

# News For Thought

## Toxic Tanning

Imported leather products may be hazardous to your health, claims a December 29 report in the News Journal. With the reality of a global economy and different countries' approaches to regulation, cowboys, bikers and other leather consumers need to be more aware of practices overseas and the journeys their exotic hides have made.

"Most of the leather that's for motorcyclists is from Pakistan," said Barney McCarthy, owner of Barney's Leather on North Beach Street in Daytona Beach, Florida. In Pakistan, the leather is tanned with lead-based chromium, which can be an environmental concern. "Overseas in Pakistan or China, people are getting really sick; they just pour all the chemicals in the water and people drink it," he said.

Tanning is the process that turns skin, which can decompose, into leather. It's done using natural or chemical additives, or a combination of the two. Most American leather is tanned overseas, so even if a product says "Made in the USA," that may just mean assembled here with leather treated elsewhere.

"The (Environmental Protection Agency) governs how we treat leather here, but not what comes in," he said. "That's why China can make toys with lead paint and they can come in here, but we could never make (the toys) like that."

America produces "the best cowhide in the world," but it's generally sent overseas to tan because domestic tanneries couldn't stay open -- a few still work for shoe companies but that's all he knows of, McCarthy said. "People buying boots from China, I'm wondering if it's like putting on toxic shoes," he said. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

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Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has begun issuing \$100 fines long Franklin Canyon in the heart of Los Angeles, located off of Mulholland Drive, and another at the top of Topanga.

The cameras are being installed as a prelude to the park agency's expected installation of speed cameras on popular canyon roads, despite state law specifically prohibiting their use. In 2000, the California legislature banned photo radar (CVC 21455.6) and per-ticket photo enforcement contract provisions (CVC 21455.5), but the MRCA believes the law does not apply to them. "Our Park Rangers are California peace officers and will always have traffic enforcement as part of their duty," MRCA Director of Public Affairs Dash Stolarz said in a statement.

Australian camera vendor Redflex will operate every aspect of the program in return for a \$20 cut from every ticket the company is able to issue.

The stop sign devices are based on red light camera platforms, but they differ greatly in use. The more familiar stoplight cameras typically photograph a vehicle entering an intersection if a signal light changes to red between 0.1 and 0.3 seconds after the car crosses a stop bar line. With the new stop sign cameras, a machine will make calculations to determine whether a vehicle did not stop for a long enough period and deserves a fine. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

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40,000 seats will be available, including 6,000 seats on the infield. All seats are \$25, available only through the H.O.G. members Web site, [www.members.hog.com](http://www.members.hog.com).

In addition to the evening concert, there will be an all-day "Club H.O.G. 25" celebration Aug. 28 on the Miller Park grounds. The daytime event, which is free to

H.O.G. members and one guest, will include live music, comedians, stunt riders and exhibits.

H.O.G. is the official Harley-Davidson motorcycle riders organization and claims a worldwide membership of more than 1 million. The events at Miller Park coincide with Harley-Davidson's 105th anniversary celebration over the Labor Day weekend.



<h2>Jimmers Place</h2> <p>MON-THUR 2PM TO CLOSE FRI-SUN 11AM TO CLOSE</p> <h3>ON THE STRIP</h3> <p>DOWNTOWN DALE, WI</p> <p>920-779-6679</p>
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## Biker's Son snubbed by Military

When Jessi Lenti was 8 years old, his father took him to Canada's Wonderland where he dressed up like a little soldier and posed with a toy gun. "Dad, this is what I want to do," his father, Frank Lenti, recalls him saying at the amusement park north of Toronto. Now 23, Jessi has

been rejected from joining the Canadian military because of his father's long-time association with outlaw biker clubs.

"I'm the criminal, so why punish him?" asked his 60-year-old father, formerly of the Bandidos, Loners, Outlaws, Rebels, Diablos and Satan's Choice motorcycle clubs. Frank Lenti made his comments from the maximum-security wing of a Toronto-area jail.

Jessi's application for the military was supported by strong references from teachers. He also has a black belt in karate -- and no criminal record. "This is me," he said in an interview with the Toronto Star newspaper. "I'm myself. I'm not my father. Judge me for who I am."

He said he was shocked this summer when an officer in the Canadian Forces told him that he couldn't enlist because the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had concluded he was affiliated with organized crime. York Regional police Chief Armand La Barge said his force has never considered the young Lenti to have a criminal profile. "To the best of our knowledge, he has never been a member of an outlaw motorcycle gang and to the best of our knowledge, he has never been a member of an organized crime group or entity either," La Barge said.

Jessi, who has a black belt in karate -- and no criminal record -- is appealing his rejection to the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

Canadian military historian Jack Granatstein said he has never heard of a case in which the son of a motorcycle gang member has been denied membership in the military because of his family ties.

Frank Lenti had always tried to shield his son from his business; "I had a lot of fun but in the end you end up in a place like this," he said Frank Lenti, gesturing at the cinder-block jail walls.

Ironically, Frank Lenti said he opposes the war in Afghanistan, and shudders at the thought of his son risking his life there, should he win his appeal and get into the military. "Why should we fight their war?" the senior Lenti asked.

Jessi said that he had planned since grade school to enter the military. "I've always wanted to do it, to serve my country. It was going to be a lifetime plan." [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." Plato (429-347 BC) Greek Philosopher, student of Socrates

## Weird News: Vietnamese Bikers Terrorized by Elephants

And you thought your local commute was bad... Three wild elephants that escaped from a wildlife preserve terrorized bikers in Vietnam, where motorcycles outnumber cars 9-1. The elephants crushed motorbikes in their path and stormed into residential houses.

In one reported attack, a biker transporting chickens had to abandon his motorcycle to escape, returning later to the carnage. "It was a frightening spectacle," said Nguyen Van Phong. "The motorbike was a pile of scrap iron and 20 birds were completely crushed in their cages. Nothing could prevent these animals from doing that."

Local authorities in Ha Tinh province said the wild elephants wandered out of Vu Quang national park during their mating season.

"We have not yet found out an effective preventative method," said chairman Phan Duc Cung. "Killing the animals is not possible. People must be cautious of elephants, taking the initiative to avoid them." [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

## California Installs First Ever Stop Sign Cameras

While red light and speed cameras are creeping into our traffic system, California has installed the first-ever automated camera in the U.S. designed to ticket drivers who make "boulevard stops" or slow to a crawl at a stop sign without fully ceasing forward motion. The little-known

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has begun installing stop sign cameras at several locations in the state. The cameras are designed to detect vehicles that stop at a stop sign for a short period of time and then proceed without fully ceasing forward motion. The cameras are installed at intersections where there is a high volume of traffic and a high number of accidents.

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## Harley Owners Group books Aerosmith show

The Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.) announced today that Aerosmith and Kid Rock will headline its 25th anniversary concert Aug. 28 at Miller Park. The show is not open to the general public. H.O.G. members will be able to purchase tickets beginning at 8 a.m. March 12. Approximately

40,000 seats will be available, including 6,000 seats on the infield. All seats are \$25, available only through the H.O.G. members Web site, [www.members.hog.com](http://www.members.hog.com).

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