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Duck and Cover from NCOM.com

Like 'em or love 'em, the rift over the redneck Robertson clan from A&E Network's top-rated "Duck Dynasty" showed that America still has a backbone, and Americans can influence change if enough of us stand together. After the network suspended Phil Robertson over anti-gay comments, a grassroots tsunami of people from all walks of life lit up phone lines, email inboxes and fax machines as the surge of incoming communications quickly became so intense, employees of the cable giant reportedly complained that the company was overwhelmed and had all but ground to a halt.

The uproar continued through Christmas until Friday, December 27, when A&E announced it was lifting the suspension and the show will continue.

Millions of citizens -- many who had never taken any kind of action before had successfully sprang to the defense of a man and his right to speak freely, irrespective of PC. If the Duck Dynasty flap proves anything, it's that -- when pushed too far - patriotic Americans will respond!

Feds Set Up Roadblocks To Harvest DNA Samples

Federal contractors have been setting up roadblocks in cities across the country with the purpose of collecting DNA samples from passing motorists. The multi-million dollar federal program has been disturbing drivers and alarming civil libertarians. The checkpoints consist of uniformed agents blocking a public road and flagging drivers into a testing area or a parking lot. There, the drivers are requested to submit a saliva or blood sample to the federal government. The roadblocks were part of a study orchestrated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The program costs taxpayers \$7.9 million over 3 years, according to NBC News Dallas-Fort Worth. The agency confirmed that the operation is currently being launched in 30 different U.S. cities.

"How voluntary is it when you have a police officer in uniform flagging you down?" asked Susan Watson, executive director of the Alabama chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. "Are you going to stop? Yes, you're going to

"Although this was voluntary it was not voluntary that you stop and hear the DNA for CASH pitch," said one Alabama resident after experiencing a check

point in June. Drivers are offered cash for surrendering DNA samples. The going rate is \$10 for a cheek-swab and \$50 for blood drawn from the vein. The goal, according to the NHTSA, is to decrease impaired-driving accidents by analyzing raw bodily fluids fresh off

Global Motorcycle Industry Projected Expansion

The Global Motorcycle Industry is projected to reach \$93.67 Billion by 2017, according to Lucintel, a leading global management consulting and market research firm. Lucintel has analyzed the top five global motorcycle companies and offers its findings in a comprehensive research report in "Top Five Global Motorcycle Companies: Performance, Strategies, and Competitive Analysis." Lucintel observes the evolving of the global motorcycle industry, competitive landscape, and corporate and marketing strategies adopted by the motorcycle companies as some of the factors to have remarkably impacted the global motorcycle industry dynamics.

The market witnessed splendid growth during 2006-2011 but is likely to grow with reduced pace to reach an estimated \$93.67 billion by 2017. The competitive landscape of the global motorcycle industry has had fluctuations over the last five years which affected the top five companies.

Lucintel found that the market size or revenue, average operating profit, average net profit, and annual growth rate are some of the driving forces of these companies. Buyers power, degree of competition, and threats of new entrants and substitutes also affect this market.

Following are the top five companies of the global motorcycle industry: Honda Motor Company Limited; Yamaha Motor Company Limited; Hero MotoCorp Limited; Bajaj Auto Limited; and Harley-Davidson Incorporation.

Developing regions, such as Asia and Latin America, which perceive two-wheelers as a basic mode of transportation, are expected to remain the most promising markets for scooters, light motorcycles, and mopeds. A combination of factors such as demographic condition, economic condition, and environmental regulations is seen to have important impact on market dynamics.

For a detailed table of contents and pricing information on these insightful industry reports, contact Lucintel at (972) 636-5056 or visit www.lucintel.com.

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FROM THE DESK OF JOE WEIGEL: Gators? If you are a cross country ski person, you know what I am talking about. Gators are coverings that you can wraparound (usually with Velcro) and cover from your foot to just below the knee. Used by cross country skiers to keep the snow from going up their pant legs. It can do the same thing with the wind. As arthritis takes over, I have greater difficulty putting on chaps. Unless Penny is there to help, it takes me 20 minutes to get my chaps on. I admit that I do keep a pair of ski pants (snow pants) in Northern Wisconsin because if I am riding in 25 degree weather I prefer those over chaps. Even wearing motorcycle boots and corduroy pants, the wind comes up my pant leg. I find that using gators works well at keeping the wind ot; and I can ride in comfort without chaps. They take

(800)486-0106

3732 W. Wisconsin

only a minute to put on. You should be able to find them at a store that sells cross country ski equipment. I bought mine in Sherpers in Hales Corners. I believe the cost was less than \$20. I wish they made chaps with Velcro.

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