

# Chicago Tribune

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## Disfigured soldiers are war's dark face

Families, troops and doctors grapple with an onslaught of facial injuries—and go beyond call to try to heal scars

By E.A. Torriero  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

NEW PALESTINE, Ind. — Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Mittman was sitting behind the wheel of a Humvee when a roadside bomb exploded on a Baghdad street, shearing off Mittman's nose, lips and most of his teeth and blinding him in one eye.

Nearly three years later, and after more than two dozen surgeries, Mittman's face is a jigsaw of reconstructions. His nose is fashioned from his rib cartilage, a forearm flap and forehead skin. His jaw was rebuilt with wires; his cheeks with metal plates. Dental implants will add teeth.

Mittman is one of at least 300 American soldiers who have lost many of their facial features in the Iraq War, most from roadside and suicide bomb blasts. Thousands more suffered partial facial deformities: At least 60 percent of the 30,000-plus Americans wounded endured blows to the head.

American soldiers returning without parts of their faces will

PLEASE SEE **FACELESS** » PAGE 16

## Ordained on a lark, hooked on a feeling

Amateur ministers find meaning, mini-ministry

By Megan Twohey  
TRIBUNE REPORTER

James Anderson was used to friends asking for favors, such as lifts to the airport or help with the tab. But he was wholly unprepared for the request he got in 2003.

A close friend had become engaged. Would Anderson perform the wedding?

"I was totally overwhelmed," said Anderson, 43, a Chicago bar owner at the time, whose wedding participation had been limited to toasts and bad dancing. "It seemed so daunting. But it was important to them. So in the end, I agreed."

At the direction of the bride-to-be, Anderson clicked on the Internet and joined the swelling number of Illinois residents who have become ordained ministers for the purpose of hitching friends. One wedding, he thought, no problem.

Little did he know that five years later he would have three weddings under his belt and

PLEASE SEE **MINISTER** » PAGE 20

## Powerful storms leave 8 dead in wake

Tornado devastates small town near Waterloo in northeast Iowa; 2-year-old killed in storm in suburb of St. Paul. **PAGE 3**

## WEATHER

Stormy, periods of sun. High 80, low 56.

METRO, BACK PAGE



'If you are of Mexican-American heritage, if you have brown skin, there is nothing you can do not to be stopped.'

—Mary Rose Wilcox, the only member of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors in Arizona who has criticized immigration traffic sweeps

## Does crackdown cross line?



Arizona Republic photo by Erin Zlomek

Maricopa County sheriff's deputies last fall check to determine whether men they stopped are illegal immigrants as part of the department's program.



AP photo by Ross D. Franklin

'We know how to determine whether these guys are illegal, the way the situation looks, how they are dressed, where they are coming from.'

—Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio

## Arizona efforts stir racial profiling claims

By Howard Witt  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX—The newest tactic in America's quickening effort to gain control of its porous southern border starts with a cracked windshield, a broken taillight or even a failure to signal a right or left turn.

That's all the probable cause sheriff's deputies here in sprawling Maricopa County say they need to pull over a vehicle they suspect might be carrying illegal immigrants.

If the driver or the passengers fail to produce a U.S. driver's license or a proper immigration visa, if they speak only Spanish, or if they can't otherwise convince the officer they are in the country legally, they are likely to be arrested, jailed and handed off to federal immigration authorities for deportation.

To Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, these zero-tolerance traffic sweeps, which he recently stepped up in heavily Hispanic neighborhoods across the Phoenix metropolitan area, are a successful tool to root out the undocumented workers that many conservative leaders say have overwhelmed America's fifth-most-populous city just a three-hour drive north of the Mexican border. Arpaio's deputies have arrested more than 500 illegal immigrants so far this year.

"We're hitting this illegal immigration on all aspects of it," said Arpaio, the elected Republican sheriff for the last 16 years. "We know how to determine whether these guys are illegal, the way the situation looks, how they are dressed, where they are coming from."

PLEASE SEE **PROFILING** » PAGE 21

## Race in America

For the first time in U.S. history, a black man stands at the threshold of gaining a major party's presidential nomination. Yet racial tensions and misunderstandings remain the abiding subtexts of many of our national conversations. In the first installment of a periodic series, the Tribune examines racial profiling of Hispanics, one dimension of America's enduring struggles over race.

## Namely, they just want a change

More everyday people are morphing monikers to make a statement

By Dahleen Glanton  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

Steve Kreuscher said he is tired of attacks on religion in America.

So recently he decided to take a stand. Next month, the 57-year-old Zion, Ill., man will go to court to legally change his name to "In God We Trust."

"The phrase 'In God We Trust' is like an endangered species, like the bald eagle," said Kreuscher, a school bus driver and artist. "By changing my name to In God We Trust, it is like I am taking one last bald eagle, for myself and for my family, and securing it as a permanent part of our heritage."

Kreuscher has joined a growing list of people who are changing their names, some of them to unusual phrases in an effort to make a statement. Celebrities have long changed their names, often to enhance or change their image.

In 1993, performer Prince changed his name to a symbol; in 2000 he changed it back again. This year, 15-year-old Disney superstar Miley Cyrus officially dropped her



Tribune photo by David Trotman-Wilkins

Steve Kreuscher, a school bus driver and artist, plans to use money from his federal tax rebate to change his name to "In God We Trust."

birth name, Destiny Hope.

Over the last decade, more and more ordinary people have taken that step.

Robert Rion of Mundelein, Ill., changed his name to Santa Claus in 1997 after decades of playing the role. Claus, who died in 2003, also looked the part, weighing 300

pounds and growing a long white beard.

Chris Garnett, a youth outreach worker for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, changed his name to Kentucky Fried Cruelty.com in 2005 to protest alleged mis-

PLEASE SEE **NAME** » PAGE 17

## Experts call for new ways to cut DUIs

By Rex W. Huppke  
TRIBUNE REPORTER

It's hard not to wince at the thought of Joseph Richardson being crushed to death against an iron fence as he shielded his 4-year-old daughter from an out-of-control car. And it's hard not to feel repulsed when police say the driver of that red Chevrolet Cavalier had a blood-alcohol content nearly twice the legal limit when he hit Richardson earlier this month on the South Side of Chicago.

What's painfully easy is to imagine a similar tragedy happening again, probably soon, possibly over a long weekend like this one celebrating Memorial Day.

With drunken-driving rates stuck at a level that has changed little over the last decade, experts are recommending new approaches that may offer the best hope of reviving the great gains made against DUIs during the 1980s and early 1990s.

One method relies on technology: Stopping drunks from driving be-

PLEASE SEE **DRIVING** » PAGE 17



## » PROFILING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But to a growing chorus of Hispanic activists, civil rights leaders and Democratic politicians, Arpaio's policy represents a blatant case of racial profiling. It is an extreme example, they say, of anecdotes that have begun surfacing across the country in which local police agencies respond to the national backlash against illegal immigrants by aggressively targeting Spanish-speakers for the offense of "driving while brown."

As a result, Phoenix has surfaced as the latest fault line scarring America's long-troubled racial map.

"We're absolutely seeing a rise in racial profiling," said Cynthia Valenzuela, litigation director for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. "It's simply not legal to use a minor traffic offense as a pretext for investigating immigration status."

### Indiscriminate sweeps

Arpaio's critics allege that both U.S. citizens of Hispanic descent and Mexican visitors with valid visas have been caught up in the sheriff's sweeps and held for hours in special immigration jails until they could prove their right to be in the country. And they say the sheriff's tactics are provoking fear throughout Phoenix's Hispanic community, as well as reluctance on the part of Spanish-speaking crime victims or witnesses to cooperate with police.

One class-action lawsuit already has been filed against the sheriff, and civil rights groups say they are collecting evidence for more.

"If you are of Mexican-American heritage, if you have brown skin, there is nothing you can do not to be stopped," said Mary Rose Wilcox, the only member of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors who has criticized Arpaio's immigration sweeps and the only Hispanic on the board.

"Deputies are asking for birth certificates. Do you carry a birth certificate with you? Should you have to?" she added.

Arizona's Democratic governor, Janet Napolitano, pulled \$1.6 million in state funding for Arpaio's office this month because she said the sheriff's actions "were



Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio has gone to great lengths to promote his illegal immigration crackdown, such as placing a hot-line number and logo on inmate vans and other vehicles. His tactics have been criticized by some other Arizona officials.

causing trepidation in the immigration community."

Last month, Phil Gordon, the Democratic mayor of Phoenix, formally asked the U.S. Justice Department to open a civil rights investigation into Arpaio's tactics, which Gordon said included "discriminatory harassment, improper stops, searches and arrests."

"I understand these are serious allegations," Gordon wrote to Atty. Gen. Michael Mukasey. "As mayor of the city of Phoenix, I must speak out when the rights of our residents are violated and the safety of our neighborhoods threatened."

Under a new city policy, Phoenix police also question anyone they arrest about their immigration status and refer suspected illegal immigrants to federal authorities, but Gordon has expressly prohibited such questioning during routine traffic stops.

Arpaio, who styles himself as "America's toughest sheriff" and is famous for confining criminals in tented prisons and issuing them pink underwear, scoffs at all the

criticism, which he dismisses as politically inspired.

"We don't racial-profile. That's all garbage. Everything [Gordon] has said is a lie," Arpaio said during an interview last week. "The politicians fear the Hispanic vote. They want to stay right on that fence; they don't want to aggravate the Hispanic community."

### As training spreads

Controversies like the one in Phoenix are likely to surface with greater frequency across the country as more local police departments take advantage of a federal program run by the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to cross-train state and local officers to make immigration arrests.

Nearly 50 police agencies have signed on to the program so far, and Arpaio's office ranks as the most enthusiastic participant, with 160 sheriff's deputies trained as immigration enforcers.

The cross-training is attractive to federal immigration officials because it means frontline local police

can now sift every suspect they arrest for immigration violations.

But because ordinary traffic stops have long been a bedrock anti-crime tool for local police agencies across the country—felons and others wanted on outstanding warrants are discovered this way every day—the issue is whether such traffic enforcement can now be used as the legal basis for an inquiry into a suspect's immigration status.

"This is a clearly impermissible use of race as a factor in law enforcement," said Dan Pochoda, legal director of the Arizona chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, which is among the groups challenging Arpaio's immigration sweeps.

"The cars that get stopped are drivers of color, period. And since Arpaio's claiming they are stopped because of traffic violations, he has no individualized suspicion to stop people on the grounds of immigration violations. There's no way you can know by looking at a person if they are legal or illegal," Pochoda

said.

But Arpaio and his defenders—he's got stacks of supportive letters and e-mails on his desk, and a box filled with \$5,000 in checks donated to help replace the funding cut off by the governor—strongly disagree.

### Just doing their job

The sheriff says that his deputies are not only making arrests for federal immigration violations but also are pursuing charges under a new state anti-smuggling law that makes it a felony for both human smugglers and their customers to enter Arizona.

"We're enforcing the state

laws," the sheriff said. "If we come across any illegals, we take action. But we're not going on the street looking for illegals per se."

On a ride-along last week, during which a Tribune reporter was permitted to observe members of the sheriff's Human Smuggling Unit out on a patrol, there seemed to be evidence for both sides in the debate.

On the one hand, the officers plainly admitted they were choosing vehicles to pull over based on telltale signs that they might contain illegal immigrants, such as low-riding axles indicating a large load of passengers.

But the officers also refrained from making a stop until they had developed legal probable cause, such as one case in which a license plate did not properly match the van to which it was affixed. Inside the van, the officers found a driver and seven passengers, none of whom spoke English or could produce any kind of license, visa or U.S.-issued identification. They gave conflicting stories about their destination, and all were arrested and charged under the state's human-smuggling law.

For their part, federal officials overseeing the immigration arrests being made by the Maricopa County sheriff's office say they have received no complaints alleging racial profiling. And they say Arpaio's officers are operating within the boundaries of their federal training during their traffic stops.

Yet the federal immigration department's Web site states that the cooperative law-enforcement program "is not designed to allow state and local agencies to perform random street operations" and "does not impact traffic offenses such as driving without a license unless the offense leads to an arrest."

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