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**From the Editor:**

Are you all getting the riding itch as bad as I am? With a nice day showing up here and there, it's hard not to pull the scoot out and go. The only draw back is the damn salt. We all know salt and paint do not make very good dance partners! So I'll just hold off for a tad bit longer.

If you hadn't noticed, your reading these thoughts of mine on a different page. Now, me personally I don't like change, but we all know change is inevitable. The Free Riders Press is growing thanks to all of you out there that still enjoy reading it, and have stuck by us. Or maybe I should say, have stuck by our advertisers. Just about all our advertisers have stayed or are coming back after a short winter break.

What does this tell me? I think it says we here at FRP have stuck to our beliefs in the Brothers and Sisters of the riding community. That all of you have been checking our advertisers out. Just giving them a look and a chance for your business is all any of us can ask for. Not everyone that reads this rag subscribes, but meeting and making new friends is more important to me than anything else. The relationships I've made with my advertisers have grown leaps and bounds in the time FRP has been around. So I think if we all keep doing what we're doing, we will have a long and steadfast relationship.

It has been nothing but run, run for Lorie and I this last month. With the swaps and shows going on just about every weekend, there was something for everyone. Did you make it to the Super-Cycle Show at McCormick Place in Chicago? If not, go next year. This is one of the biggest shows in the Midwest that you have to see at least once in your lifetime. Word of warning though: Put on your walking shoes, you'll need them, (More on the show page 19) and not to forget about the different swap meets put on by Midwest Biker, ZMC, USA Pride to name just a few.

I will be at a whole bunch of different events in the next month like the Wisconsin Motorcycle Memorial Fund-raiser at The Reef Sturgeon Bay, WI on Feb 25th, Dead Rockers Motorcycle Art Show on Feb 26th in Wood Dale, IL and the Donnie Smith Invitational in St.

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Paul, MN the March 19th & 20th to name a few. Check out our calendar [www.freeriderspress.us](http://www.freeriderspress.us) for many other great events going on in March.

And lastly, you all know I am always looking for writers, artists etc. Well thanks to Dan W. of Boulder Junction, WI I got my fix of Biker fiction. (Check out page 14) You all know how much I like biker fiction. So with that all said I'll say bye for now. Keep in mind tis OUR season just around the corner.

Till next time, Preacher

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Dear Preacher:

It has recently been brought to my attention that Bingo has been accused of being a thief and a liar, and that the Downed Biker Fund is but a mere sham, that YOU pay for postage to mail inmates the paper and that Bingo pockets the donation money. That all of the stamps that Bingo uses are sent to him either by the inmates, or people on the outside. AND, that the ad in the paper gets a lot of money, too.

It truly saddens me when people are so bitter and boorish and so filled with hate and latent tendencies that they would dare to stand in public and without cause, justification or evidence accuse such a righteous brother, my brother, of such maleficence.

I personally know of more than 40 people that rely on Bingo for some sort of support. I will probably never understand why Bingo does what he does, I surely didn't understand it when he lost his wife and did not miss a letter or a paper to a single prisoner.

I can only hope that this person is just as brave, when the facts are displayed, that he apologizes like he accuses. Used to be, when a man accused you of being a thief and a liar and he couldn't prove it, he'd be shot! Chuck **Ok, I'm going to put an end to this one. In response to the letter:**

As most of you know I go out of my way to help a brother out. Well the same goes for Bingo. I have friends on the Inside who get my paper, that Bingo was sending to them. Well I told Bingo I can mail all of his copies going to the "Inside", at the same time as I do my regular mailings for a cheaper price. Bingo sends me more than enough money to cover his mailing. And as far as him using the money for personal, Not!! I know of a couple of events that Bingo missed because he was short on coin. He had enough if he would have used the fund, but he told me that's not what it is for. So in my opinion these allegations are false. If anyone has any other proof siding with the accusations let me know. But I doubt you'll find any.

Preacher

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**"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 does cost money. 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 a long 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**

**Lost Brother**

Heavy (Dean VanRipper) died on Sat. Feb. 12, 2005 at the Veterans Hospital in Iron Mountain, MI. Heavy had several health problems in recent years and had been hospitalized most of the winter.

Heavy originates from Milwaukee, served in the U.S. Military then made Antigo his permanent home. He is survived by his wife Aggie - Antigo, brother from Milwaukee many friends, nieces and nephews.

Heavy will be best remembered for; his large stature (for which he received his name), his sense of humor - he often liked to tease, and for being honest.

Heavy enjoyed riding his 1992 FLHTC and had been a ABATE member. He will be sadly missed by all.