

News For Thought

Australian "Bikies" Score Taxpayer-Funded War Chest

Queensland 'bikies' will have nearly \$180,000 in taxpayer money to fight the state's tough criminal motorcycle gang laws after a landmark High Court decision ordering the South Australian government to pay the Mongols MC \$178,000 in legal costs after losing a high-profile court battle four years ago to banish gangs from its borders.

Bikie sources told the Gold Coast Bulletin that the money would be tipped straight into the bid to challenge the Vicious and Lawless Association Disestablishment laws pushed through by the Newman Gov't. After covering legal bills, any remainder would go into a "fighting fund" to challenge similar laws being used in Queensland and NSW.

In 2010, SA's so-called "bikie gangs" -- including the Finks, who later became the Mongols -- formed a united front to challenge the state's anti-association laws in the High Court.

The High Court ruled the laws obliged the state's courts to impose control orders on bikies at the request of the Attorney-General and police, without any evidence. It dubbed the legislation "constitutionally repugnant" and said it undermined the independence of judges and forced them to find guilt "based on assumptions."



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Motorbikers In North Korea Ordered To Park To Save Fuel

It is no secret that North Korea suffers chronic shortages of fuel, but now the scarcity has claimed a new class of victims: motorbike riders. Following a drop in oil imports from China, North Korean authorities have cracked down on private

motorbike use in order to conserve fuel for military and government officials.

The new restrictions come just as motorbikes have been emerging as the next stage in the evolution of vehicular transport in North Korea, much as they had in other parts of Asia decades ago. Motorcycle ownership is widely considered a status symbol in North Korea, where most people still travel on foot. Many motorbike owners supplement their income by using them as taxis.

The restrictions could not be independently verified and have not been reported in North Korea's own state-run press, but the DailyNK website specializing in North Korean news said the restrictions ban private motorbike use except in the morning commute and at night, and that violators risked confiscation of their vehicles.

Even before the new restrictions on motorbikes, riders faced hazards peculiar to North Korea's authoritarian system -- long-distance travel permit requirements, decrepit roads, an unpredictable black-market for gasoline and petty corruption among the police including stopping motorbikers just to extort their gasoline.

The Taliban Endorses Honda

Taliban-published Azan magazine is quick to condemn America, but loves the Honda CG125. They say there's no such thing as bad publicity, but Honda can't be too pleased with the rave review it received from "Azan," a quarterly magazine published by the Taliban.

An English-language publication, "Azan" is radical propaganda intended to recruit disillusioned Muslims. The cover story for its third issue dealt with how to leave your life behind to join in the Jihad against the West, but buried in the pages of the issue was a full page spread titled "Steeds of War" that highlights the virtues of Honda's CG125 as a vehicle of choice for the Mujahideen.

"All Praise is due to Allah Who has made the Crusaders flee with a humiliating defeat at the hands of the Mujahideen who have so little resources compared to them. We, the Mujahidin, have won the war with HONDA 125s valued at around \$700," the magazine boasts.

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Boobytraps Found On Off-Road Trails

Federal authorities in Arizona are warning off-highway-vehicle riders to be wary of trails in the Coconino National Forest near Happy Jack, Ariz., where trail riders have reported the tires of their all-terrain vehicles and off-road motorcycles were punctured by rebar spikes, sharpened and partially buried in trails heavily used by responsible enthusiasts and their families.

No injuries have been reported, but the sabotage endangers riders, hikers and even animals.

"The end of the rebar has been flattened and sharpened to a point, and the exposed point has been painted to blend in with the road surface," Mogollon Rim District Ranger Linda Wadleigh said in a statement. The rebar was placed in areas frequented by off-highway vehicles, but "The objects pose a serious threat to everyone, and that doesn't just mean people recreating on a motorcycle or OHV, it includes people walking, hiking and even wildlife. We are taking this very seriously and asking the public to keep an eye out and report suspicious activity in the area."

In related news, vandals have placed spiked strips along trails in Colorado in the Pike National Forest, burying the devices along trails used by off-road enthusiasts to cause flat tires and immobilize off-highway vehicles.

Anyone with information is urged to call the Forest Service Law Enforcement Tip Line at (303) 275-5266.

Weird News: Teen Fakes Robbery To Buy Motorcycle

The desire to own a motorcycle drove a minor to stage an armed robbery and even inflict wounds on himself to make it look convincing. The Pune Cantonment police in India detained a 17-year-old boy for stealing Rs 1.27 lakh from his employer and later staging an armed robbery.

Investigations revealed that the minor staged the robbery as he wanted to buy a motorcycle. A police inspector said the boy was working in Sankla's travel agency. "On Saturday morning, Sankla gave the boy Rs 1.27 lakh and told him to deposit

the money in the bank. However, the boy returned after some time with torn clothes and cuts on his wrists. He told (owner) Sankla that some unidentified persons stopped him while he was on his way to the bank, attacked him and snatched the cash from him before fleeing."

\ The proprietor rushed to the police station with the boy, where the inspector later noted: "I became suspicious as the cuts on the boy's wrists looked self-inflicted. Moreover, he was unable to give proper description of the robbers. We then detained the boy and during sustained interrogation, he admitted that he had staged the robbery because the boy said he wanted to buy a motorcycle and, therefore, hatched the plot."

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