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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 63

14 November 2006 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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We search the topics and Websites that you request, so it is important for you to provide feedback. We are in our infancy and the CABLE Gram will be as useful as you help make it. Please let us know the topics and keywords that will assist you in your

professional endeavors. Send all comments and suggestions to zhi@cablegram.org – please type CABLE Gram in the subject line.

FEDERAL

1. FBI alerts India to 'threat' of hijacking US bound flights (Asian Tribune, 13 Nov 2006)

New Delhi, 12 November: Three days after Chennai airport received an 'al Qaeda warning', there are 'threats' of hijacking US bound flights from India, prompting the civil aviation authorities to sound a 'fresh' alert. The alert will be in force for a week, said officials of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), who were informed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of an e-mail warning they had received from an unknown Indian address. "The FBI received the email, sent by unknown entities and originating from an Indian address on Saturday at its US headquarters", Indian officials said. What was the nature of threat in the e-mail is unclear as of now. The 'mail' reportedly spoke of 'hijacking', like the anonymous handwritten letter found at Trichy airport on Wednesday night did. Whether it is a new group or a part of the 'Allah-Osama' group that had slipped in its warning at Trichy airport is also unclear with officials keeping a tight upper lip.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.asiantribune.com/index.php?q=node/3182>

2. Panelists: Pentagon could take lead role in some disasters (GovExec.com, Jonathan Marino, 14 Nov 2006)

The Defense Department may be called upon to lead some responses to disaster, relegating the Homeland Security Department to a support role, defense experts said Monday. The Pentagon's authority trumps that of DHS in the event of an attack, said David McIntyre, director of the Integrative Center for Homeland Security at Texas A&M University. McIntyre, a 30-year Army veteran, said the Pentagon's role in a disaster leans heavily toward response and recovery, while DHS' is more focused on prevention and mitigation. This could even make the Defense Department suited to lead responses for some incidents that do not involve an attack, such as a pandemic flu outbreak or massive earthquake, McIntyre said. He spoke on a panel at The George Washington University's Eisenhower Series on national security.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35478&dcn=e_gvet

3. Dems must pick point person before immigration debate (By Bill Swindell, CongressDaily, 13 Nov 2006)

The Democratic takeover of Congress might revive chances for passing a comprehensive immigration package that would include a pathway to citizenship for most of the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States. Democrats have been more amenable to such legislation than congressional Republicans, even though President Bush has pushed for such a measure. But first, House Democrats must decide who will be their policy point person -- the Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee chairman -- to shepherd a

bill though the House. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, is ranking member of the panel, though there is speculation that Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., might pursue the chairmanship. Lofgren is ranking member of the Homeland Security Intelligence Subcommittee. Jackson Lee and Lofgren have the same House seniority; both were elected in 1994. According to one lobbyist, Jackson Lee's positions on the issue have shifted at times, making her a problematic negotiator.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35474&dcn=e_gvet

4. Dem Congress may scrap border fence (UPI, 13 Nov 2006)

WASHINGTON - The incoming U.S. Congress will review the law mandating 700 miles of fence along the U.S.-Mexico border, and may seek to scrap the plan altogether. Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., told reporters this week that he expected to "re-visit" the issue when he becomes chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee in the 110th Congress, which has a Democratic Party majority. He said that the high technology Secure Border Initiative, or SBI Net -- essentially a set of monitors, cameras and other integrated surveillance systems to monitor the border -- was a viable alternative. "We might do away with it, or look at (integrating it into) SBI Net," he said, "A virtual fence rather than a real one." The Secure Fence Act, one of the laws passed by the GOP-controlled Congress in a pre-election flurry of border security legislation, mandates 700 miles of fencing in five sections, and defines where on the 1,951-mile southern border they should go.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20061110-015323-5259r>

5. Mexico voices US border concerns (BBC, 9 Nov 2006)

Mexican President-elect Felipe Calderon has met US President George W Bush to voice concern over US plans to fence off part of the two countries' border. Mr Bush later said he had assured the visiting Mexican leader the two countries would co-operate closely. As well as migration issues, the two men discussed free trade and efforts to curb drug trafficking. Mr Calderon had earlier said he hoped the Democrats' new majority in Congress would boost US immigration reforms.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6131774.stm>

6. Mexican Policeman Killed in 2nd Attempt (AP, 11 Nov 2006)

A district police chief in the border city of Tijuana was shot and killed a day after surviving another attempt on his life, Mexican media reported on Saturday. Hector Gaxiola, chief of one of the city's nine police districts, was found shot to death in a vacant lot on Friday, newspapers reported. On Thursday, he had survived another shooting attack in which he was grazed by a bullet. The body of another man, identified by the Tijuana newspaper El Mexicano as Gaxiola's brother, was found next to him. Both had been shot dozens of times. Tijuana officials were not immediately available to confirm the report, nor was there any immediate information on possible motives for the killings.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=105&sid=972131>

7. Germany considers legalizing air force, navy for homeland defense (People's Daily Online, 14 Nov 2006)

German chancellor Angela Merkel said Monday that she planned legislation allowing German air force and navy to be deployed on homeland anti-terror missions despite international misgivings after the World War II. "I think the coalition will reach an amicable agreement on such a move," said Merkel in a speech to Germany's police union. The chancellor did not say when the bill will be finalized and when it could come into effect.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://english.people.com.cn/200611/14/eng20061114_321141.html

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

8. CA: Workers put on leave because of Social Security mismatches (AP, 14 Nov 2006)

SAN FRANCISCO - Seven workers at a San Jose manufacturing plant were placed on unpaid leave in what could be the first example of a U.S. company following a pending homeland security proposal to prevent the employment of illegal immigrants. Cintas, a Cincinnati-based uniform maker with 30,000 employees in five states, said the workers were taken off the job Monday after they failed to furnish valid Social Security numbers, which are usually needed to prove eligibility to work in the United States. The seven workers had been given two months to verify their status after the company received a letter from the federal government saying the workers' names didn't match the numbers they submitted to the company, according to Mike Wallner, a Cintas spokesman.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking_news/16012676.htm

9. FL: 2 men detained for allegedly smuggling 17 Cubans to Sanibel (AP, 13 Nov 2006)

SANIBEL, Fla. - Immigration officials say two men are suspected of smuggling 17 Cuban refugees into Sanibel. The U-S Coast Guard says a 33-foot fast boat was discovered near the Caloosahatchee River shortly after police got a report of Cuban refugees landing on the beach yesterday morning. The border patrol says the group was a mix of men, women and children. Authorities aren't releasing the names of the two suspects. An investigation continues and criminal charges may be filed.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q3B22113E>

10. MD: BWI passengers not following new liquids ban, security officials say (Baltimore BizJournals, 13 Nov 2006)

That was the word Monday from the Federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA), which said airport security workers at BWI continue to find hundreds of toiletries and beverages incorrectly packed in carry-on luggage nearly seven weeks after liquid regulations were relaxed at domestic airports.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://baltimore.bizjournals.com/baltimore/stories/2006/11/13/daily6.html?surround=lfm>

11. MD: Council Passes English Only Measure (WBAL, 14 Nov 2006)

TANEYTOWN, Md. - English is now the official language of a central Maryland town of 5,000, after the Taneytown City Council approved a nonbinding resolution, deciding against a charter that had drawn complaints from civil rights groups and residents. "This issue is not, I repeat not, about giving up your native tongue," said Councilman Paul Chamberlain, Jr., the resolution's sponsor, after Tuesday's vote. "All we're asking is if you become a U.S. citizen, please speak English. There are two reasons: one, you can have greater opportunities to realize the American Dream, and two, so that we can communicate."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thewbalchannel.com/news/10314812/detail.html>

12. MO: HazMat responds to anthrax scare at FRDC (The Fulton Sun, 14 Nov 2006)

The Fulton Fire Department responded to a call of a suspicious white powder substance at the Missouri Department of Corrections Fulton Reception and Diagnostic Center around 10:30 a.m. Monday. The Cole County Regional Hazardous Materials Team also responded to the call with specialized chemical testing equipment.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fultonsun.com/articles/2006/11/14/news/047news01.txt>

13. TX: Families identify victims of immigrant smuggling (Houston Chronicle, 13 Nov 2006)

Juan Gonzalez Rivera covered his face with his hands today to hide the tears after seeing a photograph of his son's body, the way it was found inside the trailer towed by truck driver Tyrone Williams. "He was my son," Gonzalez said as he wiped tears away with the collar of his coat during testimony in Williams' retrial on 58 smuggling counts, 20 of which carry a possible death sentence. Gonzalez, of San Luis Potosi, Mexico, was one of 14 family members who testified today to identify the 19 illegal immigrants who died in Williams' sealed, overheated trailer during a failed smuggling attempt in May 2003.

Three testified last week.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/4330809.html>

14. TX: Smuggling cases often hinge on migrants' stories (San Antonio Express-News, 14 Nov 2006)

They break the law when they cross the border illegally, but some undocumented immigrants making seasonal treks through South Texas are released to relatives already here and given papers they need to get what they came for in the first place — a job. In exchange, the immigrants inform on the people who help them cross the border. When the smugglers are put on trial, their human cargo becomes the prosecutor's best friend. The migrants are material witnesses — handled through the use of a little-known federal law that allows the government to detain those who are not suspects but whom authorities believe may have information material to a crime. Depending on the familial ties in the

United States, material witnesses may be held briefly while their depositions are taken. Then they're deported or released to relatives so they can earn their keep until they are needed to testify.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y2A21313E>

15. VA: 51 charged in Va. identity theft roundup (WSLS NewsChannel 10, 14 Nov 2006)

51 people have been indicted on federal charges of identity theft and related offenses in the Richmond area, federal and state prosecutors said Tuesday. The charges stem from "Operation Reconcile," an initiative led by a task force established two years ago to deal with identity theft and fraud in and around Richmond, U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg and state Attorney General Bob McDonnell said in a joint statement. "Identity theft is the fastest-growing white-collar crime in the nation," McDonnell said. "As we bring relief to the victims of the indicted individuals, our office will continue to work with our partners in the Metro-Richmond Identity Theft Task Force to pursue identity thieves in the Richmond area and across the commonwealth."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F2923113E>

16. WA: Flood response shows how planning pays off (HeraldNet, 14 Nov 2006)

Maybe you can't fight Mother Nature. But plenty of folks in Snohomish County found out last week that with planning, organization, hard work and a dose of heroism, you can sure soften her blows. As a package of reports in Sunday's Herald pointed out, the damage from last week's major flooding could have been much worse. In years past, it almost certainly would have been. That may seem like small consolation for those still tallying their losses as they wade through the muck the floodwaters left behind. But with forecasts suggesting that rivers could spill over again this week, the knowledge that seasoned and skilled emergency crews are standing by is heartening. A lot of things went right last week, and not by accident.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://heraldnet.com/stories/06/11/14/100edi_editorial001.cfm

17. WI: ID theft's impact can be devastating (GazetteXtra, 13 Nov 2006)

Illegal immigrants who use fake documents to get jobs in America might never consider the victims they create—the men, women and children whose identities they steal. Authorities say a number of out-of-state people had their identities lifted by employees at Star Packaging in Whitewater. It was the identity thefts, police say, that led to a long investigation of Star Packaging owner Allen L. Petrie.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gazetteextra.com/immigrants_idtheft111306.asp

KEY PEOPLE

18. Freshman Democrats include anti-terrorism expert (By Darren Goode, Megan Scully and Kristen Lee, CongressDaily, 13 Nov 2006)

The freshman class of the 110th Congress will include several Democrats with significant military experience, including one of the highest-ranking military officers ever to run for the House. The small influx of members with military credentials could give Democrats added clout during anticipated floor debates on the war in Iraq. Democrat Chris Carney, a former Pentagon senior adviser on intelligence and counter terrorism, beat incumbent Rep. Don Sherwood, R-Pa. Retired Vice Adm. Joseph Sestak, a 31-year career officer who handily beat embattled Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and worked during the Clinton administration on the National Security Council. And Tim Walz, a retired Army National Guard member who deployed to Italy in support of operations in Afghanistan, beat six-term incumbent GOP Rep. Gil Gutknecht of Minnesota. Meanwhile, women continued to make gains in Congress, with at least 12 incoming freshmen and several more in undecided races. There were 67 women in the House this Congress, and there will be a net gain of at least four next year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35475&dcn=e_gvet

GANG ACTIVITY

19. AZ: Hells Angels, state face off in bidding war for clubhouse (The Arizona Republic, 13 Nov 2006)

It was Abe Lincoln who said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Now, the Arizona Attorney General's Office and the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club are testing that theory in a bidding war for the bikers' clubhouse in Phoenix. State prosecutors, who obtained a half interest in the property under forfeiture laws, are competing with the outlaw club's Cave Creek Charter to buy the house through a court-ordered auction. advertisement Sonny Barger, a co-founder of the Hells Angels and member of the Cave Creek outfit (which is really in Phoenix), said the whole thing seems crazy: "Somebody in the state wants to say they threw us out of the clubhouse, even if they've got to buy it to prove it. Where do they get the money to do that?"

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/1113bikerhouse1113.html>

20. AR: Illegal Immigrant Criminals Fall Through Cracks (The Morning News, 13 Nov 2006)

BENTONVILLE - Manuel Camacho's journey through the United States as an illegal alien has come to a standstill. He now resides in the Benton County Jail awaiting an accomplice to murder trial in a road rage shooting. Police say Camacho drove the car from which three shots were fired to kill Daniel Francis, 32, a diesel mechanic headed home after work on May 6. Camacho, 25, was born in Mexico but immigrated to southern California. His childhood was marred with violence, police say. His brother was killed in a drive-by shooting. His father avenged the death by murdering the shooter and the shooter's entire family. Camacho joined the Surenos 13 street gang and tattooed the number "13" on his neck. Officials describe his criminal history in California as "lengthy," peppered with charges such as shooting at an inhabited dwelling or vehicle -- and assault with a firearm. After a 2000 arrest in Salinas, Calif., Camacho was deported back to Mexico, officials from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement say. But by

2003 Camacho was living in Northwest Arkansas. How he managed to return to the United States and live here freely for at least three years -- despite many brushes with police -- shows how easily illegals camouflage themselves by using fictitious names and taking advantage of procedures to identify dangerous illegal aliens some say are loosely knit.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nwaonline.net/articles/2006/11/13/news/111206bzillegalscourt.txt>

21. CA: Four members of the Aryan Brotherhood convicted of ordering and carrying out murders and inciting race wars will serve their sentences in solitary confinement (The Orange County Register, 13 Nov 2006)

SANTA ANA – Two Aryan Brotherhood ringleaders and two midlevel leaders of one of the county's most infamous prison gangs were sentenced Monday to spend the rest of their lives largely cut off from other inmates and the rest of the outside world. Brotherhood chief Barry "The Baron" Mills, top lieutenant Tyler "The Hulk" Bingham and midlevel leaders Christopher Gibson and Edgar "Snail" Hevle were convicted in July of ordering and carrying out murders and inciting race wars to bolster the white supremacist gang's control inside some of the nation's most violent prisons. The sentences are the first to be handed down in a sweeping federal case aimed at bringing down the notorious gang. All four men are already in prison.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W5722313E>

22. CA: San Diego Council approves gang commission members (North County Times Wire Services, 13 Nov 2006)

SAN DIEGO - The San Diego City Council today unanimously approved the 17 nominees recently named by Mayor Jerry Sanders to the city's new Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention. The panel will convene regular meetings throughout the city to make policy recommendations to the mayor and City Council on gang prevention, intervention, diversion and suppression methods. "The Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention is going to be an outstanding tool for the citizens of San Diego in dealing with an important issue," Councilman Tony Young said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2006/11/14/news/sandiego/16_64_0311_13_06.txt

23. DC: Gang Member Rewarded For Federal Testimony (nbc4.com, 13 Nov 2006)

WASHINGTON - A former member of the District-based crime syndicate known as Murder, Inc. has been rewarded for cooperating with federal prosecutors. Maurice Andrews has been sentenced to time served and placed on probation for his guilty plea to a racketeering charge. Andrews testified about dozens of crimes he was aware of, including drug deals, murders and other offenses. *The Washington Times* reported that the sentence was meted out on Sept. 29, but terms and conditions were not released until a few days ago. Andrews has been in the federal witness protection program for about five years. He testified against gang leader Kevin Gray and others who federal prosecutors said were involved in 31 killings.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nbc4.com/news/10307479/detail.html>

24. MD: MS-13 Member Given Life for 2005 Murder (WTOP, 9 Nov 2006)

A member of the Hispanic street gang MS-13 was sentenced to life in prison Thursday for a 2005 murder in Rockville. Luis Miranda, 20, of Wheaton was given the maximum sentence by a Montgomery County Circuit Court judge.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=970205>

25. MD: Federal Jury Convicts MS-13 Gang Members (Washington Post, 14 Nov 2006)

A federal jury in Greenbelt this afternoon convicted two members of the MS-13 street gang on charges of participating in criminal racketeering. After deliberating over a five-day period, the jury convicted Edgar Alberto Ayala, also known as "Pony," 29, and Oscar Ramos Velasquez, 21, known as "Casper." that the two men -- both Maryland residents of Salvadoran descent -- were guilty of conspiracy to commit murder in order to further the racketeering enterprise, a key victory for prosecutors. The finding means that both men are eligible for a maximum possible sentence of life in prison without parole on the federal racketeering charges.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I2623213E>

26. MI: Rapper Scarface facing jewelry lawsuit (UPI, 12 Nov 2006)

NEW YORK - Houston rapper Scarface is facing a lawsuit from famed celebrity jeweler Jacob Arabo over items the musician bought from him years ago. Arabo, who is known by his famous customers as Jacob the Jeweler, filed suit against Scarface alleging the rapper never paid him for some jewelry back in 2002, The New York Post said. Arabo has claimed that he has attempted to contact Scarface about the missing funds but to no avail, so instead he filed the \$37,000 suit against him seeking payment. The court case comes after Arabo, who was born Yakov Arabov, was arrested in June on charges that the jeweler had assisted Detroit's Black Family Mafia launder more than \$270 million.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20061112-064404-9563r>

27. MI: Biker gang gets prison for making meth (WLNS, 14 Nov 2006)

DETROIT Federal prosecutors say several people affiliated with a biker gang face prison time for operating meth labs in Macomb and St. Clair counties. Prosecutors describe it as the first major meth case in U.S. District Court in Detroit. Seven individuals from the Devils' Disciples motorcycle gang will serve sentences ranging from 30 to 97 months.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wlns.com/Global/story.asp?S=5676568&nav=0RbQ>

28. NJ: Murder charges for gang member - A Trenton Blood is being held in the killing of a Pemberton drug dealer during a holdup Friday (Philadelphia Inquirer, 14 Nov 2006)

A Bloods gang member from Trenton was charged in Superior Court yesterday with killing a 20-year-old Pemberton marijuana dealer during a holdup Friday morning. Quadair Rowell, 19, of the 200 block of Tyler Street, was arrested Saturday on warrants for murder, robbery and weapons violations in connection with the fatal shooting of Glenson "Albie" Cloyd.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/states/new_jersey/16006838.htm

29. NY: Mob Gambling Ring Busted, Police Say (AP, 9 Nov 2006)

Eleven people, including members and associates of the Genovese and Lucchese organized crime families, have been indicted on charges of running an illegal gambling ring at one of the world's largest food distribution centers, prosecutors said Thursday. A 17-month probe revealed the defendants took sports and numbers bets at the massive Hunts Point market area in the Bronx and earned about \$800,000 between January 2005 and January 2006, Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=970209>

30. PA: Anti-Gang Summit Looks at Gangs in Eastern PA (WFMZ-TV, 14 Nov 2006)

Earlier this year, the Route 222 corridor was labeled one of the most gang-infested areas in the country. Now the federal government is dedicating \$2.5 million to fight the problem. And some of that money went to fund an anti-crime summit in Lancaster, where the main goal was to share ideas on how to combat the growing problem. But those at this summit say one of the themes here is attention to detail. Meehan In working with the PA state police we'll be using an intelligence database that puts together a lot of information that is almost like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. It doesn't make sense until you can go back and analyze it and then kick it back out.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://wfmz.com/view/?id=23739>

31. SC: Summit targets gang graffiti - Phone number lets residents report it and have it cleaned up within 5 days (The State, 14 Nov 2006)

News about the gang summit was published at thestate.com at noon Monday. Visit thestate.com to read past stories about community response to gangs. Calling graffiti a billboard for gangs, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott announced Monday a phone number residents can call to report graffiti and have it removed within five days.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/16006118.htm>

32. TN: Gangs Recruiting Younger Kids (ABC24, 14 Nov 2006)

Eyewitness News uncovers kids not even old enough to cross the street alone being recruited by Memphis gangs. Gang investigators say it's not uncommon to see 10, 11, and 12 year-olds caught up in gang life. Eyewitness News found one mother who says her 8 year-old son was asked to join a gang by his classmates. A few months ago, Verateya Jones's 8 year-old son Jaylin was asked to join a gang by two of his classmates. Jones

told us, "Two little boys approached him on the playground about joining their gang and Jaylin said no. He told his friend 'let's go play somewhere else before they get us in trouble'. These two little boys came to the back where he was playing and they hit him in the face several times." Second-graders recruiting for a gang, and already retaliating with violence. Jones said, "I was very shocked; my first time ever hearing about a second-grader in a gang."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S2525113E>

33. Raw, violent gang films lure voyeurs – and feds (AP, 13 Nov 2006)

LOS ANGELES – The camera lists and bobs in the dizzy, dancing camera style of MTV reality television before zooming in on a posse in purple, clustered in a corner of an infamously violent housing project. The footage is from a documentary called "Concrete Hell," which aims – like a wave of other straight-to-DVD gang documentaries – to grant viewers intimate access to the gritty and violent underworld of America's street gangs. "We're gangsters here," Redmann, a bushy-haired member of the Grape Street set of the Crips street gang, tells viewers. "We live, die and eat this." The message will be heard by a select audience: Those who watch the growing genre of underground "hood films," filmmakers and sellers say, are typically fellow gangbangers, wannabes and those seeking a voyeuristic peek into a dangerous subculture while safely sunken into a ratty college dorm or rec-room couch. You won't find "Concrete Hell" or other gang documentaries at the local Blockbuster. The \$20 films are only for sale in swap meets, mom and pop record stores and Web sites such as Streetgangs.com and Gangstadvd.com. Shot and edited using cheap equipment and pressed onto DVDs at home, "hood films" are the visual manifestation of gangsta rap: raw and sometimes violent snapshots of America's gang-plagued ghettos shot by those boasting a closeness to the life, or in some cases by gang members themselves. And like the hip-hop genre that made mainstream stars of Ice Cube and Dr. Dre in the 1980s, the documentaries have drawn criticism from those who say the films glorify a criminal lifestyle.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/living/16000346.htm>

34. Ontario Holds Groundbreaking Conference On Guns And Gangs Cases (CNW, 14 Nov 2006)

TORONTO - Members of Ontario's Guns and Gangs Task Force and other organized crime experts came together at a groundbreaking conference to share strategies and tactics for investigating and prosecuting large-scale mega trials, Attorney General Michael Bryant announced today. "Ontario is leading the way on this front," said Bryant. "As part of our government's fight against guns and gangs and all types of violence, we are ensuring our Crown prosecutors are equipped with the most current and cutting-edge information so that they can best prosecute these mega trials." The conference, opened by the Attorney General, was held over five days last week in Toronto, and was the first of its kind in Canada. Speakers from the Toronto Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police, the Federal Prosecution Service, the Centre of Forensic Sciences, as well as experts in search and seizure, proceeds of crime, organized crime and firearms and

explosives, shared their knowledge and strategies for successfully prosecuting large-scale mega trials.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/November2006/14/c4138.html>

35. Dominican Republic: Mafia was deeply entrenched in Dominican Finance Ministry (Dominican Today, 14 Nov 2006)

SANTO DOMINGO.- The case of the alleged racket that operated in the Finance Ministry's Pensions and Retirements Department was such an entrenched maze that it's expected that it will take the authorities months to unravel. Though not divulging it publicly, information indicates that the audit has uncovered horrifying actions. Information obtained by the newspaper Diario Libre –which first broke the scandal- tell of the alleged ring promoting influence peddling, bribes and concealment. They affirm that officials received supposed gifts so that people who didn't 'qualify were entered into the pensions system. With that criminal activity, the State has been bilked out of RD\$50 million unofficially, situation that has prompted the firing of 18 Finance officials and employees.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/app/article.aspx?id=19594>

36. Italian Mafia Invests Millions in Germany (Deutsche Welle, 13 Nov 2006)

A secret study by the German foreign intelligence service said members of the Calabrian mafia are using Germany to invest cash from drugs and weapons smuggling, according to a German newspaper. The study said the 'Ndrangheta, as the Calabrian mafia is known, have invested double-digit millions of its profits in German hotels, restaurants and houses, especially along the Baltic coast and in eastern German states of Thuringia and Saxony, the *Berliner Zeitung* reported Saturday. Two 'Ndrangheta clans have entrenched themselves in Germany and have smuggled weapons from Switzerland and Germany in close co-operation with Albanian mafia groups, the paper said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2237523,00.html>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

37. FL: Traffic stop nets kilo of cocaine (Pensacola News Journal, 14 Nov 2006)

A Tuesday morning traffic stop resulted in the discovery of a kilo of cocaine and nearly \$4,000 in cash. About 1:30 a.m. two Escambia County deputies stopped a vehicle on U.S. 29 in Molino for an expired tag. When Deputy Ellis Smallwood and Deputy Mike Bowman approached the vehicle they smelled marijuana coming from the vehicle, according to a Sheriff's Office report. Deputies then detained the driver Dennis Sanders, of Georgia, and called for a K-9. After the dog alerted on the vehicle, deputies searched it and found a kilogram of cocaine under the driver's seat and just under \$4,000 in cash in the glove box, the report said.

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<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q2F21213E>

38. GA: Local, federal officers seize \$500k in cocaine (AccessNorthGa.com, 14 Nov 2006)

GAINESVILLE - Agents from the Gainesville/Hall County Gang Task Force, Hall County MANS Unit, FBI, ATF and ICE arrested three men Monday night in a parking lot off Industrial Boulevard for trafficking 15 pounds of cocaine worth approximately \$497,000. Gainesville Police Chief Frank Hooper said the trafficking operation was apparently not gang related, but the bust was organized with information gathered by the Gang Task Force.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/hall/newfullstory.asp?ID=108851>

39. KY: Mexican National Sentenced for Transporting Cocaine Through Kansas (AP, 14 Nov 2006)

TOPEKA, Kan. - A Mexican national who was arrested while hauling eleven pounds of cocaine through Kansas will spend the next 13 months in prison. 26 year-old Edel Cordova-Valenzuela was sentenced Monday in Shawnee County District Court. He pleaded guilty October 12th to possession of cocaine with intent to sell and failure to pay the Kansas drug tax. Assistant District Attorney Katherine Kliem called the cocaine "an exceptionally large amount." Authorities say it has a street value of nearly \$400,000.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/4641236.html>

40. ME: Man pleads guilty to cocaine charge (Bangor Daily News, 14 Nov 2006)

BANGOR - A Lee man convicted of unlawful sexual contact last year in state court pleaded guilty Monday to federal drug charges. Michael Blish, 36, faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison and a maximum sentence of life. He also could be ordered to pay a fine of up to \$4 million. Blish pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Bangor to one count of conspiracy to possess cocaine with the intent to distribute it. A sentencing date has not been set. In pleading guilty, Blish admitted to being part of a conspiracy that brought cocaine from Florida and Massachusetts to be distributed in the Lee-Lincoln area for four years between January 2002 and May 2006.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://bangordailynews.com/news/t/statewide.aspx?articleid=143018&zoneid=500>

41. MA: Police seize \$700k in cocaine (Sentinel and Enterprise, 13 Nov 2006)

LEOMINSTER - Local, state and federal police forces seized more than \$700,000 in "highly pure, uncut cocaine" Saturday night, according to Gardner Police Lt. Gerald J. Poirier, commander of the North Worcester County Drug Task Force. The seizure of seven kilograms in cocaine came out of an undercover operation near Leominster's North Main Street, Poirier said Sunday. "The cocaine most likely passed from a producer to the streets without any handling," Poirier said, explaining why the cocaine was of such high quality. Police also arrested four men in connection with the operation, Poirier said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.sentinelandenterprise.com/ci_4650833

42. NC: Carolina Beach Police arrest 7 for crack cocaine (WWAY, 14 Nov 2006)

CAROLINA BEACH - Carolina Beach Police have made seven crack cocaine-related arrests in the last week alone. The first two arrests came after a year-long investigation. They busted four other suspects after neighbors around Sixth Street called police about activity going on at a house nearby. The latest arrest came this weekend in a routine traffic stop. Authorities do not believe the crack cocaine problem is something new. They say cops are just getting tough on drugs. Carolina Beach Spokeswoman Valita Quattlebaum said, "We have a very aggressive detective bureau that investigates all kinds of drug-related incidents. We have good people here in the community that give us tips and we're able to follow up on them."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wwaytv3.com/Global/story.asp?S=5677609>

43. WI: Meth, cocaine, ecstasy among drugs found in big Wisconsin bust (KARE11, 13 Nov 2006)

A six month long undercover investigation led to a major drug bust in western Wisconsin this weekend. The city of New Richmond is one of western Wisconsin's fastest growing communities. There's still that small town feel but it's not Mayberry said New Richmond Police Chief Mark Samelstad, "I think everybody knows drugs are present in the city, and in the county." If they didn't before, they sure will now. Over the course of the weekend, a dozen people police call 'small time' drug dealers were rounded up and arrested, following a multi-agency investigation. St. Croix County Sheriff Dennis Hillstead said most weren't working together, "They more than likely know each other, are they associated in drug trafficking, a couple of them were, but the majority of them were not cooperating with each other."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=139497

44. Dipstick test for cocaine use (c|net, 14 Nov 2006)

Taking a page from home-pregnancy tests, scientists have designed a dipstick that can detect traces of cocaine or other drugs in a person's bodily fluids. Researchers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign developed the dipstick from DNA-gold nanoparticle technology, or a process for filtering tiny particles in order to detect specific molecules. The system can be packaged in a small kit so, for example, emergency room staff can quickly screen patients for drugs in their saliva, urine or blood serum. "Our results show that the...dipstick is compatible with biological samples, making applications in medicinal diagnostics possible," Yi Lu, a chemistry professor at the U. of I., said in a statement.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://news.com.com/2061-11204_3-6135493.html

45. Italian police 'bust drug cartel' (BBC, 9 Nov 2006)

Police in Italy say they have broken a major drug-trafficking ring - their second operation in two days. Fifty people were arrested in co-ordinated raids in several cities in central Italy, police say. Those detained are suspected of smuggling cocaine and heroin from Africa to several European countries. On Wednesday up to 60 suspected drug-traffickers were held in southern Italy. The mafia is said to have been targeted in both operations.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6133804.stm>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

46. Expert Shows How To Fight Identity Theft (CBS 11 News, 13 Nov 2006)

DALLAS Identity theft is a booming business, and strikes about nine million Americans each year. With the help of an expert, we were able to infiltrate a hackers' safe haven and expose what for sale and what's at stake. "It's like the den of identity thieves here. The treasure den," said Dan Clements. Clements is on a mission to warn banks and consumers. He's with a company called CardCops, which has infiltrated hundreds of these chat rooms. There's a dangerous new underworld operating on the internet --secret chat rooms and message boards where the hot commodities are: Social Security and credit card numbers, bank account details, even your secret PIN code.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://cbs11tv.com/topstories/local_story_317154756.html

TECHNOLOGY

47. Canada: Haste to make waste into energy - New high-tech conversion methods are popping up (Special to The Globe and Mail, 13 Nov 2006)

It isn't the stench of the garbage that makes the hundreds of landfills in Canada an environmental problem. It's the gas that decomposing waste emits into the air, the estimated 25 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent that a single landfill produces each year. That's the equivalent of the fumes from 5.5 million cars, according to Environment Canada. But as quickly as the trash piles up, new methods are emerging to reduce or reuse all kinds of waste, from organic to nuclear. For enterprising firms, trash can be a treasure -- as well as a valuable source of energy and reusable materials.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?L2425213E>

RESOURCES

48. SDSU, Eight Other Universities to Tackle Border Issues (SDSUniverse, 13 Nov 2006)

San Diego State University is joining eight other universities from Arizona, New Mexico and Texas to form the Southwest Border Security Consortium. The alliance will work to develop and promote scientific and policy solutions to issues facing the U.S.-Mexico border region. "The expertise of these nine research universities will be focused on providing quick-response analysis and solutions to technical and policy challenges," said Bob Welty, director of homeland security projects for the SDSU Research Foundation and SDSU's primary liaison to the new consortium.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.sdsuniverse.info/story.asp?id=47581>

FULL REPORTS

49. Equipping the Army National Guard for the 21st Century (The Heritage Foundation Backgrounder #1983, by Mackenzie Eaglen, 13 Nov 2006)

The Army National Guard does not have an equipment modernization program of its own that is specifically designed to meet its unique needs and capabilities. While not ideal, the lack of a modernization program was acceptable when the National Guard was primarily an adjunct force to active units, for use typically in the later stages of conflict. Over the past five years, however, the Army National Guard has contributed nearly half of all Army troops on the ground in Iraq and has assumed an increased role in homeland defense missions.

Somewhat surprisingly, the Army National Guard currently faces a severe shortage of available equipment within the United States. The equipment that is available is typically older, more difficult and expensive to maintain, and not easily deployable or useful in all types of domestic missions. The lack of equipment is negatively affecting readiness.

The Army National Guard needs its own modernization program to buy the equipment that meets both the low-end and high-end mission needs unique to the Guard. The common-sense solution to, and only affordable option available for, this equipment modernization program is the Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Team model.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/bg1983.cfm>

50. New Research Center To Combat Animal Diseases Affecting People - Animal-based microbes cause 75 percent of new human disease, veterinarian says (By Charlene Porter, Washington File Staff Writer, 14 Nov 2006)

Washington - Avian influenza, HIV/AIDS, ebola hemorrhagic fever, West Nile fever. In recent years these diseases have caused immeasurable misery and alarm in the international health community.

They also share a common origin. They are zoonoses -- diseases caused by pathogens that have moved from animal populations to humans.

"If you look at the significant epidemics over the last 20 to 25 years, there's certainly a preponderance of animal disease going to people," said Dr. Lonnie King, acting director of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne and Enteric Diseases (diseases caused by microorganisms in the intestines), a newly organized unit at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

King, a veterinarian and the former head of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, says microorganisms of the animal world cause fully 75 percent of newly emerging infectious diseases.

Diseases have been transmitted from animals to humans for thousands of years, but the pace of the pathogenic exchange is accelerating because of sheer numbers -- the size of human populations and the number of animals raised to feed them.

“There are 6 billion people in the world, and last year there were 21 billion food animals produced to help support that population,” said King in a *Washington File* interview from his office at CDC’s Atlanta headquarters. “The microbes are adapting, and they have more opportunities to adapt as the hosts change.”

NEW SUSCEPTIBILITIES

A 2003 report from the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science identified 13 individual factors accounting for new or enhanced microbial threats. Human influences -- such as poor nutrition, land-use patterns, poverty and war -- dominated the list over factors arising from nature.

Globalization is also a significant factor in the transmission of disease. As money, products and humans travel about the world, King said, disease-causing microbes go along for the ride, providing more opportunities for transmission to new populations.

“People can travel around the world faster than the incubation period for any of these single diseases,” King said. “So we now have new susceptibilities like we found in SARS [severe acute respiratory syndrome] for a local outbreak to become an international incident in a matter of a few hours or a few days.”

The 2003 SARS outbreak has become the benchmark incident demonstrating the capacity of disease to travel. The disease emerged from China as a sometimes-fatal respiratory condition with an unknown cause.

Several Asian nations most dramatically were affected by the outbreak, but SARS appeared ultimately in 29 countries. More than 8,400 people took ill with the flu-like disease; nearly 1,000 died.

A coronavirus related to the common cold was identified as the cause of the serious respiratory distress the pathogen induced. Some evidence indicated that the Asian civet cat was a source of the virus, but the new microbe's reservoir in nature remains unknown.

GLOBAL MISSION

Recognition that zoonotic diseases, or zoonoses, are a globalized phenomenon is inherent in the mission, “to maximize public health and safety nationally and internationally through the prevention and control of disease, disability and death caused by zoonotics,” according to the mission statement of the new center, which still is pending official status.

Achieving that goal will require a change of thinking in the health profession. Historically, there has been little dialogue between practitioners of animal and human health, based on the belief that the two groups were in different fields and had little to discuss.

Although awareness of the connection between diseases affecting humans and animals is growing, King said recognition must evolve into a broad strategy to better control disease in livestock populations, which provide the greatest opportunity for pathogens to make their leap from one species to another.

“It makes sense to reduce the viral load in animal populations and reduce the potential spread in animal populations,” King said, “and if we do that, it is also a good public health strategy.”

It is a simple strategy in theory, but a daunting undertaking to spread that message to all the places where livestock is raised – from the largest industrial-scale poultry producers to families raising small flocks in rural villages of the developing world.

For more information on U.S. policy, see [Health](#).

[More information](#) on microbial threats to health is available at the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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