

# craft recovered

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

CHESAPEAKE — Authorities continued their search Monday for a Chesapeake boater, three days after he was reported missing while fishing in the Intracoastal Waterway.

Rescue workers planned to resume their search this morning for Anthony Lee Henderson, 42, of Chesapeake, who went fishing Friday morning and was to be back by 3 p.m.

Henderson, who had gone out fishing Friday morning and left his trailer at Centerville Marina, was expected back by 3 p.m. that afternoon, said Wilford Kale, spokesman for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

Virginia Beach Police officers late Friday or early Saturday found Henderson's 14-foot aluminum boat about a mile south of the Northland Bridge, Kale said.

Investigators had searched up to three miles south of the bridge and were to expand their search farther south today, Kale said.

and offices occupy the auditorium's stage. Moore and Bagnell recalled playing basketball in the old gymnasium, now a warehouse. The original court markings, still visible between stacks of lumber,

Moore, a paperboy in the early '60s, recalled biking past the school the morning that news of the Cuban missile crisis broke and wondering whether there would still be a school the next day.

taught Latin classes at the school during her lunch hour. Bagnell came from a family of Crittenden watermen, while Jones' family farmed in Driver, where he lives today.

through me, <sup>DAGUCHI SAN.</sup> "There were no bad eggs in Chuckatuck."

■ Reach Phyllis Speidell at 483-9161 or 222-5556.

MIR PULASKI, with Revolutionary V som once again paint in pastels colors, flower b and some nice, could sell Polist restaurants cou food.

"We've got to It's just a quest nation," said St who has donne ant's skirt and ; than a half-doze lobby officials, civic leaders to 9,500 into a Pol

Motorists will state 81 to driv into Pulaski to Stevenson said come, they will she said.

Town leader possibility.

"It's a good energetic and an," Pulaski M Stewart Jr. sai certainly help: The town is in digesting this that's what it v

Merchants are willing to anything to br back to Main

"I don't thir they just want town up," sai son, owner of Flower Shop.

FROM W

## 4 Portsmouth men convicted in federal drug trial

BY JOHN HOPKINS THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

NORFOLK — Four Portsmouth men were convicted Monday in U.S. District Court for their roles in a Portsmouth heroin and cocaine ring.

After a three-week trial that included testimony of murders and other violence in Portsmouth, a jury found the four men guilty of a combined 31 counts of a 35-count indictment. The charges range from conspiracy to distribute drugs to using firearms.

Convicted were: Lorenzo "Lil-lo" Butts, 50; his alleged right-hand man, John "John D" Riddick Sr., 52; and Riddick's sons, John D. Riddick Jr., 20, and Rolandus Riddick, 30.

They face up to life in prison when sentenced in July.

The four men were involved in a conspiracy that pumped heroin and cocaine from New York into South Hampton Roads between 1997 and 2000. Butts was the ring leader, according to court testimony.

The majority of the counts in the federal indictment were against Butts, who watched from his defense table most of the trial as prosecutors used his former drug associates against him.

"I guess he was very disappointed that some of his old friends testified against him as government witnesses," said Thomas B. Shuttleworth, Butts' attorney. "It's daunting when the federal government comes after you."

According to testimony, couriers from New York and New Jersey would travel on Interstate 95 or U.S. 13 to Portsmouth to sell Butts and his associates pounds of pure cocaine and heroin. But the ring began to fall apart when one courier was arrested while making a trip along the Eastern Shore in March 1999 with nearly 5 pounds of cocaine and more than a pound

of heroin.

"I knew when they picked him up, everybody he knew was going to jail," testified Jackie Hunter, one of Butts' drug associates and a government witness. "I knew there would be trouble."

### CASE

The four men face up to life in prison when they are sentenced in July.

Hunter was one of dozens of government witnesses to testify against the four men.

So far, at least 14 people have been arrested on state and federal charges in connection with the drug ring and related crimes. Butts and three other men face murder, kidnapping and gun charges in Portsmouth for the killing of Terrence Powell, a 21-year-old who disappeared from a Portsmouth street corner last year.

Testimony in the federal drug trial also linked Butts and his deceased son, Vito Butts, to a failed hit early last year on 33-year-old Rudolph

Nicholson of Portsmouth, a drug dealer turned police informant. Vito Butts, also a suspect in a 1997 murder, was gunned down Sept. 3 in Portsmouth.

Testimony also suggested that Butts may have had some connection to the killing of Nicholson's 51-year-old father, Charles Nicholson, on Sept. 19 and the fatal shooting of another man known by the nickname "Casanova."

Although there was testimony of violence, the federal indictment against Butts and other defendants did not charge them in the slayings. And the violence described in court testimony "was specific to Lorenzo Butts," said Andrew A. Protogyrou, the attorney for Riddick Sr.

The attorney said he will "examine the issue of an appeal."

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Man gets prison term for role in drug ring

By TIM MCGLONE, The Virginian-Pilot © January 14, 2003

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NORFOLK -- In recent years, a few visitors to the Steele Bullock Funeral Home in Portsmouth received something other than condolences and caskets.

They bought cocaine from a former employee, according to federal authorities.

Keith J. "K.B." Bullock, 41, was sentenced Monday to 16 years and eight months in federal prison for his role in a cocaine and heroin ring that operated for at least seven years.

He apologized to his wife and family members, some of whom run the funeral business. About a dozen of them were in court Monday and wrote letters of support to the judge before the sentencing.

"I ask the court and the people who are here today to forgive me," Bullock said.

FBI agent Jan Westerbeck testified that Bullock sold pounds of cocaine from the funeral home or from his condominium in the 2800 block of Romaron St., Chesapeake.

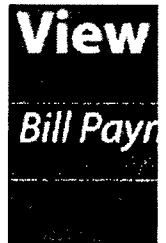
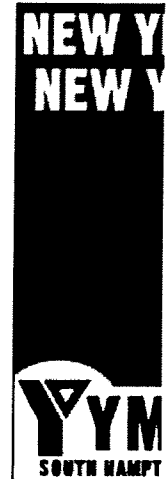
Bullock stored the cocaine in an office behind the embalming room, according to testimony.

A message left at the funeral home for Dwight O. Steele was not returned Monday. Steele is listed in the phone book as the funeral home's founder, but according to state records and federal authorities, members of Bullock's family run the operation.

The home is in the 3900 block of Turnpike Boulevard.

The state Department of Health Professions, which regulates funeral homes, said Monday that the company remains in good standing. Authorities said no one else from the home was implicated.

More than 15 people have been convicted so far, and most have received lengthy prison terms.



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Bullock's leadership role was disputed in court Monday.

Westerbeck and Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura M. Everhart said Bullock obtained multiple pounds of cocaine and large quantities of heroin from suppliers in New York City, New Jersey and Miami. He then sold those mainly to an underling in the drug organization, who in turn sold the drugs to street-level dealers.

But Bullock's attorney, Andrew A. Protopgyrou, convinced U.S. District Judge Henry C. Morgan that Bullock's role was not as a leader.

Bullock could have faced 30 years to life in prison if the government had proven that he led the organization. For cooperating, Bullock also received a shorter prison term than he could have. He gave a lengthy account of the drug operation, authorities said.

He told agents that he supplied cocaine, crack cocaine and heroin to David Pitt and Quentin Norvell, who then sold the drugs to street dealers.

Pitt, 29, of the 800 block of Cavalier Blvd. in Portsmouth, was sentenced last week to 17 1/2 years in federal prison.

Norvell, whose age and address were unavailable, also received 17 1/2 years in prison. He was convicted last year.

Court records show that these individuals were among those convicted and sentenced:

Tyrone Harris, 24, of River Green Court in Portsmouth, 21 years and 10 months; Deshawn Leary, 24, of Newby Road in Portsmouth, seven years and three months; Jermaine "Loungie" Lewis, 27, of Tazewell Street in Portsmouth, 19 years and seven months.

Shawn D. Copeland, 30, of Dwight Drive in Portsmouth; and Demarkus "Kojak" Harrison, 27, of Henderson Street in Portsmouth, have pleaded guilty and are scheduled to be sentenced within the next month.

Other unidentified dealers have been convicted in state and federal court.

Reach Tim McGlone at [tmcglone@pilotonline.com](mailto:tmcglone@pilotonline.com) or 446-2343.

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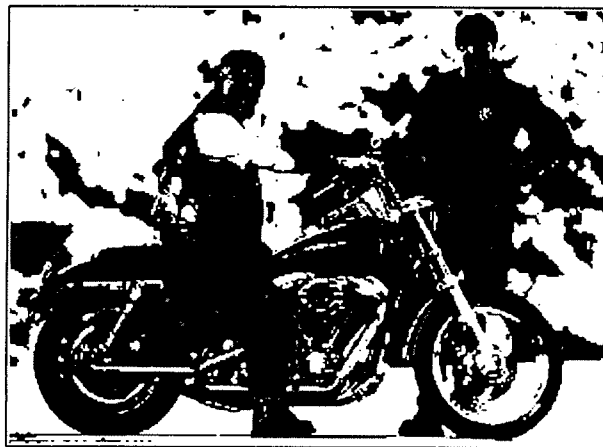
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October 9, 2000

## Bikers say FBI misused motorcycles after seizure

By **CHRIS GRIER**  
 © 2000, The Virginian-Pilot



Clarence "Mac" McNamara, left, and Richard "Phez" Conner say their motorcycles were damaged after they were seized by the FBI in the Renegades Motorcycle Club drug bust last year. Three of the bikers have filed damage claims with the FBI and two have settled for payments below the claimed damage amount. Photo by Steve Earley / The Virginian-Pilot.

NORFOLK - Frank Sylvia Jr.'s 1990 Harley Softail was his baby. Ten years of sweat, tons of custom parts and a 22-coat paint job turned his ride into a \$12,500 showpiece that was the envy of his fellow bikers.

Then the FBI charged him -- wrongly, it turned out -- as part of the Renegades Motorcycle Club's methamphetamine ring last year. And as it routinely does in drug cases, the bureau seized the bikers' money, property, guns and motorcycles, including Sylvia's Harley-Davidson.

When Sylvia was acquitted in November, he expected to get his bike back in decent condition.

"Not by a long shot," Sylvia said last week.

Instead, the 22-coat paint job was ruined, and expensive parts were missing. The odometer had mysteriously gained more than 1,000 miles, and the Harley had a Fairfax County sticker on it -- leading Sylvia and

his attorney to believe that the FBI took it for its own use without waiting to see if Sylvia would be convicted.

Now, the FBI is investigating whether one of its own broke the law.

On Friday, Chuck Owens, special agent in charge of the Norfolk office, acknowledged that the bike had been "misused," but said the misuse occurred in another FBI office.

The U.S. Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility is looking into the matter, Owens said, and disciplinary action against any agents or FBI employees involved "is a possibility."

The investigation "won't be resolved any time soon," said Phil Mann, assistant general counsel for the Norfolk FBI office.

The flap over the seized property is fallout from one of the biggest and longest trials held in U.S. District Court in Norfolk. Federal officials charged 33 defendants last year with being part of a drug distribution ring associated with the Renegades.

Twenty defendants pleaded guilty to drug distribution charges before trial. At the end of the trial, which lasted from September to November 1999, five were convicted of lesser charges, two were convicted of conspiracy to distribute drugs and one was convicted on gun charges.

Five, including Sylvia, were acquitted.

The Renegades defendants had federal forfeiture proceedings brought against them that would have taken any property bought from drug profits or used in selling drugs -- including land, homes, cars, trucks and motorcycles.

But under that section of the U.S. Code, the defendants have to be convicted first.

**Sylvia isn't the only** one associated with the Renegades case who is unhappy with how his property was treated.

Five others who ~~got their motorcycles back~~ also say they were damaged while in FBI custody. Three have claims against the FBI for damages, and two others settled for payments less than the damages they claimed.

Richard "Phez" Connor, James Edwin "Ed" Land Jr., and Amy Stephan, -- who was not charged but had her motorcycle seized because she is the wife of the Renegades' Garry Stephan -- are still negotiating with the FBI over damage to their Harleys, said their attorney, Andrew Protogyrou.

Connor, to this day, is livid. Though convicted of possession with intent to distribute, he was still entitled to get his 1991 Softail back.

``When I saw it, I was shocked," Connor said. ``It was all (messed) up. Rusty. It was disgusting."

It's now sitting in a Portsmouth repair shop, awaiting an estimate.

Clarence ``Mac" McNamara was one of two bikers who settled with the FBI. When he got his 1988 Harley back, it had \$3,000 worth of damage and another 40 miles on the odometer, McNamara said.

``Somebody had been riding it somewhere," he said. ``The whole thing is just incredulous."

After months of negotiations, he settled on a \$1,500 payment from the FBI in August.

Owens and Mann both said the bureau can't be sure the bikers aren't inflating the damage done to their motorcycles.

The FBI notes the condition of the bikes when they're seized, Owens said, ``but not every scratch." ``I don't want to minimize what happened to the victims, but in the larger context, this was a significant case . . . and we're talking about only a handful of items," Owens said.

In Sylvia's case, he said, ``The vehicle was misused, and we've acknowledged that, and we're trying to make the owner whole."

Sylvia, an ex-convict, is understanding.

A born-again Christian who preaches at jails and prisons, the new Frank Sylvia understands how people can screw up and make mistakes -- including FBI agents.

``I still love America and all that stuff," he said, chuckling.

But the old Frank Sylvia would have been thoroughly ticked off.

Protygyrou knows how he feels.

``The truth is, it's easy for the government to work over the little people," Protygyrou said. ``But things have gotten better."

*Reach Chris Grier at 446-2643 or [cgrier@pilotonline.com](mailto:cgrier@pilotonline.com)*

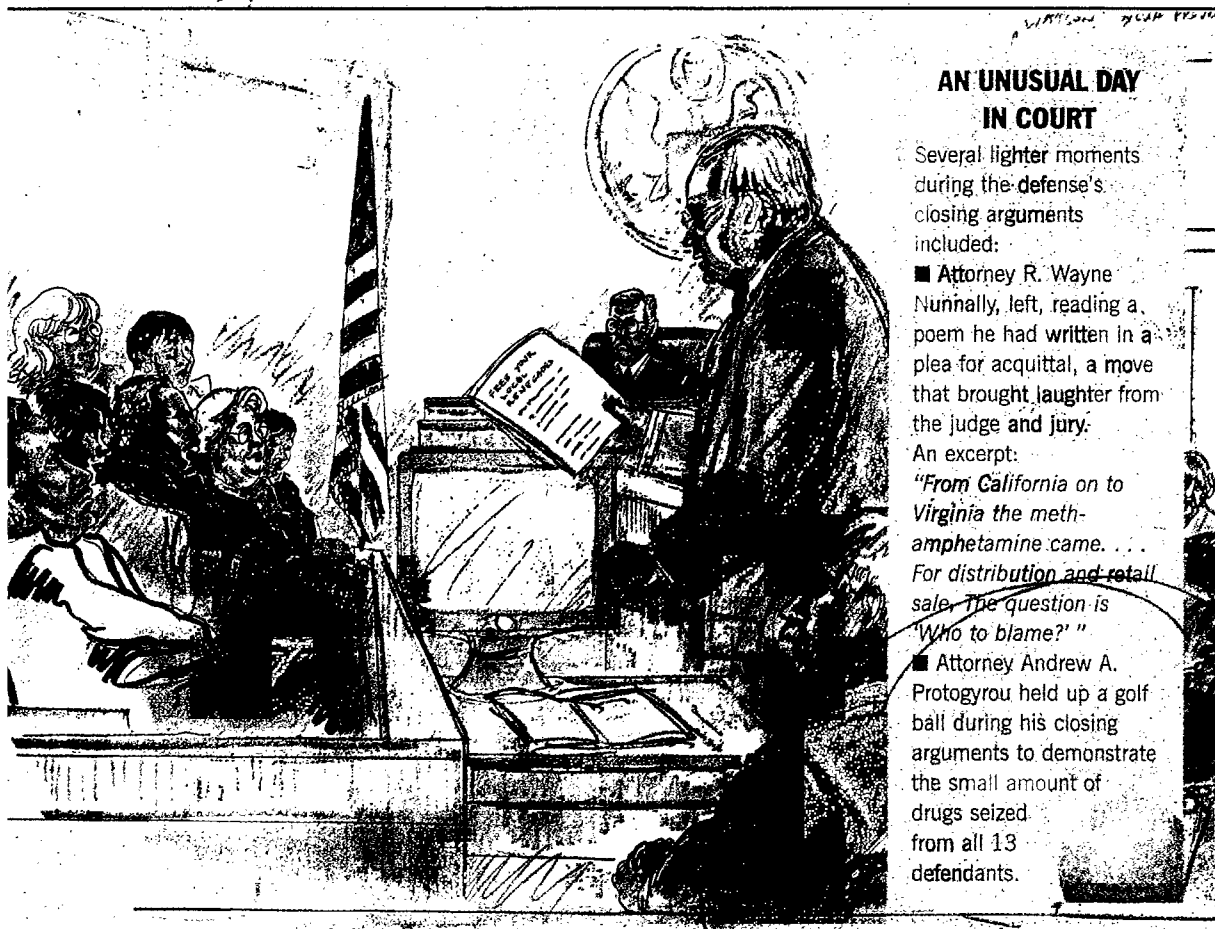
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# HAMPTON ROADS



Guy reflects on the GOP winning control of the Assembly.  
Guy Friddell, Page B2

## Operations begin in drug case



### AN UNUSUAL DAY IN COURT

Several lighter moments during the defense's closing arguments included:

■ Attorney R. Wayne Nunally, left, reading a poem he had written in a plea for acquittal, a move that brought laughter from the judge and jury.

An excerpt:

*"From California on to Virginia the methamphetamine came. . .*

*For distribution and retail sale, The question is 'Who to blame?'"*

■ Attorney Andrew A. Protogyrou held up a golf ball during his closing arguments to demonstrate the small amount of drugs seized from all 13 defendants.

### Courtroom drama erupts in laughter at closing arguments in Renegades' trial

BY LYNN WALTZ  
STAFF WRITER

**NORFOLK** — The judge wanted to make sure the jury didn't fall asleep during the eight-week trial, so he kept the federal courtroom so cold jurors wore winter coats and heavy sweaters.

One defense attorney held up a golf ball during closing arguments to demonstrate the small amount of drugs seized from all 13 defendants.

And when another attorney read from a poem he had written in a plea for acquittal — a rhyme that comically echoed the O.J. Simpson trial — jurors and judge alike erupted into laughter.

But the jury's mission was deadly serious as they shed their winter coats and headed to the warm jury room Wednesday.

Would they convict or acquit 13 members and associates of The Renegades Motorcycle Club of drug crimes that could result in life sentences for many of the defendants?

Jury deliberations could last a week or more.

The 13 defendants are all that remain of 31 people arrested in the

Please see Trial, Page B7



# Prosecutors describe drug ring's activities; it's fiction, says defense

## Federal trial opens for Portsmouth group accused of multistate trafficking

BY TIM MCGLONE  
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

NORFOLK — The trial under way in federal court charging Lorenzo Butts, John Riddick Sr. and Riddick's two sons with running a massive drug ring could be equated to a major motion picture starring Denzel Washington, according to one defense lawyer.

A work of fiction, said lawyer Andrew A. Protogyrou. "What an exciting story,"

### CASE

Lorenzo Butts, his childhood friend, John "John D" Riddick Sr. and Riddick's sons, John D. Riddick Jr. and Rolandus Riddick, face up to life in prison if convicted of the federal charges, including conspiracy to distribute drugs and using firearms.

Protogyrou told the jury following opening statements by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin M. Comstock. "He gave you a movie script."

Comstock had described an intricate ring of Portsmouth drug dealers allegedly led by Butts that stretched from New York City to North Carolina. The heavily armed gang, according to Comstock, pumped pound upon pound of heroin and cocaine into Hampton Roads between 1997 and 2000.

Butts, 50, the alleged ring-leader, and his childhood friend, John "John D" Riddick Sr., 52, and Riddick's sons, John D. Riddick Jr., 20, and Rolandus Riddick, 30, face up to life in prison if convicted of the federal charges, including conspiracy to distribute drugs and using firearms.

Testimony is expected to show that violence played a major role in sustaining the ring's activities, according to court records. One witness, Rudolph Nicholson, is expected to testify

that he was shot seven times by Butts' son, Vito, who was later murdered. A few days later last September, Nicholson's father was gunned down.

The case hinges on the testimony of former friends and associates of the four men on trial. But the word of those men, defense lawyers told jurors, should not be trusted because several cut deals with the government. Those deals will come out at trial.

At best, the lawyers said, the suspects may have used drugs, carried guns, driven fancy cars and had many girlfriends, but they never operated the massive drug conspiracy described by Comstock.

Attorney Thomas B. Shuttleworth, representing Butts, said his client is in trouble because of the people he associated with.

Pointing to Butts' mother sitting in the courtroom, Shuttleworth said she warned her son as a boy that "when you lie down with dogs, you get up with fleas."

Through threats and deals from the government, the witnesses who will testify will "gang up on the last person standing," said Shuttleworth.

Comstock told the jury that records will show the suspects lived lavishly while reporting little income. He said Butts made \$20,000 a year in payments for two BMWs while reporting \$12,000 to \$14,000 in annual income from his landscaping business.

He said Butts and the Riddicks supervised drug couriers who brought pounds of pure cocaine and heroin from New York and New Jersey that were then cut with additives and sold on the streets of Portsmouth and Norfolk for as much as \$1 million. Some of the drugs were stored in Currituck as well, he said.

One courier employed by Butts will testify that he was arrested on the Eastern Shore in March 1999 with nearly

5 pounds of cocaine and more than a pound of heroin, Comstock said. That arrest ultimately led to the arrests of 14 people tied to the drug ring.

Police will testify that they seized thousands of dollars, weapons, drug ledgers and multiple pounds of cocaine and heroin from at least six locations in Portsmouth and Norfolk, Comstock said.

Additionally, Butts and three other men face murder, kidnapping and gun charges in Portsmouth, where a General District Court hearing is scheduled on May 1.

■ Reach Tim McGlone at 446-2343 or [tmcglone@pilotonline.com](mailto:tmcglone@pilotonline.com)

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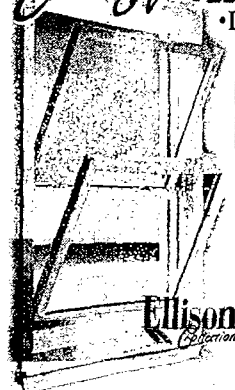
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