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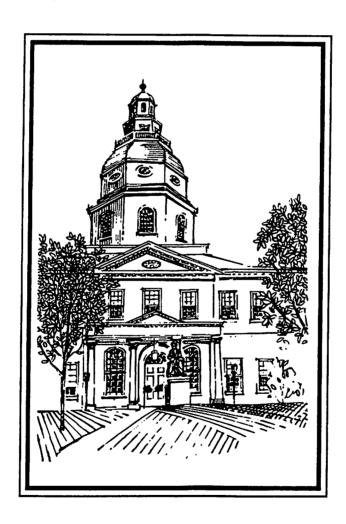
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1996 Legislative Issue



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From The Director

Hi Folks,

It's show time in Annapolis and ABATE of Maryland is one of the headliners.

We've gained lots of support over the past months, with many of our members attending functions their Senators and Delegates have had. Many letters have been written and many phone calls have been made, but we can't stop now. WE NEED MORE SUPPORT IN BOTH HOUSES!

I'm not going to talk much in this writing because the time for talk is over. We need people to act and act NOW! So get busy and call ALL your elected officials. Set up meetings with them. Come to Monday night lobbying in Annapolis. If you need help, call the ABATE office and ask.

Call Legislative Reference at 1-800-492-7122 to find out about any

motorcycle related bills. They keep a tally sheet there that shows how much interest bills are getting from the public. So call and keep calling.

You've heard all this before, but what you are being asked to do is not old, nor is it difficult. Remember July and August riding with a plastic hat in the heat and see if that won't cause your finger to hit the telephone or your hand to pick up a pen.

The time is now. We are real close! So get busy and help us to help you regain your personal rights and freedoms. See ya in Annapolis.

Ride safe, Pappy



R.I.P - Lee Hulett



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Another Small Victory

By now, many of you have heard that we scored another victory on December 8th in District Court. The charge was operating a motorcycle without wearing proper headgear. As usual, the state's case was that I wasn't wearing a helmet that meets with the approval of whatever cop decides to stop me. Honest officer, I am wearing my protective headgear. Can't you see that this red bandana is protecting me from wind, sun, and bugs? Actually, this case was rather easy. Terry Nolan asked three simple questions of the police officer and the judge promptly dismissed the case. However, the assistant states attorney seemed to have a burr in his saddle because he lost the case. So he utters to the court, for the record, words to the effect that he hopes that if I fall off of my motorcycle that I do not go to a hospital in St. Mary's County. How does that hit you for a preconceived notion concerning us worthless, irresponsible, public burden, biker trash. The pompous A-hole didn't even have the stones to say it to our faces. He waited until we had our backs to him and were walking away. If you think this is another example of prejudice against motorcyclists, you win a slice of raisin pie. Have faith, for this incident is part of a court record and I intend to use it to help support our case for the anti-discrimination bill this legislative session. I wonder how this guy feels about minorities, poor people, or anyone else outside of his social circle? I took the liberty to let his boss,

Walter Dorsey, know what went on and that I took offense to his comments.

But enough of the assistant states attorney for now. Let us get back to the reason for this article, the court case. The three simple questions that shot down the state's case were: (1) "Officer, did the defendant have anything on his head?" Answer: Yes, he was wearing a red handkerchief... (2) "Officer, have you had any training on helmets?" Answer: No. (3) "Officer, have you ever seen Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 218?" Answer: No.

You see, the state's case falls apart when the officer does not have knowledge of the "standard" and the state cannot tell what is a legal helmet. There are other arguments in our bag of tricks, but for this case it was that simple. We will take another shot at the state on 29 December when once again I will defend myself against this stupid law. If we continue to win, and I am confident we will, I am prepared to start mounting a larger campaign by getting a ticket a week. With some help from the rest of you, we could tie up the courts, cost the state money on useless trials, and generally drive the MAN crazy. The neat part is that we will be exercising our right to challenge this law by participating in an act of civic disobedience. If the state thinks we are a public burden, then we ought not disappoint them. How much does a

single court case cost the taxpayers anyway? Perhaps our attempt at tying up the courts could become too costly for the state and they will give up. A helmet ticket conviction is \$50. It would cost the state about \$1,200 to test a single helmet to FMVSS 218. There is no way the state can afford to test every helmet. If they did, they would go broke. The MVA will not publish a list of approved helmets. They say it is too costly. The MVA has gone on record saying the state has not approved any helmets for use in Maryland. Yet they expect you to comply with a federal standard that was written for manufacturers' compliance and is so technical that you have to be an engineer to understand it. The state does not have a good defense for its position, but we are building one for ours. I will keep you posted.

Ride safe, Mike Southern Maryland Chapter

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Karl Wagner

From The Assistant Director

Greetings,

I hope the New Year finds everyone well. All is well with me and my family and we had a great holiday season. ABATE of Maryland had a great year also. 1995 proved to be the best year financially we have had in many years. This past year we started out with a rained out Spring Bike Show. It looked like financially ABATE of Maryland was in trouble again! But all the Chapters around the state came through with their events. We had the very best party ever this past year in Cumberland, both financially and just a plain old good time. The AMA Pro-Am Flat Track Race did very well and should do so again in 1996. Then came our first Bike Rodeo in July. It also did very well for a first-time event. We will again have a Rodeo in 1996. We finished off the year with our Protest Rally/Freedom Run. As I said last year, we should have had a lot more bikers show up at this major event, but financially we did OK. The ABATE of Maryland chapters in fact finished the year with a resounding success. As we go into the Legislative season we have a WAR chest to fight with. Remember, our opponents have hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep our freedom from us. I would like to take this opportunity to

thank each and every one who helped make all ABATE events a success in 1995. Because of these successes, we have the best chance in the last several years to win and win big in the Legislature this year.

Planning for events for 1996 have already started. We have a 1996 FLHT to give away in Cumberland again this year. Our Spring Bike Show will be on April 21, 1996, at the Anne Arundel County Fair Grounds. Cumberland Weekend will be June 7th, 8th, and 9th. The Rodeo will be on July 21st at the Anne Arundel County Fair Grounds. And our FREEDOM RUN will be on October 13th, again at the Anne Arundel County Fair Grounds. These are the major ABATE of Maryland events. As you know, there will be Poker Runs, Bike Shows, and local events all around the state throughout 1996. These events help all of us to keep what freedom we have and to try to regain what we have lost.

Hope to see EVERYONE down in Annapolis over the 90 days the Legislature meets. Remember whenever the Maryland Legislature meets, they take more of our freedom. Don't let it happen!

Tom Bruce

NCOM News

Know Thy Enemy

The Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety organized a 46-member coalition of mostly insurance and medical based organizations in opposition to the NHS bill, claiming colossal loss of life if Congress repealed the speed limit and helmet mandates. The coalition included: Ralph Nader, who served as spokesman for the group, Alliance of American Insurers, American Insurance Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Preventive Medicine, American Trauma Society, Brain Injury Association, Center for Auto Safety, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH), Consumer Federation of America, Emergency Nurses Association, Epilepsy Foundation of America, GEICO, ITT Hartford Insurance Group, Iowa Insurance Institute, Kemper National Insurance Companies, National SAFE KIDS Campaign, Nationwide Insurance Enterprise, Progressive Insurance, Public Citizen, and the Trauma Foundation. The Teamsters Union became the 46th member of the group calling on President Clinton to veto S.440.

ABATE of Maryland Members:

Classified ads are free to you with your active ABATE of Maryland membership. If you have something you want to buy, sell, trade, find, etc., this is for you. To get your classified in the next newsletter, send a written request with the information you want on the ad, along with your name, address, and membership expiration date (we will check) to the office in Annapolis. This column is for personal classified ads only. Any commercial ads must be paid for.



Motorcyclists Revive Pitch To Ditch Maryland

Law Requiring Helmet Use

Supporters Note Moves By Congress To Loosen Highway Safety Regulation

by Peter Jensen

Reprinted from The Sun, February 7, 1996

Motorcyclists rolled into Annapolis yesterday with a new pitch in their annual crusade to repeal Maryland's 4-year-old mandatory helmet law.

When Congress freed states to set their own speed limits last year, it also loosened other highway safety requirements.

No longer does Maryland risk forfeiting federal funds if it doesn't require motorcyclists to wear helmets.

I'm smart enough to know when to put on a piece of plastic," Gary Boward of Hagerstown, executive director of ABATE, a motorcycle group, testified at a hearing yesterday. "Accidents are not prevented by motorcycle helmets."

Officials Oppose Change

But representatives of police, medical organizations, car insurance companies, and the State Highway Administration told members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee that the state's "common sense" helmet law has saved lives and reduced injuries to those involved in motorcycle accidents.

The number of motorcycle fatalities has fallen from 54 in 1992 to 27 last year, while the costs associated with motorcycle deaths have dropped from \$40 million to \$20 million over that same period, according to highway administration statistics.

Fatalities Have Decreased

"There's no question that fatalities have dropped," said Dr. Richard L. Alcorta, medical director for the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems. "We're down to an all-time low."

Motorcyclists contended that may be because the law has caused people to ride their motorcycles less often.

Legislation proposed by Sen. Larry E. Haines, a Carroll County Republican, would repeal the helmet requirement for all riders except minors.

The bill's supporters complained yesterday that sorting through the various types of helmets available today has made it difficult to abide by the law.

They pointed out that state transportation officials were supposed to compile a list of acceptable helmets and have not done so.

That revelation clearly angered some senators, who questioned how the state could expect motorcyclists to comply with a law that state government doesn't follow.

"It's ludicrous," Sen. Edward Middlebrooks, an Anne Arundel Republican, told state highway officials. "You've had four years. If you're not going to abide by the law, why should they?"

Possible Legal Entanglements

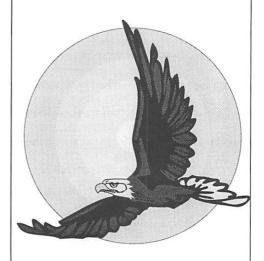
Elizabeth L. Homer, deputy administrator of the highway agency, said officials were concerned about the legal entanglements that might arise from trying to list the thousands of models of helmets.

Besides, the law requires only that helmets meet federal standards, and that can usually be determined by looking for a U.S. Department of Transportation or "DOT" sticker on the back of the helmet, she said.

A spokesman for Gov. Parris N. Glendening said the governor opposes the repeal.

Administration officials pointed out that taxpayers often bear much of the cost when a motorcyclist is seriously injured in a crash.

"We can't afford this little bit of freedom for motorcycle riders anymore," Ms. Homer said. "It still makes sense to have a motorcycle helmet law even without the federal hammer."



From The Legislative Advisor

On your mark, get set, go!

Yes ladies and gentlemen it is a race. It's a race for your freedom and it's a race against time. As you have read in your newsletters and have heard at your chapter meetings, you have several bills in the Maryland Legislature. Here's a run down of the bills we are trying to get passed into law...

As we go to press SB 84, the Parking Bill, has had its hearing, passed the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and the full Senate unanimously. Three helmet law repeal bills are filed, as is the anti-discrimination bill. Some of us have spoken to legislators on the Financial committees and are trying to get more money for the Motorcycle Safety Program. They need promotion and advertising money.

Here's what you need to do: First, call Legislative Services and request copies of all motorcycle legislation to be mailed to you (free of charge). Second, call, write, or send a telegram to your state Senators and Delegates and ask them to support the motorcycle legislation (pick one issue at a time). Also for Senate Bills contact the members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee and for the House Bills contact the members of the Commerce and Government Matters Committee. (These are the committees that will hear our bills). Third, come to Annapolis to the ABATE office at 8 West Street on Monday nights from 5:30 - 7:00 to lobby the legislature in person.

All your letters, telegrams, and phone messages are saved as part of the records of the legislation. It is all important, don't put it off, or wait for someone else to do the job, it's up to

you. The '96 session only lasts until the beginning of April, so you have to come to Annapolis during February and March.

You are an expert - you ride. Talk about your own experience and what you want. Your credibility is your most important asset - don't make things up and if your not sure of the statistics, it's best that you don't use them. If the legislator wants to know more information than you can provide be sure to let me know - I'll be sure to give you the information or if you like, I can give it to the legislator. If we continue to work together, and work hard, we can accomplish our goals this session.

Remember one person does not make a symphony - let's all gather in Annapolis and let our voices be heard.

Sally Bruce

Lobbying Techniques

Write Letters

Many people are surprised to learn that Maryland legislators do not receive a large volume of letters regarding legislation they are considering. Therefore, a well-written letter about a bill can have some influence. Discuss only one bill or topic in a letter; identify it by bill number if possible (i.e., SB 123 or HB 456). Be brief, be clear as to your position and reasons, be courteous, be legible.

Write to your own legislators, the leaders, and/or the chairman and members of the appropriate committee.

If you and/or your organization can provide reliable authoritative information on your issues, you may both enhance your reputation and be more successful in influencing votes. The General Assembly does not have a

large staff to research specialized issues and individual legislators have very little research assistance. Caution: Don't expect legislators to read lengthy papers or articles, particularly during the session.

Address you letter to: The Honorable Jane Smith, James Senate Office Building (or Lowe House of Delegates Office Building), Annapolis, MD 21401.

The proper salutation is "Dear Delegate Smith" or "Dear Senator Smith."

Finally, show your appreciation for a favorable vote, a position you approve, or a good job by writing a thank you.

Send Telegrams

Public Opinion Messages are telegrams which may be sent to any elected

official at a special rate. You may send 20 words for \$5.95; each additional 20 words cost \$2.00. This is for the message itself; your name and address are free if there are no additional signatures. If you want a copy, the charge is \$3.25.

Mailgrams of 50 words may be sent for \$10.75; each additional 50 words cost \$2.95. You name is counted as part of the message. Delivery is made by the post office the next day. You receive a free copy.

Call the toll-free number (800-325-6000) or go to your local Western Union. Telegrams and POMs are delivered to the legislators' offices; they are not delivered to the floor of either house.

(Continued on Page 8)

From The Assistant Legislative Advisor

How many times have you ridden your motorcycle to a bar or restaurant and been told that they would not serve you because of your mode of transportation or personal appearance? How many signs have you seen that say "NO BIKER ATTIRE," "NO MOTORCYCLES ON LOT," or "NO COLORS"? Do you like being judged as a second class citizen by someone before you can even say a word?

If you're tired of having this happen to you, now you can fight back! ABATE of Maryland will again be introducing its anti-discrimination bill during this session of the Maryland General Assembly. This bill will take a concentrated effort from every motorcyclist in the state. From the individual rider to the club rider, from the American motorcycle rider to the foreign motorcycle rider, all of us must do our part to get this bill passed.

The new language for this bill is currently being worked out by Delegates Poole and Snodgrass. The new language will still protect all motorcyclists' rights, as well as the bar or restaurant owner's right to a dress code as long as it is applied uniformly. Senator Collins will be sponsoring the bill on the Senate side again this year and Delegate O'Donnell will be sponsoring the bill on the House side for the first time. Hopefully, this bill will pick up a lot of co-sponsors on both sides.

Senator Collins has asked us to keep the new bill's language as close to last year's as possible. This is because we passed the Senate 46-0. However, we need to change the bill slightly to try to get it through the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee. Last year, since the bill was only introduced in the Senate, once it reached the House CGM committee, it received a sponsor only hearing and only Senator Collins was allowed to speak. It was here that the bill was stopped dead by the chairman, Delegate Curran, and never even voted on by the committee. By having the bill sponsored in the House this year, we should finally get a fair hearing where we can testify.

Once the bill is drafted and assigned a number, it will be up to all of us to contact our legislators and ask for their support. Also contact Delegate Curran, the chairman of the CGM committee, and ask him to support this bill.

One other thing that I have to bring up: The gay rights advocates have used our discrimination bill from last year (SB191) in their bill this year. This is not our bill! Our bill this year will be worded differently and put into a different Maryland code of laws.

When the discrimination bill, as well as our other bills, are assigned numbers, we will try to get the information to all of you. This is why it is crucial that you attend your chapter meetings.

Thank you, Lee Dix Assistant Legislative Representative

Lobbying Techniques (Continued)

Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Room 300, James Senate Office Building Chairman: Walter M. Baker

Vice Chairman: Leo E. Green

Members:

Richard Colburn
Timothy R. Ferguson
Jennie M. Forehand
Larry E. Haines
Ralph M. Hughes
Philip C. Jimeno
Delores G. Kelley
Edward Middlebrooks
Norman R. Stone, Jr.

House Commerce and Government Matters Committee

Room 140 - Lowe House Office Building

Chairman: Gerald L. Curran Vice Chairman: John F. Wood, Jr. Members:

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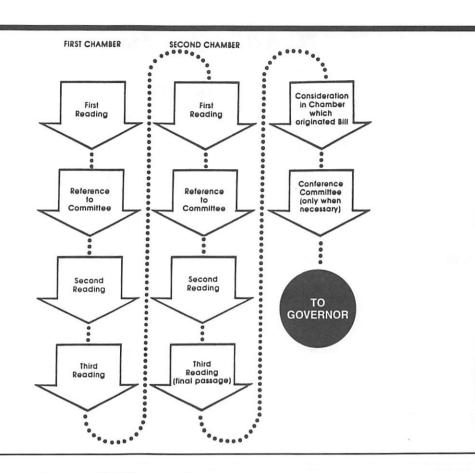
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Are The Bikers Coming This Year?

That was the question on the lips of a local shelter's director of family services about mid-November. She wasn't speaking with dread, but with anticipation of the riders from ABATE of Maryland, Montgomery County Chapter.

Saturday evening several elf-type folks showed up at the Layhill Cafe with arms full of wrappings, tape, and tags to tackle the roomful of gifts that had been donated for the people at Greentree Shelter. Short work was made of that little chore. In just over two hours the gifts were all wrapped and loaded out in the waiting vehicles in anticipation of Santa's ride to Greentree.

The day of the ride dawned clear and cold. A good day for Santa and company. A waving, happy faced Santa was accompanied by a handful of hardy souls who braved the 18 degree temperatures to escort him on the thankfully short ride to the shelter. When the ride ended at Greentree, the well-chilled riders were very warmly greeted by the residents, who surrounded them with welcome and questions about the motorcycles.

Santa led the happy crowd into the living area and proceeded to do what Santa does best: make those present, kids and adults, smile. With a candy cane, a gift for each of them, and a picture with Santa, there were smiles and grins all around, plenty for all who participated.

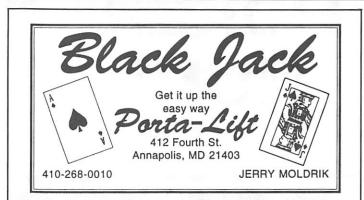
The the real fun started for a great many of the residents who had anxiously awaited the arrival of the bikers. Finally, they could ask what they really wanted to know: Could they please go for a ride on the bikes. Please? You can guess that the next hour or two went much too quickly for all the residents, who rode with each of the bikers around the big circular driveway. Those bikers might have had some frosted fingers by the day's end, but they certainly made up for it with some very warmed hearts. Bad ol' bikers aren't supposed to have any hearts, are they? Guess this wasn't a bunch of bad bikers after all.

Thanks go to Jeff Nash as he donated cards to be used by ABATE in the coming year's legislative efforts on behalf of Maryland's motorcycling community. Jeff is a long time supporter of ABATE's work in Annapolis. Thanks for your continuing interest in ABATE of Maryland.



Santa (Doug Seek) and one of his Elves (aka Lynn Oldenburg) at the Greentree Shelter.









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ABATE of Maryland

1996 Legislative Issue

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Focus & Unity = Repeal Of Federal Helmet Law

by Wayne T. Curtin - MRF Vice President for Government Relations

On November 28, 1995, years of work by countless motorcyclists from around the country resulted in REPEAL of the Federal Helmet Law Mandate. This truly grass roots movement of motorcyclists has done what few thought could be accomplished. In less than four years, we repealed the federal mandate that has most threatened the freedom of motorcyclists. During that four years, only one state passed a helmet law and the other 25 freedom of choice States stayed free!

Though the repeal took place in less than four years, there were many years of hard work that took place before 1991. In 1989 and 1990 Senator Chafee and Rep. Cooper introduced legislation that would have withheld 10% of a States's federal-aid highway funds. There was enough opposition to this heavy-handed approach that Senator Chafee and Rep. Cooper altered their approach and changed the penalty to a 3% transfer from only three of the highway construction funds to highway safety programs. This change is what enabled senator Chafee and Rep. Cooper to have the penalty included in the major highway bill of 1991, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

I believe this is a classic example of when you can not defeat a piece of legislation, you should alter it to make it livable or at least lessen the impact as much as possible. Motorcyclists never agreed to support this change, but we forced it to happen. The end result was that the penalty was of a level that 25 of the 26 states that did not have helmet laws in 1991 were able to stand up to three years of penalties. I do not believe this would have been the case if the penalty would have been an out and out loss of 10% of all of the state's federal-aid highway funds.

But, it was not just the lower level of penalties that kept helmet laws out of the 25 free states. The strong State Motorcyclists' Rights Organizations (SMROs) in those 25 states had spent the last 15 to 20 years building relationships in their state capitols. The motorcyclists in those states convinced their legislators of two things; there was not a need for a helmet law in their state; and that if the state legislators would endure the penalties for a few years motorcyclists would lead the effort to repeal the Section 153 penalties, and we would be successful. By doing this the 25 states that kept freedom helped our fight in Washington.

After our failure in 1991 to stop the penalties, many SMROs realized they needed to put more effort into federal legislation. In 1991 we could only get 18 states to send motorcyclists to Washington to try to stop the federal mandate. Between 1991 and 1995, every year more SMROs sent members to Washington, until this year when 37 states had delegations come to Washington. This effort, combined with motorcyclists doing more with Congressional and U.S. Senate campaigns in 1992 and 1994, is the core of why we succeeded in repealing the Section 153 penalties this year.

In the fall of 1994, motorcyclists had six very important things happen that laid a solid and unified base for our work in Washington for 1995. First, at MRF's annual conference, Meeting Of The Minds, a two hour strategy session was held where we discussed all options we could pursue in 1995. This session had representatives from almost every SMRO in the country. Three major decisions were made at this meeting: 1) We would pursue repealing the penalties for helmet laws only, and drop our efforts on the seat belt issue: 2) We would pursue full repeal and not some compromise, like a rider education exemption or 21 age limit; and 3) The SMROs committed to supporting this MRF-led effort both in

the state and by sending representatives to Washington in early 1995.

The second major action was a phone call I received from Rob Rasor, AMA's vice president of government relations. in early October. Rob told me that now that the Desert Protection Act was done he wanted to commit more of the AMA's Washington Representative's time to support the MRF's efforts to repeal the federal helmet law. Knowing how much time Jim Bensberg had put in on the Desert Protection Act in 1993 and 1994, I was elated to know that the AMA's new man in Washington, Rob Dingman, would be putting that amount of time and energy into repealing the helmet mandate. In addition, the AMA helped to fund trips to Washington for over 50 motorcyclists' rights activists in 1995.

The third thing that happened was that motorcyclists were more involved in the campaigns of Congressional and Senate races than ever before. Motorcyclists had established more friends through this campaign work. Several legislators that opposed freedom were defeated, including Rep. Cooper who ran for the Senate and several members of the House committee who voted against the Petri Amendment.

The fourth action was taken by voters across the country, when they voted to support the concept of "less government and more freedom" by giving the Republicans control of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. This action brought our strongest argument for repealing the penalties to the forefront: The 10th Amendment of the Bill of Rights and the issue of State's Rights became the Creed of the 104th Congress.

(Continued on Page 15)

Focus & Unity

(Continued from Page 14)

The fifth thing that happened was probably the most surprising, and to many controversial, action. In December representatives from MRF and NCOM met to discuss how we could work on a common and noncompetitive agenda for motorcyclists. Everyone in that meeting agreed that repeal of the federal Section 153 penalties on states without helmet laws was of such importance that MRF and NCOM owed it to motorcyclists to work together on this issue. NCOM asked the MRF to provide them with a strategy and list of priorities of states that needed to come to Washington and NCOM agreed to support that program and provide some funding to assist states in sending delegations to our nation's capital.

Lastly, the MRF's Board of Directors made the commitment to hire Carol Simpson as a legislative assistant to help me with the increased legislative workload the MRF would be facing. Carol worked with Bill Bish of NCOM to convince people to come to town

and then helped them with their scheduling. Now, with the help of Rob Dingman of the AMA and Carol we could attend three meetings at the same time to provide support to all organizations. Some weeks we had as many as nine states in town.

These six actions brought about all of the ingredients that were needed for our victory in 1995, all we had to do was put them together. Dropping the seat belt issue brought us considerable new support. Many of our new cosponsors in 1995 told us that dropping the seatbelt issue removed the only reservation they had about supporting repeal of the federal mandate on helmet laws. The change in the leadership in Congress and the general change of approach that brought was extremely important. And, the new focus on the 10th Amendment and State's Rights was what we had spent the last few years trying to get Congress to focus on. But, most importantly I believe was the commitment of MRF, AMA, NCOM and the State Motorcyclists'

Rights Organizations to work on a coordinated agenda and to provide the personnel and financial resources it took to make repeal of the Section 153 penalties a reality.

On behalf of the MRF, I wish to thank our members, the SMROs, NCOM and the AMA for the support and action you delivered to bring about this great victory. This unified effort is a wonderful example of what happens when people and organizations set priorities, commit to work cooperatively and provide the resources that are needed to make your priorities a reality. Because we were focused in our priorities and unified in our approach the states are now free to decide whether motorcyclists are required to wear helmets. And, we have returned to the control of the 25 penalized states \$200,000,000 of the \$250,000,000 they were penalized. The MRF is thankful to all involved for the opportunity to have provided leadership in this legislative victory for freedom loving motorcyclists.



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PRESS RELEASE IMMEDIATE RELEASE BIKE WEEK 1996

The Board of Directors and the members of ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. would like to extend a special invitation to all to join us at our Bike Week 1996 Campground. We hope that you will publish the enclosed flyer in your National, State or local newsletter.

We have over 20 acres of land available and can accommodate the largest of motor homes to those just bringing their sleeping bags. You will find information included on the flyer on prices and what else is available.

I believe that all the pertinent information has been included on the flyer but if you have any further questions please call the ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. State office at (407) 668-5006 and I will answer any questions you may have...

Thank you for helping us pass the enclosed information along.

Sincerely,

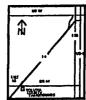


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Study Shoots Down Social Burden Theory

Study conducted by Dr. Jane Stutts, University of North Carolina. Presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine, Article Reprinted from AMA Magazine

Motorcyclists are irresponsible. Motorcyclists do not carry health insurance. Motorcyclists who are uninsured and get into accidents are a much larger burden on taxpayers than automobile drivers.

You know it's true. You've been hearing those arguments from safety experts for years. Several politicians have used them as the basis for bids that would require motorcyclists to carry special catastrophic health insurance. And they wouldn't do that if they didn't have the facts behind them, right?

Don't count on it. You see, those so-called experts have been telling us half the story for years. They've only reported the costs of injuries suffered by motorcyclists. They haven't compared them to the costs associated with other types of accidents.

Now, however, there is a study funded primarily by the Motorcycle Industry Council that reveals the whole picture. And guess what? Motorcyclists AREN'T irresponsible. Motorcyclists DO carry health insurance as often as other vehicle operators. And injured motorcyclists represent only a minute part of the so-called social burden

resulting from motorcycle vehicle accidents.

The study, conducted by Dr. Jane Stutts of the University of North Carolina's Highway Safety Research Center, was presented at the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine's annual conference in Toronto. And it clearly shows that motorcyclists are just like everyone else in society, no more responsible and no more irresponsible.

Stutts researched the medical costs for accident victims taken to eight trauma centers in North Carolina between 1987 and 1990. During that period, she noted, there were 708 motorcyclists

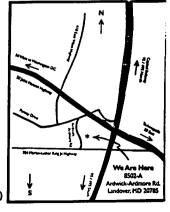
(Continued on Page 18)



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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

Study

(Continued from Page 17)

requiring treatment at those facilities, and 8,961 victims of other types of motor vehicle accidents.

The average cost for treatment of a motorcyclist was \$15,801, which is unquestionably a lot of money. Interestingly, though, the average treatment cost for victims of other types of motor vehicle accidents was \$17,892, or \$2,000 more!

But that's not the important issue. The key question is, who foots the bill for that medical treatment? In previous studies, including the infamous Harborview Medical Center Study released a few years ago, researchers labeled motorcyclists as irresponsible because, they said, a large percentage of riders don't carry medical insurance to cover the costs of their injuries. As a result, they concluded that motorcyclists are a tremendous burden on taxpayers, who must pick up the cost of that treatment.

The subject of medical insurance has received widespread publicity in recent months as an election campaign issue. Various reports have noted that a large percentage of American's don't have, and can't afford, medical insurance. The North Carolina study confirms that. Dr. Stutts found that of all the motorcyclists taken to the eight trauma centers, 49.4 percent had their medical costs covered by insurance.

However, the insured percentage was no higher for other accident victims. Of all patients brought to the hospitals from motor vehicle accidents, only 50.4 percent had their treatment costs covered by insurance.

In other words, lack of medical insurance is a problem for American society as a whole, not just for motorcyclists.

In fact, it isn't just a lack of medical insurance purchased by victims that's a problem here. Accident research reveals that a majority of car/bike accidents are caused by the car driver,

who is, therefore, liable for injuries to the rider. The fact that so many motorcyclist medical bills aren't covered by insurance reveals that many car drivers aren't living up to their obligation to buy liability insurance. On the other hand, very few car or truck drivers are injured by motorcyclists, so the amount of their medical bills that should be borne by motorcyclists is negligible.

Using Stutt's cost figures, we tabulated the total cost to society from motorcycle injuries and all other motor vehicle injuries. The motorcyclist portion totaled \$5.5 million over the 2-1/2 year study period, or about \$2 million per year, of which some unknown portion is actually the responsibility of the car drivers. On the other hand, the social burden of other motor vehicle accident victims amounted to \$80 million during the study, or \$32 million per year.

"This study is particularly bad news for those who have insisted that motorcyclists should be required to carry catastrophic health insurance," notes AMA Legislative Affairs Specialist Chris Kallfelz, who attended the injury conference on behalf of the AMA. "It clearly demonstrates that the claim of an enormous "social burden" arising from motorcycle accidents is a myth." "The cost of medical treatment from motor vehicle accidents is an undeniable problem for Americans," added Kallfelz. "But singling out motorcyclists to solve that problem just doesn't make any sense. It's discriminatory, and it won't work,"

Motorcycle Fatalities Plummet

Motorcyclists have worked hard over the past decade and a half to promote two-wheeled safety. They've developed rider training programs, funded by motorcyclists themselves, now covering 45 states. They've raised riders' awareness of the dangers of impaired riding. They've campaigned to make car drivers more conscious of motorcycles on the road.

And all that effort is paying big dividends.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has just reported that motorcycle-related fatalities dropped to 2,304 in 1994, exactly half the reported fatalities of ten years ago. That's a 50 percent drop in fatalities in a single decade!

During the same time period, car-makers introduced a number of new safety devices—most notably anti-lock braking systems and air bags—yet automobile-related deaths dropped just 7 percent. And fatalities in the light truck category actually went up 37 percent.

Of course, there are those in the safety community who continue trying to portray motorcycles as a form of transportation suited only for those with a certifiable death wish, but it should be noted that motorcycles now account for only six-tenths of one percent of all motor vehicles involved in accidents nationwide.

To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men.

Abraham Lincoln

Ride For The Law

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

My name is Gary Lyons and I am a police officer with the City of Falls Church Police Department in Falls Church, Virginia. As someone with more than 20 years in law enforcement, I am extremely proud of our brotherhood and feel blessed to have been in our profession.

For the last 30 years I have also been a motorcycle enthusiast. My old butt has ridden many a mile. A number of years ago, I did my first Memorial Day "Rolling Thunder" ride. Seeing all those vets honoring their fallen comrades was an unforgettable experience and I hope to take part every year.

The experience of "Rolling Thunder" is the reason I'm writing you today. I am asking for your help in organizing a RIDE FOR THE LAW to honor our own fallen brothers and sisters.

The idea would be to assemble at the Pentagon on the Sunday before National Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15, 1996. We would start assembling at 9 am and the ride to the Law Enforcement Memorial would leave at noon.

I would appreciate it if you would bring this information up at your next meeting to see how many would be interested in participating. I will also be contacting every motor unit in the U.S. and requesting that at least one motorman take part.

In order for planning to go forward, I need to know how many of you will be attending. I need to hear from you as soon as possible and by no later than January 1, 1996. Help make RIDE FOR THE LAW a reality. Let's honor our fallen brothers and sisters. Let's come together for the common cause.

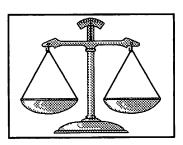
Fraternally,

MPO Gary Lyons c/o City of Falls Church P.D. 300 Park Avenue Falls Church, VA 22046

(NOTE: If you are interested for 1997, call Sally Bruce at the ABATE office.)

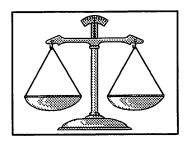
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1995 Maryland General Assembly

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Anne Arundel County	Delegation	on		3402	Delogate Diane DeCarlo (D)	CGM	6	303	3384
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Delegate Peter A. Hammen (D)	ENV	46	316	3303	Delegate Barrie S. Ciliberti (R)	ENV	39	225	3037
Delegate Hattie N. Harrison (D)	ECM	45	427	3486	Delegate Jean B. Cryor (R)	W&M	15	219	3052
Delegate Ruth M. Kirk (D)	ECM	44	315	3263	Delegate Dana Lee Dembrow (D)	JUD	20	219	3052
Delegate Katherine Klausmeier (D)	ENV	8	307	3365	Delegate Patricia A. Faulkner (R)	CGM	14A	219	3052
Delegate Carolyn J. Krysiak (D)	ECM	46	316	3303	Delegate Robert L. Flanagan (R)	APP	14B	226	3200
Delegate Salima S. Marriott (D)	W&M	40	317	3277	Delegate Peter Franchot (D)	APP	20	424	3460
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1995 Maryland General Assembly

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Delegate Dan K. Morhaim (D)	ENV	11	306 304	3342 3378	Delegate David M. Valderrama (D) Delegate Joseph F. Vallario, Jr. (D)	CMJUD	27A	121	3488
Delegate Donald E. Murphy (R)	JUD	12A	309	3350					3189
Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (D)	ENV APP	10 10	309	3350	Queen Anne's County	Delegation APP	36	422	3189
Delegate Joan N. Parker (D)	W&M	8	307	3365	Delegate Wheeler R. Baker (D)	CWENV	36	161	3534
Delegate James F. Ports, Jr. (R)	ENV	ĕ	307	3365	Delegate Ronald A. Guns (D)	ECM	36	423	3449
Delegate Alfred W. Redmer, Jr. (R) Delegate Sandy I. Rosenberg (D)	APP	42	319	3297	Delegate Mary Roe Walkup (R)				3314
Delegate Michael H. Weir (D)	Vc/ENV	6	303	3384	St. Mary's County	Delegation	29C	217	3314
_				3231	Delegate Anthony J. O'Donnell (R)	JUD APP	298	217	3314
Calvert County	Delegation	29C	217	3314	Delegate John F. Slade, III (D)	Vc/CGM	29A	141	3502
Delegate Anthony J. O'Donnell (R)	JUD	27B	217	3231	Delegate John F. Wood, Jr. (D)			141	3433
Delegate George W. Owings, III (D)				3343	Somerset County	Delegati	ON _	413	3431
Caroline County	Delegati		400	3343 3189	Delegate K. Bennett Bozman (D)	M&W	38 38	416	3425
Delegate Wheeler R. Baker (D)	APP	36	422 404	3343	Delegate Norman H. Conway (D)	Vc/APP	36 38	412	3433
Delegate Adelaide C. Eckardt (R)	ECM	37B 36	161	3534	Delegate Charles A. McClenahan (R)	ECM		412	3429
Delegate Ronald A. Guns (D)	CIVENV ENV	36 37B	415	3429	Talbot County	Delegati		400	3429 3189
Delegate Kenneth D. Schisler (R)	ECM	36	423	3449	Delegate Wheeler R. Baker (D)	APP	36	422	3343
Delegate Mary Roe Walkup (R)			720	3107	Delegate Adetaide C. Eckardt (R)	ECM	37B	404 161	3534
Carroll County	Delegati		000	3107	Delegate Ronald A. Guns (D)	CIVENV	36 37B	415	3429
Delegate David R. Brinkley (R)	CGM	4A 5	323 322	3371	Delegate Kenneth D. Schister (R)	ENV ECM	36	423	3449
Delegate Richard N. Dixon (D)	APP	5 4B	323	3107	Delegate Mary Roe Walkup (R)			720	3447
Delegate Donald B. Elliott (R)	ENV CGM	5	322	3371	Washington County	Delegati		321	3447
Delegate Joseph M. Getty (R) Delegate Nancy Reter Stocksdale (R)	APP	5	322	3371	Delegate John P. Donoghue (D)	ECM	2C 3	324	3240
Delegate Paul S. Stull (R)	ENV	4A	323	3107	Delegate C. Sue Hecht (D)	APP W&M	2A	321	3447
	Delegati			3444	Delegate Robert A. McKee (R)	CGM	28	321	3451
Cecil County	APP	36	422	3189	Delegate D. Bruce Poole (D)	CGM	3	324	3240
Delegate Wheeler R. Baker (D)	CIVENV	36	161	3534	Delegate Louise V. Snodgrass (R)	ENV	3	324	3240
Delegate Ronald A. Guns (D)	CGM	35B	403	3444	Delegate J. Anita Stup (R)				3425
Delegate David D. Rudolph (D) Delegate Mary Roe Walkup (R)	ECM	36	423	3449	Wicomico County	Delegati W&M	38	413	3431
				3247	Delegate K. Bennett Bozman (D)	Vc/APP	38	416	3425
Charles County	Delegati JUD	28	216	3247	Delegate Norman H. Conway (D)	ECM	37B	404	3343
Delegate Thomas E. Hutchins (R)	W&M	28	216	3247	Delegate Adelaide C. Eckardt (R) Delegate Don B. Hughes (R)	ENV	37A	414	3427
Delegate Samuel C. Linton (D)	ECM	28	216	3247	Delegate Charles A. McClenahan (R)	ECM	38	412	3433
Delegate Van T. Mitchell (D)				3343	Delegate Kenneth D. Schisler (R)	ENV	37B	415	3429
Dorchester County	Delegat	37B	404	3343	•	Delegat	lon		3431
Delegate Adelaide C. Eckardt (R)	ECM ENV	37A	414	3427	Worcester County Delegate K. Bennett Bozman (D)	W&M	38	413	3431
Delegate Don B. Hughes (R)	ENV	37B	415	3429		Vc/APP	38	416	3425
Delegate Kenneth D. Schisler (R)				3575	Delegate Norman H. Conway (D) Delegate Charles A. McClenahan (R)	ECM	38	412	3433
Frederick County	Delegat CGM	ion 4A	323	3575 3107	Possible official transfer and (1.1)				
Delegate David R. Brinkley (R)	ENV	4B	323	3107	S.H., State House				
Delegate Donald B. Elliott (R) Delegate C. Sue Hecht (D)	APP	3	324	3240					
Delegate C. Sub Rectit (D) Delegate Louise Snodgrass (R)	CGM	3	324	3240					
Delgate Paul S. Stuli (R)	ENV	4A	323	3107					
Delegate J. Anita Stup (R)	ENV	3	324	3240					
——————————————————————————————————————									

1995 Maryland General Assembly

SENATE

Senator (Party)	Committee/District/Room #/Telephone			/Telephone	Senator (Party)	Committee/District/Room #/Telephone			
Allegany County	Select			3565	Garrett County	Select			3565
Senator John J. Hafer (R)	FIN	1	406	3565	Senator John J Hafer (R)	FIN	1	406	3565
Anne Arundel County	Select			3658	Harford County	Select			3603
Senator John C. Astle (D)	FIN	30	PW	3578	Senator William H. Amoss (D)	Vc/B&T	35	131	3603
Senator John A. Cade (R)	B&T	33	407	3568	Senator David R. Craig (R)	EEA	34	307	3158
Senator Philip C. Jimeno (D)	JPR	31	316	3658	Senator Michael J. Collins (D)	EEA	6	216	3642
Senator Edward Middlebrooks (R)	JPR	32	302	3593	Howard County	Select	•		3671
Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. (D)	Pres	27	S.H.	3700	Senator Edward J Kasemeyer (D)	B&T	12	309	3653
Baltimore City	Select			3145	Senator Martin G. Madden (R)	FIN	13	402B	3572
Senator Clarence W. Blount (D)	CIVEEA	41	201	3697	Senator Christopher J. McCabe (R)	EEA	14	404	3671
Senator Thomas L. Bromwell (D)	Ch/FIN	8	PW	3620	Kent County			707	
Senator George W. Della, Jr. (D)	FIN	47	207	3600		Select			3645
Senator Barbara A. Hoffman (D)	Ch/B&T	42	100	3648	Senator Walter M. Baker (D)	Ch/JPR	36	301	3639
Senator Ralph M. Hughes (D)	JPR	40	310	3656	Montgomery County	Select			3634
Senator Delores G. Kelley (D)	JPR	10	209	3606	Senator Jennie M. Forehand (D)	JPR	17	214	3134
Senator Nathaniel J. McFadden (D)	B&T	45	208	3165	Senator Brian E. Frosh (D)	EEA	16	202	3124
Senator John A. Pica, Jr. (D)	FIN	43	402A	3145	Senator Patrick J. Hogan (R)	B&T	39	305	3686
Senator Perry Sfikas (D)	EEA	46	211	3598	Senator Christopher J. McCabe (R)	EEA	14	404	3671
Senator Larry Young (D)	FIN	44	306	3612	Senator Jean W. Roesser (R)	FIN	15	308	3169
Baltimore County	Select			3642	Senator Ida G. Ruben (D)	B&T	20	204	3634
Senator F. Vernon Boozer (R)	B&T	9	410	3706	Senator Leonard H. Teitelbaum (D)	EEA	19	205	3151
Senator Thomas L. Bromwell (D)	Ch/FIN	8	PW	3620	Senator Christopher Van Hollen, Jr. (D)	B&T	18	304	3137
Senator Michael J. Collins (D)	EEA	6	216	3642	Prince George's County	Select			3631
Senator George W. Della, Jr. (D)	FIN	47	207	3600	Senator Ulysses Currie (D)	B&T	25	100	3127
Senator Paula C. Hollinger (D)	Vc/EEA	11	206	3131	Senator Arthur Dorman (D)	Vc/FIN	21	116	3141
Senator Barbara A. Hoffman (D)	CIVBAT	42	100	3648	Senator Leo E. Green (D)	Vc/JPR	23	212	3631
Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer (D)	B&T	12	309	3653	Senator Gloria G. Lawlah (D)	B&T	26	314	3092
Senator Delores G. Kelley (D)	JPR	10	209	3606	Senator Martin G. Madden (R)	FIN	13	402B	3572
Senator Perry Sfikas (D)	EEA	46	211	3598	Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. (D)	Pres	27	S.H.	3700
Senator Norman R. Stone, Jr. (D)	JPR	7	PW	3587	Senator Paul G Pinsky (D)	EEA	22	303	3155
Calvert County	Select			3673	Senator Decatur W Trotter (D)	FIN	24	313	3148
Senator Roy P. Dyson (D)	EEA	29	215	3673	Queen Anne's County	Select			3645
Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. (D)	Pres	27	S H.	3700	Senator Walter M. Baker (D)	Ch/JPR	36	301	3639
		41	3 M.		St. Mary's County	Select		•••	3673
Caroline County	Select			3645	Senator Roy P. Dyson (D)	EEA	29	215	3673
Senator Walter M. Baker (D)	CIVJPR	36	301	3639	• • • •		29	215	
Senator Richard Colburn (R)	JPR	37	311	3590	Somerset County	Select			3645
Carroll County	Select			3575	Senator J. Lowell Stolizfus (R)	EEA	38	409	3645
Senator Timothy R. Ferguson (R)	JPR	4	403	3704	Talbot County	Select			3645
Senator Larry E. Haines (R)	JPR	5	401	3683	Senator Walter M. Baker (D)	CIVJPR	36	301	3639
Cecil County	Select			3645	Senator Richard Colburn (R)	JPR	37	311	3590
Senator William H. Amoss (D)	Vc/B&T	35	131	3603	Washington County	Select			3565
Senator Walter M. Baker (D)	Ch/JPR	36	301	3639	Sonator John W Derr (R)	FIN	3	408	3575
Charles County	Select			3673	Senator Donald F. Munson (R)	B&T	2	405	3609
Senator Thomas McLain Middleton (D)	B&T	28	210	3616	Wicomico County	Select	-		3645
		20	210		Senator Richard Colburn (R)	JPR	37	244	3590
Dorchester County	Select			3645	Senator J. Lowell Stoltzfus (R)	EEA	38	311 409	3590 3645
Senator Richard Colbum (R)	JPR	37	311	3590			30	403	
Frederick County	Select			3575	Worcester County	Select			3645
Senator John W. Derr (R)	FIN	3	408	3575	Senator J. Lowell Stoltzfus (R)	EEA	38	409	3645
Senator Timothy R. Ferguson (R)	JPR	4	403	3704					

1995 Maryland General Assembly Leadership and Standing Committees HOUSE SENATE

Leadership: President, Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. (Prince George's Co.)

President Pro Tem, Norman R. Stone, Jr. (Balto. Co.) Majority Leader, Clarence W. Blount (Balto. City) Deputy Majority Leader, John A. Pica, Jr. (Balto. City) Majority Whip, Ida G. Ruben (Mont. Co.)

Deputy Majority Whip, Larry Young (Batt. City)
Asst. Deputy Majority Whip, Ulysses Currie (Prince George's Co.),

Edward Kasemeyer (Balt. /Howard Cos.) Minority Leader, John A. Cade (Anne Arundel Co.) Minority Whip, F. Vernon Boozer (Balto. Co.)

Committees: Four standing committees in the Senate

Each senator sits on only one standing committee (Ch) Chairman, (Vc) Vice-Chairman

B&T, Budget &Taxation EEA, Economic & Environmental Affairs

FIN Finance

JPR, Judicial Proceedings

(D) Democrats (32 Senators) Party: (R) Republicans (15 Senators)

All Senators' telephone numbers are toil-free Telephones:

From Baltimore area 410-841-XXXX

From Washington area 301-858-XXXX
From other areas in Maryland 1-800-492-7122, ext. XXXX

TTY 410-841/301-858-3814

Offices: President of the Senate's office:

State House, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

All other Senators' offices:

James Senate Office Bldg., Annapolis, MD 21401-1991 S.H., State House; P.W., Presidential Wing

Leadership:

Speaker, Casper R. Taylor, Jr. (Washington/Allegany Cos.) Speaker Pro Tem, Elijah E. Cummings (Balto. City) Parliamentarian, Pauline H. Menes (Prince George's Co.) Majority Leader, John A. Hurson (Montgomery Co.) Majority Whip, George W. Owings, III (A.A./Calvert Cos.)
Asst. Majority Floor Leader, Mary A. Conroy (Prince George's Co.)

Deputy Majority Leader, Carolyn J. Krysiak (Balt City & Balt. Co.) Deputy Majority Whips: K. Bernett Bozman (Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester Cos.), Dana L. Dembrow (Montgomery Co.) John P. Donoghue (Washington Co.), Tony E. Fulton (Balt. City), Marilyn R. Golwater

(Montgomery Co.), Carolyn J.B. Howard (Prince George's Co.), Joseph J. Minnick (Balt. Co.), Magaret H. Murphy (Balt. City), Joan B. Pikin (Prince George's Co.), David R. Valderrama(Prince George's Co.)

Mary Ann E. Love (Anne Arundel Co.), Maggie L. McIntosh (Batt. City/Batt. Co.) Minority Leader, Robert H. Kittleman (Howard/Montgomery Cos.)

Minority Whip, Richard LaVay (Montgomery Co.)

Committees: Six standing committees in the House

Each delegate sits on only one standing committee (Ch) Chairman, (Vc) Vice-Chairman

APP, Appropriations CGM Commerce and Government Matters

ECM, Economic Matters

ENV, Environmental Matters

JUID Judiciary W&M, Ways & Means

Party:

(D) Democrats (100 Delegates) (R) Republicans (41 Delegates)

All Delegates' telephone numbers are toll-free Telephones:

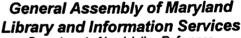
From Baltimore area 410-841-XXXX

From Washington area 301-858-XXXX From other areas in Maryland 1-800-492-7122, ext. XXXX

TTY 410-841/301-858-3814

Speaker's office: State House, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991 Offices:

All other Delegates' offices Lowe House Office Bldg., Annapolis, MD 21401-1991



Department of Legislative Reference 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

For Legislative Information phone: Baltimore area 410-841-3810/3886

Washington area 301-858-3810/3886 Other areas 1-800-492-7122 extension 3810/3886

TTY 410-841/301-858-3814

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The Meeting Of The Minds - A Perspective

by Susan Lindsey, Legislative Co-Representative, St. Mary's County Chapter

The 11th Annual Meeting of the Minds (MOM) was an opportunity for state motorcyclist rights organization (SMRO) members from all over the nation to gather and share strategies for advancing the cause of motorcyclists' rights. Workshops offered throughout the day Friday and Saturday focused on organizational issues and lobbying skills. General sessions took in the wider concepts of unity that turn diversity into effective cohesiveness.

The main themes that I perceived all weekend were unity, integrity, and accountability. We, as political activists, have always been more effective working together. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation and the American Motorcyclist Association confirmed an ongoing relationship that brings national unity to the movement. Unity starts at home with consistency in our local and state chapters. Integrity begins with individuals who are honest and forthright whether it's with organization members or legislators. Accountability means doing what you say you'll do to work toward the group's goals. These themes pervaded individual workshops and general sessions.

The content of workshops addressed how we behave as individuals and as a group. Rick and Gail Gray of Pennsylvania kept it light with hints on how to survive relationships while crusading, and how to relate to the uninitiated by arguing the helmet law without using the "F" word. "Maggot" Mike Williams of Colorado, Al Clark and Phil Barnett of Arkansas, and Mark Buckner, MRF president, all gave excellent workshops on how to organize and run SMROs. The nitty gritty of lobbying was explored enthusiastically by Todd Vandermyde of Illinois. Their success is evident in that they remain a "free" state. We learned about the success of Texas in infiltrating the legislative process by becoming delegates to state conventions and electing candidates of choice, a perfect example of using the system to our advantage. Finally, a look at using resources brought us into the '90s and beyond when Chris Bojanower of Utah led us through cruising the Internet and George Tinkham of Illinois encouraged us to use the skills of our professional members. A heck of a lot to absorb in

one weekend. Perhaps next time I can catch the rest of the quality workshops.

The MRF deserves a lot of credit for coming through some hard times and continuing to exemplify all of these concepts. They are working hard to develop state representatives to ensure unity and working hard within the organization to maintain integrity and accountability. The MRF "White Papers," first presented at the MOM in 1993, continues to be an excellent publication that discusses issues and presents approaches to solving them. Get hold of volumes 1, 2, and 3 and expand your vision. The editor, Teresa Hepker, is always looking for input.

I can't thank all of you enough for the opportunity to go to Little Rock and learn so much about how to further the cause of motorcyclists' rights here in Maryland. Like Wayne Curtin of the MRF said, we need to be on our toes now more than ever, so the timing was perfect. If any of these workshops, content or concepts, interest you, let me know. We can get together and share the wealth of knowledge and experience that was the 11th Annual Meeting of the Minds.

Legislative Warrior Agenda - 1996

Bills To Be Introduced:

- 1. Mandatory Motorcycle Helmet Law Repealed
 - 2. Anti-Discrimination
- 3. Parking (To allow more than one bike in a spot.)
- 4. Secured Funding for the Motorcycle Safety Program

ABATE OF MARYLAND
Dedicated to Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

JOIN TODAY

With your help we can regain the freedoms we have lost!!!!

Chapter Corner

Anne Arundel

Call the ABATE office for information..

Baltimore City/County

Coordinator: George Koltko (800) 843-0252

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Big Falls Inn, 11818 Philadelphia Road, White Marsh.

Calvert County

Coordinator: Gene Gullickson (301) 855-7999

Meetings are held at The Paris Station restaurant and bar, formerly known as Lazy J's Bar, located on Route 260 (about 2 miles east of MD Route 2) in Owings, MD, on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Carroll County

Coordinator: Sharon Ganz (410) 239-8727

Our county meeting is at Frisco Pub, located across from Shoney's on Route 140 in Westminster. All meetings will be on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm. Come early and join us for dinner.

Cecil County

Call the ABATE office for details.

Frederick County

Coordinator: Pat Mullens (301) 241-4448

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Mel's Airport Inn, Route 15, north of Frederick.

Harford County

Coordinator: Merrill Paden (410) 838-6219

Meetings are held upstairs at the Esquire's M/C & Van Clubhouse located on Route 40W by the Route 22 overpass on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Please feel free to bring a friend. Looking forward to

seeing you. Please note for our members' sake, our meetings will be smoke free due to the confinement of the trailer. Thank you.

Howard County

Coordinator: Don Fellner (410) 465-7829

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Friendly Inn on Route 144, between the intersection of Folley Quarter Road and Marriottsville Road.

Mid-Shores Chapter

Coordinators: Kenny Eaton (410) 820-9323 (Caroline) Wayne McCarty (410) 943-8575 (Dorcester) Bill Kuykendall (410) 758-2234 (Kent and Queen Anne's) Marty Shultz (410) 745-5136 (Talbot)

Meetings are at the American Legion Post 70 on Dover Street in Easton on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Montgomery County

Coordinator: Dave Sherman (301) 460-7141

Montgomery County meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Red-Hot & Blue, Crabbs Branch Way and Shady Grove Road in Gaithersburg, and on the third Tuesday at The Layhill Cafe, Bel Pre and Layhill Road in Silver Spring. Meeting times are at 8:00 pm.

Prince George's County

Coordinator: Bill Isennock (301)595-0734

Meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 8:00 pm at Remingtons of Beltsville (11500 Baltimore Blvd.).

Southern Maryland

Call the ABATE office for information.

St. Mary's County

Coordinator: Wendy Anderson (301) 373-8266

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at the VFW Post #2632 in California, Maryland. We wish to extend a special invitation to any ABATE member in Charles or Southern P.G. County to join us for our monthly meeting.

Oh my, it's 1996 already and the year starts with old man winter settling in and now is the time for scooter updating and overhauling for the next riding season. But before all that, we at the St. Mary's County Chapter had a wonderful year. Some of the last few events went off without a hitch. We were invited to the Blessing of the Fleet Parade and the Veteran's Day Parade, which incidentally we led very proudly, displaying all our American flags and some with their POW flags and Maryland flags. You do not know how it feels to be the leader of a parade unless you were there. What a feeling. We have also had some money raising events, such as poker runs, get togethers, parties, and donations. The Halloween party was a really great time and the costume contest was won by Wilma and Fred in their Flintstone car. Great job, Karen and Judy! Of course, another great event was the Chili Cook-Off and I do declare that the chili keeps getting better all the time. With weather cooperating as it did, we had a great turnout, with at least 30 bikes in the parking lot and 16 pots of chili to eat. Wow! That's pretty good for November. And congratulations to our chili cook-off winners. They are Aunt Diane Hilton and Tom Greenback. Great job. Imagine, scooters, chili, beer, good company, and of course, football. Great combo, huh? Now, the best for last was the Christmas party. Who could ask for anything more. The Olde Breton Inn was a beautiful setting for such a wonderful gala. I believe it is my favorite event because its a time

(Continued on Page 26)

Chapter Corner

(Continued from Page 25)

where I see familiar faces I see every month, only except they are all dressed up and looking just fine. With good food, good friends, a good time, and good music, I can't think of a better way to end the year than a Christmas party. Santa gets better looking every year as well and it wouldn't be complete without the gift exchange. What more could you ask for! I can't think of a thing.

Something I did want to touch base with you about is the Southern Maryland Motorcyclists Second Annual Toy Run. I know I have brought this up before, but I learn new things every day. I learned that even though Mother Nature did not cooperate fully with this event, that they raised at least \$800 in cash and a lot of toys! Do you have any idea how many families they will help have a merry Christmas? How many children will wake up to toys under the tree? And it covers the tri-county area. But you know what I found to be most interesting was the fact that a bunch of motorcyclists went toy shopping at Wal-Mart in California, Maryland, and they had a great time doing it. Pretty cool, huh? By the way, I want to thank Wal-Mart for their full cooperation in this event and I know I will still hear more on this event.

Now, up and coming events for 1996 for your calendar. On Saturday, February 17, it's our Pre-Daytona Kick-Off Party and Oyster Scald. I understand that the winners in the Chili Cook-Off will fix their chili for the non-oyster eaters. That starts at 5:00 pm at the Dew Drop Inn in downtown Sandy Bottom on old Route 235 in Hollywood, Maryland. On Sunday, March 17, it's a Poker Run! Ah, St. Patrick's Day Poker Run. Starts at Pennies Bar in Leonardtown, Maryland at 12:00 noon. On Sunday, April 21 at 1:00 pm is our second Blessing of the

Bikes at Sea Breeze Restaurant. The first one was so touching and I know I will be there for this one. So there you have future events for St. Mary's County Chapter. But do you know that we meet every second Friday of the month at the VFW post in California, Maryland, and you are always welcome to stop in for a visit and get to know us.

I would like to take this time to thank each and every one of you who were there when you were needed, who donated time, who gave support, and who attended the functions that became successful because you cared and were there. Without you, there would not be ABATE of Maryland.

In closing, I would like to say that I am willing to fight and give all I can to get the "lid" off my head. I hope 1996 is the year I can toss my lid to the side and smile because I've been given back that which was taken away. It's called FREEDOM OF CHOICE. I would like to see Maryland become the "Free State" again. Fight for your rights. Let your people in Annapolis know "let those who ride decide."

Oleta Caldwell Secretary, St. Mary's County Chapter

Lower Eastern Shore

Coordinators: Linda Wainer (410) 749-2674 (Wicomico) Dean Brittingham (Worcester)

Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at 10:00 am at English's Restaurant, Route 13 South, Salisbury.

Washington County

Coordinator: Fritz Sine (800) 843-0252

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at 4:00 pm at the Dogpatch Tavern, Route 40, east of Hagerstown, across from Greenbrier State Park.





Drinking and riding can lead to a loss of license, a conviction, or even worse. When you drink, get a ride with a friend. It's the best call you can make.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION



NOW THAT I'VE GOTTEN YOUR ATTENTION...

> your dues lately and/or renewed your membership?

Cowboys And Other Characters

by Beezer Bert

Anyone remember those old western movies where at the end the hero hugs his horse, hops on and rids off into the sunset, as the girl tearfully waves goodbye? Just confirms a suspicion I've had for years—cowboy hats cause brain damage! "Honest sheriff, I'z jus' helpin' this poor li'l sheep to git across this here fence!"

Well, in our story the hero slips the girl a little tongue, kicks his scoot (only once, naturally), tells the one that has grasp the significance of having two ears, but only one mouth to get on the back, and roars off into the sunset as several others tearfully wave goodbye. Hey, if you're gonna have a fantasy, make it a good one. Right? This is chapter 12 of the Continuing Adventures. I sure didn't have any idea it would last this long. Who knew? Who really gives a... It's been quite a year. We've met a whole cast of characters—Esteemed President Cherbornek, Nurse Laura, PACman Gene, Joy the Toy Motorcycle Rider, Intensely Irate Betty, Overly Short Secretary, Even Shorter Lee, Super Sweetheart Carol (I keep proposing and she keeps saying "NO!" I just can't understand...), various and asunder other rice-lard-spaghetti-sauerkraut-lime juice burner riders. (I've never been able to figure out what to call people on Husqvarnas and Bultacos. What the hell do they "burn" in Sweden and Spain? If anyone knows, please let me know. I just hate gaps in my vocabulary), and of course our plucky hero and his faithful BSA, followed ever so closely by Lucas -Prince of Darkness.

We've learned to duck bees, dodge cowshit, keep warm, stay cool, be specific, don't assume, speak up, keep our mouths shut, be careful where we park, plan ahead for all manner of "no problems," watch out for the "few red ants," and never, EVER believe the weather forecast! But have we got the moral of the story? Oh yes, there is one, even though it comes from the morally handicapped. Sometimes I wonder if it's

all been just a lot of fun, a few headaches, frequent computo-retinal scorch, gallons of coffee, an occasional "drop" of Kahlua, and a steady supply of new liners for the bird's cage.

Have you become more tolerant of and friendlier to riders of "other" brands of bikes? Do you pull over when you see a bike along side of the road, no matter what make it is? They may just be taking a butt break, but I know I appreciate it when someone cares enough to find out. Do you write to your elected officials ON A REGULAR BASIS? Are you going to meetings more often and PARTICI-PATING when you get there? Those little things YOU'D like to see happen start with one little suggestion. Has communication between the membership, the officers, the Deputy Directors, and the Board improved? Is Kahlua ever going to go on sale? Have you understood that British Motorcycles are the best ever made? Are you willing and able to laugh at yourself just a little more than before? Do you fully understand that one person CAN make a difference?

Do you realize that ABATE doesn't do anything! Nothing!! Not a damn thing!! It has not gotten rid of the helmet law. It does not make phone calls. It does not write letters. It does not stuff envelopes. It does not walk precincts. It does not put on runs. It does not write articles. ABATE MEMBERS DO! So if you feel that ABATE is not doing anything, or not enough, I can tell you EXACTLY who to talk to to remedy the situation. Just look in any mirror and have a long chat with the one and only person responsible. (I would suggest you do this in private or someone may start to think you're as weird as...me. Now there's a scary thought.)

I'd like to think all of these things have improved, at least a little bit. My intention was to motivate, not alienate. If something I've said pissed you off (hard to imagine, huh?) take a look and see if

you're taking something just a little too seriously.

And now, from the "I just couldn't have said it better myself department:" "The configuration of the Harley-Davidson V-Twin engine, responsible for its sound mark (the exhaust sound of V-Twin, common crankpin motor-cycle engines) is unique, as it is not functional from an engineering or manufacturing aspect and has been retained only because of its tradition." How's that? Not functional? Who would dare utter such blasphemy? Well, how about Harley-Davidson, Inc.? It must be a real drag for someone that has just plunked down \$20,000 or so to find out that the manufacturer does not think the engine is functional from an engineering aspect. AND the "uniqueness" must come as somewhat of a shock to people that ride Ducatis, Broughs, Morinis, Vincents, Benellis, and Indians-just to name a few. Hmmmm? I guess we'll just have to consider the source. (Thanks, Bill, for that great little tid-bit.)

So, on that cheery note: to my loyal fans (all three of you). I bid a fond adieu. I'm logging off my trusty computer for a while, to make room for some other talented, humorous, creative, intelligent, witty, attractive, and of course, exceedingly humble person to have their shot at being "Klark Kent" for a day, and to give my brain and retinas a break. It's really easy and I'm living proof that Milky will print ALMOST anything. Start with a letter. It need not be anything Earth-shattering, just whatever "twists your knickers" or "blows your skirt up." You don't have to bitch. By all means, give praise when and where praise is due. You could even write to say how much you'll miss me. (Milky: better put on extra staff to handle the avalanche of mail.) To all the rest of you: Alpha Mary Foxtrot. Ride safe, ride often, and don't celebrate too much yet. As Arnold would say, "I'll be back!"

(Reprinted from ABATE of California.)



Spring Bike Show and Swap Meet

Sunday, April 21, 1996

Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds

Admission: \$5 for ABATE Members, \$7 for Nonmembers Bike Entries: \$10

CLIMBERLAND PARTY

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Motorcycle Rodeo

Sunday, July 21, 1996

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Bikers Seek To Outlaw Health Insurance Discrimination

by Diane West

Reprinted from National Underwriter, June 5, 1995

Motorcyclists are revving up to address what they call discriminatory health insurance practices from both insurers and employers against two-wheeled enthusiasts.

In addition to running ads in consumer magazines highlighting the issue, The American Motorcyclists Association has set aside \$100,000 for legislative expenses and the effort may incur.

"We prefer to engage in dialogue with insurers rather than enter some sort of adversarial debate with them," said Robert Rasor, AMA's vice president of government relations.

Mr. Rasor said complaints from AMA members have increased over the past two years. About 5 percent of 4,000 members randomly surveyed reported encountering some form of health insurance discrimination.

The organization currently has 210,000 members.

John Hancock Mutual Life Ins. Co., Golden Rule Ins. Co., and CUNA Mutual Group are three of the health insurers motorcyclists claimed are discriminatory.

"We do sell policies to people who ride motorcycles," said Mike Corne, vice president of health products at Golden Rule. "But if underwriters determine an applicant's activities present an increased risk, they may exclude those activities from coverage."

Mr. Corne drew a parallel between this policy and underage drivers. "The auto insurers' rates for teens represent an increased risk," he said. "In health insurance, if someone participates in an increased risk, there may be an

exclusion or increased charge for accepting that risk."

The John Hancock complaint focused on Colorado University at Boulder's student health plan. Motorcyclists said the plan does not cover them. A spokesman from The Fiduciary Administrative Services Company, underwriters of the plan, said that isn't the case.

"As a renewal option to the school, we offered a policy provision with a \$100,000 deductible specifically two-and three-wheeled motor vehicle accidents," said the spokesman, who asked not to be named.

Describing the plan as "experiencerated group coverage," the spokesman said Fiduciary offered the provision after one student suffered related injuries.

The provision resulted in a premium rate reduction. "Because of the risk involved, it's more fitting for individuals deciding to take that risk to pay for that high risk coverage, rather than have the rest of the students subsidize the activity," the spokesman added.

CUNA Mutual was unable to provide National Underwriter with a response by press time.

Some motorcyclists are also complaining about employer-based policies. Workers at one New Hampshire gun manufacturer told of receiving memos which said they would not be covered for motorcycle injuries suffered without helmet and eye protection.

But helmet laws, a subject of debate among riders, vary by state. Some point to a conflict between their state laws and insurer/employer stipulations. Eric Falk, a human resources director, sees no conflict. "If you expect to be covered by a company-sponsored plan, you have to be responsible in limiting your liability," said Mr.. Falk, who works for Utah-based meat packer E.A. Miller.

Utah has no helmet law, but the company will not pay medical costs for riders injured without one. The rule is part of the company's "employee wellness" program.

There were 81,332 accidents out of the 3.8 million motorcycles registered in 1993, according to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. Over half of the 2,434 motorcyclists killed in 1992 were wearing helmets, according to National Highway and Traffic Safety Council statistics.

Alcohol is involved in 50 percent of accidents, said MSF communication director Julie Filatoff. "We'd love for insurers to get that message out," she said.

FREEDOM doesn't just happen, it has to be fought for. JOIN in the fight.



AMA Goes "On Line" With CompuServe

Reprinted from AMA News Release September 27, 1995

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) has a new home on the Information Superhighway.

CompuServe's Motorcycle Forum, which offers an extensive assortment of motorcycle-related information and discussion, now includes an official "AMA Online" section that provides a wide array of information from and about the AMA and AMA-sanctioned professional and amateur competition.

Representatives from the AMA's Government Relations, Pro Racing, Member Activities and Membership Services departments will participate in the forum, and the staff of American Motorcyclist magazine will coordinate the Association's involvement.

The Motorcycle Forum is readily accessible to any of CompuServe's 3.5 million subscribers worldwide simply by typing GO RIDE while connected to the service. And any computer user connected to the vast Internet and World Wide Web can send electronic mail directly to the staff of the AMA.

"The AMA is pleased to have this opportunity to reach motorcyclists throughout the nation and around the globe on CompuServe," commented AMA President Ed Youngblood. "This is a great way to disseminate news of importance to motorcyclists and, just as importantly, to encourage feedback from riders. We feel that AMA

members will enjoy the variety of information and dialog within the Motorcycle Forum, and hope that they will also appreciate the array of other services provided by the CompuServe network."

CompuServe subscribers have access to many publications, wire services and reference sources, as well as more than 1,000 special interest forums, plus use of CompuServe's gateway to the Internet.

The CompuServe Motorcycle Forum is managed by Racing Information Services, which also operates the network's Motor Sports Forum. "AMA Online" is one section within the Motorcycle Forum, and is managed by Bill Amick, senior editor of American Motorcyclist magazine, and Matt Ringlien, copywriter for the AMA's Communications Department. Several other AMA staff members will also participate in the forum on an ongoing basis.

The basic CompuServe subscription rate is \$9.95 per month, which includes five hours of online time each month. Free introductory subscriptions and complimentary software are available from CompuServe by calling (800) 524-3388 and asking for representative 751.

Motorcyclists must subscribe to CompuServe in order to actively participate in the Motorcycle Forum and AMA Online, but anyone connected to the Internet is now able to communicate directly with the AMA via electronic mail. From within the CompuServe Information Service, electronic mail to the AMA should be addressed to CIS:AMA. From the Internet and other online services such as America Online, Prodigy, and GEnie, the AMA's address is AMA@CIS.COMPUSERVE.COM.

Among the features of the CompuServe Motorcycle Forum and AMA Online are live reports from the site of many major AMA-sanctioned and international racing events; coverage of issues of interest to street and touring riders; online conferences with industry and racing personalities; extensive libraries including both documents and photo images; and lively interactive discussions among street and touring riders, off-road riders and racing enthusiasts.

"Motorcyclists who are already involved in online communications recognize CompuServe as a leader in the field," Amick said, "and we're confident that newcomers will appreciate the professional manner in which the Motorcycle Forum is run. The AMA examined many available options before establishing a formal online presence. The impressive scope of CompuServe, coupled with its commitment to quality coverage of motorcycling news and issues, made the Motorcycle Forum the ideal location for AMA online."

Helmet On The Shoulder

A helmet on the shoulder of the road indicates a motorcyclist has a problem and may be in need of assistance.



Help make this a universal signal by spreading the word, and by stopping when you see a helmet on the shoulder.

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Upcoming Events

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Bike Week 1996 (See flyer on page 15.)

March 17

St. Mary's County Poker Run (See flyer on page 12.)

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