

Jindal supports repeal of motorcycle helmet laws

BATON ROUGE, La. -- House Speaker Jim Tucker was direct Tuesday about his feelings toward attempts to repeal the state's motorcycle helmet requirement.

"I think it's crazy, myself. I'm not in favor of a motorcycle helmet repeal," Tucker, R-Terrytown, told reporters. Sen. Eric LaFleur, D-Ville Platte, has filed two bills seeking to repeal the helmet requirement for adults: one that would repeal the mandate for anyone 18 years old or older, and another that would get rid of the requirement for riders 21 or older.

The proposals are generating opposition from safety groups who say helmets are needed to protect motorcyclists from head injuries in accidents. Supporters of repeal say adult motorcyclists should be free to decide about helmet use.

Gov. Bobby Jindal supports repeal of helmet laws.

"Though the governor would recommend that people wear their helmets, he has always supported an adult's right to choose whether or not to wear a helmet on a motorcycle," Jindal spokeswoman Melissa Sellers said in an e-mail.

OK - someone has to cover this. Here goes -

I find it odd that female bikers (aka biker bitches) have this reputation of being hard-ass. Cagers are under the impression that we don't take no shit, fight and cuss. OK - true for the most part - ha! But the irony is if your ole man wears colors, quite the opposite is true. It is totally a man's world. No shit! Women don't wear colors, they wear property patches. We don't attend the club meetings, don't have a vote and basically have no say in what goes on, where we go, who is in the club etc. We are also expected to be respectful to other club members or "brothers". Even if they are not respectful to us. Basically it is the sit-back-there-and-look-pretty rule. And it makes no difference if you ride your own bike or not. In fact, if it is a club sponsored ride you are usually not allowed to ride your own.

If you are new to the biker lifestyle, this may seem like a mess. Why would any woman go along with a lifestyle that included being treated like this? In actuality there is more to it than meets the eye. First of all, it takes a whole lotta balls, so to speak, for a woman to hold her tongue when necessary. C'mon, you know its true. Second, it is a true testament to the relationship of bikers when a woman is WILLING to submit to this lifestyle. It IS a choice. And if a woman doesn't want to follow the rules, her man will pay the price. HE is expected to keep her in line - so to speak. If she speaks out of line or disrespects a brother, her man is the one reprimanded. And then of course, it's the trickle down effect.

The cagers mentality of us ladies is, for the most part, true. I know the ladies I run with I would not want to piss off. I also know they have my back. We all had best friends growing up. But I've never had friends that have my back like my girls in leather. Now don't get me wrong, me and my girls swap recipes, help with one another's kids, call one another crying at 3 AM and bitch about our guys just like the ladies at BINGO probably do. But we are most definitely there for one another. We still have our soft sides. We collect Elmo, or unicorns or bunnies. But some of us can also tear apart the head gaskets on the bike and rebuild them if necessary. We can hold our own at pool, drinking, riding and fighting if need be. Taking us out and keeping us safe is a definite undertaking. We tend to speak our minds and that can often lead to trouble. Most men can't handle us. Hell, our own men can hardly handle us!

I guess a ladies lifestyle in the biker community is like an onion. No, it doesn't stink! There are layers. We are held to a higher standard than most would think. It takes more to be a biker bitch, not less. We are stronger, smarter and feistier than most - but that's what it takes.

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