

Bruce on Bikers' Rights

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QUIG WAS RIGHT: OPEN LETTER TO BLUES DJ, DENTIST AND WHO HELMET INITIATIVE FACILITATOR PHILIP L. GRAITCER



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To "Doctor G":

American bikers' rights advocates like Rudy Avizius, Mike Greenwald and Lynn Wesley have been after me for some time to look into what the World Health Organization's **WHO Helmet Initiative** is all about. In so doing, I came across your Headlines Newsletter's Fall 2008 Editorial entitled "*How to be a Genius*"...

<http://www.whohelmets.org/headlines/index.htm>

...the crux of which was:

"Data from Pennsylvania and Louisiana underline the conclusion that helmets do make a difference. Pennsylvania repealed its mandatory law in 2001, making helmets compulsory only for those under the age 21 years old or for inexperienced operators. Although there were more motorcycles in use, controlling for the increased motorcycle registrations showed an increase in head injury deaths and hospitalizations for head injuries that was greater than that for non-head injury hospitalizations. In Louisiana, the mandatory law was repealed and then passed again. Fatal and serious injury crashes increased and then declined proportional to other crashes as the law was repealed and then passed again."

Well, "Doctor G", it didn't take much genius to show that both the Pennsylvania and Louisiana "studies" you cite did not qualify as scientific research, and were in fact spun statistics. I guess you missed all the rebuttals in the motorcycle safety literature, including these two from me:

OPEN LETTER TO KRISTEN MERTZ & HAROLD WEISS [PA]:

AP Floods Media with Flawed Statistics from Pittsburgh Professors

<http://tinyurl.com/5pt3ou>

Concerned Responsible Motorcyclists to Confused Emergency Doctors [LA]:

Your Crash Survival Focus Obscures Crash Prevention Potentials

<http://tinyurl.com/69lgs3>

But in all fairness to you, it didn't take much genius to see how that might happen. After all, according to your impressive-sounding bio...

<http://www.emorycenterforinjurycontrol.org/faculty.php>

...you're a very busy man...

"Philip L. Graitcer, MPH, DMD is an adjunct professor for Emory University Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and Hubert Department of Global Health. Dr. Graitcer has an international reputation for his research and publications in the area of bicycle and motorcycle helmets. Graitcer is the creator and facilitator of the World Health Organization's Helmet Initiative, and he has written and edited Headlines, WHO's official publication on helmets since 1993. Prior to joining Emory, Graitcer spent 18 years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a medical epidemiologist, the last 8 years as a member of CDC's injury prevention program. Graitcer is also an independent radio producer, creating and writing features on health, science, and culture for public radio programs in Atlanta as well as for NPR, Marketplace and the BBC."

But what you're mostly busy with is NOT motorcycle safety, is it, "Doctor G"? I mean come on, after you stop spinning blues on your morning radio gig at WFRG...

<http://goodmorningblues.com/>

...then teach a few classes, and maybe pull a few teeth...

<http://www.finddentists.org/dentist-philip-graitcer.html>

...just how much time could you possibly have left to research the REAL causes of motorcycle injuries and deaths--like right-of-way violations by distracted drivers--and the BEST ways to mitigate their incidence and impact?

Long ago, BOLT's Richard Quigley declared you have neither the credentials nor the right to be broadcasting motorcycle safety policy from your dental chair:

<http://usff.com/hldl/hoax/InjuryControl.html>

And I say **QUIG WAS RIGHT.**

Speaking strictly for myself and no other individuals or organizations,

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