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From the Editor;

Hey all! Are you all getting the itch to ride with all the swapmeets goin' on? Looking forward to that first putt on a nice Feb or March day, OH YA! We here at FRP have had a good time seeing all of you at the meets and parties. Lorie and I attended the Federation Winter Party Jan 17, let me tell ya if you were not there you missed it. Nothing like seeing some of the brothers and sisters in rare form (me included). The nice thing about this party is that most in attendance stayed over which makes for some worry free partin'. Sunday, I was a bit hard to get kick started but after a few dews I was functioning "sorta." I'd like to say it was a pleasure meeting the brothers from the Illinois Confederation of Clubs, hope to see you again real soon, looks like a road trip in the future.

Now to get serious for a minute. If someone can explain this to me I'd be grateful. How is it that just because I'm wearing a patch on my back, I can be charged with doing something I did not do. By association they say, well I DON'T THINK SO!!!! I was in Tomahawk last year for the fall ride and I seen a patch I have never seen before. The patch was "Renegade Pigs MC". Well after this member came up to me and said he doesn't like my support shirt, I tell him everyone is entitled to an opinion. Then he points at my "NO R.I.C.O" patch and says I like that. Well either this "member" is not that smart for being a patch holder himself or he's ignorant to the fact that he's no different then any other patch holder out there. Ya ya he's a cop. SO! Don't that mean that when one officer goes bad they all should be charged with the same thing? When one priest is found guilty of some misconduct in the church, they should all be held accountable? So what's going on here! I am hearing more and more of these RICO stories going on that it's getting ridiculous. I know it's just another tool for law enforcement, but these kind of laws gotta be changed. Let's get out there and start supporting legislators that will work for us, instead of against us.

Other than my temporary urge to vent, I hope you all have a good month and I'll see you around.

Preacher

It's hard to understand why certain things in our lives happen, this is one of them. One of our brothers lost his son who was in a car accident. We buried him January 19th. By the number of clubs that were represented you'd think it was some old timer that had been around for years, but this funeral was different. Vincent was only 5 years old. He is the son of "Mad" of the D.C. Eagles M.C. As I sat in the church and looked around I noticed one thing that all in attendance had in common, be it patch holder or civilian. RESPECT!!!

Some of the brothers and sisters sitting there had never met young Vincent Erato. But one thing we all know as bikers is that when one of us loses somebody we all lose a part of ourselves. We support each other when its needed.

As I sat there listening to Brother Rabbi, I tried to ask myself why something like this would happen. Well I only came up with one thought that carries me through trying times. When your child does something, whether it be big or small that makes you feel like your on top of the world. When you can think back at an event that made your heart fill with pride and a smile goes ear to ear. When you see your child do/say something that only a parent can feel deep down and know that their child loves them as much as you love them. Vincent brought joy to all that he knew.

To Mad and Family: Just remember that everyone in attendance that cold winters day is there because of the respect we have for you as brothers and sisters. Here is an e-mail I received that was put together by many people that I think expresses how we feel. May God bless you and your family.

Vincent, your light and love will always be in our hearts forever. We have been deeply saddened by the sudden death of young Vincent Erato. Vincent was only 5 years old and son of our brother Mad of the DC Eagles MC. No words can begin to express the emptiness and loss we feel for Mad and his family at this time. We hope that the knowledge that we are all united in our love for our brother and committed to doing all we can to help him and his family during the difficult days ahead will provide some small measure of comfort.

Cards and/or donations can be sent c/o Eagle Nation Cycles - 206 Main Street - Neenah, Wisconsin 54956. During this very difficult period please direct any inquires to ML at the shop 920-722-6518.

Let us remember our Creator puts us on this earth with an assigned number of days to fulfill our responsibilities. Many people take a number of years to do this while others, fulfill their duties in a matter of minutes or days. Vincent finished his job in the short time he was here and now has returned to be with Creator in a much better place. The impact he made in the lives of those around him will forever be here. We need to take the lessons from his life and use them in ours so we may leave this place a better place much like Vincent did.

Mad has asked that we all attend this year's blood drive. Please give blood so that others may live other days. When Vincent needed blood during his many surgeries, it was available because of those who donated. Please, more than ever donate blood because it may be your loved one who needs it next time.

We here at FRP would like to send our best wishes out to Frank Bush of Crossroads Custom "father of FRP contributing writer Wizard" who suffered a heart attack Jan 1. We hope you have a speedy and full recovery. You will be in our prayers.

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Penpal wanted!

After receiving a letter from a brother on the inside I wrote him back for a little more info. (Can't be to careful nowadays) Well I got another letter from Cecil and this bro gave me all the right answers to my questions. Here is a sample of what he wrote: " I appreciate you taking the time to drop me the note, along with the copy of Free Riders Press". "The help I'm requesting from you all is that you can help me make some new friends or (penpals), maybe to even get some pictures of the brothers and sisters out there in the free world. I'll have been locked up for 15 years this coming March 2004. I know there's been many changes in that time, and I'd like to maybe have some friends out there who'd be willing to share some knowledge of what's going on in there world". "This government knocked a dent in my life. I'd like to share the info I've learned over the years with the brothers and sisters of the free world."

Cecil Wallis 06778-059 Unit A
Box 1000
Milan, Michigan 48160

" Bingo's Downed Biker Fund"

If you have a Brother or Sister down and would like to get them the Free Riders Press, NO PROBLEM, be glad to do it but it is not cheap. But a lot of people help out by donating some coin. We here will do what we can, but with everybody giving what they can, we will make it go along way. We all know somebody that's down, and anything would be greatly appreciated.

Send to: "Bingo's Downed Biker Fund"
P.O. Box 202
Forest Junction, WI 54123