

# The Derailleur

*An unofficial publication of Chicago Critical Mass*

**May 2011**



*World Naked Bike Ride (WNBR) hits Chicago on June 11. See inside for more information and for results of a survey taken by previous WNBR attendees. Visit [wiki.worldnakedbikeride.org](http://wiki.worldnakedbikeride.org) for ideas on how to decorate your bike and to find slogans to share as you bare as much as you dare.*

**The Derailleur, May 2011.** The Derailleur ([chicagocriticalmass.org/TheDerailleur](http://chicagocriticalmass.org/TheDerailleur)) is an unofficial publication of Chicago Critical Mass made possible with donations of paper and cash from riders like you. Chicago Critical Mass is a free, fun bike parade which begins around 5:30 p.m. at Daley Plaza on the last Friday of every month. This issue was created by willow naeco ([TheDerailleur@gmail.com](mailto:TheDerailleur@gmail.com)). **Thank you:** Andrew Bedno, Bianca Mugenyi, Bob Matter, Chuck Mac, Illinois Bike Attorneys, Jami Krause, Jera Sue, Tom Pakenas, Yves Engler, and the other usual (and new) suspects (you know who you are). **Credits:** Cover illustration and WNBR "love your body" photo: [wiki.worldnakedbikeride.org](http://wiki.worldnakedbikeride.org); WNBR survey and illustrations: Andrew Bedno and Jera Sue; "Open doors can be fatal." graphic: [publish.files.wordpress.com/2008/10/antidooringdonate.jpg](http://publish.files.wordpress.com/2008/10/antidooringdonate.jpg).

## Quick Intro to MassUp.us

The **communications** and **navigation** system for **social bicycling!**  
Broadcasting maps, action, weather, etc. for smartphones and texting.  
Joining GPS, photos, email, SMS, Facebook, Twitter, RSS and more.

Find local rides, check conditions, share, chat, reminisce, ...  
Anyone can use it anytime, no installation nor login required.

For smartphones (&PC) simply remember <http://MassUp.us>

For text messaging (&email) simply remember **u@massup.us**

Specific masses can also be accessed directly:

To find Critical Mass text **WHERE** to **ccm@massup.us**

To follow the 6/11 Naked Ride text **ON** to **wnbr@massup.us**

For more info text **?** to **u@massup.us**

Browse rides, archives, plots, chatter, tools, fun,  
and helpful how-to's: <http://MassUp.us>

# World Naked Bike Ride Chicago 2011 Survey

116 previous WNBR participants (pre-year #8) responded to the survey created by Jera Sue and Andrew Bedno.

Number of Naked Rides attended:

1 – 38

2 – 30

3 – 16

4 – 8

5 – 2

6 – 3

7 – 2

Arriving by person power: 71% (>2% of which coming >300 miles)

Arriving by carpool: 14%

Arriving by public transportation: 11%

Arriving by air+other: 4%.

**Some selected quotes and factoids from this year's past participant Chicago World Naked Bike Ride survey.**

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being "very safe," 55.5% of survey respondents rate their feeling of safety at a 5, and 38% rate it a 4!

"The police presence has a big part and also the amount of people attending. It's more like a big family out there having fun and watching out for each other."

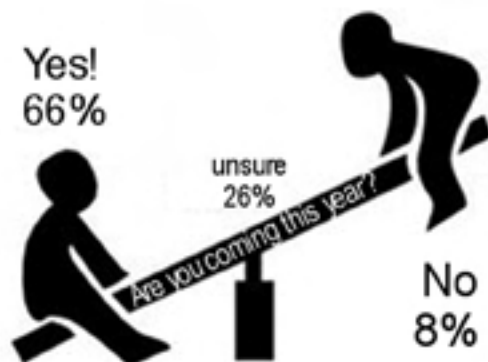
"I never feel unsafe around 500 of my best friends."



"The police officers and lawyers are out there helping us stay in order and preventing any onlookers from getting obnoxious/crazy/in our way as we peacefully protest oil and celebrate humanity."

"Everyone is always friendly and helps you be comfortable...My first year at the WNBR, I can't even express how nervous I was. I arrived there with a few people who explained the procedure and then found it easy to speak with others at the pre-ride location. Everything was easy to find and laid back. When I decided to get painted, I got to speak with even more people and everybody had a positive attitude...I believe the different personalities of the participants have a lot to do with the success of the ride every year."

50.4% of survey takers feel like the message of the ride – freedom from oil and the beauty of people – is not necessarily lost on the bystanders, but could be more obvious!



"Bystanders mostly get a giggle out of seeing 1,000 naked people on the streets of Chicago, [and] don't really see a greater message to it. Might be hard to get past the gawking factor."

"I think people get the oil part, but people are hung up on society's notion of beauty, and can't appreciate when less than perfect people show their vulnerability. We are all beautiful and courageous for daring to be vulnerable at this event."

"I think the bystanders, in large part, are mostly only thinking: 'NAKED PEOPLE!'"

How Bare Have You Dared?

46%  
bare

**The survey respondents tell us about some of their favorite parts of the ride!**

27%  
underpants

"I always ride on the left-hand side of the mass, so getting to see the reactions of all of the bystanders/drivers in the opposite lane is hilarious.

Otherwise, the general feeling of community (High-fives with police officers? While naked!?! Yesss!) and the energy is out of

10%  
Very little

4%  
fully clothed

this world."

"Going down Michigan Ave. with the police escort and three or four cyclists were at the light watching us pass. They all dropped their bikes and stripped on the street and joined us

on the spot."

"Beautiful bodies; fabulous feeling of nudity; happy onlookers; instant celebrity."

"It was a high I've never felt before."

"Naked frisbee with strangers. That doesn't happen every day!"

"Last year's ride was one of the most fun nights of the year and I've been anxiously awaiting this ride since. There is something really cool about being naked with a bunch of other people..."

"I was very impressed with the cooperation of the Chicago Police Department, blocking off the streets to allow the bicyclists through. I was also impressed with the number of participants."

#### Tips for new Naked Riders?

"Bring a backpack. Keep your clothes handy if you need them. Bring fluids to drink."

"Just do it! You will look back at this one day when you're older and realize you had some fun during your life. I know I will always remember these experiences and the people there. Also,



participating in the ride is a great cause for body acceptance and oil dependency. Getting the word out there is really important to get the world to realize there are other 'fun' ways to get around in the city. So, just have fun and get the word out...Also, I was terrified of getting my picture taken during rides, however, my view on this has changed since these pictures will always be here to help remind you of the good you've done, the fun you had, and hopefully the change you've made."

"Bring lights and horns/bells, bring a cell phone, and leave any preconceived notions at home... Get ready for the best night of the year!"

"Don't be shocked, there will be nudity, relax and have fun, smile, go with what's comfortable – wear as little or as much as you wish. Speak up if you feel you are being disrespected."

"Enjoy the experience, bare as you dare but be prepared to bare more, and don't drink too much before the ride so you don't have to pee."

"1) I learned the hard way that brooks saddles + lacy thong = chafed cheeks. 2) If you're feeling uneasy about having your picture taken, find out where the big pre-announced spectator points are on the route, and pull over to cover up before you reach them. 3) Be extra vigilant about safety! Road rash is gonna be even worse with all that bare skin...and, even if you're not one of them, plenty of riders are drinking, so maybe reconsider ditching the helmet...other than that, anyone who has competently done a group ride

before should be just fine!"

"Don't forget to keep your clothes for afterwards. Don't put them where you can't reach them in a hurry. For instance, you have a flat and the ride continues without you – you get them on right away before you fix the flat."

#### Other lovely things they said:

"I hate that the cities I live in are given over to cars so much of the time, and bicycles and nudity are two of my favorite things – so, it's essentially the event of my dreams. And, just like Critical Mass, I believe it creates an incremental change amongst the mass of onlookers (and new riders!) in what they believe is possible all the other days of the year."

"Sending a message that the world needs to get off the oil tit and start thinking locally. That the human body is not a thing of shame and being naked is healthy and not solely sexual."

"Biking in the city can wear on a person's morale, and it's easy to get discouraged after the constant harassing by motorists, buses, cabs, etc. It's a wonderful reminder that there's a huge number of beautiful, hilarious, supportive cyclists out there, and we all have each other's backs."

"Last year I was not going to be naked, but ended up taking my top off. I got into the spirit of it and thought, 'When am I ever going to have the chance to bike through the streets of Chicago topless again?'"

"I love the creative energy and all the love there is for everyone, we create a large family."

"Never had so much fun in my life."

# Advances Against 'Dooring'

According to Illinois Department of Transportation figures, 6 bicyclists were killed and 165 were severely injured in 2009. These figures do not paint an accurate picture in that

prior to April 25, 2011, IDOT excluded dooring crashes from annual state traffic statistics because the motor vehicles involved in such collisions were not moving. Dooring is a term for

the sudden opening of a car door into the path of an approaching bicycle. As of this year, the dooring data will be incorporated into annual traffic accident summaries as a starting point to help reduce dooring crashes, which can result in injuries and even deaths.

Instrumental in the change was Active Transportation Alliance, who launched a campaign to increase public awareness about dooring crashes. That group considers dooring to be the most prevalent threat to street riding cyclists. While common sense dictates that a

motorist should check for approaching bicycles prior to opening a car door, Illinois law and Chicago City ordinances specifically require drivers to do so. Illinois statute 735 ILCS

5/11-1407 states: "No person shall open a door of a vehicle on the side available to moving traffic unless and until it is responsibly safe to do so, and can be done without interfering with the movement of other

traffic..." Additionally, Chicago Municipal Code 9-80-035 is identical to the state law, and an associated section of the code provides for a penalty of \$500.00 if the violation causes a collision between a motor vehicle and a bicycle. Most important, however, is driver awareness. Hopefully, through accurate statistical analysis, officials will be able to quantify the problem, pinpoint locations where such accidents frequently occur, or identify the need for further public attention.

Under a change ordered by Governor Pat Quinn,



police departments across the state are now required to record dooring accidents on Illinois crash forms. Through those forms, dooring data will now be incorporated into annual traffic accident summaries compiled by IDOT. You can do your part by making sure the appropriate authorities are contacted if you find yourself victim of a dooring accident. To decrease your chances of becoming a dooring victim, please remember:

1. Wear highly visible clothing.
2. Properly illuminate your bike at night.
3. Remain vigilant. Remember, a car door can pop open at any time.

Finally, if you or someone you care about experiences a dooring there are a few things you should keep in mind. As stated above, make sure it is reported to the proper authorities. Get

information from the offending driver. At the very least, record the license plate number of the vehicle. If you suspect injury, seek medical aid. The mild headache experienced just after a crash may be indicative of severe or permanent injury over time. Seek the legal aid of an attorney properly skilled in bicycle litigation to protect your rights, ensure your medical bills are paid, and that you receive all compensation you are entitled. To cope with the psychological wounds following any automobile/bicycle encounter, the Active Transportation Alliance runs a confidential Crash Support Group that meets every month at the Alliance's downtown office. Visit their web site at [activetrans.org](http://activetrans.org) or contact the Illinois Bike Attorneys for more information. Ride safe!

Tom Pakenas is a partner in the Law Offices of Dale & Pakenas and a founder of the Illinois Bike Attorneys ([www.illinoisbikeattorneys.com](http://www.illinoisbikeattorneys.com)). He is an avid bicyclist and active triathlete.



## Illinois Bike ATTORNEYS

Serving Chicago & Surrounding Areas.



### Legal Help for Bikers from Bikers.



Our organization, consisting of avid bicyclists and enthusiasts, exclusively represents injured bicyclists. Our expertise combines decades of legal experience with a genuine passion for the sport. Our goal is to offer you representation according to the most current Illinois statutes relating to bicyclists and their right to share the road.

**Let us help you**  
Get back out there with confidence.

Call for a **FREE** consultation:  
**312.258.1800**  
[www.illinoisbikeattorneys.com](http://www.illinoisbikeattorneys.com)

# Stop Signs: Cars and Capitalism on the Road to Economic, Social and Ecological Decay

Break the Gridlock presents an evening with Yves Engler and Bianca Mugenyi, authors of *Stop Signs: Cars and Capitalism on the Road to Economic, Social and Ecological Decay*.

Join us for a live recording of the Biking and Politics Podcast, featuring an interview with *Stop Signs* authors, Yves Engler and Bianca, followed by a round table discussion on automobile culture and interests and how local advocacy can serve as a counter measure.

The Biking and Politics Podcast is a new forum for discussion on how cycling can help pave the way to a healthier more sustainable future, and explore what we can all do to become more engaged in the political process to create healthier communities. This month we follow the authors of *Stop Signs* on an epic car free road trip through America and examine the challenges and opportunities faced in reversing the trends of auto centric urban planning run amok.

Biking and Politics Podcast  
Tuesday May 31, 2011 6-10p  
Jaks Tap (The Green Room)  
901 W. Jackson Blvd.

Book Launch & Discussion with authors Yves Engler and Bianca Mugenyi  
Wednesday, June 1, 2011 6-8p  
Open Books  
213 W. Institute Pl.

In North America, human beings have become enthralled by the automobile: A quarter of our working lives are spent paying for them; communities fight each other for the right to build more of them; our cities have been torn down, remade and planned with their needs as the overriding concern; wars are fought to keep their fuel tanks filled; songs are written to praise them; cathedrals are built to worship them. In *Stop Signs: Cars and Capitalism on the Road to Economic, Social and Ecological Decay*, authors Bianca Mugenyi and Yves Engler argue that the automobile's ascendancy is inextricably linked to capitalism and involved corporate malfeasance, political intrigue, backroom payoffs, media manipulation, racism, academic corruption, third world coups, secret armies, environmental destruction and war. An anti-car, road-trip story, *Stop Signs* is a must-read for all those who wish to escape the clutches of auto domination.

"Mugenyi and Engler's *Stop Signs* is at one and the same time an entertaining, fact-filled anthropological tour of the land of Homo Automotivis, and the first all-out global ecological critique of the American automobile addiction. Not since Jane Holtz Kay's *Asphalt Nation* has a book appeared that so clearly exposed the auto-irrationality of the most car-dependent country on earth." —John Bellamy Foster, editor of *Monthly Review* and coauthor, *The Ecological Rift*

"This book is a must-read for anyone who

wants to understand the impact of the private automobile on our urban transportation options." –David Cadman, Vancouver City Councillor, International President ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

"In *Stop Signs*, Mugenyi and Engler take readers on an insightful, fact-filled journey through the primary habitat of the car-dominated species they call *Homo automotivis*. With wit and originality, they weave travel tales into a convincing argument against the auto economy, culminating with a fresh call to leave car culture behind." –Katie Alvord, Author, *Divorce Your Car! Ending the Love Affair with the Automobile*

"Mugenyi and Engler illustrate the relationship between cars and suburban living. You come away shaken, but ready to roll up your sleeves and contribute, however modestly, to constructing a new world in the twenty-first century." –Richard Bergeron, Montreal city councillor, urban planner and author

Yves Engler has been dubbed "one of the most important voices on the Canadian Left today" (*Briarpatch* magazine) and "in the mould of I. F. Stone" (*Globe and Mail*). His four previous books, including the "Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy" have been praised by Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, William Blum, and many others.

Bianca Mugenyi was born in Uganda and spent parts of her youth in Swaziland, Kenya, and England. She is the former chair of the Canadian Federation of Students – Quebec and has been involved in campaigns ranging from the struggle for accessible education and reproductive rights to justice for missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada. She currently coordinates campaigns and programming at Concordia's Centre for Gender Advocacy.

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## **2010-2011 Bike Winter Weather Report**

*Period November 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011*

Days in period: 181

High/Low/Average temperature (F): 83/-9/32.7

Days +20F and above: 127 (70%)

Inches of rain: 16.8

Days .10" or more rain: 42.0 (23%)

Inches of snow: 57.9

Days 1" or more of snow: 34 (19%)

Average wind speed: 10.3 mph

–Bob Matter, Bike Winter Meteorologist

# Chicago Ladies Blogroll

Need some inspiration from women cyclists in Chicago? Looking for camaraderie in the bike lanes? Check out these blogs that are written by Chicago women. These blogs have suggestions on riding with style, with kids, in the winter, or with a sense of adventure.



Let's Go Ride a Bike

[letsgorideabike.com](http://letsgorideabike.com)

Through LGRAB we hope to encourage more people, especially women, to rediscover the joy of riding a bike by showing that life on two wheels can be simple, stylish, and fun.



Bike Fancy

[bikefancy.blogspot.com](http://bikefancy.blogspot.com)

Bike Fancy is people looking good on bikes.

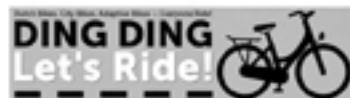
## ONE LESS MINIVAN

A BIKE FAMILY AFFAIR

One Less Minivan

[onelessminivan.tumblr.com](http://onelessminivan.tumblr.com)

A mom, a kid, and several bikes.



Ding Ding Let's Ride

[dingdingletsride.com](http://dingdingletsride.com)

This blog is a little bit of bike activism, a place to extol the virtues of city bike riding on upright or dutch bikes, and a place to promote bike riding

for the entire family – especially those families with adaptive riders.

## This Little Bike of Mine

This Little Bike of Mine

[thislittlebikeofmine.tumblr.com](http://thislittlebikeofmine.tumblr.com)

A girl, her bike, and Chicago.



Bike Winter Blog

[bikewinter.org/blog](http://bikewinter.org/blog)

First year of winter biking in Chicago.

## General Carlessness

Car-free since 1981. Sort of.

General Carlessness

[jmd1125.blogspot.com](http://jmd1125.blogspot.com)

I live, work, bike, and ride trains in Chicago.

That's about it.



Chicargobike

[chicargobike.blogspot.com](http://chicargobike.blogspot.com)

Family and kid bike transportation in Chicago.

## Balloon Biker

Balloons by Bike!

Balloon Biker

[balloonbiker.com](http://balloonbiker.com)

Balloons, biking, Chicago, and bicycle touring.

—Jami Krause

# Upcoming Events

All of these events and many, many more can be found at [thechainlink.org/events](http://thechainlink.org/events)



**Bike Wash 2** May 28, 2011 11a-4p at S&G's (Southport/Lincoln) 517-944-5230 Bikes will be washed. Our beneficiary is Connections for Abused Women and their Children, a non-profit committed to

ending domestic violence.



**South Side Ride** May 31, 2011 from 7-10p at Marie's (Morgan/31st) Because of Memorial Day we will be moving this month's ride to Tuesday. This ride is going to determine the future of the South Side Ride.



**Point 83 Prom Ride** June 2, 2011 from 7-11:30p at Richard's Bar (491 N. Milwaukee Ave.) 949-289-4378 Okay kids. It's prom season. So find yourself a foxy date and let's ride bikes. Formally. Yeah.

Dress up in a tux or a gown. Meet us EVERY Thursday for a few adult beverages and a few fun miles of biking. Meet some new friends and make some poor choices.



**North Burb Brewpub Ride** June 4, 2011 from 9a-8p at Winnemac Park (Damen/Foster) Striking out north this time, we will visit several brewpubs in the northern burbs. Ride speed will be around 15

mph; total distance around 50 miles. Ride ends in Lake Bluff. There is a Metra station there to get you back to Chicago or you can ride back via the McClary Trail.



**Izakaya (Japanese Pub) Ride** June 4, 2011 from 1:30-9:30p at Arlington Heights Metra Station (1 N. Vail Ave.) Pedal, shop, snack, and drink your way through Japanese culinary

landmarks in Chicago's northwest suburbs, for a good cause. There is no ride fee but a \$20 donation to American Red Cross for Japanese earthquake relief is requested. Riders pay for their own food and beverages. The ride will travel at 12 mph. Ridership is limited to 20 people. To reserve a spot, RSVP to John Greenfield at [greenfieldjohn@hotmail.com](mailto:greenfieldjohn@hotmail.com) or 312-560-3966.



**North Side Critical Mass** June 10, 2011 from 7-11p at Senn Park (5959 N. Clark) THE monthly North Side gathering of cyclists. 12+/- miles, ending with food/drink. Bring friends, tunes, bells, costumes,

and cameras. A second big monthly mass, sometimes topping 100 riders.



**Kidical Mass** June 11, 2011 from 10:30a-12p at Palmer Square (3100 W. Palmer Blvd.) Join Kidical Mass for a slow, easy-going, fun, group ride focused on kids (all ages) and families that

will tour the Palmer Square and Logan Square neighborhoods. It is expected that all kids bring a parent or guardian with a bike.



**World Naked Bike Ride** June 11, 2011 from 6-11:30p (Location TBA: [ChicagoNakedRide.org](http://ChicagoNakedRide.org)) World Naked Bike Ride is about protesting oil dependency and celebrating the power and

individuality of our bodies. "Be all you can be! Be auto- and clothes-free!" "Ban Cars: Not Bodies!" "Less crude, more nude!"



**Full Moon Fiasco** June 15, 2011 at Gannon's Pub (4264 N. Lincoln) 773-425-6937 Open to anyone with pedals, we ride every full moon. Meet at 8p, ride at 9p. The destination is not yet nailed down.



## St. Valentine's Day CRITICAL MASSacre!



George "Bugs" Moran

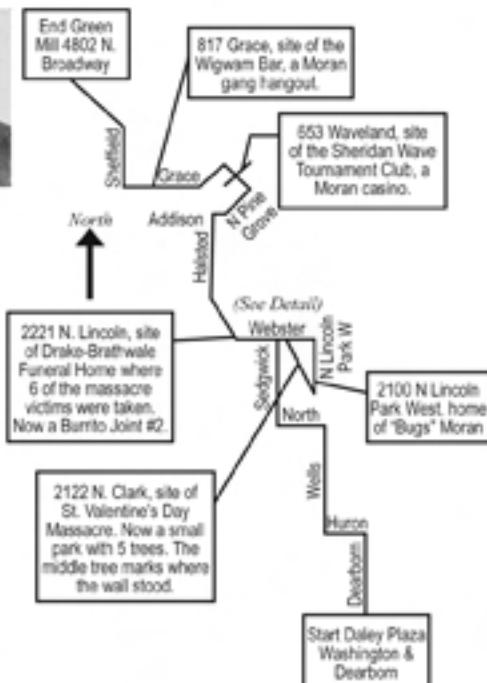


Al "Scarface" Capone

### \*\*\* START DALEY PLAZA \*\*\*

	Miles	Total
North (L) on Dearborn to Huron	0.82	0.82
West (L) on Huron to Wells	0.18	1.00
North (R) on Wells to North	1.13	2.13
West (L) on North to Sedgwick	0.20	2.33
North (R) on Sedgwick to Webster	0.75	3.08
East (R) on Webster to Clark	0.03	3.11
Southeast (R) on Clark to N Lincoln Pk W	0.21	3.32
North (L) on N Lincoln Pk W to Webster	0.20	3.52
West (L) on Webster to Lincoln	0.37	3.89
Northwest (R) on Lincoln to Halsted	0.35	4.24
North (R) on Halsted to Addison	1.50	5.74
East (R) on Addison to N Pine Grove	0.20	5.94
Northwest (L) on N Pine Grove to Grace	0.26	6.20
Southwest (L) on Grace to Sheffield	0.34	6.54
North (R) on Sheffield to Broadway	0.69	7.23
Northwest (L) on Broadway to Lawrence	0.60	7.83

### \*\*\* END GREEN MILL \*\*\*



**Green Mill 4802 N. Broadway (773) 878-5552** The oldest jazz club in the U.S. and the most famous bar in Chicago. It was a speakeasy managed and co-owned by "Machine Gun" Jack McGurn during prohibition. It still has a trap door behind the rear bar. Al Capone was a regular there as was Charlie Chaplin and Gloria Swanson. Billie Holiday sang there and Benny Goodman jammed there.

The St. Valentine's Day Massacre is the most publicized and talked about mob event ever. It took place on February 14, 1929. The North Side Gang, led by George "Bugs" Moran, was interfering with Al "Scarface" Capone and his gang. Capone, with the help of "Machine Gun" Jack McGurn, thought up a plan to get rid of Moran. Capone had a gangster set up a deal to sell some liquor to Moran for a good price in a Moran garage at 2122 N. Clark. Capone's team painted a Cadillac to look like a police car, acquired police uniforms, and went to the garage. Two men wore police uniforms, and two wore long coats as detectives. They entered the building and proceeded to make it look like a raid. They made Moran's men face the wall, 7 in all, including a neighboring optometrist who picked a bad day to visit. They did as they were told, expecting to be searched, but instead were met with 45 caliber bullets from a Thompson submachine gun. The men in police uniforms then marched out the men in normal clothes to make it look like they had been the ones busted. They drove off in their police car without a problem. However, the hit wasn't a complete success. The main target, "Bugs" Moran, was late to the meeting. He saw the police car and left. He is quoted as saying, "Only Capone kills like that." Capone was in Florida and denied any knowledge of the killings. A year later the police raided Fred Burke's house, a man who Capone sometimes hired, and in his possession was the Thompson submachine gun used in the massacre. He was never brought to trial for the massacre, and was instead given a life sentence for killing a policeman. The rest of the members were never identified.

