

# News For Thought

NCOM News Bytes  
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## Celebrity R-O-W

By now you've probably read at least one report of Angelina Jolie's sideswiping of a motorcycle, and injuring the teenage girl passenger, as she supposedly fled the paparazzi in India where she's shooting *A Mighty Heart*. But a version of the story from the local Indian media relays the firsthand accounts of both the accident victim and an eyewitness.

The student, Mittal Rawat (19), told Janwadi police and *The Indian Express* newspaper that: "Two vehicles were also proceeding towards the same direction and tried to overtake me. One of the vehicles brushed against my motorcycle and I fell down. Both the vehicles then sped away," he said. Eyewitness Nikhil George, a student, said

the two vehicles had jumped the signal; "Soon after jumping the signal, one of the four-wheelers hit the motorcycle. The rider and a girl riding pillion fell, but had a narrow escape," he said.

This Indian outlet's version of events exemplifies their apparent disinterest in milking the accident story because of a celebrity's involvement; while young Rawat's statement that "immediately following the incident, Jolie's vehicle pulled up beside me and my damaged motorcycle, rolled down a window, and she asked how old I was. When I told her 19, she said to the driver, 'No, he's way too old to take home to Maddy and Shiloh. Let's get out of here,' and they drove off. I'm not sure what she meant by that," would have set off a week of cover stories in the sensationalist American tabloid media, *The Indian Express* let it pass without further exploitation.

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## Weird News: Angry Drunk Driver Runs Himself Over

A drunk driver, who drove at a gang of bikers while waving a pool cue, ran himself over after getting out of his car. The 50-year-old was driving along Highway 4 near Concord, California, when he saw the bikers, many of whom were wearing leather and skull caps.

California Highway Patrol Officer Scott Yox told the *San Francisco Chronicle* the man waved a pool cue at the bikers and swerved his car towards them. The bikers split into two groups to get away and the irate driver aimed his car at two bikers who had pulled off the highway. He got out of his car with the pool cue - but before he could do anything, he was knocked down by his own car which had been left in reverse. The man was knocked into the highway and his car reversed into the center divider. Some of the bikers grabbed him and pulled him out of danger.

Authorities said they had no idea why Brooks reacted the way he did to the bikers, who kept calm and didn't retaliate. "We don't believe they went to fisticuffs with him," said Officer Yox. The man suffered cuts and scratches and was taken to a nearby hospital. He could face charges of assault with a deadly weapon and drink driving.

## Weirder News: Sober Biker Runs Himself Over

A 17-year-old youth allowed 408 vehicles go over his body in Orissa's Malkangiri district in India. Debraj Senapati, who practices martial arts, placed himself between two wooden slabs on a mud field and allowed the vehicles - 404 motorcycles and four cars - to run over his stomach one by one in 20 minutes in the presence of thousands of people on October 9th.

In the past, Senapati had allowed 70 vehicles - all motorcycles - to run over his body. He now plans to break the world record by allowing 500 motorcycles and five cars to run over his body. "I aim to create a world record," Senapati was quoted as saying by a local newspaper.

## Law of Natural Selection

"2 Killed In Motorcycle Crash; Police Say Rider Was On Phone. On October 9, a man and his wife were killed when the motorcycle they were riding missed a curve and ran into a concrete median in Ellettsville, Indiana, and police report that the driver was simultaneously talking on a cell phone and operating the motorcycle when the crash happened. Neither was wearing a helmet."

This newspaper report was sent to us by Tiger Mike Revere, State Director of ABATE of Oklahoma and member of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) board of directors. He has this to add as editorial:

"This is one heck of a shame, especially when so many of us are actively campaigning to reduce the number of motorcyclist deaths and injuries associated with OTHERS yakking on cell phones! We certainly don't need to contribute to these totals ourselves by violating the Law Of Natural Selection, which is always out there to weed out the stupid," said Tiger Mike, adding "Of course, the idiot media had to address that they weren't wearing a helmet, but I don't think it would've mattered in this case. The most important piece of safety equipment that needed to be used wasn't, and that is what's UNDER the helmet, not the helmet itself!"

## AMA Launches New TV Spot, Targets Distracted Drivers

Pinkerton, Ohio -- The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) has announced the release of a new video public-service announcement that reminds motorists to watch for motorcycles when they drive.

The 30-second PSA -- which also is available in 20- and 10-second versions -- depicts a distracted driver's near-collision with a passing motorcyclist who, as the driver learns later that day, is his dentist.

Produced by SOS Video Communications of Columbus, Ohio, the PSA is intended for free distribution to television networks and local stations nationwide. Interior scenes were recorded at the dental offices of AMA member Dr. Doug Kowalczyk, and AMA Life Member Colter Rule contributed his well-known voice to the project.

"Motorcycle-related fatalities have increased for eight straight years, and we know that one-third of motorcycle crashes are the result of another motorist violating the motorcyclist's right-of-way," said AMA Public Information Director Tom Lindsay. "We believe that this PSA will speak to drivers in a memorable way, and we hope that broadcasters will join us in making motorists aware of their role in reducing the number of crashes."

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• PERFORMANCE • POWER • BIG DOG MOTORCYCLES •

Motorcyclists ride in honor of slain student 16-year-old Colo. girl shot by gunman during hostage standoff at school. The motorcyclists, including Park County Sheriff Fred Wegener, rode 40 miles to Platte Canyon High School from Columbine High School, the scene of the nation's worst school shooting in 1999.

It was Wegener who made the call for SWAT officers to invade a classroom where authorities said Duane Morrison, 53, took Emily Keyes and other girls hostage and molested them on Sept. 27.

Morrison shot Emily in the head after SWAT officers stormed the classroom and then shot and killed himself, authorities said. The other hostages survived.

On Saturday, bikers paid donations to take part in the ride from Columbine to Bailey. The procession was so long that the first bikers, riding two abreast, pulled into Platte Canyon High School as the last bikers left Columbine.

Money collected from the ride will go to a fund to help the girls who were taken hostage. Dan Patino, who came up with the idea for the ride, said he was stunned by its turnout. "There's not a lot to say," Emily's father, John-Michael Keyes, told the crowd.