byrd & Billups were arrested the next day. Clark was taken into custody April 2. Officers who searched his home found 9mm ammunition & a copy of the Sin City Deciples’ bylaws, among other items, the affidavit said. When asked to give police an interview, Clark asked for an Atty. The Sin City Deciples, an outlaw MC that intentionally misspells its own name, is considered to be a “1-percenter” group by local LE. The term 1%er originated from an AMA statement that 99% of motorcyclists are law-abiding people, according to a report from the Nat’l Gang Intelligence Center. Some outlaw motorcycle groups have since adopted “1%” as a symbol.

Ironically, the man was in charged of the Police Athletic League in Upper Darby before he was convicted. – April 12, 2017 – **Pennsylvania** – By [https://patch.com](http://https://patch.com) - A Delaware County man was sentenced to 11 years prison time after being convicted of distributing methamphetamine, according to the United States Atty’s Office, Eastern District of Penn. The man from Upper Darby was a member of the Warlocks outlaw motorcycle gang, the Atty’s office said. Andrew Carr, 60, of Upper Darby, was sentenced to 132 months for conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of Meth. According to the Atty’s office, Carr was the “muscle” for the gang & intimidated & threatened violence to collect drug debts for a Meth trafficking business. He also sold meth to his own customers, the Atty’s office said. That business sold about $40,000 worth of meth each month in Philadelphia & Delaware Cnty, according to the Atty’s office. Carr, ironically, served as the director of the Upper Darby Township Recreat’l Gym for over 12 years until he was terminated in 2013 & in that role was responsible for the Police Athletic League programs at the gym. The case was investigated by the FBI with assistance from detectives of the Delaware County Criminal Investigative Division & was prosecuted by Asst US Atty Maria Carrillo. And as a result of the investigation, 8 other members or associates of the drug trafficking business have been convicted, & 6 of them have been sentenced, the Atty’s office said.
Argument between Vagos gang members led to San Bernardino double homicide, police say - April 13, 2017 – California - By Beau Yarbrough; www.SBSun.com - Two men are dead after a double shooting Sun night outside a San Bernardino bar, according to the San Bernardino PD... A barroom argument Sun evening ended with 2 men dead & a third in custody, all 3 of them allegedly members of an outlaw biker gang. The shooting took place in the parking lot of the Sports Page, located at 1225 E. Lynwood Dr. The incident was reported to San Bernardino police at 7:30 pm Sun. “There was an altercation in the bar that spilled out into the parking lot,” S.B.P.D. Lt. Mike Madden said. “It looks like the suspect & victims all knew each other.” Scott Gardner, 45, of Bloomington & Brian Davis, 43, of San Bernardino later died after being taken to a local hospital. “The suspect then fled the location on his motorcycle & later in the evening, turned himself into the S.B. Sheriff’s Dept Morongo Station,” Madden said. Beau Gabriel Hempel, 38, of Joshua Tree, was arrested on 2 counts of murder. He’s currently being held at West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga, without the possibility of bail. “All of the involved parties are members of the same outlaw motorcycle gang,” Madden said. All 3 are reportedly members of the Vagos MC.

Warlock Motorcycle Gang Member Sentenced To 11 Years In Prison – April 12, 2017 – Pennsylvania – By www.Justice.gov - Philadelphia – Andrew Carr, 60, of Upper Darby, PA, was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge Eduardo C. Robreno to 132 months in prison for conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. He worked as the “muscle” for a meth trafficking business, intimidating & threatening violence to collect drug debts. Carr was a member of the Chester (city) Chapter of the Warlocks outlaw motorcycle gang & wore his Warlocks jacket while collecting for the business, which sold approximately $40,000 of meth monthly in Philadelphia & Delaware County. Carr also sold meth to his own customers. Carr was the director of the Upper Darby Township Recreat’l Gym for over 12 years until he was terminated in 2013. While the director, he was responsible for the Police Athletic League programs at the gym. He was convicted following a jury trial in May 2016. As a result of the investigation, 8 members or associates of the drug trafficking business have been convicted, & 6 of them have been sentenced. The case was investigated by the FBI with assistance from detectives of the Delaware County Criminal Investigative Division & was prosecuted by Asst U.S. Atty Maria M. Carrillo.

Dangers of ‘reporting’ open web & deep web chatter in the wake of terror attacks - April 12, 2017 - World - By Jennifer Leggion; www.ZDNet.com - If media outlets, individual reporters, or simple watchers take the volume of open web or deep web chatter after terror attacks as evidence, then they will fall victim to bots & trolls - & ultimately mislead their networks... Attacker attribution, whether online or physical, is tremendously difficult. In some cases, the attacker or attacker group will claim the incident, but especially in the case of physical or alleged terror attacks, those claims are not always immediate. This creates a haunting, even more unsettling time in which it is tempting for those with access to both open web & deep web forums that house jihadi communities to share the “chatter” they read or see - & sometimes those with access are bona fide journalists. Not all terrorists are jihadists, though with recent incidents, it’s understandable that folks will 1st look at jihadi communities for Info.

However, that is just it -- information. In its basic form, chatter in these instances is just as its name indicates: Unproven commentary or opinion. Sometimes it can align to earlier true activities, but the chatter itself is speculation, & relaying it prematurely or without data or true facts can be alarming, or it can even interfere with active investigations on the scene of the attack. We saw a lot of this in the last few weeks around London, St. Petersburg, & Stockholm, & regardless of the targets or outcome, the implications of sharing unverified facts are dangerous.

Amaranth Amarasingam, senior research fellow at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, said that it’s important to be strict about what is considered to be newsworthy & in the public’s interest, especially as the news move so fast, & that reporting, for instance, so-called Islamic State (ISIS) “fanboys” celebrating on Telegram or re-posting mainstream news article, is not particularly relevant. “It creates the impression for the general public, most of whom still don’t really understand ISIS or terrorist groups, that, 1st, ISIS claims everything (Not true) & 2nd, that somehow ISIS is everywhere (Not true),” said Amarasingam. “This was particularly the case around reporting ISIS ‘kill lists’. It created a lot of panic for, I think, no reason. These kill lists were posted on channels with a few dozen followers & they were needlessly amplified by mainstream media.” In fact, the kill lists that Amarasingam mentioned were not even official ISIS products, but were compiled & released by pro-ISIS groups.

Of course, with a random attack on civilians in a major city, it could very well be instigated by ISIS or al-Qaeda. Or it could be a “lone wolf” attack by someone who has an affinity for either group. But while history may point in one direction or another, correlation is not causation. And even more challenging, even with a so-called verified claim, proving legitimacy is difficult. Attribution in these cases is almost a sliding scale, with “direction” at one end (ISIS official directs operatives) & “influenced” at the other end (individual launches an attack in its name, without direction). Therein lies the bigger problem - even with claims, so many forms of associations with these groups exist in different degrees - that claims of credit even mean less & less these days. In addition to making assertions about attack responsibility, Amarasingam also warned of individuals & the media about posting pictures of the attack right after the attack. Basic human decency of not showing images with bodies is one reason, & the potential interference with ongoing investigation is another. “I think we often have to ask ourselves about why we are posting something, & whether it has some educational or news value, as opposed to simply posting any & everything,” he said. “The speed at which all of this moves has also resulted in people getting hurt.”

Graeme Wood, correspondent at The Atlantic, has similar views, especially around the role of journalistic responsibility post major physical attacks. His guiding principle is that Info is worth sharing if & only if it brings his readers news (in the basic sense of Info that is new to them). “I am not under pressure to report just anything that comes my way. Indeed, I feel the opposite pressure: If I report unproven chatter, I am risking my credibility,” said Wood. Wood shared that it is not uncommon to see reporters occasionally mistake ISIS fan activity for official statements, but it is not hard to tell these things apart. There are 2 critical effects that can come from these mistakes: One, readers are misled, & 2, it reveals which reporters “have no idea what they are talking about or have no regard for truth or accuracy.” “This 2nd effect is a useful sorting mechanism,” he said. Finding qualified
souces to determine the facts behind ISIS or al-Qaeda, or any terror activities, is much more difficult than other more mainstream threats. The sources don’t look the same, & they are sometimes required to be anonymous due to safety fears. “In my research, so-called ‘egg accounts’ on Twitter have often been deeply informed about what is happening in Syria & Iraq, & sometimes they have been parents & family members of foreign fighters,” Amarasingam said. Of course, journalistic standards must be maintained, & that standard differs depending on the outlet. Amarasingam said that some magazines & papers won’t publish interviews conducted over Telegram or Twitter with supposed ISIS fighters because their standards of verification are strict. “With the current ISIS media landscape, you can almost never be 100% sure you are talking to a fighter, but you can be fairly confident over time,” he said.

Yet all of this is starting to change in unpredictable ways. For example, after the London attack, when the name Abu Izzadeen was mentioned as a suspect, some analysts made it clear that the name was being pushed by Russian trolls & bots to sow confusion in media reporting -- even though it was later reported Izzadeen was still in prison. “I initially fell for this as well because some analysts & outlets I trusted were talking about it,” Amarasingam continued. “It turned out we were all duped. So, I think we have to be very careful going forward.” If mainstream media outlets, reporters, or simple watchers just take the volume of open web or deep web chatter as evidence, then they will fall victim to bots & trolls. Constant correction of stories after unwittingly reporting false information also erodes trust in experts, individuals & media alike. “There has to be a certain standard that is maintained, using old fashioned journalistic standards. We need these more than ever,” he said.

While speculative chatter should not be considered worthy of reporting, true ISIS or al-Qaeda or any other terrorist group claims are worth reporting, once proven, since it is factual info that could aid in public awareness & safety, & it could better educate them on the realities of these groups. “Until you know who perpetrated the attack, you don’t know who perpetrated the attack,” Wood said. “But there are characteristics of individual attacks that are clearly suggestive... I have no problem with reporters’ mentioning these early suggestions in their initial reports on attacks. But they are just that - suggestions rather than proof.”

Serial Armed Robber Sentenced to 59 1/2 Years in Prison – April 13, 2017 – Pennsylvania – By www.Justice.gov - Philadelphia – Cory Foster, 29, of Philadelphia, PA, was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge Mark Kearney to a total of 714 months (59.5 years) in prison for 3 armed robberies of convenience stores & an armed carjacking. In May 2016, a jury convicted Foster of robbing at gunpoint a Lukoil Service station & convenience store in Trevose, Bucks County, PA; a Liberty gas station & convenience store in Plymouth Meeting, Montgomery County, PA; & a CITGO gas station & convenience store in Phoenixville, Chester County, PA, & of stealing a customer’s car at gunpoint during the CITGO robbery. Foster committed these crimes during Nov & Dec 2014. In Feb 2015, Delaware State Police arrested Foster in possession of the stolen car & the semiautomatic pistol. In the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, Foster has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for possession of the pistol by a convicted felon. He must serve 57 years of the prison sentence imposed by Judge Kearney after serving the previous 10-year sentence. Foster’s confederates in the robberies have not been identified. The case was investigated by the FBI, the Plymouth Township P.D., with the FBI took the lead in the investigation, the Bensalem Township & Schuylkill Township P.D.s, & the Delaware State Police. The case was prosecuted by then Montgomery County Asst District Atty & Special Asst U.S. Atty Gabriel Magee.

US border searches of phones & laptops have almost doubled - April 13, 2017 – U.S.A. – By Zack Whittaker; www.ZDNet.com - A Former Homeland Security official said the spike in device searches was a “conscious strategy” to use a loophole that allows agents to search devices at the border without a warrant… The number of phone & laptop searches by customs officials at the US border have almost doubled in the past year. New figures released this week by the Customs & Border Protection saw the number of device searches rise from 8,383 to 14,993 searches -- an increase of about 80% -- between Oct & March, the 1st 6 months of the agency’s fiscal year. That accounts for just under 2,500 devices searches out of 31.6 million travelers on average each month, or less than 0.01% of all travelers who enter the country, says the agency, tasked with ensuring the admisssibility of goods & people into the country.

The new numbers appear to lower earlier figures, which the agency said contained an “anomaly,” referring to a system upgrade that misattributed the date. Earlier figures published by NBC News last month suggested that this year would be a “blockbuster” for device searches, with around 5,000 device searches in Feb alone, according to an unnamed Homeland Security official speaking to the publication. The new border search figures point to a number less than half of that, the statistics say, but a CBP spokesperson could not explain the disparity between the Homeland Security official & the statistics. CBP said only in its statement that it has “adapted & adjusted its actions to align with current threat information,” without providing specifics.

A spokesperson for Homeland Security did not respond to our questions, including why the number of searches has risen year-over-year. Mary Ellen Callahan, former chief privacy officer at Homeland Security, said in an email that the increase in searches is “a conscious strategy on CBP to better leverage the border search loophole,” which allows border agents to search devices without a warrant. The agency says that “no court has concluded that the border search of electronic devices requires a warrant, & CBP’s use of this authority has been repeatedly upheld,” but while the Supreme Court unanimously ruled in 2014 that generally a warrant must be obtained, the doctrine governing the bizarre, semi-stateless space at the US border allows agents to carry out warrantless device searches. Device border searches remain a contentious & controversial topic, one that has piqued the interest of several lawmakers, who want to rein in that power.

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced the bipartisan & bicameral bill, dubbed the “Protecting Data at the Border Act,” in an effort to force border agents to obtain a warrant before “thumbs through innocent Americans’ personal photos & other data.” The bill, if passed, would apply to US citizens & permanent lawful residents.

Children are protected by more Bikers than you want to Piss Off...
STIX & TAXII: New weapons in the security battle — April 13, 2017 – World – By Robin Harris; www.ZDNet.com - They may sound like a German noble family, but STIX & TAXII are new tools for fighting internet lawlessness. They enable the good guys to beat internet attacks through automated, real-time info sharing, & are supported by many tech heavyweights. Here’s what you need to know. The scenario is depressing & all too common: The Bad Guys - state actors, criminal gangs, script-kiddies - launch an attack, make off with a bundle, & then repeat the attack dozens, perhaps hundreds of times. How does that happen? It happens because the Good Guys aren’t communicating the details of the threat & the actions needed to defeat it. A guy at a NOC might call his colleague & warn him, or tell his security vendor to update their profiles, but that’s about it. I spoke to Brett Jordan of Symantec, editor of the STIX spec & co-chair for TAXII, about how STIX & TAXII aim to change that. They’re 2 standards whose development is supported by the major security industry players, including IBM, HPE, Cisco, & Dell, large financial institutions, & the US Gov’t, including the DoD & the NSA.

What is STIX? Structured Threat Information eXchange is an edge-and-node based graph data model. The nodes are STIX Data Objects & the edges are STIX Relationship Objects. The SDOs include information such as:
- Attack Pattern - Identity - Observed Data
- Threat Actor - Vulnerability The SROs -- the edges -- are meant to connect SDOs so that, over time, users will be able to develop in-depth knowledge of threat actors & their techniques. STIX v2 will be out before the end of the year, & vendors are already working to support it based on draft versions.

What is TAXII? From the TAXII GitHub site TAXII (Trusted Automated eXchange of Indicator Information) looks . . . to standardize the trusted, automated exchange of cyber threat information. TAXII defines a set of services & message exchanges that, when implemented, enable sharing of actionable cyber threat information across organization & product/service boundaries for the detection, prevention, & mitigation of cyber threats. STIX is the critical threat information. TAXII is the protocol to communicate it.

Implementation: Users & security vendors will participate in giving life to the specifications. Users will be able to pass anonymized data to their security vendors, & the vendors will be able to rapidly share threat information. You’ll still buy security services, but those services will be much more effective as part of a community sharing threat & defense data in real time.

The Goal: Cybercrime is incredibly profitable, which feeds a vicious cycle where the profits enable building more sophisticated attacks. But like any product, sophisticated malware has to be profitable. Today, a single attack vector can be used dozens or hundreds of times, making it extremely profitable. But if a new attack vendor could be neutralized after one or 2 attacks, profitability would nosedive, making it harder to justify the effort needed for more sophisticated attacks. Of course, a different calculus applies to state actors. Once implemented, a vigilant community will force them to use their cyber weapons with greater care, hopefully minimizing collateral damage.

The Storage Bits Take: As initiatives such as STIX & TAXII kick in over the next decade, we can start to take back the internet from the bad guys. If your company has a security vendor that you talk to, ask them about STIX & TAXII, & how they are planning to use it. Every vendor needs the encouragement of customers to justify timely action!

2 shot at Louisville MC - April 16, 2017 - Kentucky - By www.Wave3.com - he Shawnee neighborhood started Easter morning with gunfire. LMPD said they were called to the Outcast MC at 43rd & West Market St around 3 a.m. Sun. Officers arrived to find a black man & woman had been shot. Dwight Mitchell, an LMPD Spokesperson, confirmed that both were taken to Univ Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Nan Palmer lives a couple houses away. “Not a way you want to be woken up any morning but especially Easter morning when you're thinking about being with family,” Palmer said. “They may not be targeting us or somebody else but you never know when a stray bullet is going to get somebody.” The intersection isn’t a stranger to violence. Records show there were 2 homicides there in 2009, with another in 2010 & a 4th in 2011. Palmer’s husband Donovan said the violence has gotten out of control lately. “There’s a lot of hardworking good people down here that kind of seems to be held hostage by people who just don’t know how to act,” Donovan Palmer said. “Too many good people down here, too many kids are in danger down here because of the actions of a few.” The LMPD Major Crimes Unit is investigating. So far, police said there are no suspects.

Chinese Horoscope: The Year of the Monkey, Wishing You Prosperity & good Fortune in the Chinese New Year follow the Instructions - Do not cheat or it won’t work & you will wish you hadn’t. Take 3 minutes try this - It will freak you out.

2nd. When choosing names, make sure they are real people that you actually know
3rd. Go with your 1st instincts! Very important for good results.
4th. Scroll down one line at the time don’t read ahead otherwise you will ruin the fun.
1. On a blank sheet of paper, write numbers 1 through 11 in a Column on the Left.
2. Beside the Nbrs 1 & 2, write down any 2 Nbrs you want.
   Do you have a favorite Nbr?
3. Beside the Numbers 3 & 7, Write down the Names of Two Members of the Opposite Sex.

Caution: Do not look ahead or it will not turn out right!
4. Write Anyone’s Name (Friends or Family) next to 4, 5, & 6.
5. Write down Four Song Titles in 8, 9, 10, & 11.

Are you ready? Here is the key to the game:
1. The number of people you must tell about this Game is found in Space 2.
2. The Person in space 3 is the one you Love.
3. The Person you like but your relationship cannot work is in Space 7.
4. You care most about the Person you put in Space 4.
5. The person you name in #5 is the one who knows you very well.
6. The person you named in 6 is your lucky star.
7. The song in 8 is the song that matches with the person in #3.
8. The Title in 9 is the Song for the Person in 7.
9. The 10th space is the Song that tells you most about your Mind.
10. And 11 is the Song telling how you feel about Life.
11. Nbr 1 is Your Lucky Nbr. Strange how it seems to Work...

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Can We Improve Nat’l Security - Face Recognition? Apr 18, 2017 - World - By Anna Bobak, Viktoria Mileva, Peter Hancock; www.ScientificAmerican.com - Close your eyes & imagine being a passport officer at London Heathrow. There is a long-line of slightly tired, irritated, & often impatient passengers aching to get to the end of their journeys. One by one they come to your counter & hand over passports with rather outdated photographs, looking at you for approval to reach their final destination. Different hair, glasses, sun tan, & a bit of weight gain or loss – the list goes on. It should be simple, though, to tell whether the ID & ID holder match. You have them both in front of you, the person & the image. Easy, right?

Well, not so much. Studies show that people are poor at recognizing unfamiliar faces (ones we encounter for the 1st time, or have seen only briefly). This is true not only when we have to memorize the faces of new people, but also when the task is to compare images presented at the same time (such as matching a passport photo with a driver’s license photo). People also struggle to sort photographs by identity: For example, when shown a deck of forty photographs depicting only 2 different people, participants tend to think that the images show, on average, 7 different people. Studies of a fairly simple “matching” task, where participants must decide whether 2 photographs show the same person or 2 different people, tell us that under optimal conditions people make mistakes on at least 10% of the trials. The situation is further complicated by the fact that photos in identity documents are often valid for 10 years, during which one’s appearance can change substantially. Look at your driver’s license, work badge, & passport. Do they all resemble the person you see in the mirror? One reason why lay people are not good at face matching might be that they don’t have to do this task on a day to day basis. Following this logic, those who do it frequently as a part of their job should be much better at deciding whether a document & its holder match or not. Surprisingly, research suggests otherwise. A study conducted in 2014 by David White & colleagues in Australia showed that in a mock border control scenario, passport officers accepted 14% of fraudulent documents, the same amount as untrained students who acted as a control group. Moreover, how well officers performed was unrelated to the length of their occupational experience. Put simply, twenty years of matching people & documents does not make one good at it. These findings are consistent with other studies investigating perceptual expertise. Portrait artists, who are presumably well in tune with the fine details of human faces, are not better at face recognition tasks than the general population. In the same vein, a Swiss group of researchers reported that memory champions for name-face associations are also not superior to control participants on standardized face recognition tasks, so becoming a super-memorizer does not equal being a face super-recognizer.

So, what does all that tell us about how face recognition works? Studies with twins have consistently shown that face recognition is highly heritable & independent from other abilities such as general intelligence. The range of ability is remarkable: ‘super-recognisers’, are able to recognise someone in the street that they met once, some years earlier, at a party. These people are also much better than average at matching unfamiliar faces. A key question for researchers is whether such enhanced abilities are purely innate, or whether they can be taught. In the absence of an army of face experts to guard Nat’l frontiers, scientists have made concerted efforts to improve the performance of typical perceivers on these applied tasks. Some studies have shown that continuous feedback, in this case telling participants after every trial whether they were correct or not, can slow the decline in face matching accuracy when it must be done over long periods, such as in airport-like scenarios, but does not improve face matching per se. Others have shown that feedback can indeed aid accuracy. Arguably, this strategy is not viable beyond laboratory settings, because the truth is always unknown on the streets – who would provide feedback in real world situations when the only one who knows the truth is the ID holder? Another commonly used face classification strategy is encouraging people to decide whether 2 faces are the same or different based on their shape, but this was also found ineffective when tested in a laboratory setting.

Other interventions have shown more promise. Incentives such as chocolate lead to improvements in accuracy on mismatched trials, suggesting it would be a viable strategy for detecting fraudulent IDs, though one can see problems with implementing this for passport controllers. Working in pairs & being free to communicate also appears to have a benefit for both partners & generalizes beyond the time of joined decision making. Instructing novice participants to pay attention to specific features & evaluate them in terms of similarity to another image also leads to better performance. Finally, when the task is difficult, masking external features, hair, ears, & the face shape offers some help & leads to improvements in discriminability. An alternative solution is to be more selective in personnel allocation. Studies have shown that super-recognizers are a long way ahead of the general population at face matching accuracy. They appear to use something called “holistic processing” where faces are perceived as a whole rather than a sum of their parts. It requires paying attention to the internal features of the faces (the eyes, the nose, & the mouth) & accurate assessment of the relative distances between these features, which is one possible explanation for how super-recognizers do it. Holistic processing has been repeatedly shown to be positively associated with face processing ability in the general population, but it is yet unclear whether training people to perceive faces more holistically would generalize to improved face matching. Despite adopting a completely different strategy, forensic examiners, people who compare face images & later provide expert evidence in police investigations & court cases, have also been found to be extremely accurate at face matching. They rely heavil on feature by feature comparison to make their decisions, so they process faces less holistically. It is possible that factors other than pure face recognition ability, such as attention & motivation, play a part. Indeed, the advantage of forensic examiners becomes apparent when the time allowed to examine images is long, but not at shorter intervals.

The take home message remains: unfamiliar face recognition is an extremely difficult task that only few get almost right. And this brings us back to the original question: can we improve Nat’l security with science? The answer is Yes, in many ways. Firstly, we could do away with facial photo identification & use some other form of biometric. Secondly, when faces are used as the main biometric, human decision makers should be aware of their own limitations & apply the laboratory findings in their duty to keep us safe, for example working in pairs & receiving specific instructions. Finally, there is clear potential in Nat’l security agencies to use super-recognizers to keep dangerous criminals off the streets & away from our borders.
Mystery Memory Loss among Illicit-Drug Users Spurs Health Action - April 19, 2017 - U.S.A. - By Dina Fine Maron; www.ScientificAmerican.com - Do 13 cases of amnesia among opioid users suggest a more widespread problem? A bizarre medical mystery can be added to the list of growing concerns about opioid use in the U.S. Since 2012 more than a dozen illicit drug users have shown up in hospitals across eastern Massachusetts with inexplicable amnesia. In some cases, the patients’ memory difficulties had persisted for more than a year. Yet this bewildering condition does not appear to be the result of a simple case of tainted goods: The drug users do not appear to have used the same batch of drugs-or even the same type of substance.

To get some answers, the state’s public health officials are rolling out a new requirement that clinicians who come across any patients (not just opioid users) with these types of memory deficits—along with damage to the hippocampus—must report the cases to the state. On April 3 State Public Health Officials received the legal green light from the Massachusetts public health commissioner to make this a required, reportable condition. This technical change, which will last for one year, authorizes public health workers to collect this Info & reassures clinicians that they can—and must—share case reports. In the next couple of days’ workers will notify emergency room personnel as well as addiction counselors & neurology specialists about the new designation via e-mail. The new reporting requirement, state officials hope, will help epidemiologists learn how widespread the issue of potential opioid-linked amnesia may be & whether patients have specific factors in common. The change was 1st reported by BuzzFeed News. Mass officials 1st documented this string of amnesia cases in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control’s Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report back in Jan. “No clear etiology exists, but at time of initial evaluation, 13 of 14 [patients] tested positive for opioids or had opioid use recorded in their medical history,” medical workers tracking this issue wrote. Most of the patients tested positive for one or more drugs including opiates, benzodiazepine, marijuana, PCP or other substances.

Although extremely rare, the amnesia-drug link is also not completely unprecedented. In the past, there have been several documented cases where similar amnesia was detected among cocaine users. In 2013, there was also one case reported in France where the same kind of memory loss was associated with heroin inhalation. To better understand the recent wave of cases, Scientific American spoke with state epidemiologist Alfred DeMaria, medical director of the Massachusetts Dept of Public Health’s infectious disease bureau. [An edited transcript of the interview follows.]

What a puzzling situation. Can you walk us through how these patients present? Basically, it’s 1 of 2 ways: They wake up in the hospital after an acute medical condition—usually an overdose or toxicity from drugs—with an unusual degree of confusion & rockiness. The other way a patient gets medical attention, is, say, the patient’s family saw him on Fri when he seemed fine & then when they talk to him on Sun morning he doesn’t remember seeing them on Fri or what happened the day before, & this short-term amnesia leads him to get medical attention. With both cases, the patient may have no memory of what has gone on in the previous 48 hours.

So, this memory loss is limited to recent events? Usually it’s relatively short term, yes, & the issue, according to their MRIs, seems to be damage to the hippocampus—an area of the brain that usually helps process information into memories. These patients don’t really have problems with long-term memory. For example, as a neurologist involved in these cases described it: They can drive to work because they have been driving to work for 20 years, so they have no trouble doing that. But if they have to go someplace new & they are given directions, just simple directions, they get in the car & can’t remember what they were just told. So, the issue is also processing new memories.

Your case descriptions mentioned that for a couple of these patients their memory impairment lasted a year or more. Yes. Their memory gets better & everything is relative to the amount of damage to the hippocampus, presumably. But that’s the kind of deficit they have.

What do you think is the likely cause of the amnesia? Substance abuse is not a simple thing. People who are using substances very rarely use just one. So that can complicate trying to understand causality. We don’t know if people who have a history of opiate drug use were using other drugs, too.

Do you have a working hypothesis about what’s going on? There is some evidence that pharmaceutical versions of fentanyl can have an effect on the hippocampus—so I think our favorite hypothesis is that, with all of the synthetic fentanyl out there, it is a contamination of that drug or some fentanyl-like chemicals that could be causing this effect. There is no standardization in an illicit synthetic fentanyl lab, so who knows what is in there or even what kind of fentanyl it is. Really, this is just a hypothesis, though. There are some reports that methamphetamine can also do similar things to the hippocampus, so we wouldn’t want to write that off either.

Since your original report of these 14 cases in the MMWR in Jan have you heard about additional cases in Massachusetts? No, it’s really interesting. The MMWR got a lot of attention, especially in Massachusetts, but we had no extra cases reported, which surprised us. We thought with all of this attention, we would see another wave of reports.

If no more cases appear, how would you explain what happened? Maybe we can’t. If we don’t see any more cases, then maybe this was just a transient contamination. That would be good from a public health & medical standpoint, but it won’t let us know what’s going on.

Regarding your fentanyl theory, isn’t diagnosing fentanyl use difficult because it’s not typically tested for in the emergency room? We are hoping that in the case of amnesia reports, clinicians will have access to expanded toxicological screens & coverage for them because then more extensive tests would be medically indicated. Routinely, such expanded testing studies are not done—even on overdose deaths related to drugs like fentanyl—so we are hoping that now clinicians will call us & say, “I saw this patient last night & she or he is in the hospital now & the MRI shows this hippocampal ischemia pattern. So, what do you want us to do?” Then, we are going to collect some information but also say we would like you to try to get this expanded toxicology screen & an MRI to look at the hippocampus.
**How are the MRIs of these patients unique?** It is a bilaterally symmetric effect on the hippocampus. It’s not really vascular—it’s not a stroke where you get a clot or a bleed & then there’s no blood supply. It looks more like a toxic effect that affects the metabolism of the hippocampus. Some of these patients overdosed & had low flow [of oxygen] to the brain during their overdose, & we have gotten a lot of advice & criticism saying this is just an overdose & there’s nothing new here. But our response is if it’s just an overdose, why is the damage almost exclusively limited to the hippocampus?

**What could be the biological mechanism at work here?** There are 2 things I think of in terms of this outbreak: One is an outbreak related to shellfish poisoning a number of years ago. That was with something called domoico acid that actually causes amnesia not at all that dissimilar to this, but more severe. In fact, a lot of people have contacted us & asked if we had thought about domoico acid. There’s no reason to think people were exposed to it here, though. I’m suspecting what’s similar here is that it’s a toxin that hones in on the hippocampus. Back in the 1980s we saw a similar amnesia situation, only then it was a contamination of drugs out in Calif. Someone was manufacturing a drug that was an analogue of the opioid meperidine & made a mistake in manufacturing that produced a similar chemical, a product called MPTP, that caused Parkinson’s disease—like symptoms. I keep thinking, might the recent amnesia cases be something like these 2?

**Is this recent phenomenon being seen outside Mass?** We have heard from some clinicians in Oregon who think they have seen multiple cases like this, & from what they describe it seems like they may have.

**Are there any plans** for the Council of State & Territorial Epidemiologists to declare this a reportable condition nationwide? No.

**Is it likely there is something else at work here**—perhaps several factors working together, including genetics, that make for a toxic stew? Absolutely. I don’t know the causes so I’m not going to hone in on one thing to the exclusion of anything else. It’s likely a combination of factors. That’s why even if there is something out there that’s toxic, maybe only some people are susceptible to its effects. Maybe many people are exposed but only a few are vulnerable.

**Weird In Wyoming** - April 19, 2017 - **Wyoming** - By The Aging Rebel: [www.AgingRebel.com](http://www.AgingRebel.com) - Police are investigating a weird patch pulling in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Allegedly, 3 members of the Sons Of Silence MC named Cory Rutherford, Matthew Wedgewood & Nicholas Hanson attacked a gentleman named Bradley Chrisman in a bar called the Saddle Lite Saloon. Chrisman told police that Rutherford approached him, punched him in the face & declared, “give me your cut or I will kill you.” According to a most excellent press release written by Alison Deters, the Public Information Officer for the Rock Springs P.D., Rutherford punched Chrisman, “approx 30 times in the head & kneed (him) in the back & neck.” Chrisman “began to see stars from the punches & believed he was going to lose consciousness.” He believed “that if he didn’t release his cut, that Rutherford would kill him.” He believed “the only reason Rutherford stopped punching him was because he released his cut.”

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**Bad Seven:** According to Officer Deters, Chrisman also believes, “he is an enforcer for the Bad Seven bike gang & was wearing the gang patch while sitting at the bar.” Over the course of several days, The Aging Rebel has been unable to confirm that that any chapters of the Bad Seven MC exist in the U.S., Canada or Mexico. The Bad Seven is a Support Club for the Gremium MC. The Gremium has 144 chapters in Europe. The Club has also been reported to have a chapter in Pattaya, Thailand but nothing in the Western Hemisphere. Chrisman told police that the 3 men left the bar with his Bad Seven cut which “contained the key fob to his motorcycle & a .38 Special snub-nosed black chrome revolver. Chrisman later received treatment for his injuries at Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County.

**The Video:** After reviewing video surveillance footage from the bar, Rock Springs police observed that: “The 3 men can be seen performing a brief warm up or stretch just before entering the bar together. Upon entering the bar, Rutherford who has a large flashlight & large knife hanging from his belt, immediately walks up to Chrisman & grabs him by the back shoulders with his hands & throws Chrisman from his bar stool to the ground. Rutherford is then seen punching, kneeling, & slamming Chrisman on the ground. As Rutherford pulls the cut away from Chrisman, the 3 men walk toward the exit together with Rutherford holding the cut in his hands.” The 3 accused men were later arrested “at various locations in Rock Springs.” The 3 are accused of Robbery, Conspiracy to Commit Robbery, Intimidation in Furtherance of the Interests of a Criminal Street Gang, & Accessory to Robbery. Chrisman later denied talking to police.

**Harley Bloody Harley** - April 20, 2017 – **Wisconsin/U.S.A.** - By The Aging Rebel: [www.AgingRebel.com](http://www.AgingRebel.com) - Harley-Davidson is still bleeding. This morning the motor company announced it will lay off 118 workers at its York, Pennsylvania assembly plant. It promised to add 118 jobs in Kansas City, It didn’t say when it would start hiring. The announcement came 2 days after Polaris said it was adding 2, new Indian baggers to its product line. Polaris, which announced it was discontinuing its Victory brand in Jan, will now offer a dozen Indian models. The new touring bikes are the ChiefTain Limited & the ChiefTain Elite. According to Polaris, the new bikes will feature 111-cubic-inch engines, “infotainment” & navigation systems & many pounds of shiny chrome. The Limited will retail for $24,449 & the Elite will cost $31,499. Since the beginning of the “economic recovery” in 2008, Harley has pursued multiple marketing strategies. The company is now telling potential investors that it can create 2 million new American riders; sell half of its motorcycles overseas; create 100 new models in the next decade; & increase profits. Harley has been trying to sell touring bikes & Polaris is aggressively contesting Harley’s share of that market.

**Sales Dropping:** H-D’s sales continue to fall. Harley announced this week that its “consolidated revenue” for the 1st quarter of 2017 had dropped $250 million from the 1st quarter last year. The company’s net income dropped from $250.5 million to $186.4 million. Sales declined everywhere except “Latin America,” where the company sold 456 more motorcycles than last year. Harley sold 33,316 new motorcycles in the United States in the 1st 3 months of 2017 which was about 2,000 fewer motorcycles than last year. The company sold 21,775 motorcycles in all the rest of the world which was also down from last year. The company said it sold 55,049 motorcycles worldwide which was down about 4% from 2016.
Pleased: In a press release, Harley boss of bosses Matt Levatich said, “1st quarter U.S. retail sales were in line with our projections & we remain confident in our full-year plan despite international retail sales being down in the 1st quarter. We are very pleased with our continued growth in U.S. market share & the progress our U.S. dealers made in reducing their inventory of 2016 motorcycles in the quarter.” “We recently announced our plan to build the next generation of H-D riders globally. We are energized by our focused strategy, & we believe our powerful brand & commitment to excellence will position us to drive demand for our products & grow our sport.” The company plans to ship between 80,000 & 85,000 motorcycles between now & Independence Day. Harley’s Chief Financial Officer John Olin said, “We believe the U.S. industry continues to be adversely affected by soft used bike prices & weakness in the oil-dependent areas & we continue to expect the industry will remain soft for the full year.”

In Obama’s final year, US secret court denied record nhr of surveillance requests – April 20, 2017 – U.S.A. – By Zack Whittaker; www.ZDNet.com - It’s an unprecedented spike given that the FISA court has only turned down 21 Gov’t requests in 3 decades… A secret court that oversees the US Gov’t’s legal surveillance requests rejected a record number of applications last year, according to new figures. Newly released data by the US Courts show that the Washington DC-based Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court rejected 9 applications during the final year of the Obama administration’s tenure. It’s the largest number of requests the FISA court has denied in its entire 4-decade history. By comparison, the court announced at its last year’s count that it didn’t reject any Gov’t surveillance requests, which historically is not irregular. The report shows that 1,752 applications were made during 2016 to allow the Nat’l Security Agency & the FBI to intercept phone calls & emails. Breaking down that overall figure, the court said it permitted 1,378 requests in full, while 339 requests were granted after modification. The court’s new reporting methods also revealed that the FISA court also rejected parts of 26 requests submitted by the NSA & the FBI. In other words, just 0.5% of all surveillance requests last year were denied. By comparison, since 1979 to date, the court has approved 40,117 warrants but only rejected 21 requests. That’s a rejection rate of 0.052%.

Extending Compassionate Release – April 21, 2017 – U.S.A. – By FAMM; www.FAMM.org - FAMM this week called on Congress to expand the Fed compassionate release program. This program is designed to let sick, elderly, & other prisoners who pose little risk to public safety get out of prison early. On Wed, we hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill that featured policy experts & affected individuals, including FAMM’s general counsel, Mary Price, who co-authored a seminal report on compassionate release in 2012. You can read more about the briefing & our esteemed panelists here. We also partnered with Brave New Films to produce a short new documentary that highlights the need for compassionate release. We premiered this compelling film at our briefing. Securing broad fed sentencing reform in the current political climate will be challenging, but expanding compassionate release should be a no-brainer. After all, releasing elderly & sick prisoners would save significant amounts of money without jeopardizing public safety. Please share our video with your friends & family, & be on the lookout for more updates on this issue in the months ahead. Have a great weekend, Kevin A. Ring; Pres, FAMM

An Expectation of Privacy – April 23, 2017 – Minnesota / Florida – By Mack; ABATE Of Minnesota; www.ABATEMN.org - Earlier this month, the Florida Appeals Court in a 2-1 decision found in the 2013 Palm Beach County DUI manslaughter & vehicular homicide case involving Charles Worsham Jr that the 4th Amendment affords an expectation of privacy for vehicle Electronic Data Recorders, aka black boxes. Similar to an airplane black box, a vehicle’s EDR can record a variety of data in the event of a crash & is now a mandatory requirement for all new vehicles. The Driver Privacy Act of 2015 also declares that the contents of EDRs belong to the vehicle’s owner, not the manufacturer or any other third party. As typical in a crash like this, Worsham’s car was seized & impounded by police who accessed the EDR contents without a warrant. Palm Beach LE maintained the black box was full of 3rd-party records which required no warrant or consent. Worsham successfully challenged the lawfulness of the search, resulting in the suppression of evidence from his vehicle’s EDR. More broadly, the ruling addresses the type of question that courts around the country face frequently as more personal information is captured on electronic devices. In the majority opinion, the Florida Court cited the U.S. Supreme Court’s Riley decision which introduced a warrant requirement for cell phone searches. A car’s black box is analogous to other electronic storage devices for which courts have recognized a reasonable expectation of privacy. Modern technology facilitates the storage of large quantities of information on small, portable devices. The emerging trend is to require a warrant to search these devices. The majority opinion judges went on to write about the difficulty of extracting the info from the black boxes. Extracting & interpreting the info from a car’s black box is not like putting a car on a lift & examining the brakes or tires. Because the recorded data is not exposed to the public, & because the stored data is so difficult to extract & interpret, we hold there is a reasonable expectation of privacy in that info, protected by the 4th Amendment, which required LE in the absence of exigent circumstances to obtain a warrant before extracting the information from an impounded vehicle. In the dissenting opinion, Judge Alan Forst wrote that the info has no intrinsic value to the vehicle’s owner. The data that the Gov’t extracted from the vehicle that was owned & driven by the Appellee in this case was not information for which Appellee or any other owner/driver had a reasonable expectation of privacy. The data was not personal to the Appellee, was not password protected by the Appellee, & was not being collected & maintained solely for the benefit of the Appellee. The EDR was installed by the vehicle’s manufacturer at the behest of the Nat’l Highway Traffic Safety Administration & as distinct from Jones, the purpose of the data collection is highway & driver safety. Prosecutors will likely take the Worsham case to the 4th District Court of Appeal where drivers’ 4th Amendment rights will continue to be challenged. As NMA Pres Gary Biller noted in his “The Spy Within” column in the Summer 2012 issue of Driving Freedoms, “Vehicle EDRs have evolved as a less-sophisticated version of aviation black boxes & have a common goal: to aid accident reconstructionist & safety experts by capturing data that could lead to improved technology, & to reduce the number & severity of accidents. But therein lies the rub: The EDR contents are also sought by insurance investigators, lawyers, & other parties looking to assign financial responsibility for accidents. That silent electronic sentinel that you bought as standard equipment on your vehicle can be used to incriminate you. The NMA’s position on EDRs is that it is okay to use them for alleged research functions, but not okay to use
them against vehicle owners. There is only one true solution. The vehicle owner should have the option to disable the EDR without affecting the functionality of the vehicle itself. “Responsible adults are capable of making responsible decisions for themselves. . .” A novel concept.

In Memory of DC Eagle Bubba – April 24, 2017 - Wisconsin - Hi Mike... Last week we lost a motorcycle legend. Rob “Bubba” Troutman, creator of the “Honda Drop” (see Easyriders), “Bubba’s Big Party” & the “Tomahawk Fall Ride” in Wisconsin passed away quietly in his sleep. He’s been promoting Bikers & Biker events for over 40 years. He was my Friend & Brother for almost 50. His Memorial Service is April 29th at 2pm in Nokomis Park (party site) Hwy. ‘L’ north of Tomahawk, Wis. Everyone invited. The 2017 Fall Ride Sept. 13th-17th will go on as planned as a tribute to him. Official Web Site of the Annual Tomahawk Fall Ride www.TomahawkFallRide.com . . . Thanks Mike, post as desired. Frog DCE M.C. (ret.)

Robert Maynard Pirsig - April 25, 2017 - Maine - By The Aging Rebel; www.AgingRebel.com - Robert Maynard Pirsig, an autobiographical essayist who was widely known for his book Zen & the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values was eulogized on the 90’s, he said: “It was the most important book I’ve written in my life.” His Memorial Service is April 29th at 2pm in Nokomis Park (party site) Hwy. ‘L’ north of Tomahawk, Wis. Everyone invited. The 2017 Fall Ride Sept. 13th-17th will go on as planned as a tribute to him. Official Web Site of the Annual Tomahawk Fall Ride www.TomahawkFallRide.com . . . Thanks Mike, post as desired. Frog DCE M.C. (ret.)

Robert Maynard Pirsig’s father was a law professor at the Univ Of Minnesota which he attended & from which he flunked out. He developed an interest in Zen while serving in the Army during the Korean War. When he returned, he went to journalism school & earned a master’s degree. His son Chris, who accompanied on his motorcycle pilgrimage, was stabbed to death on Haight St in San Francisco in Nov 1979. He is survived by his widow Wendy; his son Ted; his daughter Nell Peiken & 3 grandchildren. Robert Maynard Pirsig lived to be 88-years-old. He lived an interesting life. He lived in interesting times. He made a mark. He rode a motorcycle. Requiscat In Pace.

Outlaw Captured - April 25, 2017 - Illinois - By The Aging Rebel; www.AgingRebel.com - Orville Jerome Cochran, a member of the American Outlaw Association & a Fed fugitive for the last 16 years, was arrested in Chicago on Sun. Cochran was indicted for racketeering in 2001. He was accused of participating in the murder of a Hells Angel named Michael “Mad Mike” Quale during a brawl in Lancaster, New York in 1994 & of participating in the fatal shooting of a HA named Jack “4B” Castle in March 1995. Cochran was himself shot by an unknown assailant in 2000. Cochran’s case was investigated by the ATF & relied heavily on the cooperation of a confidential informant named Mark “Crash” Quinn. Cochran was arrested after he tried to shoplift a back brace from a regional super store in Evergreen Park, Illinois Sun afternoon. Evergreen Park is just west of Chicago. Cochran was identified by his fingerprints. He was transferred to Fed custody Mon. He was scheduled to be arraigned today in Milwaukee.

Witness says he lied - April 27, 2017 - Nevada - By AP; www.FoxNews.com - The star witness who helped convict the man who shot & killed a Hells Angels’ boss at a Nevada casino in 2011 has recanted his testimony. Documents obtained by The A.P. show Gary “Jabbers” Rudnick says he was lying when he testified that the slaying was an assassination plot orchestrated by a rival motorcycle gang. Prosecutors think the recantation is a lie. But it could make it more difficult to get another murder conviction against Ernesto Gonzalez, a former Vagos gang leader. He’s scheduled to be tried again in Aug after his conviction was tossed on a technicality. Legal scholars say it’s hard to predict jurors’ reaction to recanted testimony, but it raises questions about the claims of those who make deals with prosecutors to take the stand in exchange for more lenient sentences.

My First Day as a Walmart Greeter: So, after landing my new job as a Wal-Mart greeter, a good find for many retirees. I lasted less than a day... About 2 hours into my 1st day on the job a very loud, unattractive, mean-acting woman walked into the store with her 2 kids, Yelling obscenities at them all the way through the entrance. As I had been instructed, I said pleasantly, ‘Good morning & welcome to Wal-Mart. Nice children you have there. Are they twins?’ The ugly woman stopped yelling long enough to say, ‘Hell no, they ain’t twins. The oldest one’s 9, & the other one’s 7. Why the hell would you think they’re twins? Are you blind, or just stupid?’ So I replied, ‘I’m neither blind nor stupid, Ma’am, I just couldn’t believe someone slept with you twice. Have a good day & thank you for shopping at Wal-Mart.’ My supervisor said I probably wasn’t cut out for this line of work...

U.S. Defenders:
- We don’t accept applications. We accept commitments...
- 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… An Idea Whose Time Has Come…