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From the Editor:

So are we all getting the itch? I know once the weather hits sunny and above 30 I'm raring to go. Unfortunately in the upper Midwest we have this little irritant called salt that does wonders to the paint, so me personally I'm holding off the urge to ride. The neat thing about this time of year is that all you have to do is attend an event or two, with the smell of leather, the show bikes and the friends that you run into, tells ya the wind is just around the corner.

Did everyone get their sweetie a nice gift for Valentines Day? And if you didn't are you out of the dog house yet?

As you all know it don't matter if there is snow on the ground or not, we try to keep ya'll thinking riding. This issue contains a group of riders that are really into old h-d's, squirrel's tales, tat convention and a bike show.

Ok your all wondering, "What's preach gonna bitch about this month?" Nothing, absolutely nothing. I'm going to keep you all guessing. Enjoy the rag!

Till next time, Preacher

Brothers and Sisters,

Family, Brotherhood and Faith are the three things that have gotten me through the most difficult time of my life. The passing away of my son Vincent. He gave me the happiest 5 years of my life. Vincent was raised around the Brotherhood. If I called a man Brother, my son knew him as uncle. Regardless of the patch. In life Vincent made me a proud father. He continues to do so, Vincent was a organ donor. To date he has helped 4 people lead healthy lives.

One thing I heard many times was "Is there anything I can do?" I've thought about it and there is: 1) Don't take your car out of park, don't leave your driveway unless your children have seat belts on. Not even once! 2) Support our Blood Drive Sat May 1,2004 at Eagle Nation Cycles. If you can't donate blood, donate a few bucks and come and support the event. Giving blood is giving the gift of life. I know, I was there. 3) May 22, 2004 The Federation RIP and Honest Bob memorial run. Let's celebrate the lives of our Brothers, Sisters and children. Gone but never forgotten.

Now I would like to say a few words of thanks to some very special people. To my family: God gave me the best, I am blessed.

To my Brothers: D.C Eagles and Hells Lovers: From the time of the accident until the end of the funeral and beyond, they were there for me 24-7, whatever I needed. Brotherhood, what we really are about. I Love my Brothers!

To my Federation Brothers and Sisters: Just knowing that all these different clubs came together to support my family and myself. United in hard times, made these difficult days much easier. The love you have shown will not be forgotten. Brotherhood what a wonderful thing!

To the patch holders who came from out of town: I am honored for the respect you have shown to my son and his family.

To the Independents, friends and Neighbors: You were there when needed, It is greatly appreciated.

In closing I want to thank the Creator for giving me Vincent, the best gift I ever received.

Love and Respect

Mad

National Spokesman D.C Eagles

Board of Directors Wis Federation

From The Readers

Fantastic website and magazine, keep the rubber down, I'll send jokes when I get them. Did you hear about the 2 blondes walking down the road? One said to the other look at that dog with one eye. The blonde covered one eye and looked for the dog...

Ron

Ron: Always like gettin' jokes, keep 'em coming

The letter in your January, 2004 issue signed as "A concerned old time biker" makes me respond; well excuse me! If the world has passed you, don't blame Harley-Davidson.

How did Harley-Davidson manufacture a R.U.B as you claim? Seems to me that h-d listened to the market and builds what the market wants. These products are based on the historical looks of Harleys with hidden new technology. If this is so damn bad, then why do so many copy them? You whined about the price of harleys and even the price of t-shirts. I can't remember the last time I was forced to buy a t-shirt before they let me out the door at the dealership.

I would like to look at the difference between price and cost. According to the National Association (N.A.D.A) official appraisal guide: From 2002-2004, the suggested list for a Kawasaki Nomad remained at \$12,999. The average retail showed depreciation of \$5,778 from 2002-2003. Just for fun, compare the Harley-Davidson Electra-Glide Classic with fuel injection, saddlebags, faring, trunk, radio etc. The suggested list in 2004 is \$18,045. The average retail showed appreciation of \$1,410 from 2002-2003. This gives you 7,188 reasons to buy H-D; \$5,778 you didn't lose in depreciation plus \$1,410 you gain in appreciation. Hmm, add that to the Nomad cost of \$12,999 and you have \$20,187. Hey that enough for a new Ultra Classic with all the goodies.

A few comments: 1) look at the price increases in automobiles, health insurance and homes and H-D price increases pale in comparison. 2)The warranty for the Nomad and H-D are the same.

So, you blame H-D. Think of it this way; if they hadn't successfully responded to the market they wouldn't be here and you couldn't whine about it. I'm an old timer in years. I have learned to ride at age 62 and am now retired and work part-time to support our biking habit.

What makes biking great? Good people (old timers, R.U.B.S, newbies) who ride (all brands) for enjoyment and don't crab at others for enjoying their exclusive recreation. Ride often, Ride Safe

Jerry O. Wausau, WI

OUR WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING
CHECK OUT UPCOMING EVENTS, PAST
STORIES, PICS AND MUCH MORE
WWW.FREERIDERSPRESS.US

" 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"

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