

ABATE OFFICE
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ANNAPOLIS, MD 21404

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TOLL-FREE PHONE
1-800-843-0252
Maryland Residents Only

1-301-845-8868
Outside of Maryland

ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.
WANTS YOU TO PARTY WITH US AT OUR 12TH ANNUAL

**Spring Bike Show
&
MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET**

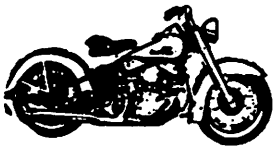
**Sunday April 8, 1990
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**

FOOD & BEER AVAILABLE ALL BIKES WELCOME

**Featuring: Custom & Vintage Motorcycles, Parts, Accessories,
Music, Prizes, Good People, & Good Times.**

MOTORCYCLE SHOW (3 trophies in each class)

CUSTOM (over 20 alterations)
STREET CUSTOM (11 to 20 alterations)
STREET (0 to 10 alterations)
DRESSER
RESTORED (1962 - down)
TRIKE

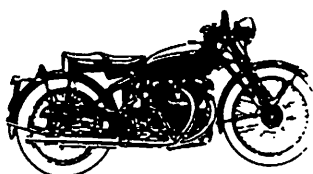


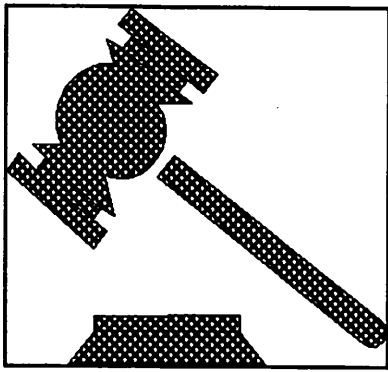
BEST PAINT & BEST OF SHOW

**ALL ARE WELCOME
ADMISSION \$6 STARTS 10AM
CHILDREN UNDER 2 FREE
SHOW ENTRIES \$15
SHOP DISPLAYS \$30 10X10 ft
SET-UP BEGINS: 7AM**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL ON PREMISES
RAIN OR SHINE**

DIRECTIONS: From Washington: Rt. 50 to Riva Road Annapolis Exit. To Rt. 178. Fairgrounds on left.
From Baltimore: Rt. 3 to 97. 97 to Crownsville Exit or Rt. 178 follow to Fairgrounds on right.
From Southern Md: North on Rt 2. Turn left on Rt. 178. Pass Annapolis Mall. Continue to Fairgrounds on left.





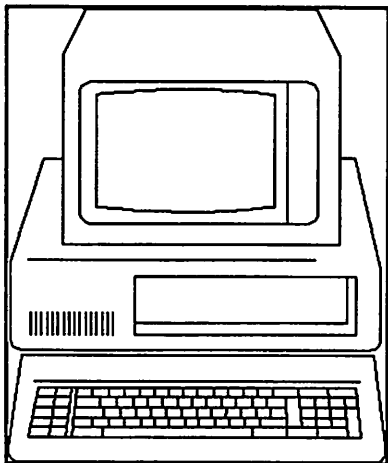
Coordinator's Comments

First, I want to **THANK YOU, DEBBIE LOUGH!** You did a hell of a job this legislative season and made this the most successful year ever. We accomplished defeat of bills by better margins than in other years. You made it easy for us to accomplish this magnitude of victory. We could not have done it without you.

Second, major changes need to be made to make this organization's composition, because of this, it is in all the chapter's interest to have as many staff members at the next State Meeting as possible. This meeting will be held at the Bike Show on April 8 at noon. You need to be there to understand the future needs of this organization.

In conclusion, there are approximately 50,000 registered motorcyclists in Maryland. There is about a 50% helmet user rate. That means up to 25,000 people in Maryland are directly effected by our major lobbying effort, the helmet laws. Our membership is about 1500 people, that means there are 23,500 people taking a free ride on us. That means for each one of us there are 16 free-loaders. I want every member to bring in 2 new members before the State Party. Then those new members can bring in two new members, and then we'll have 6,000 new members. That means we can increase our membership by 400%. With that size of a membership, it will be alot easier to keep accomplishing what we've been doing up to now on a shoe-string.

-Chuck



Newsletter Editor's Comments

I certainly hope you enjoy this issue. I've put alot more photos in this one (Thanks to Blues). Alot has happened since our last issue (my phone's been ringing alot, Thank you) The chapter's have been busy planning events as you will see when you check out the event's calendars.

I want each of you to read Roger Simon's article reprinted on page 6 (for your reading pain and pleasure). Simon's been ragging on us again. Our strategy (Thanks to Giff Nickol) is to hit the publisher of the Baltimore-Sun, which is the Times-Mirror Corporation located in L.A., where it hurts-in their advertising income. Also, some behind the scenes advocating, by contacting and informing motorcyclist celebreties that Roger Simon refers to them as "goons", and learn what they think of that. So read page 6 and find out all the details.

Until next time-
read on...

Sally

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Here's all the legislative bills from the '90 session, dealing with motorcycle issues:

H.B. 228.....	DEFEATED
H.B. 229.....	DEFEATED
H.B. 442.....	DEFEATED
H.B. 672.....	DEFEATED
H.B. 751.....	DEFEATED
H.B.1193.....	DEFEATED
S.B. 489.....	DEFEATED

Well folks, once again we have triumphed in Annapolis. The helmet bill which we defeated last year by the slim margin of 11-2, was soundly defeated 14 to 8. We were able to swing key votes our way, proving that our year-long lobbying campaigns have paid off.

The Catastrophic Insurance Bill was **crushed**, 22-1! This was accomplished by ABATE of Maryland working closely with the AMA, NCOM, MRF, Citizens Coalition for Rational Traffic Laws, dealers, and various other organizations. Everyone did a great job pitching in and most important working together.

With Annapolis now behind us, our next challenge will be the elections coming us in November. If you are interested in getting involved in helping our political candidates, just drop me a line at P.O. Box 1733 Annapolis, MD 21401 or let your coordinator know. Our friends in Annapolis are going to need **our** help so let's get ready to flex our political muscle and let our legislatures know we really appreciate the job they have done for us. If you would like any more information on any of this, be sure to attend your local meeting or the State meeting on April 8 at Noon at the Bike Show. I'll be going over this in more detail.

Thanks so much-
Debbie Lough, Legislative Advisor



ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.
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LEGISLATIVE ADVISOR	DEBBIE LOUGH.....1-800-843-0252
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY & LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT	SHEILA MAHER.....1-800-843-0252
CORRESPONDANCE SECRETARY	GLORYA COWLEY.....758-0523

COUNTY COORDINATORS

ANNE ARUNDEL	RUDY BURGEE.....224-2542
CALVERT	BOB SPANBURGH.....855-4218
CAROLINE	DAVE YEATMAN.....822-6041
CARROLL	CLAY WILHELM.....876-9237
CECIL/HARFORD	DOMINICK DIPATRE.....287-3123
CHARLES	TOM WHITE.....934-4944
FREDERICK	TOM BRUCE.....845-8868
KENT	MARC ENGLEBACH.....928-5034
MONTGOMERY	JOHN YOUNG.....942-2309
PRINCE GEORGE'S	PAM MYERS.....292-4027
QUEEN ANNES	DAVE YEATMAN.....822-6041
ST MARY'S	FAITH CROSBY.....862-1812
TALBOT	DAVE YEATMAN.....822-6041
WASHINGTON	MIKE HANSEN.....790-2557

*We've added another county, Kent, since last Newsletter, if you received this Newsletter and live in one of the counties that is not listed, you are not being represented, why not call the State office. We'll give you all the information you need to start your regular meetings. Come on - what are you waiting for?

COUNTIES' CORNER

Anne Arundel

Meetings are held last Wednesday of the month at Rudy's House Call 224-2542 for directions. Come and find out what's happening with ABATE.

Calvert

April 28 - Run to Indian River Inlet, Delaware
May 6 - 4th Annual Spring Shakedown at Calvert Cliffs State Park 10-6
August 18 & 19 Farm Party - camping, music

Cecil/Harford

Come out to the meetings on the third Sunday of the month at Poor Jimmy's Resturant on Rt 40 in Northeast at 2pm.

Poker Run May 12, start at Spicer's Motorcycle Shop in Rising Sun, call Dominick for details.

Charles/Prince George's (Southern Md)

Joint meetings at Lone Star, 1st Sunday 2pm

R & R Cycles and ABATE of Southern Maryland will have their annual Bike Show July 8 at the Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro.

Toy Run October 28 also at the Equestrian Center. More details later.

Frederick

Wake up everybody! We're having two meetings a month. 1st Thursday at Bob Eilers, same time. 1st Sunday at Home Plate in Frederick City off South Street at 12 noon. Come to the Sunday Meeting and go for a putt after the meeting. April 1 - Blackjack Run, May 6 - run to Calvert County's Picnic.

Our Dance was a huge success! We raised \$500 for ABATE. Thanks everybody! Also check out the photos.

Howard

HELLO! Anyone interested in going to an ABATE meeting? If your on the membership list, look forward to being contacted about a chapter starting in your county real soon.

Kent

Yes, Kent County, you have an ABATE chapter.

Come on out to Newt's in Chestertown, the first Saturday of the month.

Montgomery

Hey, you have two meetings a month! 1st Tuesday at Woods Kozy Corner in Olney at 8pm. New location for 2nd meeting: 3rd Tuesday at Big Lou's Wheaton Crab House 8pm. Off Viers Mill Rd. behind Little Tavern.

Bike Show April 29 at MDO in Rockville at Noon. Look for information soon about the Poker Run.

St. Mary's

Poker Run on April 21 - Rain Date April 28, meet at Halfway House on Rt 5 in Mechanicsville 11am-1pm for more info. call 373-5484 or 862-1812

Tri-County Eastern Shore

Poker Run on May 12 start at Cheasapeake Pottery near Rts 301 & 50 11:30-12noon, after meeting at Side Track Saloon in Easton at 11 am second Saturdays.
Run to State Party meet at Side Track at 7:30 am or the Pottery at 8am Saturday June 2.

Washington

Our meetings are the Second Sunday at 4 pm at Greenbrier - Dogpatch Tavern, Across from Greenbrier State Park.

Poker Run April 28 - Leaves Greenbrier 1pm, registration starts at Noon, \$5 Abate Members

Crab Feed August 25 at Indian Springs Campground with a raffle for a New Harley! \$15 Abate members, 1pm til ?

Motorcyclists don't deserve any more free rides

The Baltimore Sun, February 21, 1990

Once again the Maryland General Assembly takes up the issue of Scrambled Brains.

On one side of the debate you have the riders of motorcycles. They demand unlimited freedom, which means the freedom to plunge over the handlebars of their cycles at 60 mph.

And on the other side you have a few people — safety experts, medical experts, traffic experts — who believe that requiring a cyclist to wear a helmet makes just as much sense as requiring a motorist to wear a seat belt.

And somewhere in the middle you have our lawmakers. But there is a funny thing you have to understand about some lawmakers: they hate to make laws.

Really. It's a carry-over from the Reagan era. Reagan got elected to the White House twice by saying he wanted to get government out of our lives. He didn't really mean it, and he didn't really practice it, but it had a nice ring.

And so you get some lawmakers today who believe their duty is to make as few laws as possible. The motorcycle lobby loves these lawmakers.

The motorcyclists come to Annapolis every year and certain lawmakers shift uneasily in their seats and mumble and mutter and say "Yeah, well, we can't tell a person to wear a helmet. Because, well, like you know, it's freedom or something. Say, when's lunch?"

If you wanted the freedom to buy a car without seat belts, on the other hand, you couldn't find one. It's against the law to manufacture or sell such a car in this country. And in Maryland, we even have a law requiring you to wear seat belts. You don't get a free choice about that either.

So what is it about motorcycles that makes them so special? Beats me. Twenty years ago, 47 states had mandatory helmet laws because the federal government linked highway funding to such laws. Then the motorcycle lobby got that linkage abolished, and 26 states repealed their helmet laws.

Motorcycle fatalities shot up 44 percent.

So what, you say? Who cares if these goons scramble their brains all over the asphalt?

Well, you should. Because you pay for it.

Last year, I wrote about a helmet bill when it came up before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Delegates. (One reason I write about some subjects again and again is my belief that if I do so long enough, eventually everyone will be as enlightened as I.)

(same day as the Hearing for the Catastrophic Bill)

Gary Busey, the actor, had just lobbied against a helmet bill in California. He said training was the answer, not helmets. And, at age 44, Busey was well-trained, having ridden a cycle for years. Which did not help him at all one Sunday morning when he climbed aboard his \$16,000 Harley-Davidson, traveled only 90 feet, tried to take a turn around a bus, lost control, was thrown from his cycle and struck his head. Doctors operated on his brain for 12 hours to remove blood clots.

"Straight driver error," the Culver City police said of Busey's accident.

So much for training.

Busey was not, of course, wearing a helmet. He was exercising his right to have Scrambled Brains.

But it is a very expensive dish. According to a San Francisco trauma center study, the average motorcycle accident victim's bill runs to \$15,851, if the rider wears a helmet. Without a helmet, the average bill nearly triples to \$42,291.

And guess what? A whole lot of people who ride motorcycles don't have the insurance to pay that kind of money.

That means the taxpayers have to pay the bills for them. Studies have shown that the cost to the taxpayers for uninsured and underinsured motorcycle riders who crash without helmets runs to \$300 million a year in this country.

So when a cyclist says "I demand the freedom to ride without a helmet," what he is really saying is: "I demand that the rest of you jerks pay for my hospital costs. Ha, ha, ha."

And in Maryland, we do. Eoy, do we. Motorcyclists in Maryland have accidents at a rate more than twice that of passenger car drivers.

But this year, the Schaefer administration has grown clever. Forget about helmets, it says. These people don't want to wear helmets? Fine. But they'll have to pay for their own accidents. Scrambled Brains should carry a price tag.

ROGER SIMON



So the governor's office has drafted a bill requiring motorcycle operators to carry catastrophic health care insurance. It would cost each driver about \$250 a year.

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene estimates that requiring motorcyclists to carry such insurance could save Maryland taxpayers \$2 million a year and federal taxpayers the same amount. The bill is scheduled to come before the House Economic Matters Committee today.

Naturally, the motorcyclists are against it. That's because currently they have a terrific deal: No helmets and no catastrophic health insurance costs.

But I think it's time for the General Assembly to add one more "no" to their travel plans.

No more free ride.

← (Ed. comments: yeah right, it's anatomically impossible for you, Roger, to be enlightened - with your head in the location that it is.)

“Maryland Bikers Insulted Again by Simple Simon”

Text by
Giff Nickol

Almost from the first day he came to work at the Baltimore Sun, several years ago, columnist Roger Simon has made it known that he is no friend of motorcycling. He has ridiculed us and our sport repeatedly, once going so far as to say that he opposed helmet laws because they save bikers' lives. Now this champion of the cheap shot has Simonized us once again.

In his column of February 21, Roger Simon wrote in support of both a helmet law and Maryland's proposal to require that motorcyclists carry catastrophic health coverage. After alleging that motorcycle fatalities “shot up 44 percent” after 26 states repealed their lid laws, Simple Simon wrote “So what, you say? Who cares if these goons scramble their brains all over the asphalt? Well, you should, because you pay for it.”

When I was composed enough to speak calmly about this insult, I called The Sun and spoke to Simon's editor, Tom Linthicum (phone number 301-332-6189). He admitted to me, amazingly, that he did in fact see this column before publication and knew that Simon was calling us “goons”. He told me “this word...is in his style” of writing. When I asked Mr. Linthicum if he also would have approved a racial, ethnic, or cultural slur in Simon's column, he told me that he would not, because such an insult would be “immoral”. When I asked him why an alternative word couldn't have been used in place of “goons” - guys, fellows, folks, people, riders, bikers, and motorcyclists come to mind - and why on earth he allowed this gross insult to be published, he told me that “It did not register with me that you would find the word offensive.”

Isn't this just great? A premier columnist for a major metropolitan newspaper calls us “goons”, and his editor thinks we're so stupid we won't find the word insulting! Do you think of yourselves as goons? Well, I don't either, and I'm not about to settle this matter with a phone call to The Sun or a letter to the editor. I, and others, have tried that before, many times, and it simply doesn't work. The only message these people understand is the almighty dollar. The Bottom Line means far more to them than the First Amendment, and they won't change their tune until they understand that there is a price to be paid for harpooning bikers. It's now up to us to bill them for the cost of this insult.

The 25¢ or so you pay for a newspaper doesn't begin to cover the cost of printing it. Advertising is what actually keeps a paper in business. Cancelling your subscription to a rag like The Sun has a minimal effect, and you might unknowingly still be supporting the

paper if businesses you patronize use your hard-earned dollars to buy advertising in it. The best way to smite The Sun, therefore, is to let its advertisers know that you don't like being called a “goon”, and that you won't deal with a business which advertises in a paper using such terms.

Among the major advertisers in The Sun on February 21 were: Montgomery Wards, Macy's, and the Hecht Company department stores; Valley Motors in Cockeysville, R&H Motors in Owings Mills, Giant Food Stores, Precision Tune, Baltimore are Chevrolet/Geo dealers, Brown's Toyota and Honda in Glen Burnie, Len Stoler Ford-Chrysler-Plymouth-Porsche-Audi-Yugo in Owings Mills, Maryland National Bank, Equitable Bank, The Bank of Baltimore, and Chase Bank. A wide variety of smaller businesses, including most motorcycle dealers in the area, the corporate giants like Sears, Goodyear, and all the major foreign and domestic auto manufacturers, also advertise in The Sun regularly as well. I began calling some of these businesses immediately after talking with Tom Linthicum, and I told them that for a period of one year, they would get not one penny of my business. Their reactions were interesting, to say the least.

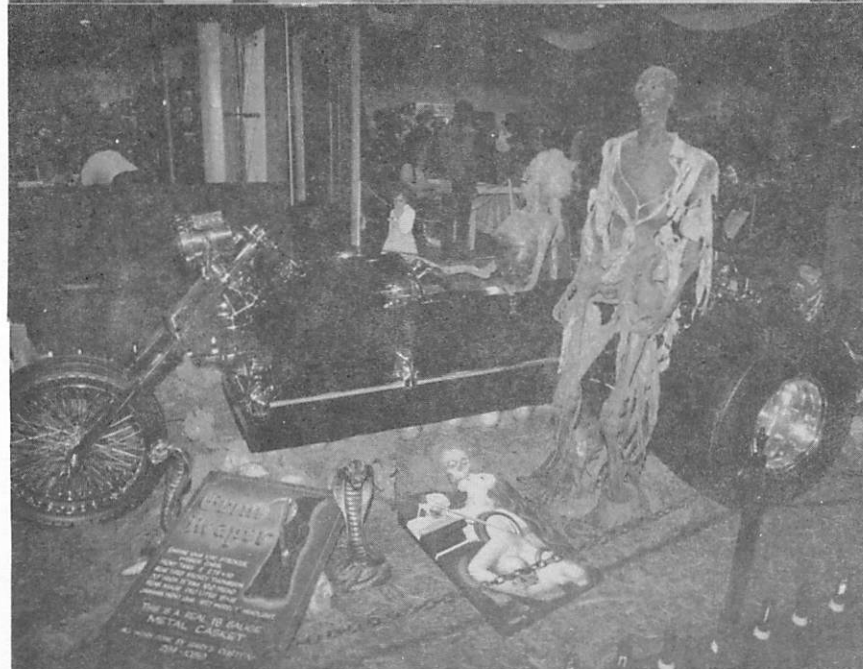
They all expressed sincere shock and dismay at Simon's insult, and disavowed his remark. They were also very concerned about the potential loss of business from motorcycling customers. For example, after speaking with a secretary to Mr. Israel Cohen, who is Giant Food's chairman, I received a call from Terry Gans, Vice President for Advertising for this large grocery chain. Mr. Gans told me that he and Mr. Cohen had read Simon's column after my call, and he had found it deeply offensive. Mr. Gans went on to say that he would personally write a letter to Reg Murphy, The Sun's publisher, informing him that many of Giant's customers are motorcyclists, and that we are not “goons”.

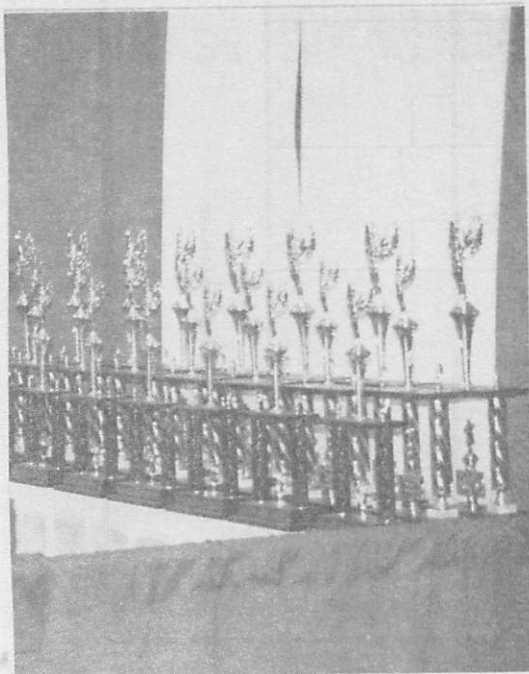
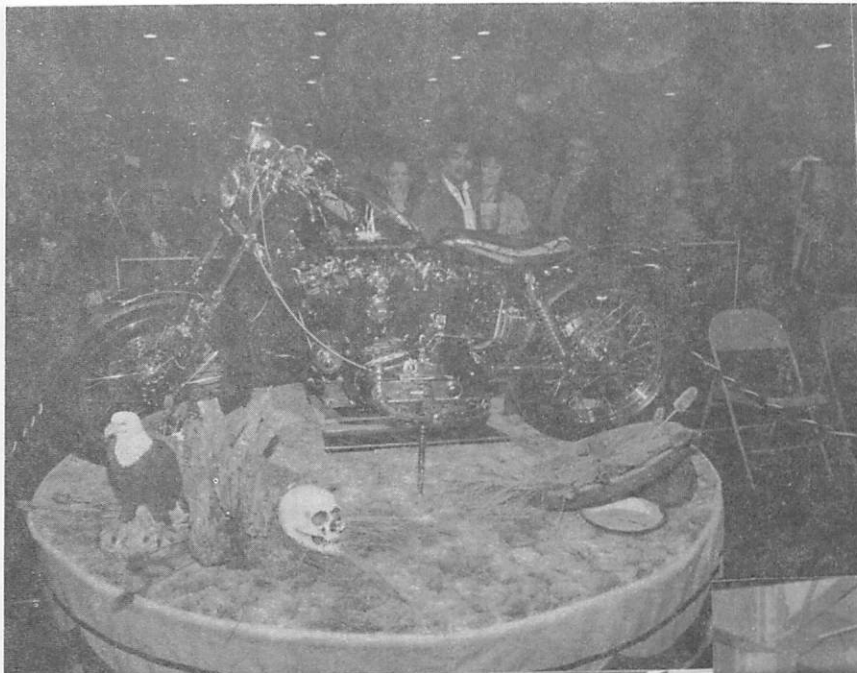
While we should appreciate Giant's concern, the fact remains that the chain will still advertise in The Sun, as will the Department stores, Auto Dealers, Banks and others. Baltimore is, after all, a one-newspaper town, and we can't change that. But perhaps, through our phone calls and letters, we can inspire a few more businessmen to tell “The Sun” that we are not “Goons”...or freaks, or weirdos, or crazies, and that our consumer dollars are just as valuable to them as the dollars of bigoted columnists and stupid editors.

I've cancelled my subscription to The Sun, and I've also called each of the above advertisers, but I'm just one person. If we're going to accomplish anything meaningful, as a group, it's up to you, brothers and sisters, to do the rest: are you going to read these words and just commiserate with me, or are you going to stand up for your dignity and freedom?

It's up to you now.

Since the time this article was written, Giff sent a certified, receipt requested letter to David Laventhol, the CEO of the Times/Mirror Corporation (they own the Baltimore Sun). Mr. Laventhol did not respond to Giff's letter, nor did he return any of his phone calls. Now is the time for us to get into action: write the companies that advertise in the Baltimore Sun and call Mr. Laventhol at 1-800-528-4637 x72900 or call his assistant, Jeff Kline at x73952. Don't be cruel or beligerent, just state to him that you found Roger Simon's reference to motorcyclists as "goons" to be offensive, slanderous, insulting and obnoxious.





PRESENTS
THE INTERNATIONAL
MOTORCYCLE SHOW

some photos by Blues, some by Sally

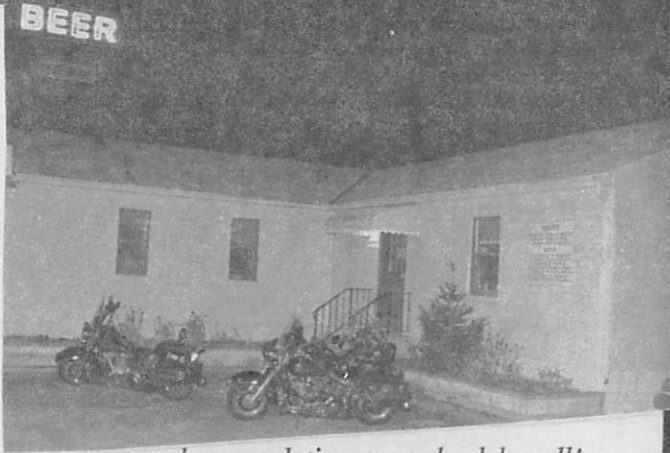
APRIL						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 FRED CO Noon Home Plate BLACKJACK RUN AFTER MTD. PG & CHARLES 2pm Looc Star	2	3 MONTGOMERY	4 CALVERT	5 FREDERICK 7:30 Eilers'	6	7 KENT 1pm Newt's
8 ABATE BIKE SHOW - Anne Arundel Fairgrounds WASHINGTON CO 4pm Greenbrier	9	10 8pm Woods	11 CARROLL The Pit	12	13 ST. MARY'S 7:30 Bennet's	14 EASTERN SHORE 11am Side Track
15 Cecil/Harford 2pm Poor Jimmy's	16	17 MONTGOMERY 8pm Wheaton Crab House	18	19	20	21 ST MARY'S Poker Run Halfway House 11am-1pm Brewster's Cycle Grand Opening 1-6pm
22 HOWARD CO. SWAPMEET	23	24	25 Anne Arundel 8pm Rudy's	26	27	28 WASHINGTON CO POKER RUN Noon GREENBRIER CALVERT CO RUN TO INDIAN RIVER DELAWARE-CAMPING PARTY, OVERNIGHTER
29 BIKE SHOW MONT CO. MDO CYCLE Noon	30					
NEXT MONTH: MAY see next calendar						

MAY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 MONTGOMERY 8pm Woods	2 CALVERT 7:30 Mt. Hope	3 FREDERICK 7:30 Eilers'	4 SURREY DIRT DRAGS	5 KENT 1pm Newt's
6 PG & CHARLES 2pm Looc Star	7	8	9	10 SURREY, VA FRED CO Noon Home Plate CALVERT CO. SPRING SHAKEDOWN Calvert Cliffs St. Pt. 10am-6pm	11 NCOM CONVENTION ST. MARY'S 7:30 Bennet's	12 NEW ORLEANS TRI-COUNTY EASTERN SHORE 11am Side Track Poker Run After Meet at Chesapeake Pottery at Noon
13 RIDE FOR LIFE	14 KNOEBELS PK PA	15 MONTGOMERY 8pm Wheaton Crab House	16	17 SPRING RALLY - MYRTLE BEACH	18	19
20 BRITISH MOTORCYCLE DAY-OLNEY	21 CECIL/HARFORD 2pm Poor Jimmy's	22	23	24	25 AM JAM,	26 COBELSKILL
27 AM JAM NY ROLLING THUNDER, III	28	29	30 ANNE ARUNDEL 8pm Rudy's	31		
NEXT MONTH: JUNE 2 & 3 STATE PARTY 10 Grassello's Bike Show & Swapmeet 10-16 MD Motorcycle Safety Week 16 & 17 Harley Dirt Races - Mason-Dixon Speedway Rt. 40 west of Greenbrier 24 Motorcycle Festival-Atco Raceway-Atco, NJ						

FREDERICK COUNTY RAISES \$500
FOR ABATE OF MARYLAND...



most photos by Blues, a couple by Sally



...and a good time was had by all!

Future Events

As well as the ones listed on the calendars: events are being planned well in advance!

July

- 4 Barbara Fritchie Races*
- 8 R&R Bike Show, PG Equestrian Center Upper Marlboro*
- 14 Hagerstown Harley Drags*

August

- 14-18 Motorcycle Heritage Museum Dedication - AMA , Canton, OH*
- 18 & 19 Calvert County ABATE Farm Party - overnigher - camping, live music*
- 25 Washington County ABATE - Crab Feed at Indian Springs KOA Campground, raffle for a new Harley, music, party, camping - ABATE members \$15 - 1 pm til ?*

September

- 27-29 York Factory Open House*

State Party Report

Here's what's happening on the State Party, I have a preliminary schedule for the events. Live music will be provided by three bands: Snake Bite, South Mountain and the Roadducks. Taped music will play during intermissions and stage set-ups. All music and stage activity stops at 11:45 pm Saturday night. With that in mind, all events will start as promptly as possible. Field events will be from 1:30-3:00, tatoo contests from 5-6:30, Tease (oops, I mean Tee) shirt contest from 7:30-8:30. A final schedule of events will be posted at the front gate.

Beer will be provided to you in a commemorative, bottom-less mug that sells for \$10. Commemorative buttons will be given to the first 2,000 people at the gate. Vendors will be selling food from Saturday morning til Sunday morning. A limited number of Commemorative Tee Shirts will be on sale, Saturday. If we run out, and there is enough interest, tee shirts will be made available for ordering.

-Sally



10th Anniversary
ABATE MEMBERSHIP
 ★ **PARTY** ★

JUNE 2-3

*From Noon Saturday to Noon Sunday-Rain or Shine
 Party All Day - Camp All Night at*

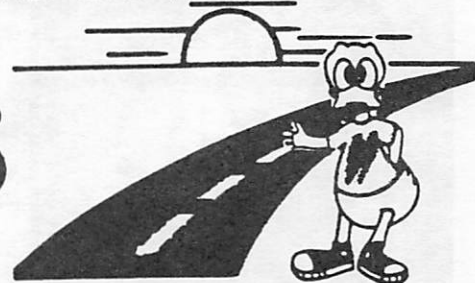
CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS

Featuring with admission:

ROADDUCKS

**South Mountain Band
 Snake Bite Band**

***CAMPING *SHOWERS *FIELD EVENTS *WET T-SHIRT CONTEST
 *NO HASSLES *BEAUTIFUL SCENERY***



ABATE MEMBERS ONLY!

(Membership available at the gate-annual dues are \$15.00 for full members)

ADMISSION: \$15.00 per person \$25.00 per couple

Security On Premises At All Times

**NO GLASS CONTAINERS * NO PETS * NO OPEN FIRES * NO FIREWORKS
 * NO BAD ATTITUDES * NO DRAG RACING**

Vendor Space Available

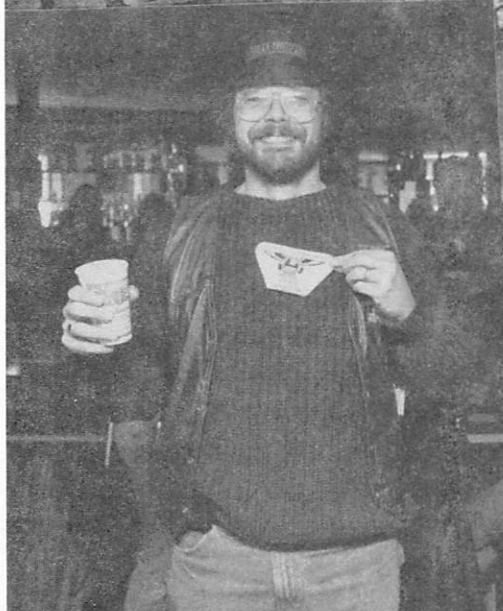
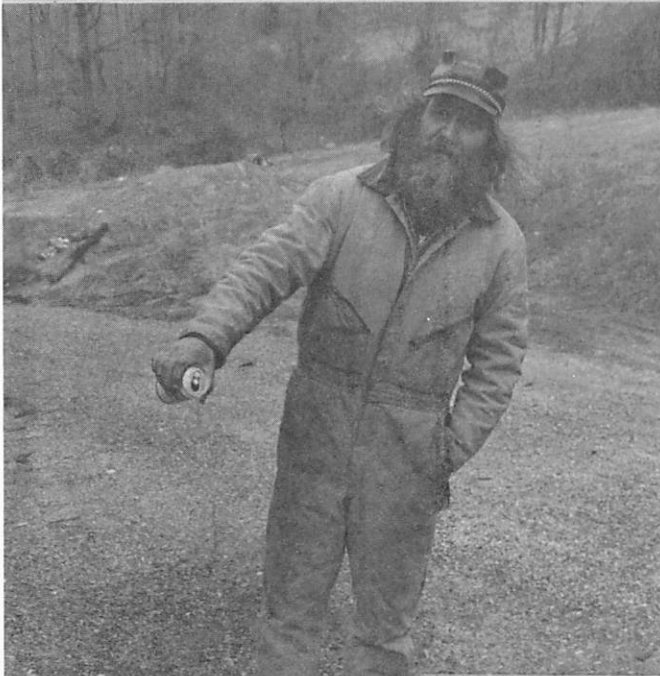
DIRECTIONS: 70 West to 48 West to 220 South to Fairgrounds

Further information call: In Maryland 1-800-843-0252 OR out of state 301-845-8868

Commemorative pins will be given to full members!

1990

WASHINGTON COUNTY'S WINTER BASH



photos by Blues



Announcing...

The Birth of:



Daytona Elizabeth Maher

Born: February 23, 1990

Wt. 6lbs. 11 oz.

Although she was 4 weeks early,
she and mother are doing fine

The proud parents: Bill and Sheila Maher

Motorcyclists and Pigeon Feed

Editor: I ride a motorcycle about 2,000 miles a year over a six-month season. It seems every year the state legislature wants to force me to wear a helmet, and now the Schaefer administration wants to impose a \$250-a-year catastrophic insurance policy so the state will save \$4 million in Medicaid cost and \$3-to-\$5 million in unrecovered hospital charges, according to *The Sun* editorial of Feb. 20.

Fine. Then I want government to require non-skid bath mats in all bathtubs, a ban on alcohol and cigarettes, enforce the 55 mph limit or lower it, increase road blocks to catch drunk drivers, limit the

amount of time sunbathers can tan themselves, rigorously regulate sky divers, spelunkers, mountain climbers and skiers, or take out catastrophic insurance to eliminate the cost to the state and the loss to hospitals for unrecovered charges that participants in the above don't pay.

Finally, as a tribute to the dogooders who so want to protect us all from our own folly of free choice, I want to take part of the money saved by the state and build a monument of meddle in their honor. I'll even buy the first bag of pigeon feed.

Robert S. Lindsay.

Towson.

The Catastrophic Insurance Hearing

The hearing room was packed, Chairman Taylor disavowed himself from the bill. His name was on the bill as a courtesy to the head of the Mental Health and Human Hygiene Department.

It was clear to me that this bill was a thinly veiled attempt to gain leverage for a helmet law. One of the points in our favor was the fact that this Insurance was not available in Maryland. But, I became very worried when a representative of Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) testified that State employees have a catastrophic (CAT) insurance that costs them \$36 a year. He went on to testify that his company could offer CAT insurance to motorcyclists for about \$136 per year. It looked like we were in trouble. After clarification by the BCBS rep., this policy was unacceptable to the committee members for two reasons:

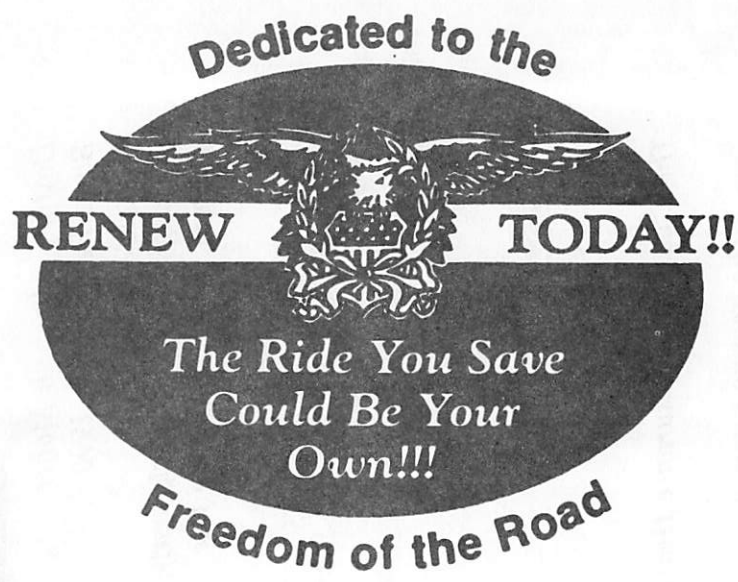
(1) Blue Cross wanted to be the only company to sell this insurance, (2) it would have a \$20,000 deductible, meaning if you had an accident that costs \$20,010-they would only pay \$10!

After that it was all downhill, the bleeding hearts testified next. This was very tedious no one wants to listen to a mother talk about her injured son and the problems involved with his rehabilitation. At this point, I believe the bill was dead, and we hadn't even testified yet.

There was a long list of opponents to the bill, they included: ABATE of Maryland, AMA, many dealers, BMW Riders, Gold Wing Riders, The Retreads (a club of people over the age of 40), private citizens including George Cormeny, Sn. VP of Md National Bank; and members of other clubs from all over the state.

After all the facts, figures and opinion had been stated, it was plain to me that this bill was indeed dead.

This is the first time that the issue of CAT Insurance has been used against motorcyclists. This particular bill was poorly conceived and written, but this issue will not go away-just because we won this year. I am certain we will see it again next year and on a National Level. Our opponents see CAT insurance as a strong lever to use against us and we must continue to present a united front and stand as one, or we will surely fall victim to these views. -Tom Bruce, Coordinator of Frederick County ABATE of Maryland



ABATE OF MARYLAND is a non-profit organization composed of motorcycle enthusiasts throughout the state, concerned with putting motorcycle legislation in its proper form, with safety education programs, public awareness programs, and other programs for the betterment of MOTORCYCLING IN MARYLAND.

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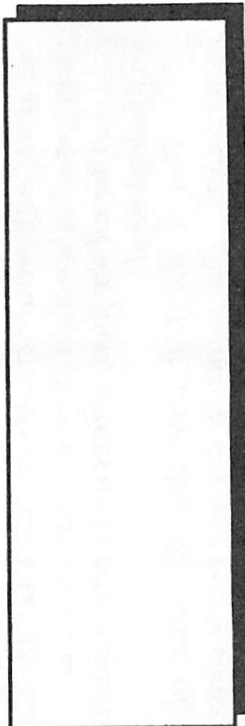
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