

Style  
is  
the  
issue

#3

**thread**  
magazine

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## MIKE S PEGS

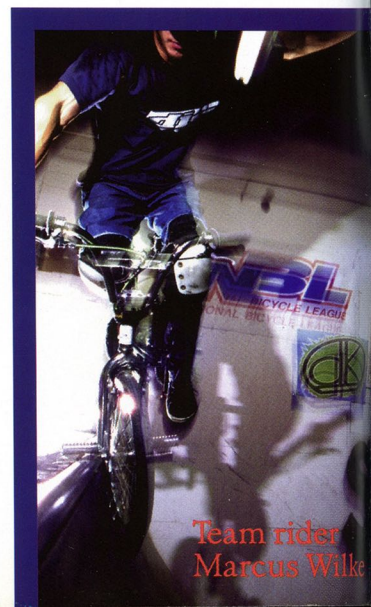
The ultimate flatland pegs! Designed by ex-world-champion and current German pro flatlander Michael Steingraeber.

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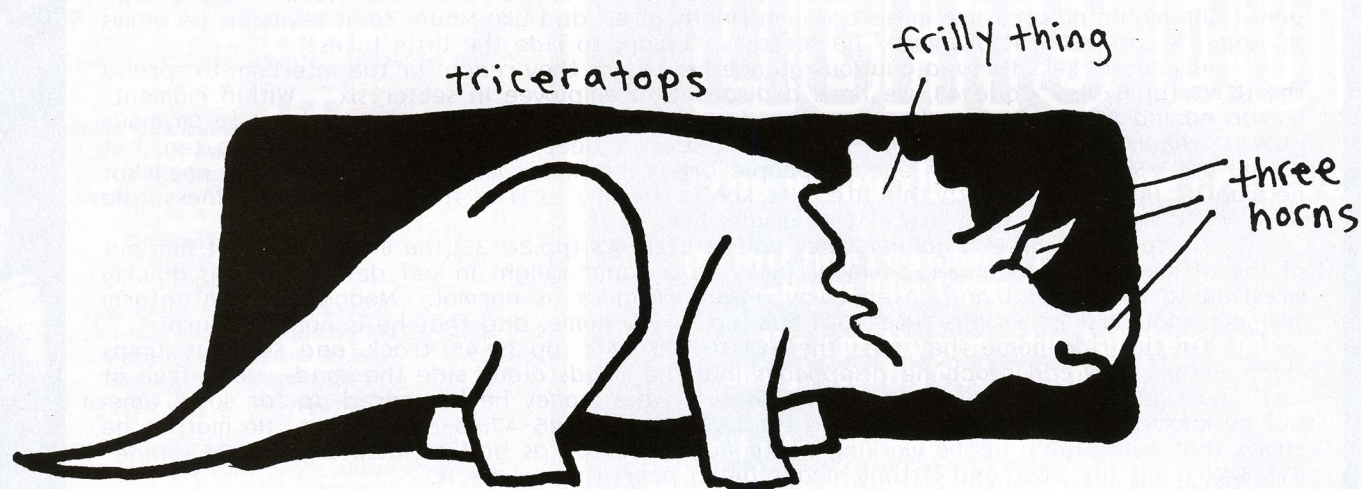
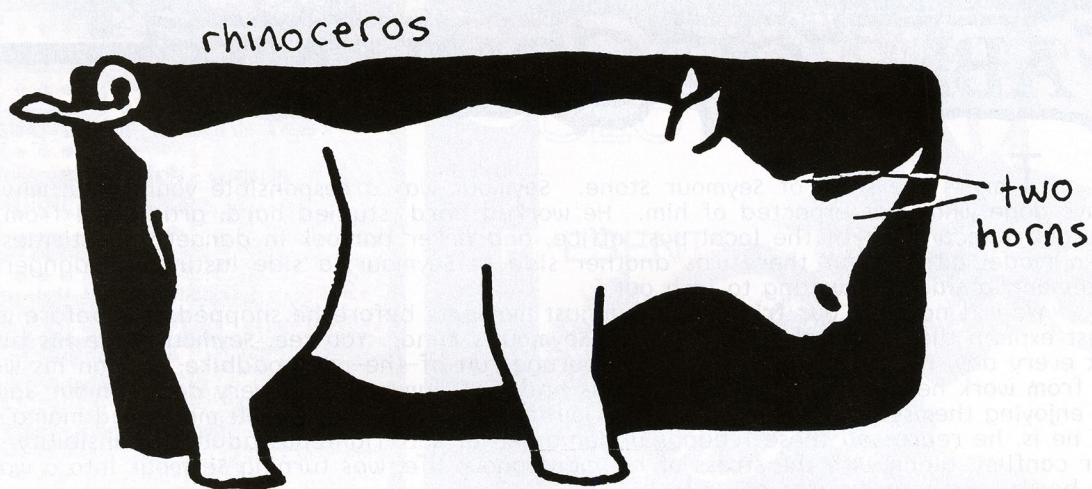
## CLAMP

Forged alloy seatpost calmps, with threaded steel inserts so that the tightening screws will not strip, as may happen with alloy threads. For normal or oversized frames.



Team rider  
Marcus Wilke





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# PLAY

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# FABLE OF CONTENTS

This is the story of Seymour Stone. Seymour was a responsible young man who had always done what was expected of him. He worked hard, studied hard, graduated from college, got a secure job at the local post office, and never partook in dangerous activities. He was a model citizen, but there was another side to Seymour, a side lusting for danger and excitement, a side just waiting to lash out.

We will now join our friend Seymour just moments before he snapped, but before we do I must explain the forces at work inside of Seymour's mind. You see, Seymour rode his bike to work every day, not a BMX bike, just your average run-of-the-mill roadbike; and on his way to and from work he passed a field where kids had built jumps. Now every day Seymour saw the kids enjoying themselves, and he wanted to join them, but being the well mannered mama's boy that he is, he repressed these feelings under a veil of self-righteous adult responsibility. This inner conflict, along with the stress of his monotonous life, was turning Seymour into a walking time bomb, and soon he was going to blow.

We now join Seymour at a typical day at work. It is 8:30AM on Monday, September the 16th, and Seymour has just arrived at work, a half hour early as usual. He punches in his customary five minutes early, and sits down to read the morning's **MAIL** (pp.6-7,58). Then it happens. The mounting pressure in his cranium finally gives, and like Mount Saint Seymour, he blows his top. "I can't take it anymore," he screams, "I want to ride the little bikes!"

His co-workers throw a cautious glance his way as they reach for the intercom to spread the **NEWS** (pp.8-9): "Code 43, we have a disgruntled employee in sector six." Within moments a man named **REYNOLDS** (p.11) appears ready to diffuse the situation. He explains to Seymour **HOW TO** regain control of his senses by taking several deep breaths and counting to ten, but it's no use. Seymour has seen enough people break, he knows what to do, but that's not what he wants. He's through with this life. He knows the key to true freedom and happiness. He has seen it in the fields. A life of BMX awaits him.

Certain that he is a gonner, they call in **BRENNAN** (pp.26-33) the Brute to escort him out of the office. Sensing danger, Seymour picks up a paper weight in self defense. He is quickly wrestled to the ground and taken away. Work resumes as normal. Meanwhile, they inform Seymour that he'll be **RIDING THE SHORT BUS** (pp.34-35) home, and that he is not to return.

On the ride home they pass the **SOUTHPARK BMX** (pp.38-45) track, and Seymour jumps ship. Before they can react, he disappears into the woods along side the road. He is free at last. He figures he can live quite comfortably on the money he has saved up for some time, but he knows he can't live like a hog in the **FAT HOUSE** (pp.46-47,50-53) forever. No matter, he knows that going back to the working world now would be as bad as **KILLING YOURSELF** (pp.54-57). BMX is his life now, and if that means being poor, than so be it.

First things first, he needs a bike. So he heads down to the local bike shop to make a purchase. Once inside he comes face to face with the bike of his dreams, the **XRJ-BMX GRAND-NATIONAL** (pp.60-61,63-66). He immediately starts to salivate like a madman, which after all he is. He grabs the bike and starts making "swooshing" noises as he dreams of his new life ahead.

The sales staff take notice of his peculiar behavior, and recognize the warning signs of BMX fever, a highly contagious and dangerous neurosis which is reaching epidemic proportions. They place a call to 911, and decide to move in slow, no sudden movements or he may flee.

Seymour sees them coming and pulls out his wallet. "I'll take it," he yells, "I'm going to be a BMX Superstar!" "Sure thing buddy," the salesman replies, "just let me wrap it up for you."

"FFWAAAP!!" In the confusion another salesman is able to sneak up behind him and deliver a crushing blow to the head which renders him unconscious. Within moments, the police arrive and take him away. With that the terror is over. The BMX vermin is contained and locked away.



APATHY



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Go ride.

# SCUM CLOTHING

PRESENTS

# LIGHTS OUT

The video that drove the critics crazy!

"The first time I watched it I puked!"

--Raves Dave Clymer

"It's a pretty good video, but there's not enough scantily clad women."

--says Chris Rye

"I'd give it a two thumbs up, but I chewed one off halfway through the video!"

--replies Steve Crandall

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## STYLE IS THE ISSUE



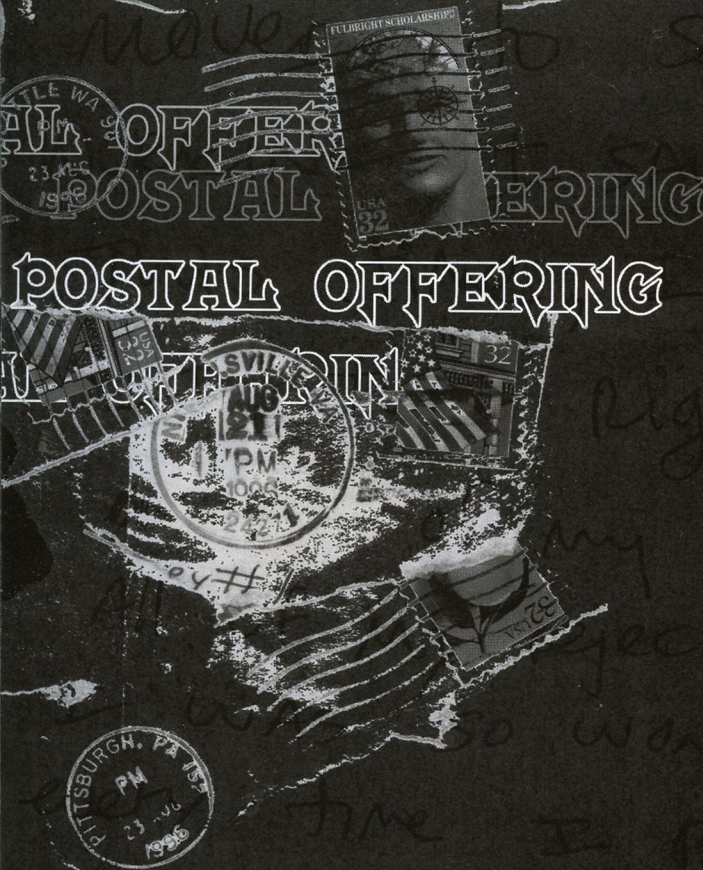
Style is the issue, and that's what people need to realize. It's not about backflips and truckdrivers. Sure I can do backflips, but I don't ride because I can do backflips, I can do backflips because I RIDE. The only real reason to ride, the reason I ride, and the reason most people ride, is because it's fun. It's fun to do wheelies, it's fun to jump curbs, it's just fun being on your bike. That's why people ride, and that's what's important. Don't believe the hype! The media makes it seem like BMX is all "extreme stunts," but that is only part of it, and a very small part at that.

Tricks come later. Don't worry about having to learn the tricks you see the pros doing, they've been riding for ages. Just enjoy riding your bike, and in time those tricks will come. Concentrate on how it feels to do the tricks that you can do. Learn to control your bike, and enjoy the feeling of being under control. Once you can control it and feel the way the bike works, then play with kicking it out a little, or tweaking it a bit further. Experiment with how you can make even the simplest tricks feel cool. That is where style comes from, from being comfortable and riding your bike so that it feels good. That is where the real joy in riding lies.

Then as you progress, keep pushing things a little further and a little further, and one day you'll be the pro. Being a great rider is not the goal, it's just a consequence of loving to ride, and doing it all the time. Great riders aren't made, they just evolve.

As you look through this magazine think about how the riders look on their bikes. Notice their style, and the way they control their bikes. Then think about yourself, and the way you ride. Think about your favorite trick. Think about why you like it. Then put this magazine down, wipe your butt, pull up your pants, flush the toilet, go ride, and HAVE FUN.....





Thwack! It hit me off guard and as powerful as Batman onomatopoeia. After spending about a week away from home and my bike whilst visiting family and friends in El Pueblo de Nuestra Reina de Los Angeles, I decided it was about time to at least visit a local shop. At the small, well-stocked bicycle dealer in Westminster I purchased my first issue of your highly acclaimed publication. I flipped through and read as I headed back up the freeway into LA. Nary an accident to be had as I swerved in and out of traffic between sentences, in a borrowed, insuranceless Japanese import.

It amazes me how the smallest things can cause such great disturbances in one's psychological being. This seems pretty stupid even to me when I think about it, so feel free to think me a nincompoop if you like; but here I am, born, bred and having grown up riding in and around Chicago during the glamour years of freestyle, when it seemed that everything that was anything was West Coast, and now I'm here in the old glorified stomping grounds reading a magazine that comes out of my hometown, with a cover of Mr. Moliterno cruising the very white line that I used to crank my old Free Agent up as a bike messenger. An aged Keith Suskin says, "Irony can be so ironic sometimes," and I guess it's true.

At that moment on the Harbor Freeway I realized that the Cali scene is no more special than the one I so blindly grew up in (other than that they have nice weather and a few good radio stations). But even so, even though every winter I bitch about having to ride around snow or ice in sub-freezing temperatures, I have nothing but fond memories of such times. They only strengthened my will to ride, is how I see it.

I suppose this whole thing could have been summed up in one sentence that has been repeated time and time again: "Your scene is what you make of it." My soccer-playing-skater turned flatlander turned ramp rider / builder extraordinaire partner Brian Marshall once said, "This is Vernon Hills. You either do something cool or you suck." Do something cool.

--Eric Matsunaga

HHMMPPFF! Your compliments hit me deep, like a swinging chandelier kick to the stomach. Irony is quite ironic, huh? It's funny how you never really know how good something is until you leave it. I guess that's what makes traveling so educational. I too have been to the promise land of BMX, and besides the weather, it really isn't any better. I prefer to live back east, but I could do without the snow and ice.

--Hallman

What's up? I saw and bought your magazine in my local food store for the first time and knew I had to check it out (That was about a month ago). This mag rips! Every time I read it (Even the same issue) it gets me totally stoked to go out and ride! I jump things, and ride off stuff without thinking! It is the greatest feeling in the world! Today I just bought the Sept-Oct issue and it is even better!! The only thing that gets to me is the fact that I live about 45 miles south of Pittsburgh, and I have never heard of the PUSH jam, 819 trails, Sev's, 7-11, or Oak Park! Man that makes me feel stupid! How do I find out about these places? How do I find out when and where these jams are going to take place.

Next thing, centerspreads rule!! That section on the New York jam ruled. I wish I could have been there. I used to ride all the time when I was little. Then, as I got older I slowly got out of it (Fear is the biggest killer and obstacle to overcome in this sport). Now I got the bug back, and I ride every chance I get! BMX is my life and my religion once again! This magazine is one of the biggest parts that influenced me to get back into the best sport in the world!! I have also managed to get a bunch of my friends to get back into it too. I love to get on the street, which is some of my favorite riding, and weave in and out of moving traffic, cruise the mall for chicks, go through the McDonalds drive through with about a dozen and a half guys (which is pretty good for Uniontown PA), do some tricks off of curbs and banks, wreck chaos on every pedestrian, and get chased all over town by the fat, ugly, donut eating police force. I love every minute I am on my bike. As soon as I can scrounge up enough money, I will be sending in my subscription to this rad mag. Keep up the awesome work on the most influential mag I have ever actually seen and bought (I actually paid for this mag with money).

Totally Stoked,

Adam Dorazio

Grindstone, PA

Thanks for writing. The whole reason I do this magazine is to give people something to be stoked about. As for the Trails, if you live 45 minutes south of Pittsburgh, than you should be really close to 819. 819 is in Mount Pleasant, on route 819, about a mile east of downtown, off to the left of the road, just past an overpass. It's pretty easy to find. You're also close to PUSH, which is Bethel Park about fifteen minutes south of Pittsburgh. For precise directions you can call Jason Stieg at the PUSH executive offices, (412)851-9872. He built the trails, and he lives right next door to them. If you need any other info, feel free to give us a call.

Again, thanks for writing, good luck finding new places to ride, and I hope this issue makes you want to ride just as much as the last two.

--Hallman

I just randomly went into a newsstand to look for I forget what, and I saw Tread. I looked at it, read most of it, looked to steal a subscription card, and then bought it. The zine is killer. I have been in BMX through the great mountain bike depression, and still flatland today. Your magazine has both old school flavor, and new school attitude. I have never heard of a mullet. I almost peed my pants. I don't own a car, but if I add up my bikes over the years, I easily could have. I lost my baby when I moved from the country to the city (college keg parties DON'T mix with 20" shiny chrome bikes). My baby was a chrome '88 Haro Master with handmade pegs, and parts I had bought with kid money. I worked hard, drank less beer, and put together an acceptable replacement (a Bid Daddy with attic and graveyard parts). I lost this one also, in almost the same circumstances at my going away party. These two events have made me realize how much I love to ride, and how I had lost the focus.

I moved to Seattle, started working, and saved it all. This time I decided to do it the right way (the components out of my attic the last time were all of my rejects from ten years ago, as I was so wonderfully reminded every time I rode). I sank the money into a Jad, and it has refreshed me. I slam a lot, torque the bike, and ride all over the city. I can't break the damn thing. It's solid, smooth, well machined and designed. It's heavy too, but I don't really go airborne much higher than a curb, and I hate broken bikes even more. Since High School I ride alone. I practice tricks, but there's no one to ride with. There's not even any other 20" bikes around. Well, to stop bitching, Seattle is cool, many other bikes, practice time and space, and a steel surfaced public skatepark (No bikes, but I'm working on it).

Your magazine made me happy enough to babble on for two pages. This last six months with no bike made me remember who I was, as I tried to death truck a hand kart at work, or scuff a shopping cart at Safeway. I flatland, I'm silly, and I like to roll in awkward positions. I will subscribe when I have more cash (and a real address). Keep up the good work.

Lorin







# NEWSTUFF

The FF's (Flatland Fugitives) have started their own mail order company called "Swap Meet." They will be carrying a lot of new products from the smaller rider owned companies, as well as the more established products you've come to trust. Their specialty is freestyle, but they also carry racing parts, shoes, and clothing. What's more, it's solely owned and operated by the Fugitives, so when you order you can talk to all your freestyle favorites. Give them a call at their 24 hour hotline: (714)536-4925

Swap Meet  
P.O. Box 726  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

After attending the final Destination Extreme, **Ron Wilkerson** finally got the motivation to do some more 2-Hip contests. He says he's planning on having three next year in new skateparks around the country. We'll keep you posted.

**Brennan Brown** is also planning a few contests for 1997. He's just started on some new trails where he plans to hold another of his **enduro** contests. Should be good.

Remember Luke Duke on the "Dukes of Hazard?" Well, his son was a BMX camper at Woodward this summer. Yeehaw!

I got a call from **Toast** the other night, and inbetween stories he told me that He's just moved into a new apartment, and that he should actually be in one place for at least a year. So any old acquaintances of Toast can now reach him at: 662 NE 42nd St., Apt. E Seattle, WA 98105

The seventh sign has occurred, the end of the world is near, **Steve Crandall** has moved to the **Butt Hutt**. May God have mercy on our souls. In other Crandall news, Steve has officially reinstated the **nac-nac**.

The **BACO** crew has finally gotten around to making **BACO-7**. Actually it's not done yet, but it should be out by Christmas.

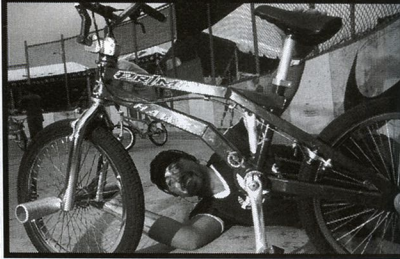
**Steve Swope** told me that there will be some changes in next years **B.S.** series, so perhaps not all hope is lost.

The new **UGP** video will debut at the Christmas Classic. There is a lot of work going into this video, so it should be good.

In other video news, **Standard** is working on a new video, as is **Hoffman Bikes**, and I believe **Mark Eaton** has a new feature in the works, so there will be plenty of good new videos for the new year.

Due to lack of advertising, **Tread** will be cutting back to a quarterly release status. We will still be here, and we promise to make it worth the wait. Stick with us. Thanks.

**Hawk** has a new aluminum freestyle frame out, seen here running over **Sean White**. Watch out for it.



While in New York we were approached by a strange woman on the street. Turns out she owns a fledgling clothing company called **Fugly**, and she's interested in entering the BMX market. If you're feeling **fugly**, give her a call:

Beth McFadden  
Fugly  
1382 3rd Ave.,  
Suite 325  
Ny, Ny 10021  
Ph: 212-613-3158  
Fax: 212-879-0707



If you've been into BMX for more than a few years, then you should remember **John Byers**. Well, he's still around, still riding, and now he's starting a new bike company called **Eastern**. East Coast all the way. Those interested can contact them at:

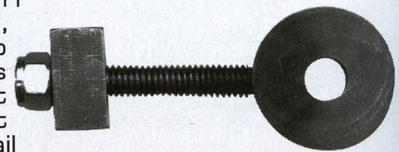
2337 Bernard St.  
Faliegh, NC 27608  
Phone: 919-834-3999



For all you trail rides and racers out there who wish to show your support of other riders, the infamous **Superfly** (John Skuarla) of Long Island has a line of clothing and other misc paraphernalia just for you. For info give **Superfly** a call at



This chain tensioner, along with several other high tech **Wiseguy** gadgets, will soon be added to **Standards** growing parts line up. For info contact the **Wiseguy** himself at (847)957-0130, or email him at [Wizeguy@starnetinc.com](mailto:Wizeguy@starnetinc.com)



**LORD CLOTHING**

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Ritchey, Santa Anna, CA 92095  
Phone: 714-835-3400



## They are 138

If you're a **Superdome** fan, then this is just the ticket for you. The Misfits logo t-shirt as modelled by Butcher. To pick one up and show your support contact **454 Big Block** clothing at the Skuperdome: 610-861-8236 446 Birkel Ave. Bethlehem, PA 18015



If you like to go fast, and you like **Troy Lee**, then take a gander at this new ringer tee. For more information on this, or any other Troy Lee products, send

\$3.00 for their color catalogue and sticker to: 1821 Wild Turkey Cir, Corona, CA 91720.

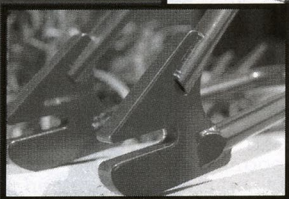
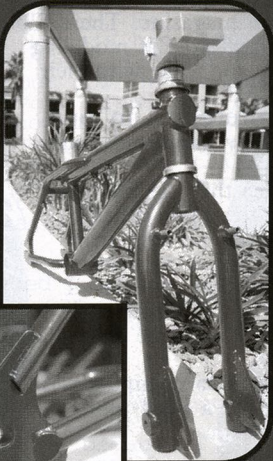
Or Call: 909-371-5219



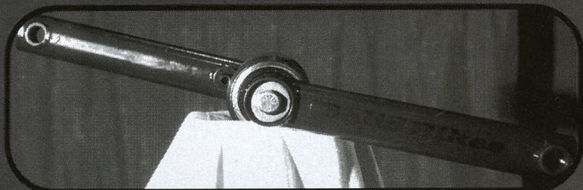
## FOUR BIKES

And in this corner, the new frame, fork and stem combo from **Four bikes**, weighing in at around thirteen pounds. Take a look at those dropouts and you'll know why. A half inch thick? Seems a bit much, but I'm sure people said the same about 1/4 inch dropouts too.

For more info contact **Four Bikes** at: 6198 Plymouth Ave, San Jose, CA 95129. Ph: 408-973-0707



Yet another hefty new product. These are the new cranks from **SOLID BIKES**. If you're into titanium spindles and low rotating weight, don't come looking here; but if you want a pair of cranks that are built to last, then check these out. The spindle is a full inch in diameter, and made of 4130 chromoly. The arms are oversized as well, with thick walled tubing to boot. If you're a big rider, then these may just be the only cranks for you. Contact **Solid Bikes** at: 3019 Academy Way, Sacramento, CA 95815 Ph: 916-331-6780



## word on the street



"Eight Pack! Don't follow I'm thirty!"

--Bill Madden at PUSH

"I can't be running the industry with spaghetti on my face."

--Steve Crandall

"I've been here an hour and I'm already running the east coast."

--Crandall again

"The whole city's drunk! Even the buildings are drunk in Fort Wayne. The sidewalks, the streets, everything's drunk!"

--Chuck on Fort Wayne

"Goddamn life ruiners!"

--Stieg on girls

"I'll let you guys ride here if you give me a piece of that pizza."

--The police to the PUSH Kids.

"I'm going to hit hell so hard I'm gonna go through it!"

--Mike McCue

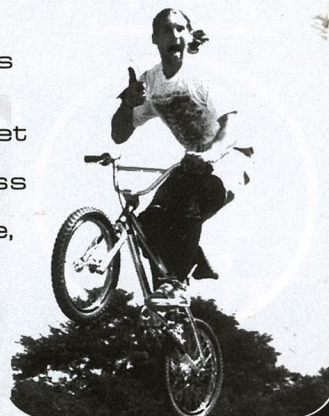
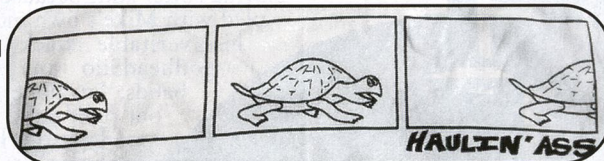
"I only had a mullet for like a year"

--Rick Mulleterno

We received these shirts from a new clothing

company in New York called **Turtle Racing**. Now, I don't know what turtle racing has to do with BMX, but I like the "Haulin' ass" shirt. They enclosed this photo just to let us know that they're not cheesy business men. I guess they're just cheesy.

If you like what you see, then drop them a line at: **Turtle Racing** 6 Maple Ave. Albany, NY 12205 (518) 489-8408





# GODHEADSILO



**GodheadSilo** is a two-man earthquake machine. At the epicenter of their live show, Mike chokes earth-shaking rumbles out of his bass while Dan literally beats his drums into submission. It's a fearful sight to say the very least, and the sound is very much deafening.

Of stage, these two are laidback and friendly (polar opposites of what their sound would imply). They're also walking BMX encyclopedias. It's

amazing to sit and talk to them about Harry Leary this, R.L. Osborne that... They are old school without a doubt, but they keep up with what's going on now as well as any of us.

On record, this duo is often mistaken for a four-to-six man crew. It just doesn't seem possible that such a huge concentration of low-end sound could come from just two people. Their newest record, *Skyward in Triumph* (on Sub Pop), epitomizes just this sound. It's a virtual bludgeoning for the ears rife with BMX lyrical references and Mike's screaming vocals.

Their records always run rampant with BMX references. The liner notes of their first Kill Rock Stars release, *The Scientific Supercake LP*, includes a sketch of a BMX track lifted from an old magazine. Their EP, *Elephantitus of the Night*, has a picture of Cosmo the Moto Cat modeling with a Torker on the outside and photos of a young Dan and Mike with their first sets of Tuff Wheels on the inside.

"We've always tried to get BMX people interested in our music," Mike says enthusiastically. "But it hasn't really happened until now."

"My friends back home aren't going to believe it when they see me in a BMX magazine," Dan adds laughing. "Back home" for these two is Fargo, South Dakota. They relocated to Olympia, Washington about four years ago- (NOT Portland, Oregon as I mistakenly reported in an earlier Tread). Dan used to run a zine that changed its name every issue. I looked through my old zines and found out I have two of them from back in the BMX zine heyday: one called "Fresh Almonds," and one called "Burnt Toast."

"There's nothing soft about Dan," Mike says as Dan whips my bike into chromoly-straining flatland moves. "We have a hard time playing softer stuff because Dan plays so hard." This coupled with Mike's own monolithic bass style, and his veritable stack of effects makes godheadSilo one of the heaviest bands, let alone two-piece bands, out right now.

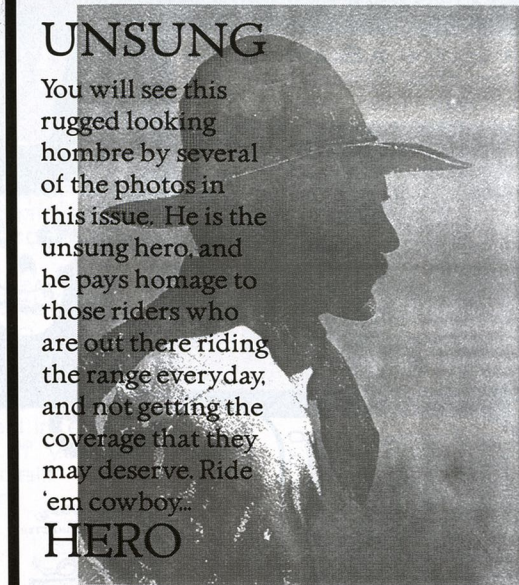
"I think Brian Foster is probably my favorite rider," Mike says changing the subject back to BMX.

"But, we both hate Dino Deluca," Dan adds adamantly. "And we don't condone riding Dynos." They hate Dino and Dyno because of an old run in with Mr. Deluca at a Dyno show back in the day. He caused Dan to take a spill or something. Needless to say they weren't really stoked on riding my Dyno for the photos.

## UNSUNG

You will see this rugged looking hombre by several of the photos in this issue. He is the unsung hero, and he pays homage to those riders who are out there riding the range everyday, and not getting the coverage that they may deserve. Ride 'em cowboy...

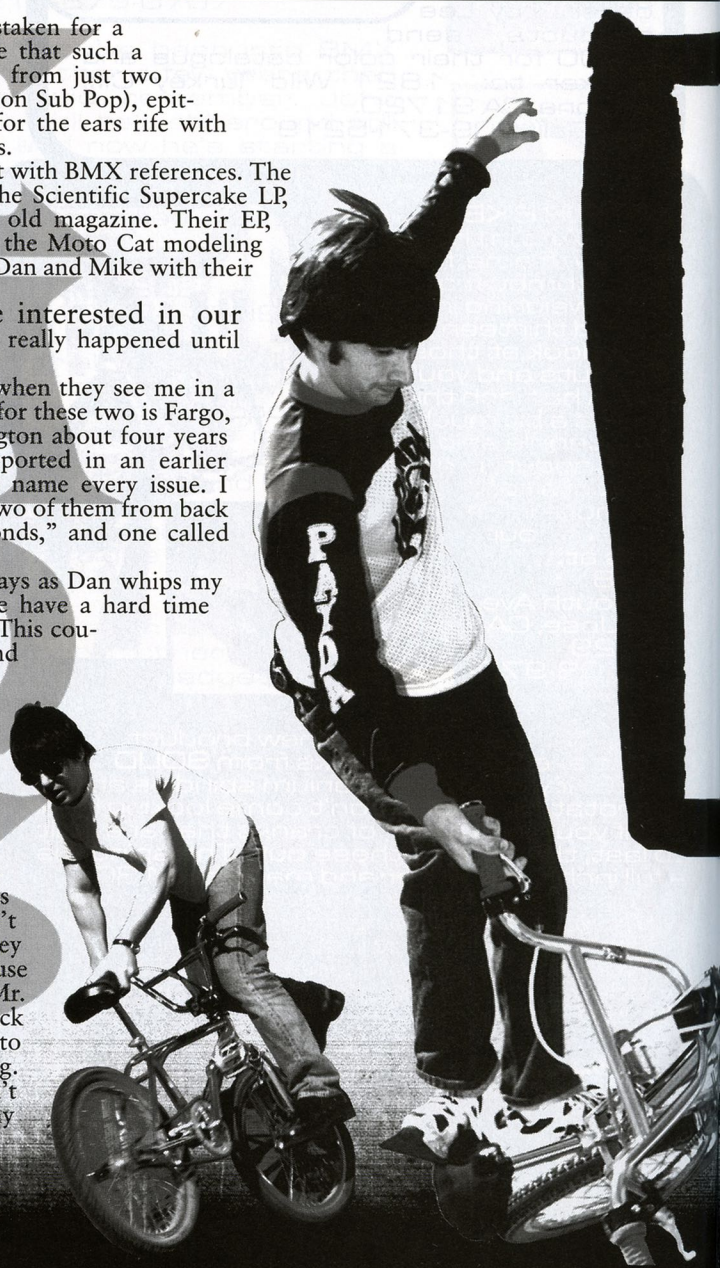
## HERO



By  
Roy C.  
Usery



Photos by Eric Black





## Knowledge I've gathered about BMX'ers...

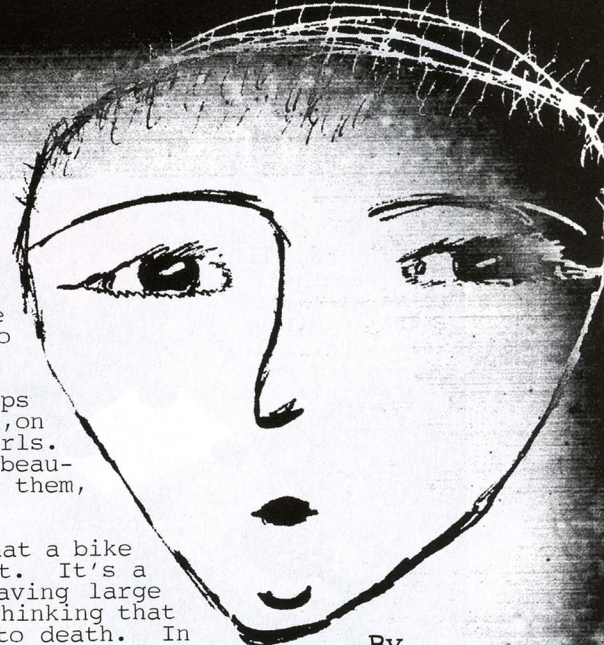
1. Dating a BMX'er.....This act, often employed by people today, is OK as long as the dreaded question in number 2 is never asked.

2. Becoming seriously involved with a BMX'er....Not a good move. They are always on the go, and if you ask the dreaded question "Would you rather have me or that bike?"; well, I think you know what the answer to that one is. Girls are not a problem, since for strange reason they flock at a chance to be with a hot guy who rides a bike.

3. On the couch with a BMX'er....This is a ritual for most groups of riders, often getting together to watch their bike videos, or, on occasion, to watch a porno while complaining about having no girls. Note: they make no effort to go out and look for one, but if a beautiful girl were to just walk through the door and have sex with them, they couldn't be happier.

4. The relationship between a rider and his bike....I've found that a bike can be a riders best friend one day, and his worst enemy the next. It's a love/hate relationship. The bike often showing its love by leaving large gashes in ones leg, and the rider returning that love by somehow thinking that he will hurt the bike by throwing it into a tree or kicking it to death. In all actuality, unless a trick is pulled, the bike is in control.

5. BMX'ers as a whole....They are guys who simply enough, love to ride their bikes.



By

Jessica Helmke

## SMILE, LAUGH, AND BE HAPPY

"Happiness is a strange thing. You never really know when you have it, but you always know when you lose it." --Craig Reynolds

I guess quoting yourself in your own column is sort of like laughing at your own jokes (something I always do), but if you sit back and think about it, it's true. Days pass and you go through the motions. You go to school, ride, eat, and go to sleep; and you're happy. Then one day something happens to change all of this. It doesn't have to be anything major, just something to throw you off. For example: you fail your English test, forget your lunch money, crack your frame, or maybe your trails get plowed, well that is major; but now things have changed, and you're miserable. Now you have to study harder for the next test, send your frame back, and find a new place to ride.

Whenever I am happy I know it; because, it's just when I'm taking everything for granted. I assume that everything that is happening will continue to stay on track and never change. That is when I kick myself and wise up. I realize that things do change, and when they do, be ready for them. I try to be ready for them, because I really don't like being miserable (ed. Who does?). I just don't like pretending to everyone that I am happy.

The pretending part is rather easy though. A few of my favorite ways of faking it are...

Smiling: When you smile people automatically assume that you are happy, and will not bother to ask the dreaded question, "Are you OK?" "Fine thanks."

Laughter: This is another good one, but be careful, a fake laugh is the worst.

Talk: Talk a lot too. Control the conversation. This way you can avoid conversing about what ever is bothering you.

Granted, there are some times that I cannot hide my emotions, usually after a bad moto or really cool dead sailor. I'm fuming, I'm venting, and everyone that comes in contact with me is going to know about it. That is the jerk in me. I hide my personal problems, and vent the riding problems. Hopefully, I won't go crazy one day because I have so much built up inside of me, and do something stupid. I'm sure nothing will ever happen; because, there is way too much out there that honestly makes me happy, and it's the little things that really do the trick; the sounds your tires make when you are carving through the turns, going through the rhythm section at speed and passing someone, seeing all of your friends every weekend, and partying balls out until the sun comes up (see Todd Lyons at the Christmas Classic for directions). It all balances out. Just smile, laugh, and be happy.





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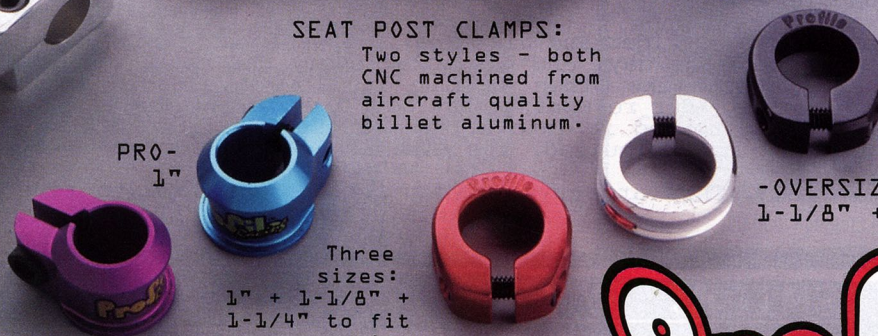
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# How you do these things?

I've gotten a lot of requests for more how to's, so I'll start things off with two classic tricks that will never go out of style. Now class, please get out your handbooks and turn to page 55 as we learn to do lookdowns and whiplashes...

But first a quick rant about how to's and learning tricks in general.

I've always found how to's to be particularly useless. They tell you the mechanics of doing the trick, but that's not the problem. You can look at any trick and know what needs to be done. For example: if you want to learn a backflip you already know that you have to get upside down and right yourself again. That's pretty obvious. Plus they always say stupid things like, "You need to approach the jump with a moderate amount of speed," or, "with enough speed to clear the jump." What's a moderate amount of speed? No kidding I should go fast enough to clear the jump. Why I thought I'd just go fast enough to case it with both wheels. I think that would make the trick easier.

Just knowing what happens during the trick isn't enough. You can figure that out on your own. What's important is the head game that goes along with learning a trick. You should really think about the tricks that you are trying to learn, try to picture it in several different ways. Don't just try a trick without fully visualizing it in your head. Believe it or not, practising in your head is almost as good as doing it for real, plus it's a lot safer. Watch the trick over and over, and go through it in your head until you know exactly what you need to do. Then it's just a matter of learning what it feels like to do those things.

Once you're ready to do a trick there's only one more thing you need to know. You're probably gonna fall. The more confident you are, the less likely it is that you will fall, but it almost always happens. I'm sure you've heard people say, "If you're not falling, you're not trying hard enough." To a certain extent that's true, but you don't have to kill yourself to learn tricks if you just take it easy and work your way up. I learned lookdowns jumping a four foot tall bank into a yard, not over a twenty foot set of doubles.

So with these things in mind, I will now try to give you a few helpful hints and insights into each of these tricks. Study and try them at your own peril. Good luck!

Turn the page, and begin

First of all, lookdowns are not all alike. A lookdown on a ramp is a bit different than a lookdown over a jump. When you're jumping you really have to kick the back end out, harder than you do on ramp, and that is where most people have problems with this trick-- the kickout.

Basically you should learn kickouts before you learn lookdowns, and pay very special attention to which way you are kicking out. Most people try to kickout towards their forward foot, and that won't get you anywhere. You'll just end up crushing your leg inbetween the top tube and handlebars when you try to do a lookdown. Robbie Morales gets the award for the weirdest way to get around this problem. Instead of learning to kickout the other way, he learned to jump with his other foot forward. So everytime he wants to do a lookdown he sets his other pedal forward. As far as I'm concerned it's much easier to learn to kickout the other way.

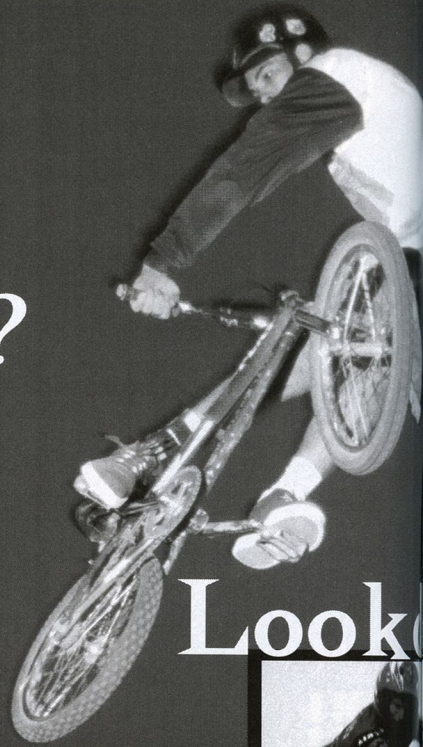
Issac McCrea just learned lookdowns, so I asked him how he learned them.

"It was stupid. Me and Punjab were goon riding one day, and I did a big one handed hannah turnbar, and it was almost like a lookdown, so the next time I just did one."

Ok, maybe that won't help you, but it did help him. Actually you do have to get up on your bike to do a lookdown, and your definitely up on your bike if you do a hannah. It just goes to show how looking at a trick differently may help you to figure it out.

Now look at the position that these guys are in, think about how you might get into that position, and if it helps you to think about it as a hannah then think about it like that. You probably will also want to pull up when you do it. It's much easier to do a good lookdown, if you pull up.

So basically a turndown is just a big kicked out hannah turn bar. That's all there is to it. Now doesn't that make things a lot easier?



## Look





# Whiplash

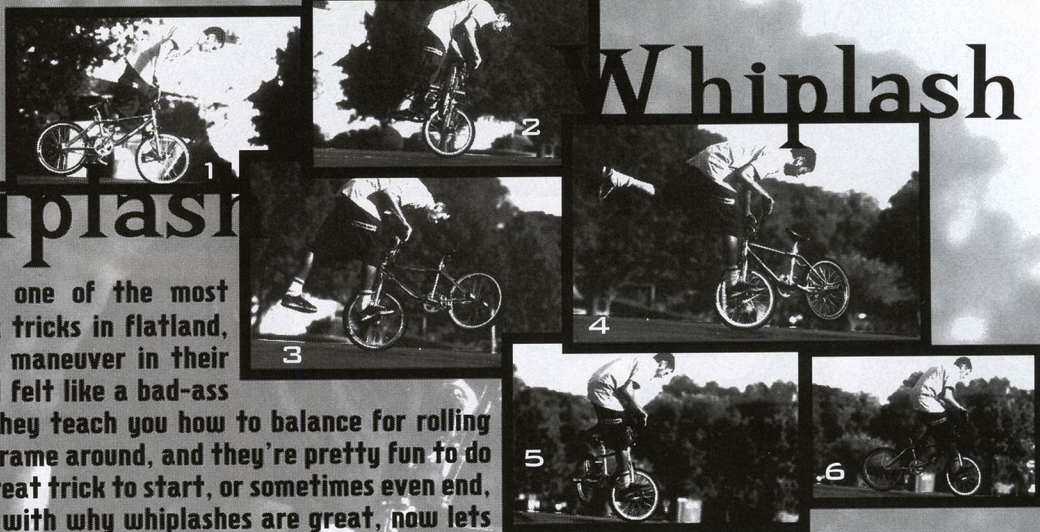
Whiplashes are one of the most important building block tricks in flatland, and also a damn stylish maneuver in their own right. I remember I felt like a bad-ass when I learned them. They teach you how to balance for rolling tricks, how to whip the frame around, and they're pretty fun to do as well. They're also a great trick to start, or sometimes even end, a link with. But enough with why whiplashes are great, now let's talk about how you do them.

I asked Aaron Behnke what he thought was important in learning whiplashes, and this is what he had to say: "It's all about balance, and taking the time to learn it. Brakes are optional, but if you do use them, the less the better. Just push forward and keep your weight over your pegs."

Personally, I think the no brake rule is really important. If you learn to do them without brakes, you'll be much better off. Aaron said he learned them with no brakes, and that's the way I learned myself. If you try to use brakes you'll just rely on them, and never really learn the skills you need, which is basically balance.

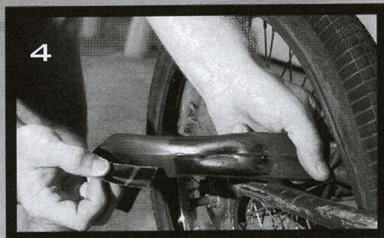
The balance for a whiplash is a bit tricky. You need to find the point where you're balanced and rolling on the front wheel. To do this you basically need to stay over the peg like Aaron said. Keep your body centered over the peg, and use the leg you have off to balance with. To get over the peg you'll need to push yourself forward as you kick the back end, but not too hard, or you'll go right over. With practice you'll be able to hit the balance point and just roll as the frame whips around you.

I guess that's the last thing you need to realize about whiplashes. You are going to fall a bunch. No big deal, you just jump over the bike, but you may scratch your hands up a bit. Just think of it as incentive to find that balance point. When you find it you will know it and be rewarded with a cool rolling feeling. Once you can do one fairly well, you'll probably want to try two, and then three, and so on. Good luck!



own

# Fix-a-Flat



In all the years that I've been riding I've realized that far too many people don't know how to patch a flat. Such a simple procedure, but I guess if you're never shown, you'll never learn. So now I shall share my glowing knowledge on simple tire maintenance, but before I do, I'd like to discuss a few common misconceptions about patching.

First of all, patching a tube is much faster than changing a tube. People who don't know how to patch a tube will always say that they're too lazy (i.e. cool) to patch a tube. Well excuse me, but removing your entire wheel, putting a new tube in, reinstalling your wheel, and then pumping it up takes more time and effort than patching, if you know what you are doing. Plus, if your axles are bent and stripped, as most people are, taking off the wheel can be a disaster.

Secondly, patching is much cheaper than replacing tubes. With your standard one dollar patch kit you can patch at least ten tubes, or one tube ten times; and if you're really a tight wad, you can cut the patches smaller, and probably get three times as many patches out of it.

Lastly, if you know what you are doing, patches hold just fine. I've probably only had one or two patches ever fail in my whole life, and I've patched hundreds of flats. People who think patches don't work are exactly the people who need to read this. So read on...

## Step 1: Expose the tube

It's important to remember that you don't need to remove the whole wheel to fix a flat. All you have to do is pry the tire off of one side of the rim, and fish out the inner tube. If your tire is too tight you may need tire irons, butter knives, or anything else flat. As long as you're careful you won't harm the tube.

## Step 2: Finding the hole

Put some air in the tube once you have it out, and listen. Here that noise? That's air rushing out of your tube. Find the opening. That's where you put the patch.

## Step 3: Preparing the surface

Just as a band-aid won't stick to that fresh burn on your arm until you clean off the sweat and gravel, so won't the patch stick to a dirty tube. In a pinch spit and your shirt works great. Once the area is clean you must then roughen the surface. This is done so that the glue has lots of little nooks and crannies to seep into, and better hold the two surfaces together. Now you are ready for glue.

## Step 4: Applying the glue

This is where most people go grossly astray.

Contrary to popular thought "The more the better" does not apply in this case. A small glob of glue approximately 1/4 to 1/2 inch is plenty for most patches. Put the glue right on the hole, and then spread it out over a large enough area to cover the entire patch. You want a very thin layer of glue. don't leave any globs or puddles of glue. This next part is important! You want the glue to be dry before you apply the patch! I'm not talking crusty dry, I mean dry to the touch, just so the glue isn't watery. If you blow on the glue it usually takes about five to ten seconds. Once the glue is dry it's ready, don't touch it.

## Step 5: Seal the wound

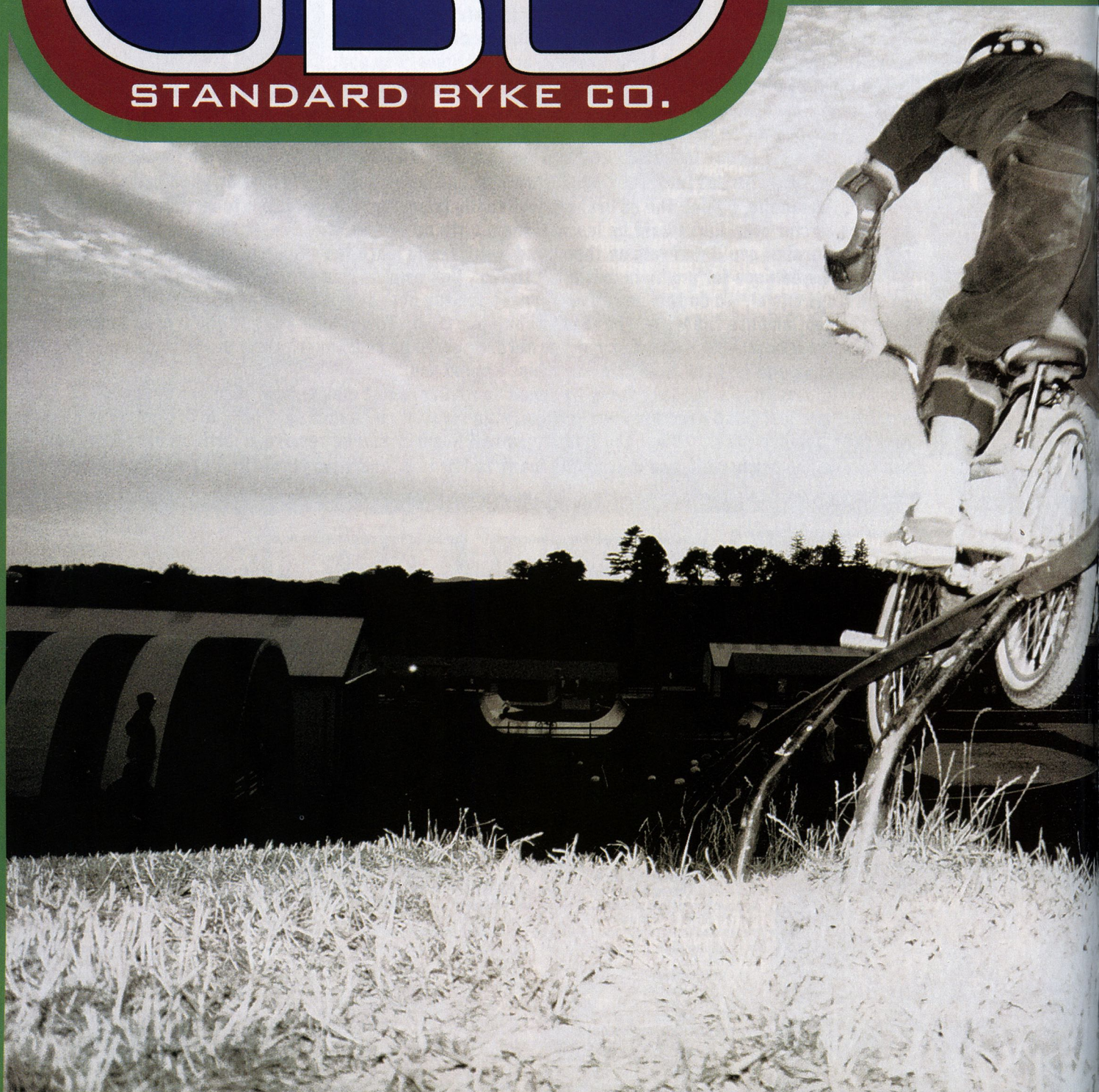
At this point I usually stretch the tube out a little over my leg to create a smooth flat surface. Then remove the backing from the patch (usually blue), being careful not to touch it, and then place it on the hole. It should stick immediately. Keep the tube stretched flat as you rub the patch to make sure there are no air pockets underneath.

That's it, you're done. Just put the healed tube back into the tire, put the tire back on the rim, and reinflate. Presto you're back in action.

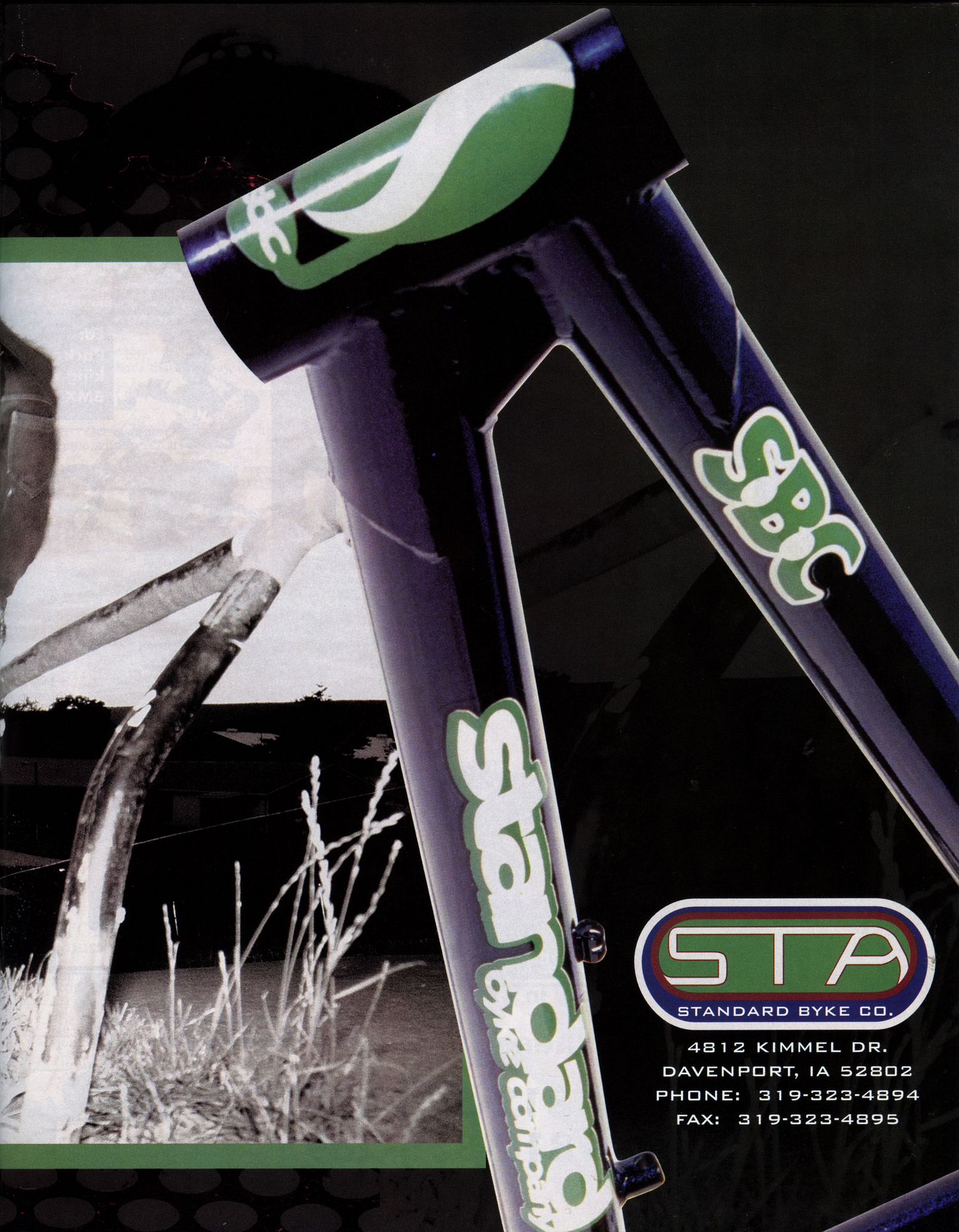


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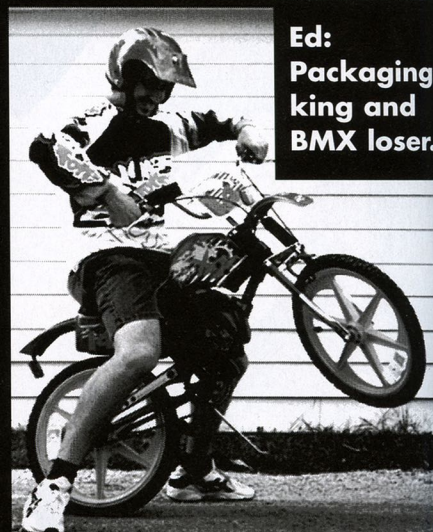
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Comma Terry

Yesterday I was wearing a shirt which proclaimed "Down with whitey" on the front of it. Now one look at me, and it's clear I'm not a Black Panther or any thing like that; but apparently it wasn't clear to the big burly redneck I passed on the street. He got all bent out of shape as though I had just walked in on him in the porta-john, and it sounded like this:



Bubba: "Hey boy, come here! what's that shirt say, boy?"  
Me: "Huh?"  
Bubba: "What do you mean 'Down with whitey?' I'm whitey!"  
Me: "what?"  
Bubba: "Get over here punk! I'm whitey mother F-er! I'm gonna whoop yer arse!"

I sure am glad I wasn't wearing a shirt that said "I'd rather eat worms than drive a Chevy."

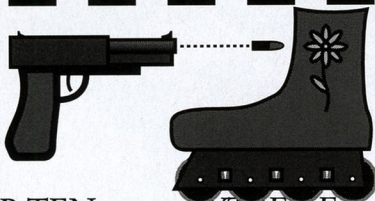
By Terry Hogan

## ZINE OF THE MONTH: MULLETHEAD ILLUSTRATED



I couldn't believe it even when I saw it! A zine dedicated to the mullet. Fantastic! Sheer Brilliance!

Inside you will find interviews with mullets, thought repulsing mullet news, reviews of all the hardest rockin' bands, and much more. Send these guys a picture of a mullet, or your girlfriend naked, or your girlfriend naked with a mullet, and they'll happily send you a copy of their pulitzer prize winning literature. Or just send a buck and stamps to MI, 208 John St., Dekalb, IL 60115



The TOP TEN most *EXTREME* ways to kill yourself (on rollerblades):

1. Jump out of a subway car into a high speed soul grind on the third rail.
2. Mount rockets on your skates and gap the grand canyon.
3. Tie lead weights to your skates and attempt to skate the bottom of the ocean.
4. Jump out of a helicopter to grind down the arch of Saint Louis.
5. Roll off the Empire State building while holding one foot in your hand.
6. Go down the interstate while hanging on to a car full of bmxer's.
7. Play in line ball hockey in a truck stop parking lot.
8. Skate through a drive by shooting in down town L.A.
9. Wear all dark clothing and going through a drive through between two really big red neck 4x4's.
10. Go in-line skating in a rain forest and get a disease that has no cure.

**LIGHTS OUT!** The new SCUM video. This is Stew Johnson's follow up to 1201, and I'd have to say he out did himself. Everytime I watch it, it makes me want to ride, and I think that that's the most important thing you can say about a video. The star of the video just might be Butcher, his part rocks. Other good parts include Colin Winkleman's, and Magilla's. If you liked 1201, you'll love this.

**NEW YORK HARDCORE:** This video was just sent to me the other day. The quality isn't the best, but it's got personality, and I like that. It's New York all the way. I liked this video just because I like New York. New Yorkers are crazy, but in a good way. If you were doing a thesis for sociology on New York culture, then this video would be required viewing. To get your hands on one, contact Glen Milligan at 41 Celest Ct., Brooklyn, NY 11229. Phone #: 718-769-7050

**PROPS issue 15:** More of what you've come to expect from Props. Chuck must have close to a dozen tabletops in this one issue. Not that that's a bad thing. Chuck rules! Highlights include the Chicago B.S. comp., the Fort Wayne Kill Yourself comp., the SouthPark National, the NBL Grands, and inter views with Aaron Behnke and Danny Nelson.

**PERSISTENCE OF VISION:** The new video by Carl Potts which I forgot to include

## LASER EYE TREATMENT LASER EYE TREATMENT

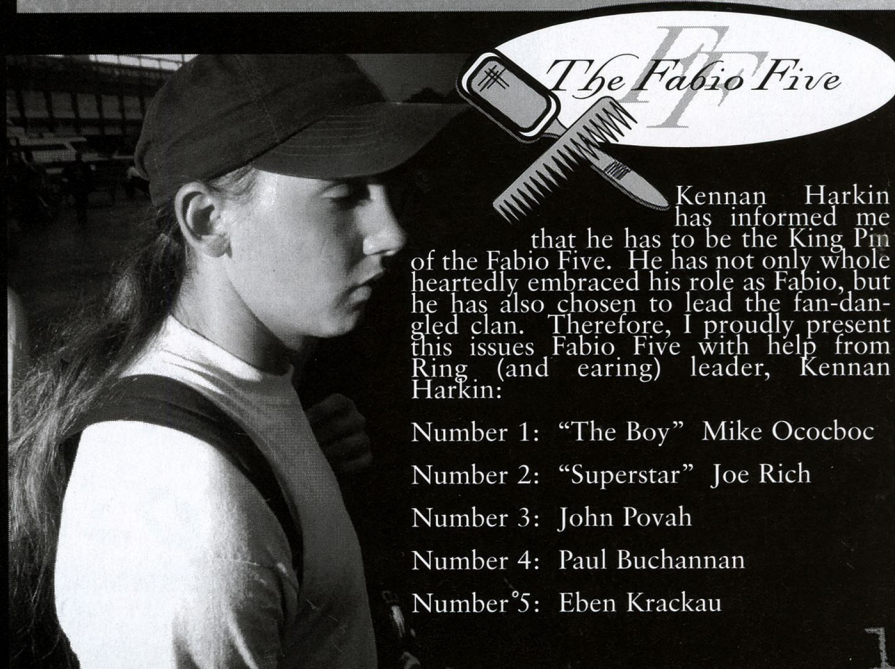


## VIDEO REVIEWS VIDEO REVIEWS VIDEO REVIEWS

last issue. About thirty minutes of riding from the likes of Aaron Behnke, Adam Banton, Scott Powell, Dave Schaeffer, Tom Haugen, Bobby Fisher, Andrew Burleson, and Colin Winkleman. I wish I could say the video knocked my socks off, but the fact is, I still have warm feet. This feels like a local video. Lots of local bands, and good riders you don't see a whole lot.

**INFECTION 3: POSTMORTEM:** Scott Hagnas' latest BMX video is a nonstop barrage of skill, personality, and just straight up guts from the Pacific Northwest. Riders from as far south as San Francisco and from as far north as Vancouver B.C. join those from everywhere in between. Coos Bay, Oregon is well represented by Dave "I knock the wind out of myself every single time I ride." Thom. Other riders include Toast, Pat Joubert, Curtis Easterbrook, Rob Sigaty, Steve Roy, Andrew Farris, and Jason Brown. The music fits, the riding is amazing, and this video proves once again that BMX is alive in the Northwest. (Contact Scott Hagnas P.O. Box 645 Camas, WA. 98607). -Roy C. Usery

**TOY MACHINE 3: WELCOME TO HELL!:** Easily the best video I've seen this year, and it's not even a bike video, but it stokes me like no bike video has. It makes me want to ride everytime I watch it, as long as I don't watch the bail section that is. The bail section is the most gruesome one I've ever seen. My favorite part is Jamie Thomas'. It's set to Iron Maiden, and Jamie's skating is just as hard as the music. IT RULES! That's all I can say. All video makers should buy this, and study it. Everyone else should buy it and prepare to be blown away.



Kennan Harkin has informed me that he has to be the King Pin of the Fabio Five. He has not only whole heartedly embraced his role as Fabio, but he has also chosen to lead the fan-dangled clan. Therefore, I proudly present this issues Fabio Five with help from Ring (and earring) leader, Kennan Harkin:

- Number 1: "The Boy" Mike Ocochoc
- Number 2: "Superstar" Joe Rich
- Number 3: John Povah
- Number 4: Paul Buchannan
- Number 5: Eben Krackau



# FLATLAND is a game of surfaces!

Such a simple statement for such a complex form or expression. Yet in the simplest terms, that's all it is. Even its name is taken that it is played on; and that surface, along with those of the tires, brakes, and shoes, set the rules of the game. These rules and the rider's interaction with them, determine how the game is and for many riders even whether it is played at all.

It can be said that the Flatlander is on a constant quest for the perfect spot on which to perfect their art. Perfecting the unattainable state of nirvana towards which they strive, and the imperfect surfaces are the demons that haunt them every day. For these riders the game is so intense, and so personal that the smooth or uneven pavement stands like a barricade against their progress.

This is dedicated to the riders who grapple with the demons and the art which they create along the way.



Matt  
Gipson

Chelsea Pier,  
New York City,  
New York. 1996



from the surface

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DOUBLE EXPOSURE BY HALLMAN



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Recently, I read in the newspaper that science can't define time. I was kind of baffled 'cause I'm real obsessed with time. I literally count the minutes until I can leave work. (ex: 2 hours 20 minutes until quitting time. Hmm, that's 140 minutes, or 8,400 seconds.) I felt pretty dumb that I could be so obsessed with something that I can't even explain.

I do have an obsession that I can explain though; that is, my obsession with my bike and flatland. So here's my explanation: Flatland is an art to me, my own personal expression of life on a little bike in a big parking lot. It brings out my individuality, my perseverance, and my athletic abilities, and blends these characteristics (and a Standard Shorty) into steanrollers-to-hitchhikers and various other tricks whose names make no sense on paper. I hope it never goes away. I tried to get other riders' opinions on what flatland is to them, but everyone tells me it's just for fun. I mean, I do it for fun too, but it's developed into so much more as well. Anyway, I'm probably being way to analytical, so I'll just end this and go ride. Bye.

-Brian Tunney



**T**here is yet another peculiar surface issue with flatland. Not a riding surface, but how it is viewed on the surface by most people.

I think many people who just saw somebody flatlanding would assume that they are showing off, or at least that they are putting on some sort of show, but that is usually the furthest thing from the truth. Most flatlanders that I know don't want to be watched. Attention is another demon from which they hide nearly everyday. For most riders their riding is something personal and private, and being watched is like having someone watch them beat off. O.K. maybe not that bad, but along the same lines.

Aaron Behnke and Kerry Gatt were complaining to me one day about the little kids who stop and watch them ride at their spot; and now that school is back in (and they ride in a school parking lot) things are getting a lot worse. They get frustrated with the kids until they have to just tell them, "Look, could you please just go away?"

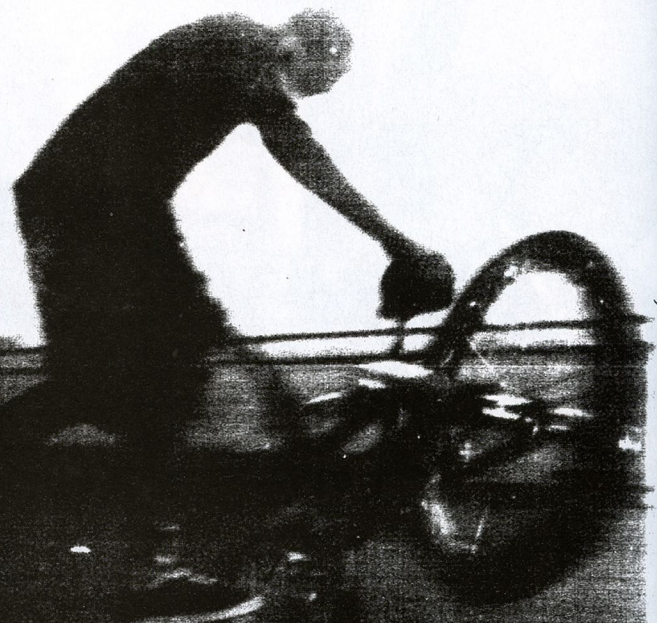
That made me think what these people who are watching must think. Imagine not knowing anything about riding, walking down the street, and seeing some kids spinning around on their bikes. You'd probably be intrigued, and go in for a closer look. You would probably also think that this is some sort of show, since they are doing tricks out in a public place. You'd probably figure that they wanted attention, when nothing could be further from the truth.

Fact is, flatlanders and most riders for that matter, ride for themselves and no one else. Whether you're impressed with them or not doesn't matter to them one bit. They ride for their own personal satisfaction, and having people watch can be more annoying than any bumpy parking lot.

I see this a lot when filming riders. Nothing stresses most riders out more than a camera, be it still or video. Now what they do only for themselves they have to do for someone else, and that means they have to look good. What this amounts to is pressure, stress, and sometimes thrown bikes and curse words.

I suppose this perplexes people, when

Leif  
Valin





their applause and cheers are met by angry scowls rather than gracious bows. How difficult it must be to promote the sport as well. Imagine dealing with angry artists who don't want to be seen? I guess our sport is a bit self destructive. Oh well. At least it's not gay like rollerblading.



L e o D u n l a o



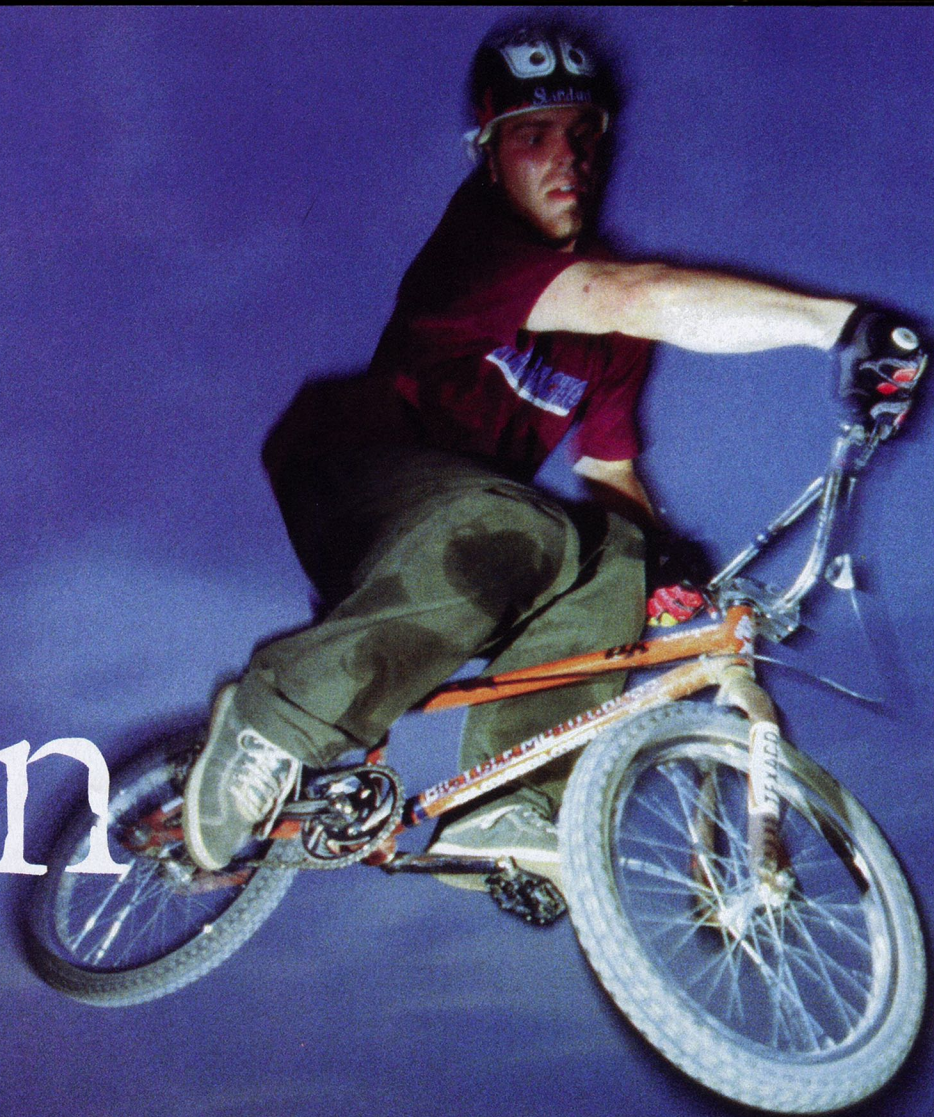
# Brennan



"I say a lot of things, and it sounds really weird or rude or whatever, but that's all in everybody's perception. I don't outwardly try to be evil or mean or anything. I'm really not some sort of bad-ass guy who hates everybody. I am opinionated, but you can't have that thin of a skin. You have to realize that, 'Ok, he's got an opinion, whatever. His opinion may be jacked, but that doesn't mean he's a dick.'"



Brown





**T: Tread**

**B: Brennan**

## Brennan Brown

Let me tell you a little about Brennan. He's a bit hard to figure out. The first time I met him I liked him. I knew him from his riding, and after meeting him I thought he seemed like a cool guy. I thought the same thing the second time I saw him too, but by then I had heard a bit of negative criticism towards my new friend. It seemed that more than a few people thought Brennan to be....well, a bit of a dick. Regardless, I gave him the benefit of the doubt. He seemed cool to me, and I left it at that.

Then came the Play contest in Chicago, for those who weren't there, that is where Brennan threw Ice Money's bike off of the sub box. After that display of arrogance I began to think that maybe the opinions were valid. Perhaps Brennan was a dick.

After the contest I told Brennan that I thought he was wrong for throwing Ice Money's bike. I mean, you just don't go throwing Ice's bike! Right? He tried to explain that if I knew all the things that Ice had done to him, I'd understand. Apparently Ice had screwed Brennan out of some Warp Tour shows or something like that, and it was his opinion that Ice deserved it. Whatever, I didn't want to hear it. Right then I pretty much wrote Brennan off as someone I did not need to be acquainted with.

For a few months I had no further contact with Brennan, and I heard nothing new about him. Then just this past Spring I

"But it is hard to turn your bike from kn  
up nose-dive, or get totally sideways and jus  
whatever, like big kickouts and things where  
all the way through the air, and it comes out

heard that he was coming along on the Texas roadtrip with us. "Oh man," I thought, twenty four hours in a van with Brennan. Now it's really going to hit he fan, and that's just what it did. The whole way there and the whole way back myself and the rest of the van were treated to an overload of Brennans philosophies, ideas, and opinions. Along the way we argued with him, talked shit to him, and generally learned a lot about him.

After getting to know him I must say that I like him. He is very opinionated, and I guess if those opinions sit badly with you, then you might have a hard time getting along with him, but he means well and he's generally a good person. A bit hard-headed maybe, and stubborn about his



point of view, but you can't blame a guy for believing in himself. Besides, a lot of his ideas are actually valuable and worth listening to.

So take a chance, get to know him, and don't be put off by his stern opinions. Like Brennan says, "you can't have that thin of a skin."

T: OK Brennan, I know that you are very opinionated, and I think style is something that you are particularly opinionated about, can you start by talking about that?

B: My opinion on style?

T: Yeah.

B: I guess it's a pretty necessary aspect of life. I had a talk with a kid today about it, how everything needs to start with style. I don't think it's as hard to learn tricks, as it is to learn how to actually ride. How to be controlled and comfortable. That's what style is all about; because, when you are comfortable it shows, and that just translates into style.

T: So it's not what you do, but how you do it?

B: Yeah, not at all! You don't have to do anything at all as long as it shows that you are comfortable. You can see it in a second. You can also see when someone's a squid in a second too, so...

T: Who are some people that you think have good style, or that you like to watch ride?

B: The list grows all the time, but.... On dirt, Chuck's got super rad style. When I met him two years ago, he was rad then, just going super high and not doing much. I could see it was going somewhere, and it's obviously gone. It's gone way out of line! Oh damn, I was watching that Marky guy when we went to POSH, and that guy's got pretty crazy style too. There are a lot of guys that I'd like to see that I haven't even got to see, but ah... It's so hard to say. Everyone has their own style, and that's something I was talking to you about when we went on that trip, how everywhere you go you can tell people's style by the way they build the jumps. So I guess I respect everybody. Anybody who shows that they have a lot of style I totally respect; and I look up to a lot of people, 'cause I

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look at myself all the time, and I keep working on it. I just keep trying to learn stuff, and I see stuff from other people that I want to somewhat adapt into mine. Everyone's got their own thing, and what they build translates into that. Rick's got really rad style too, and I think it's cool that he's riding dirt now. I think he's making the transition into dirt easier; because, he's made a big point out of bike control, and that's what dirt's all about.

T: Who don't you like, or who don't you like to watch?

B: Oh man! Here we go. I guess it all gets laid out on the table here. Who don't I like to watch? No offense you know, but ahhh... You just want to get me in trouble don't you?

T: Is it just freestylers in general? Do you hate...

B: I don't hate freestylers! Not at all.

**"I don't think it's as hard to learn tricks, as it is to learn how to ride actually. How to be controlled and comfortable. I think that's the hard part. That's what style is all about; because, when you are comfortable it shows, and that just translates into style."**



T: Do you think there's a place for tricks?

B: I've seen guys that do freestyle tricks, and make them look so good. That's what I've always been so impressed with about the Standard team, it's all freestylers, but they all blow my mind how comfortable they are. I look at guys like Dave Friemuth, and I still rewind parts of him in the video where I'm just like, "Damn." you know. He didn't have to go there for that one second, but he let his bike fold up that one way, and it just blows my mind how it just happens. I just don't like how it looks like freestylers are fighting their bikes all the time. They're so stiff, and they don't just relax. I think that they're more worried about what they're doing, and impressing people, and the contest aspect of it. It's all what you're doing, as opposed to when you go to the trails everyone is just real happy. They build all these tons of trails, and jumps and everything, and people are really happy if you can accomplish with them what they've built. I think tricks have to come second. I just don't like how with so many freestylers everything looks so difficult. It doesn't have to be that difficult; because, I've seen people do it and make it seem easy. It has nothing to do with how hard it is; because, I've done a lot of stuff that's not hard. It's all in your head. However, it is hard to turn your bike from knifing it into straight up nose-dive, or get totally sideways and just crank the bars, do whatever, like big kickouts and things where your bike is twisting all the way through the air, and it comes out just right. As opposed to just letting go of the bars and doing a nothing or something, you know. Your bike's going to make it across the jump whether you make it or not, and it will probably land on its tires. I just don't believe that tricks are hard. I think tricks are all in your head, they're just as hard as you make them. I guess that's my opinion.

T: Do you think more people should ride trails?

B: Well, trails help a lot. You can tell a trail rider from a freestyler that's for sure. (pause) It looks goofy, that's the problem! (laughter) The whole sport looks like a bunch of clowns just flopping around. You watch those Extreme Games things, and it makes everything look stupid. Because peo-

ple are just flying around through the air getting hurt, and that's all people want to see is someone getting wrecked. When it's amazing to see someone do a whole run, and they're linking everything together, and they don't even bobble. It's like flatland, how intense flatland is. You can see it when someone is so confident and on it in their runs that they don't even touch. People don't even consider that aspect in street. Like, "Oh, well he tried that." Well who cares what he's trying, it's what he's pulling, and if he pulls that into something else, and into something else, and he keeps it going for a minute or whatever his run is, then it's pretty damn amazing you know. It's like riding rhythm at trails, it makes you feel good. I don't know anyone who feels good about landing sketchy.

T: Oh, I love it.

B: (laughter) Even Foster was talking about that, how at the Extreme Games he did a one-handed flattie 360, and he landed it all smooth; compared to the one he did in Orlando, where he landed it, but at the same time, landing with both feet off as opposed to landing smooth, you know, it's only a half pulled trick. You can aim for your bike when you're flying through the air, basically.

T: What is your opinion on the ESPN contests?

B: OK, here's my opinion on this one. It's not too tainted. I think it's good and it's lame. The good part is that it introduces the sport to more people. Little kids can turn on the TV now, and they can watch BMX. They don't have to go buy a video, or hopefully know somebody who is involved in it. They can turn it on, and it can be something that they see. Look at rollerblading or mountain biking, it's everywhere. The way the public goes, what they see is what they end up liking, and the fact that BMX is there, and it's getting coverage is great. I think it's a great sport, and I think a lot of people should see it, and get interested in it, and therefore the sport will



# "I don't hate freestylers!"

grow. The only downside to it that I see is that ESPN, they glorify all the wrecks, and that sucks; because, they want to see people get hurt. I think it's gotten kind of distorted; because, in the last few years BMX has really been struggling. There's never been purses as big as they have been at these contests, and people just see it and go nuts, and end up killing themselves. Then there's also the other thing. I mean no offense to anybody, but... I think that going about it the way they do it, the fact that it is the Matt Hoffman / ESPN contest series is kind of lame; only because, Hoffman has a bike company, and he's got his own agenda, and his own things that he needs to accomplish, and his name is associated with it. It would be different if it was just the Bicycle Stunt Series, but it is the Matt Hoffman Destination Extreme thing, and it has his name all over it; and I don't think that that's bad, he has done a lot for the sport, but at the same time, they've put a particular group of people in charge of directing what a large part of the sport is being turned towards. I mean, they have a lot of control over what people see. I think they could have done it more diplomatically. Like, "OK, I know we want Matt Hoffman involved," but they should have gone through a whole big thing, and got somewhat of a board to go through this whole thing. Because, so-and-so being on the list for the contest, and so-and-so not is pretty lame; because, the question comes up, "Well, why aren't people who are digging every day at their trails, and building trails that professional freestylers won't even jump, why aren't they in their jumping; and why are the professional freestylers in there when they don't even go to these trails?" Dirt is a much different aspect of the sport, and I feel it got shorted at the X-Games. 'Cause I don't know any dirt riders that wear shoulder pads, or full-face helmets.

T: So basically they're making dirt jumpers look like circus freaks?

B: Exactly!

T: Can you explain your enduro contests for us? Was that more about style?

B: They weren't so much about style, as they were about letting kids realize that it's not about tricks. That it's about over all ability and skill, and style of course comes out of that. They were kids that didn't want to enter contests because they were small, and they couldn't do what the bigger crazier kids were doing; or they were older guys who didn't want to enter contests because they've been riding forever, and they just didn't want to do tricks, and they just wanted to actually ride, and they could all ride really good, but they just didn't have all the stunts. So me and Ted Nelson put this thing together where we would just have trails, or an area where people would just ride and have runs and be judged on their over all ability. They would be judged on an over all, as opposed to what they did on one jump five times, and maybe never again. We had the riders judge the contest, people who were actually involved in the contest. Basically everybody was happy with it. We had a freestyler, Rob Noll, in the finals, and we had Robbo in the finals, and we had a nine year old kid, C.J. McGuire in the finals. It was just everybody from freestylers, to little kids, to older guys, to trail riders, so it went over pretty well. Also it opens a lot of doors for people; because, it's a riding contest as opposed to a jumping contest.

T: Do you feel that's a better way to promote the sport?

B: I think so, yeah. It's not so negative, it doesn't set people apart from each other.

T: It doesn't make us look like circus freaks?

B: Yeah! It doesn't make us all look like freaks! You don't have to go out there and kill yourself to impress people, and that's what people should know. It's not about killing yourself. So yeah, it does help a lot being judged on control and ability,

instead of just being the craziest and the looniest. There's enough things in this world that concentrate on freaks.

T: Are you going to have more enduros?

B: I really want to. I feel really bummed out, and I guess I feel somewhat like I've been lying; because, I really want to do it, and it's not that I don't, it's just that it's really hard to organize. When I was living in Florida, and it was Ted and I working together it was a lot easier. I guess the other problem is I would really want to do one with Ted again if I was to do it; because, that's the way it was, we formed that thing called Superstructure, and we would just do our contests under that. I feel somewhat obligated to do another one; because, like I said, there's a lot of people out there. I go to trails all the time, and I'm impressed all the time by watching people ride, and I wish that they would realize that it doesn't matter if you're sponsored. The fact is, if you ride good you should go home everyday feeling good about that. It should have nothing to do with whose name you're running, or what you're promoting, or anything like that. If you spent that much time out there busting your chops to learn and learn and learn, and it shows, and when people show up at your trails, and you're a local, and people are just standing back going, "Wow, you're really good," then that should be enough. As opposed to going, "I have to do this so that I can get hooked up by somebody else, because when I get hooked up, then that will make riding worth while." It's not about that, you know. It's all about personal accomplishment. It's all about making yourself feel good. There's nobody else that you should worry about impressing. That's what the whole enduro thing's about; that you rode good, and you feel good, and that's it.

T: Do you think style can be learned, or is it something that certain people just have?

B: I don't think style can be learned. I think skills can be learned, and then style adapts from that. When you use those skills to learn how to deal with situations you become more comfortable, and with that comfort comes the style; because, you can relax, and when you're relaxed you develop that tone, whether you're super aggressive or super laid back. Like Taj, he's got a really burly style, nothing looks super difficult, but at the same time he's really aggressive. Then guys like Chuck, it's just like kickin' back, and it's just like another day at the trails. So he's cranking a ten foot table out on the race track, and it's intense, and your eyes are watering, you're flying, and your tires are all washing out, but at the same time that's what he feels good doing, and that's what he's comfortable doing. I think that's what it is. Style comes after skills, when you feel good, and you feel confident in your surroundings and your situations.

T: So what you're saying is people should learn to ride their bikes first, become comfortable doing it, and worry about tricks later?

B: Yeah! I guess that's my opinion. (nervous laughter) You should learn how to ride, and learn how to deal with things, instead of looking at the biggest thing there and saying, "I gotta tackle that." You're not "Trail Boss" because you can do one big jump. You're "Trail Boss" because you can run the joint, period! It's not about who's doing what, and doing it the biggest and the best. I guess that's all just opinionated though. A lot of it is knowing your limits, and riding within those limits, and then as you get better you expand those limits.

T: Have you ever tried to mimic anybody else's style, or is there anyone you ever tried to ride like at any point in time?

B: I don't think I've ever really tried to ride like somebody. I've seen how a lot of people in one area..., like the Long Island guys will jump something and do this weird thing with their bikes, and I'd just like to be able to do it; because, it's a strange kind of position in the air that I've never gotten into. To say that I've never tried to do that, yeah I'd be lying; but at the same time

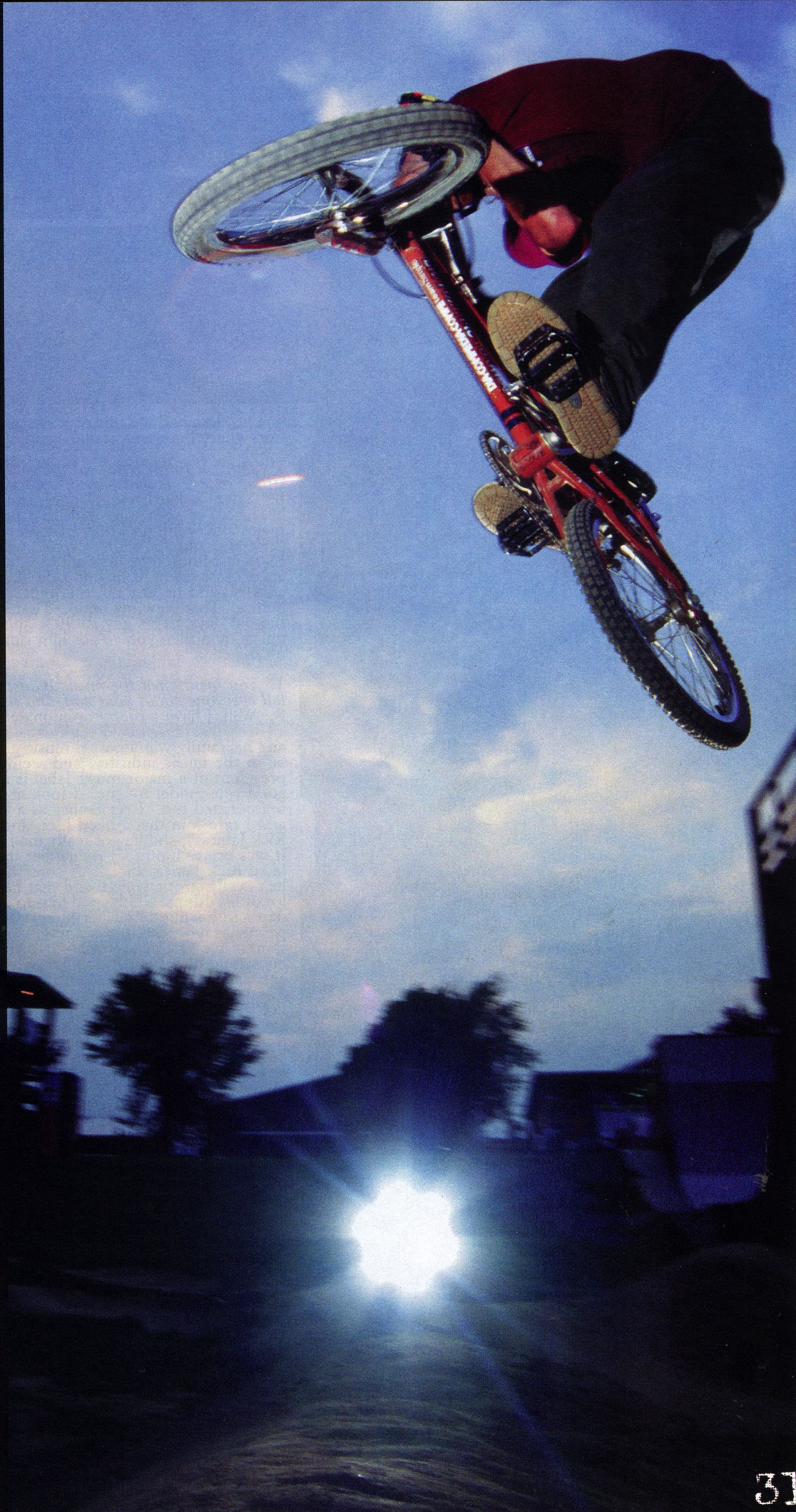
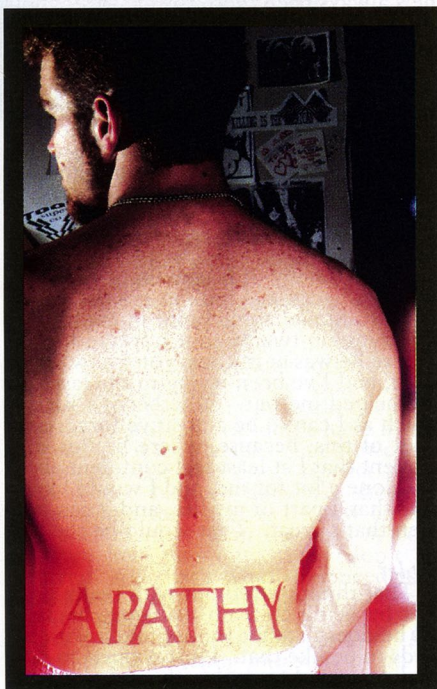


# Not at all."

it's not necessarily trying to ride like someone else. It's seeing what somebody else is doing, and trying to get a grasp on that. You could say that every flatlander is trying to be Kevin Jones, or every vert rider is trying to be Matt Hoffman, but the fact is it's not like that. With dirt it's not so much tricks as it is style, so it's not necessarily trying to ride like other people, as it is trying to understand how to ride like that. There's a lot of people who have made impressions on my opinions of riding. I said it the other day. Someone said something about me being like Morales, and I said, "I don't try to be like Morales, but we just see a lot of things eye to eye." We agree in a lot of ways, not necessarily on what to do, but just on riding in general. Just situational things, and not wanting to have to die all the time. I guess all else, try to keep from getting yourself wasted all the time. Doesn't seem to be working much for me lately (or Morales), but I'm learning again, so that's good. It's very humbling to have to learn again. It's nice.

T: *Is it hard to come back after an injury?*

B: I don't think so. I think the hardest part is working past the mental part. It is pretty devastating to think, "Wow, my knee is all blown apart; and now my other knee, which was my good knee, is blown apart as well." It's all kind of scary if you think about it, but at the same time, all the things that you want to do, and get back into doing, you've already done a hundred times, and your body remembers it all. All you have to do is get your mind set right, and just get your body into that position where it's comfortable again. I'll admit that there's always that weakness in the back of your mind, and if it's too conscious and too up front it will jump out and get you every time. That one shred of doubt will hold you back. Well, it doesn't necessarily hold you back because you're trying to beat it, but that one time that you're not counting on it to pop up is when you're going to get it. You have to realize that







Brennan

(man)

&

Lilly

(dog)

man's  
best  
friend.



you've already done this type of stuff, so all I have to do is get myself into that position where I'm comfortable again.

T: *Do you think style and image are the same thing? You seem to have a pretty strong image. Is that part of your style?*

B: That's a hard one. I don't think that style and image are all the same thing; because, I've seen some kids that have the best style in the world, and you look at them, and wouldn't know that they were half that rad when they first rolled up to the trails, and you didn't even know who they were. When I saw that Markey guy I was just floored by how amazing he was, but it had nothing to do with his appearance. Just seeing someone ride like that blew my mind; because, he had so much control, and he just ran the joint. I mean, I've never seen anybody ride in boots before. That blew my mind. That "Trashcan Morgan" guy used to do it, but that's the old days. This guy is '90's, and he's rockin'. Yeah, boots! Right there, that's image, and then you've got him riding and that's straight up style, and it just doesn't match.

T: *You mentioned the music industry, let's talk about you dad a little. First of all tell everyone about your dad, and secondly has he influenced your opinions at all?*

B: Well, I have a pretty opinionated view of my dad. I mean, I think he rules and all. My dad influences a lot in me. When I was growing up he was playing in bands, and his family was a gospel music group traveling around, and he always wanted to be in the music industry; and seeing him accomplish his dreams by becoming the president of a major music label is a big accomplishment for him. So he's a really good role model for me. I look at him, and he's got a strong will, and he is very opinionated too. I remember as a kid he asked me what I thought of Rick James, and I told him that I liked him, and he told me, "No son of mine is going to like Rick James!", and he got really mad at me, and said something about disowning me. It was pretty funny. I remember it still today, because he hated Rick James, and I liked Rick James, and that's something that just wasn't going to be happening. So he's really strong willed, and that helped him get through a lot of things, through a lot of hardships, and helped him to accomplish a lot of his goals. I think he set standards in his mind of what he wanted to do, and he didn't take flack from a lot of people as far as what he wanted to achieve in the industry, and he's changed a lot of things. He's helped me out so much, and he's always been there for me throughout my whole life. **People don't realize enough that you can be as proud of your parents as they are of you,** by sitting back once in a while and going, "They brought me into this world, and fed me, and kept a roof over my head, and paid all these bills that I'm afraid to get out of my damn house and pay." There's a lot of people who still live at home, and they don't want to take that last step out, and they don't realize that their parents are doing that for them, and have been doing that for them for how many years, and that's a big accomplishment. Period! To be a parent, and to be a responsible parent means a lot. So I look up to my dad a lot, because he takes on a lot of responsibility, and he's a good man. I guess that's about it.

T: *You seem to do a lot for BMX, and a lot for different companies, has he influenced that at all? Do you feel pressure to be successful?*

B: Yeah, I get that feeling from a lot of people, especially in Nashville. I feel like I really need to accomplish something all the time; because, I look at my dad, and I think, "How the hell am I going to measure up to him at some point in my life?" I realize then again that I'm only twenty three going on twenty four now, and it's so far away from me. I have to keep in mind where he was at my age, you know. I just have to think how to keep everything together, and I've been trying in the last year to involve myself with the people who have helped me out. Whether it's Rick at Standard, or Dan at Simple, I try to do as much as I can to be a positive force, or at least help. I really want to get something out of this; because, where he (his dad) felt his calling was music, I feel that the one talent that I at least feel confident about now is my riding ability. "Cause the sport has done a lot for me, and I would like to do something to help it out, and if I can make that a part of my life, and it can help to subsidize at least part of my existence, then that's great. That would be the best thing that could possibly happen to me.

T: *So what do you do for Standard and Simple?*

B: Well, the Standard thing is really vague. That thing started out with really good intentions. I was supposed to help out Rick by being co-team manager; because, Rick's really involved with the company, and he doesn't want to lose touch with the riders, and I think that's a good thing. It needs to be like that. I just wanted to help out and get a few things off his back that he didn't need to deal with, and also keep communications flowing a little better between riders. So the Standard thing, if



nothing else, if I can just help every now and then, then that's a good thing. The Simple thing is a little bit different. That is something that sort of conveniently fell in my lap that I'm really thankful for. Dan sponsored me about a year back, and I had enough good fortune to talk to him a lot, and I guess he just listened to me a lot and realized that I wanted to help out, and I guess he trusted me, and gave me a lot of responsibility to be able to pick a team. That was him putting a lot of faith in me, and I really stay on top of it, because I don't want to feel like I'm abusing the privilege I have to help people out. I'm really happy with the team we have. I try to keep it small, no more than fifteen people. I hooked up Stieg, and Chuck, and Squirrel, and those guys are the kind of kids I'm talking about. They go everywhere, and all they're doing is riding all the time. You see them and they're on their bikes, and they're funny as hell, and they try super hard, and they all ride good. At the same time, as hard as they try there are so few people who really help them out. They help so many people out, and they're so eager to. They really really want to, and their energy is all so good. So by giving those guys a shoe sponsorship it made me feel really good. Those guys just building what they've built alone, and having me go there, and have as much fun as I did having the experiences that I had on their trails was enough. They don't need to do much more. It's nice to sponsor people, and they don't have to be big name riders. Fact is, they're respected by other riders for being riders and having certain abilities. I just want everybody to feel as important about being a part of something as I did when I was included in the Standard thing.

T: *How do you feel about the current situation with BMX right now?*

B: I think BMX is good. I think it's really cool 'cause it's growing. It's nice that people are seeing it more. It's nice that a lot more people are getting involved. There are a lot of mountain bike companies getting involved with producing bikes, and hopefully there won't be too few people involved who really care about putting out a quality product. I think that's something that needs to be addressed.

T: *I read something recently that talked about how a lot of companies market BMX as a stepping stone into other forms of bicycling. How do you feel about that?*

B: Right, and that's another thing. When you go into a mountain bike shop and tell them you're looking for parts for a BMX bike they ask you when you're going to grow up and get a real bike. That's a bunch

of crap. The main reason I won't get a mountain bike is because it costs too much, and it costs way too much to have to replace it all the time when it keeps breaking. Plus I can't do anything on a mountain bike that I can do on a BMX bike. People don't understand that there are people who are involved in this sport, and you have to respect it. I think that's what's cool about skateboarding now. As much as people hate it, I think people finally have a respect for it. Skateboarders are gonna be skateboarders, are gonna be skateboarders, are gonna be skateboarders. You're gonna have the kids that get into it because it's cool, but at the same time, if you're going to have a successful shop, you're gonna have to cater to those kids that are going to stay in it. You're going to have to buy what they want, and you're going to have to have what they want in stock; because, when it comes time for them to get new stuff, if you don't have it, there's mail order places where they can get it for cheaper than they can from you. They don't like you anyway because you don't respect them, and I think that's the way BMX is too. Nobody likes bike shops, because they can mail order it cheaper, and they may not know anybody at Dan's, but at the same time they're nicer than the guys at your local bike shop who aren't going to help you out. They don't understand. They don't keep involved, and that's what they need to do. They need to open their eyes more. I don't think people are really realizing how big the sport is going again.

T: *Do you think it would be better for BMX to be a more respected part of the whole bicycling industry, or do you think it would be better if BMX broke off, and became a separate industry from bicycling?*

B: I think it would have to be somewhat separate. I mean, it is bicy-

cling, that's for sure, but... Everybody considers road biking completely different from mountain biking. It's like it's own little entity, and mountain bikers call road bikers "roadies" and the road bikers call mountain bikers "MTB guys." Everything's different. None of the componetry is interchangeable or anything. I think BMX needs to get an identity of its own, instead of the stepping stone identity that it has. Like skateboarding, people need to realize that, like it or not, it's going to get big. It's its own animal. It's growing, and it has to be dealt with. It has to be taken in and nurtured. It does have to be respected as what it is, and that it's not part of becoming a mountain biker or anything.

T: *What's up with your "APATHY" tattoo?*

B: It's kind of weird to talk about, because people don't understand it. I don't regret it at all. It has nothing to do with bikes or anything like that. It's all just personal life crap. It has a lot to do with a bunch of bad relationships I got into, and everyone knows girls will make you do some pretty crazy things. It's not even an expression of me. That's the weird thing, 'cause I guess people look at it and think "Oh, tough", but it's really not. It's kind of like a reminder to myself; because, it's an accusation I got from a lot of people that made me think about myself, so it's more of a reflection on myself. Sure it's on my back, and yeah, apathy means a lack of concern or a lack of emotion, but it's not really me. I'm a pretty passionate person. The apathy thing comes from people who don't understand me. They see what they want to see, and they don't understand, and so they label it as that I don't care. So I got that to kind of keep myself in check. Like I said, I am very opinionated and outspoken, and people take offense at that, but you can't really help what people perceive you as, so... Getting that on my back, I guess it makes people perceive me wrong, but it makes sense to me, because I have to look at myself to figure it out, so... I'm glad I got it. I gotta thank George for doing it, because he did a good job, and he did it when I needed it. It was like I had to do it right now. I had to do it within twelve hours. That day it snapped, "I'm getting it now!" I knew what I wanted for a long time, and Ted set up the art, and everything had to fall into place right then while I was in that frame of mind. Definitely no big statement I'm trying to make. It's just a reflection on myself.

T: *So what's one thing you want other people to know about yourself?*

B: I think I get a bum rap from a lot of people. I say a lot of things and it sounds really weird or rude or whatever, but that's all in everybody's perception. I don't outwardly try to be evil or mean or anything, so if anyone ever misinterpreted my demeanor or what I said or did, feel free to come up to me and talk to me about it. Even in general, I'm really open to people coming up and talking to me at any time; because, I've met so many good people in this sport, and I love meeting new people. I'm really not some sort of bad-ass guy who hates everybody. I am opinionated, but you can't have that thin of a skin. You have to realize that, "OK, he's got an opinion, whatever. His opinion may be jacked, but that doesn't mean he's a dick." So I guess "Don't get me wrong" is the one thing I have to say to everybody.

T: *Any thanks?*

B: The list goes on and on, and I can't count them all, but... Rick at Standard, not only for having faith in me and getting me on the team, but he's helped me out mentally a lot this year. Dan at Simple once again for having faith in me to give me a job, and trust my judgment on a lot of things, and give me the opportunity to help a lot of people out. That's an important thing, it makes me feel good. Then my friend Tito. He's been there for a lot of moral support. My dad, of course. Everybody who's on the Standard team for making me feel like I'm a part of something. Everyone on the Simple team too. This other friend Melody I met, super cool lady, good company. I talk to her a lot, she helps me sort out my thoughts. Ted Nelson and Roberto Kroger, and that's it.



Brennan  
reflecting



# ROOFTOP

RIDES THE SHORT BUS

MIKE

VIEW





YOU MAY WANT TO HOLD THE MAGAZINE AT ARMS LENGTH TO APPRECIATE THIS PHOTO. IT'S A BIT GRAINY AND NOT QUITE IN FOCUS, BUT HOW COULD I NOT RUN A PHOTO OF MIKE FAKIE WALLRIDEING A SHORT BUS? WHEN WE TOOK THIS PHOTO IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR THE COVER, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY PICTURE I HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE, AND UNFORTUNATELY IT'S NOT QUITE COVER QUALITY. THE REASON IT WAS THE ONLY PHOTO I TOOK? WELL YOU SEE, WE STUPELIDLY INVITED ABOUT A DOZEN PEOPLE ALONG ON THIS VERY HIGH PROFILE PHOTO-SHOOT. NOT A GOOD IDEA. WITH SOMETHING AS TOUCHY AS THIS, YOU KNOW THE POLICE ARE GOING TO BE INVOLVED SOONER OR LATER. I WAS STILL WALKING TOWARDS THE LOCATION WHEN RICK MOLITERNO PLAYFULLY JUMPED OVER THE FRONT OF SOME LADY'S VEHICLE NOT TWO CARS AHEAD OF A COP. EVERYONE CHEERED, BUT THE STARCHY LIEUTENANT WAS NOT AS AMUSED BY RICK'S UNORTHODOX DISPLAY OF SKILL AS WERE THE REST OF US, AND BEFORE I EVEN HAD MY CAMERA OUT IT WAS TIME TO GO.

WE COULDN'T GIVE UP. I REALLY WANTED TO GET A PICTURE OF THIS, SO I DECIDED TO GO FOR AN ALL OR NOTHING SHOT. WHILE THE REST OF THE PARADE WAS PACKING UP AND PRE-TENDING TO LEAVE, MIKE AND I SNUCK BACK TO THE SPOT TO TRY OUR LUCK. THE ODDS WERE STACKED AGAINST US LIKE BLOCKS IN A GAME OF JENGA. SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF BEING UP CLOSE AND HAVING MULTIPLE FLASHES, I GRABBED MY LONG LENS AND HEADED FOR THE TRENCHES. I TRIED TO FIND A GOOD ANGLE THAT WOULD SHOW ALL OF WHAT WAS GOING ON, BUT I WASN'T EVEN SURE WHERE MIKE WAS GOING TO BE, OR WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO. IT WAS DECIDED THAT MIKE WOULD YELL OUT THE TARGET JUST BEFORE HE MADE THE ATTACK. THAT GAVE ME ONLY A FEW SECONDS TO FOCUS, COMPOSE THE SHOT, AND GET READY TO SHOOT. I FELT LIKE I WAS ATTACKING THE DEATH STAR. ALL I COULD DO NOW WAS WAIT.

AS I SAT THERE TRYING TO LOOK INCONSPICUOUS, A DRIVER CALLED OVER TO ME, "HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DO YOU NEED HELP?" "NO, I'M FINE," I REPLIED, AS I THOUGHT HOW COMFORTING IT WAS THAT SOMEONE SHOULD BE SO CONCERNED. JUST THEN I HEARD MIKE YELL, "THE BUS! THE BUS!" I LOOKED UP AND THERE IT WAS, A HAPPY LITTLE SHORT BUS JUST PULLED UP TO THE LIGHT. I TRIED TO FOCUS SOMEWHERE ABOUT MID BUS, AND STEADIED MYSELF FOR THE SHOT. I STILL WASN'T SURE EXACTLY WHAT MIKE HAD IN MIND. BEFORE I KNEW IT MIKE WAS CROSSING THE STREET AND HEADING FOR THE DITCH LIKE A RABBIT TRYING TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD. THE TENSION GREW THICK LIKE FUR ON A MOLDY ORANGE. THIS WAS THE ONLY CHANCE I WAS GOING TO GET, AND I HAD TO MAKE IT COUNT.

THUD! MIKE IMPACTING WITH THE BUS MADE A VERY DISTINCT AND AMUSING SOUND, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE CLICK OF MY SHUTTER. THAT WAS IT, MIKE HAD FAKIED THE SHORT BUS. NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THIS. UNLESS OF COURSE THE PHOTO CAME OUT.

THAT'S ALL I COULD HOPE AS I GRABBED MY BAG AND RAN FOR COVER. AS SOON AS MIKE LANDED HE TOOK OFF IN A MAD SCURRY, THIS TIME LIKE A RABBIT AFTER NEARLY BEING RUN OVER BY A LINCOLN TOWN CAR. AS I LOOKED BACK I SAW THE UNSUSPECTING, AND UNDERSTANDABLY STARTLED, DRIVER JUMP OUT TO SEE JUST WHAT HAD HAPPENED. I REALLY CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT HE THOUGHT, BUT I'M SURE HE HAD A GOOD DINNER TIME STORY THAT EVENING. I MET MIKE BEHIND A STORE ALONG SIDE THE ROAD, AND WE SHARED HOPES THAT THE SHOT WOULD COME OUT.

SO HERE IT IS, THE FRUIT OF OUR LABOR. I WISH IT HAD COME OUT A LITTLE BETTER,

BUT WHAT THE HELL...**ROOFTOP FAKIED A SHORT BUS!!!!!!!**



# Get the picture?



Bert Elliot

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# NBL

# Southpark Sur

July 20-21, 1996  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

When it comes to BMX there's no denying that Southpark is one of the best races of the year. The track rules, the jump comp is crazy, everyone is psyched, and PUSH is just around the corner. Barring a one hundred and four degree heatwave, or some other natural disaster, you're pretty much guaranteed to have a good time; But just what makes the difference between a good time, and a great race weekend? Is it clipless pedals, energy gels and lycra, or is it some hidden part of every riders routine? This weekend I decided to delve into the underworld of the riders personal habits, and uncover one of the most important and overlooked issues a rider has to face.

Boxers or Briefs!!! That is the question. I asked the top pro riders which they prefer, and how it helps them hold it all together on race day. I think you'll find the responses to be very eye opening. See what the racers had to say, and then check their results for the weekend. It seems that you can eat power bars and raw eggs until your heart explodes, but unless you're comfortable out on the track, it just isn't going to help. So choose wisely, and just remember that on "The Road to Glory" you don't want to be caught with dirty underwear.



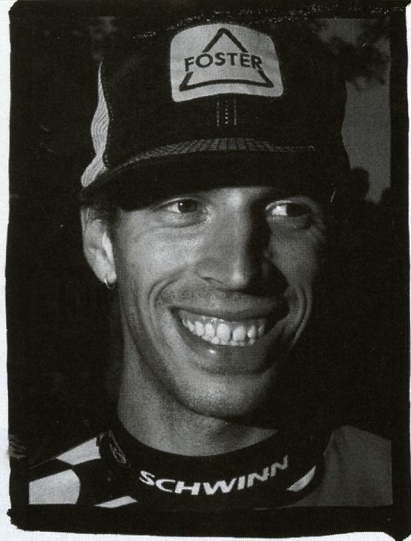


BMX shootout: Boxers vs. Briefs

# Summer National







**Brian Foster**

T: Boxers or briefs?  
 B: Boxers.  
 T: Why is that?  
 B: I don't know. In about ninth grade, when I was in the locker room for the first time, I felt funny with briefs on, so I went boxers from then on out.  
 T: Do you think it helps at all with your racing?  
 B: Yeah! Keeps everything loose. You can spin faster.  
 T: Spin to win?  
 B: Yeah, spin to win, or Schwinn to win.  
 T: Do you have Schwinn boxers?  
 B: No.  
 T: Are there any plans to make any?  
 B: Maybe one day, they make a lot of other things.  
 T: How are you doing this weekend?  
 B: So far so good! I've been in the top three. In races like this when they're big, it just comes down to the semis. Either you're in or you're out, and hopefully I'll be in. The jumping

contest is going on during the motos, so we'll see how that goes.

T: Are you going to try and jump?

B: Yeah. It's a big jump, and in-between motos and stuff it's shady. You just have to be careful.

### **John Purse**

T: Boxers or briefs?

J: Briefs, and I wear like the spandex with down-and-unders, they're like those padded short type deals; 'cause I don't like loose. I like to keep all my stuff secure, in the right place all day. In the heat of competition, you don't want to have something hanging down and clip something or other. (laughter)

T: Do you think that helps you out? Is that the key to your success, keeping everything in place when you're out here?

J: Yeah, 'cause it's one less thing I have to worry about. At night I wear boxers though; because, I read that you have to ventilate yourself.

T: Don't want any low sperm count or anything?

J: Yeah, for the least impotence you have to wear boxers at night.

T: But when you're racing...

J: When I'm racing it's briefs, totally.

T: How are you doing this weekend so far?

J: I feel great. I mean, this track is rad, it's my favorite track in the United States, either sanction. It's killer.

### **Charles Townsend**

T: Boxers vs. briefs, which do you wear when you're racing?

C: I wear briefs. I don't like boxers, just because it seems like your unit falls and just hangs on one side of your leg, so I don't like boxers for that reason. I'll either wear briefs, or Calvin Klein has boxer-briefs, which are like long boxers, but they're tight. I'm not a boxer man, because I like to be held. (laughter) I don't like to be swinging loose.

T: Do you think that helps at all with your racing?

C: I don't think it makes a difference, I think a lot of it has to do with preference. I mean, if I'm booking down the first straight with my unit slapping against my leg it's going to bother me, but I know some of the other guys wear boxers, so maybe that's what makes them go fast.

T: So how are you doing this weekend?

C: I'm doing all right. I fell earlier this morning, and I'm kind of getting through it, but it will be all right.

### **Reynolds**

T: Boxers or briefs?

C: Well, I've got boxer-briefs on. Kinda, tight boxer shorts, so I don't know what I'm going to be involved in.

T: So you're trying to get the best of both worlds?

C: Basically I get a lot of good support, they're long enough to keep my thighs warm, and they're fashionable.

T: Does that help you with your racing, keeping your thighs warm?

C: Well you don't want your thighs to get too tight in the race. You want to keep them loose, so that when you stretch them out you don't pull anything. They're very comfortable also, your leathers slide on a lot easier, and you don't get wedgies too bad. Plus, like I said they're fashionable, so when you take your pants down, if there is some cute girls walking around, you've got Calvin Kleins on.

T: Do you think that is going to help you out here in Pittsburgh?

C: Well, I hope it's going to; because, I feel really good, and feeling good is half the battle. If you look good too, that's even better. I feel good, I've got some good support going on, and they're a good shade of gray, so I'm happy; and my happiness should take me to a good podium position this weekend, because I'm in good spirits.

T: Ok, good luck.

C: Thank you very much.



"I like to  
 all my stuff se  
 in the right place  
 In the heat of competition  
 don't want to have some  
 hanging down and clip some  
 or other." --John





Kevin Dougherty leading the sixteen expert class through the second straight eight pack.

#### Alan Foster

T: Boxers or briefs?  
A: Boxers during the week, boxer-briefs during racing.  
T: Why is that?  
A: Gotta keep everything tight up inside. Same with motorcycle riding. Motorcycle riding it's boxer-briefs too, but then during the week you release with the boxers.  
T: How does keeping it tight help you?  
A: So you don't get sack slappers, where it slaps the top of your seat. It holds your package in there so it doesn't slap the seat. Same as it slaps the tank on a motorcycle if you've got really loose boxers on. Plus, boxers ride all up your crack, they don't stay right. Plus, the wife doesn't like it when I take my knee cups off, and my little thingy pops out the hole. So she bought the boxer-briefs for me, so that everything stays hidden.  
T: Do you think that's going to help you out this week here in Pittsburgh?  
A: Uhh, yeah. It's got to.  
T: How are you doing so far?  
A: Bad. Really bad, but I'm looking to turn it around maybe.  
T: Good luck.

#### Jason Richardson

T: Boxers or briefs?  
J: BRIEFS!  
T: Why is that?  
J: Because, boxers, they ride up on your pants, and then you're stuck, it's either one way or the other, and it pops out when it's not supposed to. So when you're wearing briefs you can adjust your unit just where you want it for optimal performance on the track.  
T: Does that give you a tactical advantage?  
J: I don't know if it gives me a tactical advantage; but I like to bust my nuts in bed not on the track.  
T: I hear ya.  
J: So that's all I got to say.

#### Mike Hammond

T: Boxers or briefs?  
M: During the week, or....  
T: Both.  
M: OK. During the week I usually don't wear none. They just ball up, and you have to wash them all the time, but when I race I always wear boxers. They ride up like everybody says, but it's better than being all tight and uncomfortable.

T: Do you ever wear briefs?  
M: No, never, ever.  
T: So you're a straight boxer man.  
M: Straight boxer man.  
T: So you think being loose, is better then?  
M: Oh yeah. Loose is fast, on the verge of out-of-control...  
T: "Days of Thunder?"  
M: Something like that.

#### Neil Wood

T: Boxers or briefs?  
N: I don't wear underpants.  
T: You don't wear underpants?  
N: In England we call briefs underpants. I wear boxers.  
T: Do you feel that helps you?  
N: I only have five pairs of underwear, so I don't have much choice.  
T: Do you buy your underwear, or does someone buy them for you?  
N: I buy them. Three pairs for five dollars.  
T: You're doing pretty good here this weekend, you don't think that had anything to do with it?  
N: Well, the boxers I have on right now are far too big for me, so I have plenty of leg room, and that's helping me.  
T: Loose is good?  
N: Loose is good, yeah.

#### Marty Yockel

T: Boxers or briefs?  
M: Boxers!  
T: Why?  
M: That's all I got. I was just noticing though, in the port-a-john, that they're all rolled up, and I was thinking I need to get some jockeys or something that stay on my legs, so they don't get balled up. I might switch.  
T: Do you think that being balled up affects you at all on the track?  
M: I don't know. I kind of think about that sometimes, like maybe it's cutting off some circulation, maybe that's why sometimes in the last straight my legs get all pumped up. I doubt it though, I think it's just lack of training.  
T: How did you do out there your last moto?  
M: I got third. From lane seven, so I was pretty stoked. So I need another second or third to get in.  
T: They're not balling you up too much then?  
M: No, not too bad.

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"I feel really good, and feeling good is half the battle. If you look good too, that's even better."

--Craig Reynolds



"Because, boxers, they ride up on your pants, and then you're stuck, it's either one way or the other, and it pops out when it's not supposed to. So when you're wearing briefs you can adjust your unit just where you want it for optimal performance on the track."

--Jason Richardson





### Robbie Morales

T: Boxers or briefs Robbie?  
R: Oh, tighty-whities!  
T: All right!  
R: Yeah, I gotta keep the unit in check when I'm riding.  
T: Did you have them in check at the X-Games?  
R: NO! I didn't have no underwear on,...cause when I crapped my pants they flew off. (laughter)  
T: You wear tighty-whities when you race though?  
R: Yeah, all the time.  
T: Does that give you any advantage?  
R: Yeah, it's just another thing I don't have to worry about. I've got enough problems. Thirty eight to forty size too, Fruit of the Loom, so you know what kind of heat I'm packin'. (laughter)

### Matt Polkham

T: Boxers or briefs?  
M: Boxers.  
T: Why is that?  
M: Can't be crowded. Everything's gotta kind of hang and shift, and ...you know...  
T: Flow?  
M: Yeah.  
T: Does it help your flow on the track?  
M: Yeah, get a little breeze going. You can't be cramped, so...  
T: Is it helping you here this weekend?  
M: Definitely. Especially out of the gate.  
T: You get a good snap then with boxers?  
M: Yep.  
T: How are you doing this weekend?  
M: All right. I had a rough first class moto, but I'm picking everything up now. It's going a little bit better, I'm getting more relaxed.  
T: Are the boxers helping you relax?  
M: Yes definitely.

### Timmy Strilecki

T: Boxers or briefs, and why?  
S: Boxers so my nuts don't get too tight.  
T: Does that help you out when you're racing, not having your nuts too tight?  
S: Well it keeps them free, but every time I go to stretch I rip 'em so it doesn't matter. I have to get new pairs.  
Craig Reynolds: Your nuts?  
S: No, not my nuts, my boxers.

### Jamie Staff

T: When you race, boxers or briefs, which do you prefer?  
J: I haven't worn briefs for years for anything, I only carry boxers with me, so...  
T: Do you feel that gives you any type of advantage?  
J: No. If anything they annoy me; because, they keep twisting around and stuff, so I might have to invest in some briefs. I think they might be better for racing.  
T: Do you think that's slowing you down at all here at SouthPark?  
J: I hope not. I don't think so.  
T: How are you doing so far?  
J: Fifth, second and a first, so...  
T: It's not causing a bind or anything?  
J: No  
T: That's good.

### Danny Nelson

T: Boxers or briefs?  
D: Boxers.  
T: All the time?  
D: Always. Briefs-never ever. Never briefs.  
T: Do you think they help you with your racing at all?  
D: Yeah, every once in a while I get into staging, and they're kind of sliding off my ass: 'cause my pants don't fit that well, and my pants fall off, my boxers stay up, I get the sag thing going on, and it's all cool.  
T: So that helps you with your racing, or hin-

ders you with your racing?

D: No it's good.

T: How are you doing this weekend?

D: Good up until yesterday's second and third mains were no good. I got a good first main, and ended up finishing fifth over all, so mediocre.

T: Do you think your boxers had anything to do with that?

D: No, that was my fault.

### Daniel Sprague

T: Boxers or briefs?

D: Well we don't have tighty-whities in Australia. They're for old big Granddads underwear. That's what they are in Australia. That's what my dad wears, but I wear boxers when I'm not racing, and I wear briefs when I'm racing. Gotta keep it in check.

T: Do you think that's important when you are racing, keeping things tight?

D: I gotta stay loose on the bike, and tight down there. I don't want it flapping around and hitting my knees. Plus, the weight of my body transfers really good if it's tight. If it's hanging, it puts me off balance when I go over jumps.

T: How are you doing here this weekend?

D: I made a main so far.

T: Do you like the track?

D: Yeah, I like jumping. I'm clipped in, and I'm not super rad or anything, but I like jumping it's fun. I'm learning tricks. I can't do anything really good. I can do like toboggans, and x-ups, and one-handed x-ups. I learned supermans, but then I crashed and hurt myself, so I stopped doing them.

T: Did you have briefs on when you were doing the superman?

D: No, I had boxers on. That might have been why I crashed?

T: Hhmmmm

D: I learned superman seat-grabbers last year when I used to race in platforms. I rode a lot of trails in northern California, and that kind of got me right into dirt jumping. Then when I turned pro, I decided that I really didn't want to go down that way; because, if I hurt myself that was it. I like to have fun. That's what trail riding is all about, controlling yourself good on your bike. The bike has been with me forever, so it's going to continue to be like that.

### Greg Romero

T: Boxers or briefs?

p: Well actually I was liking the butt-huggers for a while, but I started dating this girl and she preferred the boxers, so I just kind of...

T: Switched over?

P: I switched over, and got some boxers, and she likes them, and she likes to take them off, and it's easier access, and all that good stuff.

T: Do you wear the boxers while you are racing?

P: Yeah I'm wearing boxers now. I've never worn boxers up until last year.

T: Have you noticed any change in your performance on the race track? Has it helped any?

P: I think a lot better with the butt-huggers; 'cause my nuts were tight, you know right there, but now I'm all loose, so maybe I need to switch.

T: Maybe just for races you could switch back? That's a trend I've been noticing with a lot of the racers, come race day they put on the butt-huggers to keep every thing in place.

P: Yup!

T: How are you doing this weekend?

P: I didn't do to good. I over trained trying to peak for next week. I over trained this week, and did a couple road rides, and my legs are just tossed. Tossed like salad.

T: You don't think it's the underwear though?

P: No, it has nothing to do with it.

## The results are in!

### DAY ONE

#### PRO CLASS:

- 1: John Purse
- 2: Brian Foster
- 3: Randy Stumpfhauser
- 4: Charles Townsend
- 5: Danny Nelson
- 6: Craig Reynolds
- 7: Jason Richardson
- 8: Neal Wood

#### PRO / SUPER AWARD:

1. John Purse
2. Randy Stumpfhauser
3. Neal Wood
4. Jason Richardson
5. David Milham
6. Matt Pohlkamp
7. Jamie Staff
8. Charles Townsend

### DAY TWO

#### PRO CLASS:

1. Randy Stumpfhauser
2. Daniel Sprague
3. Brian Foster
4. Matt Pohlkamp
5. Jamie Staff
6. Scott Yoquelet
7. Jason Richardson
8. Craig Reynolds

#### PRO / SUPER AWARD:

1. Brian Foster
2. Randy Stumpfhauser
3. Jamie Staff
4. Daniel Sprague
5. David Milham
6. Neal Wood
7. Craig Reynolds
8. Marty Yockel

So, will your choice of undergarments help you win races? Judging by the results, it doesn't seem that either boxers or briefs offer any real advantage. On the other hand, many racers do switch to the tighty-whities on race day, so maybe there is something to it. Who knows?

I guess it all boils down to personal comfort. Yeah, like you actually thought the underwear you wear could actually make you race better. That's as crazy as believing that shaving an ounce off the weight of your cranks is going to help you win races. Come on.....



Southpark  
jump comp

i.e.

Dk  
Dirt  
Circuit

i.e.

The PUSH kids  
try to kill  
everyone

i.e.

ESPN doesn't  
have a clue

i.e.

Another  
bumpy  
runway

i.e.

Pittsburgh:  
come case  
our jumps

i.e.

Attack of  
the killer  
lawndarts

Ah yes, another Southpark jumping contest, and another ridiculous jump. Jason Stieg and Issac McCrea "Chuck" were the ones responsible for this years abomination. You can always count on the PUSH kids for a good show. Stieg built the lip, and Chuck built the landing. I think they should have had a conference half way through, because the two just didn't add up.

Actually the lip looked really nice. I must say, Stieg and Betsy (that's his shovel) do some mighty fine work. It stood about five foot tall, smooth, wide, and not too steep, the perfect launching pad to send you a million feet in the air. By itself, the landing looked good too, but seeing it after that twenty six foot gap made it seem a little inadequate. It was short and steep, and if you didn't have the distance perfect, you were either going to flat bottom or case the life out of it.

Chuck's excuse: "It's a trails landing." Good thing you couldn't land on it, huh Chuck? The thing is, trails have more than one jump so you can judge your speed, this was just one big jump all by itself. Plus, the once smooth runway had become a field of speed bumps after being rained on and then trampled by motor homes. All of this added up to yet another amusing jump comp.

By the start of the first round I had seen almost every dead

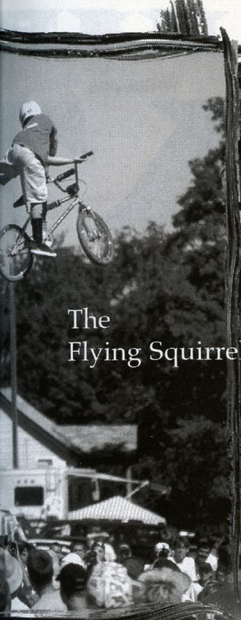


sailor, case, and lawn dart variation known to BMX. I saw one guy land dead in the middle of the jump, didn't even make it far enough to case, while others landed a good five feet past the landing. It seemed that judging your speed was the real trick. Even the mighty BF seemed a little frightened.

In all, almost half of the riders decided to drop out, including the jump comp king Joey Garcia, who stretched some muscles in his leg and wasn't able to race the rest of the weekend. I can't put all the blame on the jump though. It was ESPN who insisted on running the thing in the middle of the motos. Can you blame a guy for not wanting to jump right before or after they have to race? It's a good thing ESPN cares so much about the sport, and what the riders want. Gee, I guess TV really is your friend.

Still it was a good show, and some people got what they wanted. ESPN got their quota of wrecks, Stieg got the pleasure of destroying half the jumpers, and Chuck was justified in building this jump. "Hey, BF had no problem with it," was his response when I asked him what was up with the jump. Well, I wouldn't say he had no problem, but he did survive, and even took home first place. Too bad everyone can't be like Brian.





The  
Flying Squirrel



BF



Yeah, it looks good, but don't think he landed on the landing. Issac "I landed on my face every run." McCrea

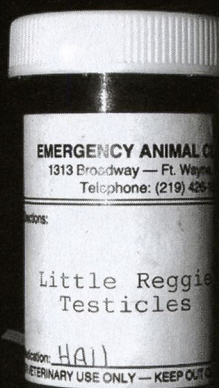


## THE FAT

OF LUXURY

LIVING THE LIFE

Honkey: ghetto slut kitty



Little Reggie dropping in sans testicles

Grub!

Bert

Have you ever given thought to what you are going to do once it's time to move out of Mom and Dad's house? Maybe you think it's a long way off, but it will happen eventually, if it hasn't already. Sooner or later, you'll want your freedom, or more likely, mom and dad will get sick of your lazy carcass lying about the house, using up precious food and oxygen, and they'll throw you out onto the streets. Either way, someday you'll have to move out on your own.

Now there's a scary thought. What are you going to do? How are you going to afford to eat, ride everyday, buy bike parts, eat, buy video games, and still not work? Well, fortunately for us, there is a way to make the transition to independence a little easier. A way for riders to live the BMX dream.

Welcome to the Fat House! I don't mean the Fat House in particular, but rather rider run flop houses in general. You see, there are many such houses all over the country, and if riding is your main objective, you may very well end up in one such house. Not that that is a bad thing. On the contrary, having lived in the Fat House, I can honestly say it was probably the best place I've lived since moving away from home. It is however, quite different from life at home. So, to better prepare you for what may lie ahead, and just to entertain, I present to you the Fat House Players...

## Magilla and Stu

T: Magilla how long have you lived at the Fat House?

M: Almost three years this October or September.

T: Have you been there since the beginning?

M: Yep, I was one of the first five.

T: The Fab Five?

M: No, not the Fabio Five. I guess it could be the **Fat Five**.

T: What's the best part about the Fat House?

M: I guess just that you always have someone to ride

with. Just wake up and there's someone to go to the trails with all the time.

T: Stu, how long have you lived at the Fat House?

S: About a year and a half I guess.

T: What do you like best about it?

S: There's always someone to argue with. There's always someone to hang out with or go ride with. We all pretty much have the same interests I think. We all get along. Just try to have fun mostly. Try to stay away from "Real Life", you know, forty hours and all that crap.

T: Is this the first place you've lived other than home?

S: No, I had a few other houses, but they all sucked. They were all with people who worked all the time, and I had to work all the time. It just wasn't fun because no one else rode.

T: So you come here because it's cheap and you can ride a lot?

S: Yeah, pretty much. It's so cheap that you don't have to worry about working all the time to pay your bills. You can spend your money on better things like bikes and stuff.

M: And King Gyros.

S: Yeah, and lots of fast food. **There's better places to blow your money than rent and utilities.** I can do without some of the luxuries most people have, I guess. Although, it would be nice to have a house without some cockroaches.

T: So Magilla, how often do you work?

M: I don't have a set schedule. **I work maybe once a week, or some weeks I'll work four days, and other weeks I'll work one day. I like that.**

S: Usually, you just work for a few months, and then not work for a year and a half.

M: Yeah. I just work in the Winter for a few months, and then not work all Summer.

T: Do you like all the people coming over to the house all the time?

M: Sometimes. Not when they get crazy, and break stuff, and wreck the house, and have no respect. That's not cool, but it's a change to see lots of different people all the time.

T: Do you like people throwing up all over your yard?

S: I don't know, I guess it's got to be done some place. It seems a little ridiculous that people come to the house and think it's cool to make a mess, or it's cool to get drunk and puke all over the place. People come, they make a mess, they don't really think of it as someone's house. They think of it as a place to party. We'll have to start charging admission or something. It should be a rule that when you go to someone's house you should at least pick up after yourself. 'Cause I don't live there so I can baby-sit a bunch of twelve year old kids. It's cool having them visit, but some people sort of take it for granted, they take advantage of us.

T: They should clean up their own bags of puke?

S: (laughter) Yeah. I mean, **a bag of vomit, it's not that hard to throw away. You just tie up the ends and pitch it out back or something.** Go down to the Amoco and throw it in their dumpster. I don't want to walk into my bathroom and clean up puke off the toilet. That's not my idea of a good party.



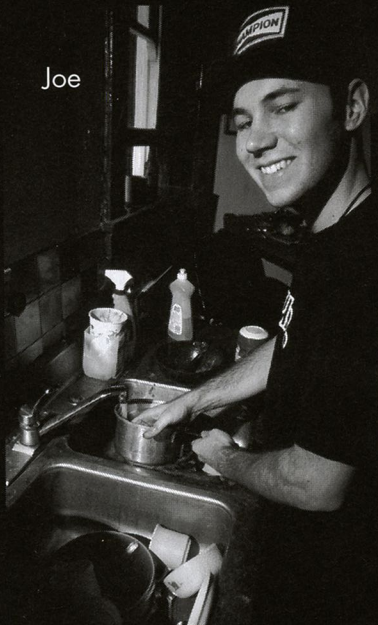
# FAT HOUSE

A MODEL OF POST -

PARENTAL SURVIVAL



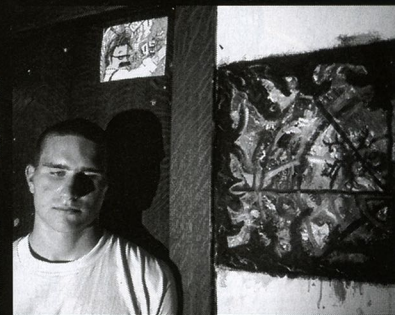
Joe



The porch: Notice chill in progress



Flag and his art



T: Magilla, how many different people have lived at the Fat House? How many people have you seen come and go?

M: I don't know. How many was on that list we made?

S: We made up a list, and it had about thirty odd people or so. Some people live there a long time, some people live there a couple hours, a couple days. Kent Huntsman probably lived there the least amount of time out of anybody. He moved in on a Thursday, we went to PUSH for the weekend, came back, and he was gone. I think his drive to Fort Wayne was longer than his stay in Fort Wayne (laughter).

T: Who was the worst tenant at the Fat House?

(Lots of Laughter)

S: It just depends on what you mean by worst tenant. Some people are good people to hang out with. Some people aren't financially responsible. It just depends, some people are miserable to be there with, but they pay their rent. Other people, they're cool to hang out with, but they've got some growing up to do. They just don't take care of things.

T: Are you guys looking to get out of the Fat House?

M: Yeah, we've been looking. We'd like to move, but I don't know if it's going to happen.

S: For a while the Fat House has been getting kind of bad. It gets trashed all the time. No matter how hard you try to keep it clean, people don't do their dishes, make messes, and we've had **the occasional crack-head or two just walk right into the house.** One morning I guess some really large Mexican man was passed out on the couch downstairs, his pants were down (laughter), and no body even knew who he was, he just walked right into the house and passed out. We kind of want to get a house where we can keep it clean. A little cleaner, a little more organized, a little closer to the trails. It will just be a few of us. Because whenever people come to Fort Wayne, they don't even call to let us know that they're coming half the time. They just show up and they expect to stay at the house. It's hard to be a dick and tell them, "No, you can't stay," so we usually just let anybody stay. So if we get a new house we probably won't tell anyone where it's at.

M: Just a few select people.

S: Yeah, just a few select friends. It will never be another Fat

House. That's a one of a kind thing. If we get a new house it's going to be the Stupid Dome; because Bethlehem has the Super Dome, and **we're just a bunch of idiots**, so we're going to have the Stupid Dome.

T: Who are some of the most memorable tweakers from the neighborhood?

S: We've got a lot of people who are kind of legends at the house. For the most part they're all people we like, neighbors and stuff. Barney from across the street. The two Dicks that live next door.

M: Roger and his motorcycle.

S: Mostly it's good people.

M: Except Will. This big black guy who walks in our house all the time.

S: He just wants money, and if he doesn't get money he just wants to fight everybody. He threw our roommate Steve through a window once.

T: Tell everyone about the porch.

S: The porch rules.

M: It used to be a lot better before a car ran into it.

S: Now, the partial porch, it's pretty cool. You can sit out there all day, and there's always weirdoes, tweakers walking by. There's never a dull moment. We're always pretty entertained.

M: **One legged junkies and stuff.**

S: We're a freak magnet, our house (laughter). I'm pretty sure that there's some sort of mental institution nearby that we're not aware of, because they never stop coming. It's OK though. It gives us something to laugh about. If we lived some place out in the middle of nowhere, and just sat on the porch we'd be real bored. We always just invite them up on the porch and hang out with them.

T: The Fat House pets?

S: Honkey.

M: Little Regg.

S: You couldn't ask for any better pets. There aren't too many people who don't like our pets. Except for Steve, and that's 'cause Little Reggie peed on him once.

M: He doesn't like Honkey either.

S: Yeah, just 'cause she's a cat, and she lives in our house. They're pretty well behaved pets. They never get in trouble. Except Honkey's pregnant every couple weeks. She's always popping out a few more kittens here and there.

M: **We had a dog once. Its name was Clymer, and it crapped all over the couches.**

S: Yeah, Jody didn't want to clean up after it, so he had it put to sleep.

M: Jody took it to the pound, because it kept crapping on Matt's bed. It crapped on his bed like three times in one day.

T: What made you move to Fort Wayne? How did you pick Fort Wayne out of all the cities in America?

M: Me, Mike Tag, and Steve Crandall lived in Ithaca New York, and it



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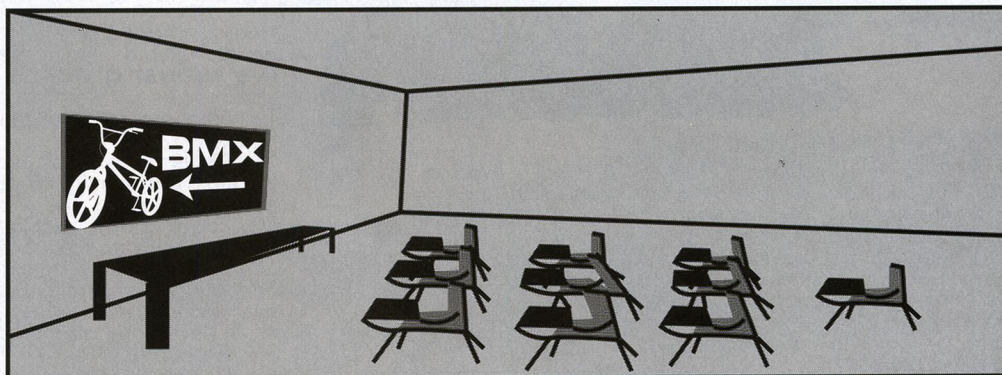
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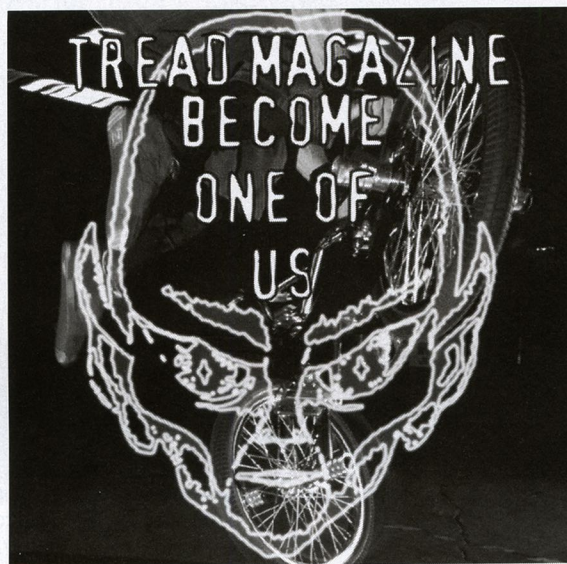
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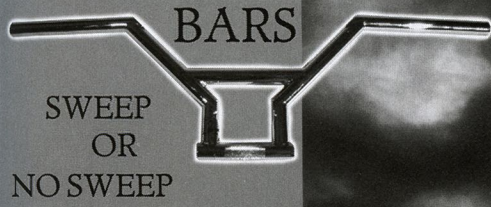
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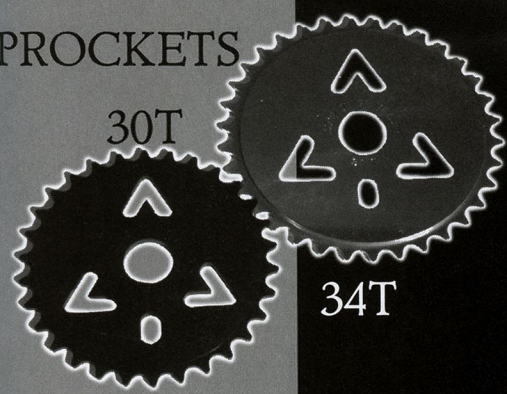
Nate Hanson

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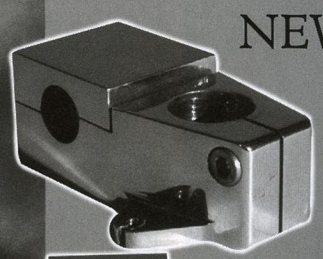
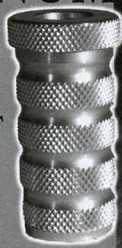


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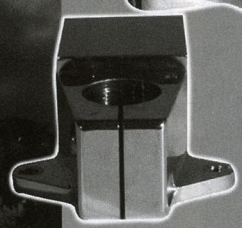
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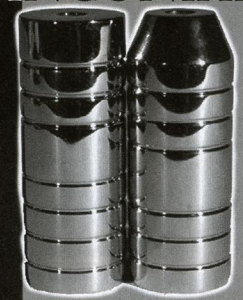


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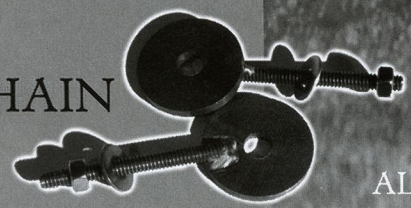
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ADJUSTERS



was kind of boring. It was pretty much only us three that rode. Then we met Jody at this Pittsburgh race, and we talked to him a bunch, and he seemed all right. He was like, "I'm going to be opening up this skatepark, and you guys can come and move in, and it will be real cheap, and you can ride all the time. So we just graduated High School, we had nothing to do, and we just wanted to ride, so we moved out there. It was all right, but we only lived there for about a month, because the skatepark got closed down.

T: Do you think you'll ever leave Fort Wayne?

M: I don't know. I have no reason to now. I like it here a lot. The trails are real good. **There's not a lot of places that are better I think.**

T: Were the trails here before you?

M: Yeah. They've been here a long time.

S: They've been here since I was fifteen or sixteen. They sucked though. It was really only one jump. The scene didn't really get good here until they moved here, 'cause Magilla and Mike dug a lot. They made the trails what they are. Magilla's pretty much responsible for keeping the trails in good shape and stuff. We all think it's a good idea to dig and stuff, but no one has the motivation that he has. If it wasn't for him, our trails would probably still be one jump, or a few crappy jumps.

T: Are you the groundskeeper?

M: I guess.

T: Do you all work for Steve Mantor?

M: Not everyone, just me, and Joe Daugirda, and Bert Elliot. We all work for him, and Stu used to work for him sometimes, but he's been doing his shirts a lot lately.

T: Why are there so many tweakers in Fort Wayne?

M: I don't know.

S: To me it never seems like there's a lot of tweakers in Fort Wayne until people from out of town come, and they point them all out. I guess I'm just used to seeing them a whole bunch. I always try and think that this is a normal town, but once in a while I'm reminded that it's far from normal.

## Steve Mantor

T: Steve Mantor, how do you feel about employing half the Fat House?



S: It's pretty cool for me, for the simple fact that, when I go to work, if I wasn't working with those guys I'd be working with a bunch of tweakers. It's cool because it's like hanging out and working at the same time.

T: Do you think there would be a Fat House if it wasn't for you? It may have gone out of business by now.

S: **A lot of those guys are pretty lazy**, so I don't know.

T: How do you feel about losing thirty dollars tonight?

S: I don't really care about the thirty dollars, I'm just bummed out because I had high expectations. Magilla and Jody, their reputation let me down. They don't have the same rep with me anymore.

T: How do you like living at the Fat House? You're one of the newest members.

S: I personally like it. I probably live there for different reasons than everyone else. It's cheap. Where I was living it cost me \$250.00 a month plus utilities. Now it's \$75.00 flat, so... Some parts suck, dirty bathroom and the place getting trashed all the time, but for \$75.00 what do you expect.

T: You can step around the vomit.

S: **Sometimes the vomit is mine**, so... I clean it up though if it is.

T: What are some things that you don't like about living at the Fat House?

S: The cats. I hate Little Reggie!

T: Why? Little Reggie rules.

S: Little Reggie's a tweaker. The first night I was there sleeping on the couch I was like, "Hey Little Reggie." I just wanted to pet him like everybody else, he jumps on me, takes a leak, and then just takes off. I hate that cat.

## Wilbur Barrick

T: What brought you to the Fat House?

W: Cheap rent, a bunch of people to ride with, trails, ramp, street.

T: Is it mostly for the riding?

W: Yeah.

T: What do you like to do besides ride?

W: I like to listen to music, paint, read, think, play chess, go on adventures.

T: How long have you been living here?

W: Since school got out, which was the end of May, and I lived here a while last year.

T: So you keep coming back?

W: Yeah.

T: Any plans of leaving anytime soon?

W: Yeah, I want to go somewhere warm this winter.

T: What's your style like when you ride?

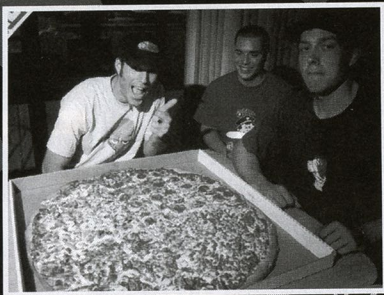
W: Whatever just feels right for the time. I try not to be too preconceived. I don't want to make a conscious effort to be one way or another in terms of style, just whatever comes naturally. It's the way I've always gotten the most out of my riding. It's the same way with my painting too.

T: Do you just do what feels good?

# Jeremy Reiss







## The 28 incher!!!

Have you ever seen the Vacation where John Candy has to eat the "Old 49'er"? Well, in Fort Wayne there lives a similar beast, the "28 incher." Yes, it's a pizza, and as you may have guessed it's 28 inches in diameter. Now that's a biga pizza piea.

The rules of the game are simple: any two people who can finish the pie in one hour not only get the pizza for free, but they each receive a fifty dollar gift certificate as well. If, however, they do not finish, then they have to pay for the meal, which costs about \$32.00. Also, puking and defecating are perfectly legal, as long as not taken to excess.

Quite a challenge, a challenge that Magilla and Jody Donnelly felt ready to accept; and a challenge that their roommate and financial backer, Steve Mantor, felt confident they could overcome. Steve felt he had a sure bet, as he told stories of the two gladiators prowess at the dinner table. It seems Jody had once eaten three boxes of Mac and cheese in one sitting, and he had seen Magilla put down an entire regular pizza on his own. Surely these two human storage tanks could process the "28 inch-er" without any problem.

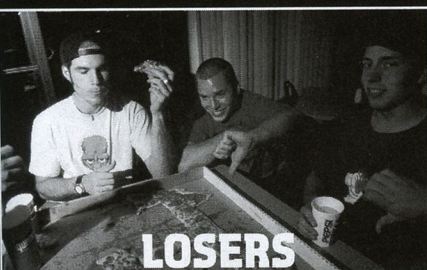
The pizza was brought out, the stop watch was set, and they were off. The action started slowly, as the two athletes paced themselves for the marathon meal that lay ahead. For the first 20 minutes or so the mood was one of relaxed confidence, as the two heroes sat back leisurely watching tv and snacking on their great feast. It wasn't until about thirty minutes into the ordeal, with over half the pizza remaining, that we began to worry.

Magilla and Jody began to worry too, so they turned things up a notch, in an attempt to catch up.

Another ten minutes passed and things really began to look bad for our two bloated friends. They kept complaining about how it didn't really taste like anything anymore, and no matter how hard they tried the pizza just wouldn't go away fast enough.

With only about ten minutes left on the clock, the contest was already pretty much over. Our falling heroes were delirious with over indulgence, and the manager returned like a vulture awaiting their certain demise.

By now all hope had been lost, except for the manager who kept making offers to extend the time, it the two consumption machines thought they could pull it out. In actuality he knew there was no hope. I think he just wanted to see them get sick, but they weren't going for it. It was over, and we all knew it. The legends of Magilla and Jody had been defeated.



LOSERS

W: **Not so much what feels good necessarily, but what feels right** would be more accurate.

## Bert Elliot

T: Bert Elliot, how long have you been a Fat House Player?

B: Almost a year now. I moved in around September first.

T: How do you like it here?

B: It's all right. The trails are good. **The night life sucks**, but we try to have fun though. The house, it's pretty much a dump, but it's all right.

T: Any complaints about the Fat House?

B: **It's just a dump.** That's about it.

T: Is it the first place that you've lived away from home?

B: Yeah. Good experiences, good people that live here too, so it's fun.

T: Whose your favorite neighborhood tweaker?

B: Probably Crazy Dick. Yeah, I'd have to say him. Or that lady who came up to us one night, and offered anything we wanted for forty bucks. She said we could do anything we wanted to her for forty dollars.

T: Why do you like Crazy Dick?

B: When he gets drunk he talks, and he waves his hands back and forth, and just talks about anything. He's kind of scary though. I always think he's going to beat me up. One night he was in my face, and I thought he was going to hit me. He didn't though, he's all right.

T: Have you hooked up with any ladies since you've been here?

B: No way! I hate girls. **Girls are stupid.**

## Joe Daugirda

T: Why do you live at the Fat House?

J: Because it's cheap, and there's a lot of people with similar interests.

T: You've been here since the beginning haven't you, off and on?

J: Unfortunately, yeah.

T: Will you be here until the end?

J: Hard to tell. I don't know.

T: How many different rooms have you lived in, in the Fat House?

J: (counts) Off hand, probably five.

T: Which was the best?

J: Probably the back porch. It was real primitive. I had my bed set up on a table. The roof was flat so the rain poured on it real hard. Either it was extremely hot or extremely cold.

T: Do you like Fort Wayne?

J: As a whole, yeah. It hasn't done me wrong.

T: Does it feel like home now?

J: It's kind of home, but then you have the other home, where you're from. I have a lot of roots there and stuff.

T: Roots? You mean like riding at the Ravine?

J: I don't know anything about that.

T: Who's your favorite neighborhood tweaker?

J: Either Larry, or Dick, Wild Dick next door. He's probably my favorite. He's basically just an old version of us.

T: Do you think he's been here since he was eighteen years old or so?

J: I don't know. I think about that sometimes, about me being here when I'm as old as he is. Doesn't seem too far fetched.



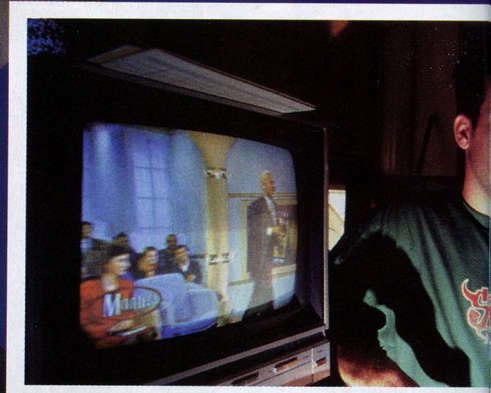
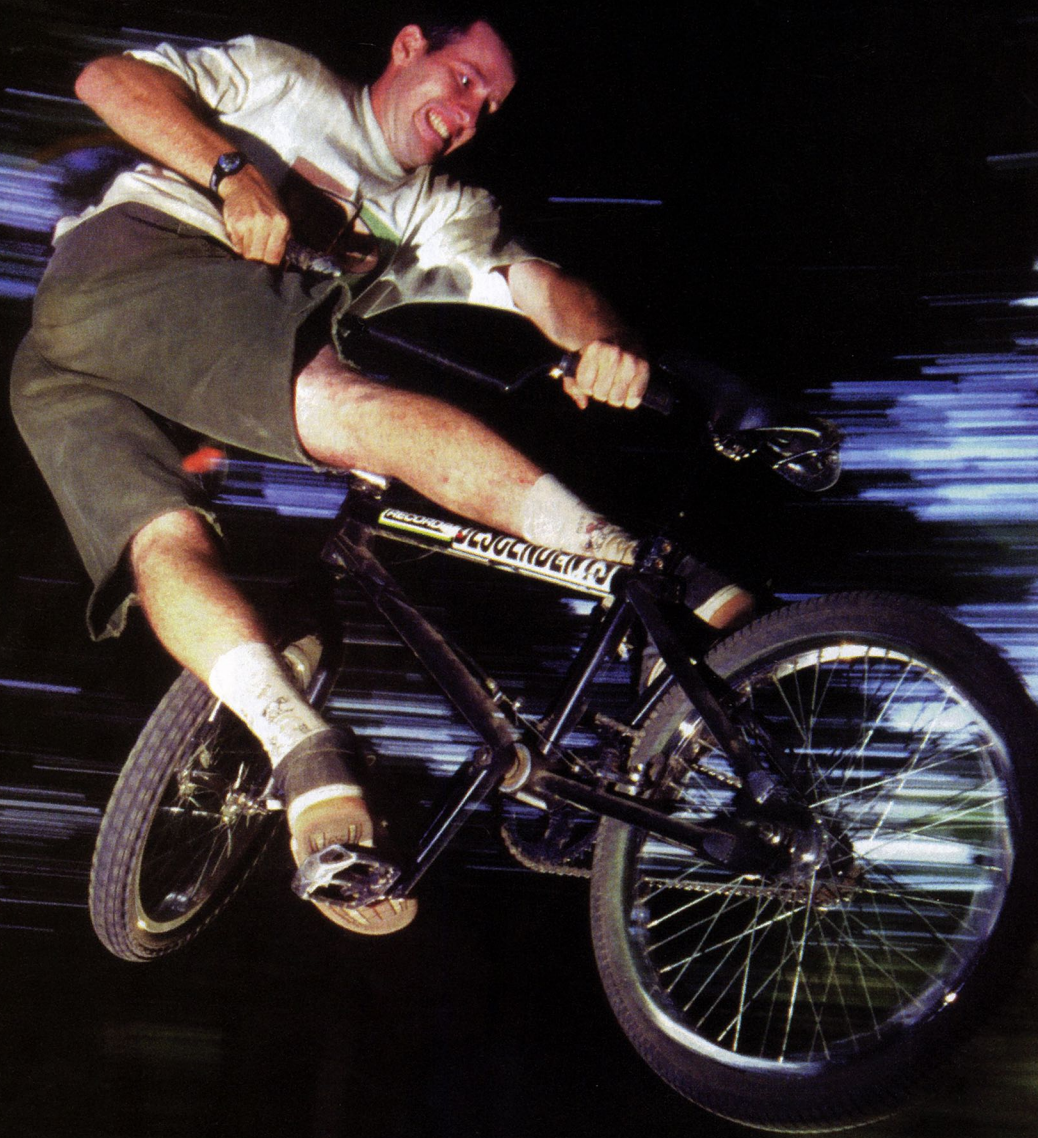
Joe Daugirda



# Fat House Players

"We're a freak magnet, our house. I'm pretty sure that there's some sort of mental institution nearby that we're not aware of, because they never stop coming. It's OK though. It gives us something to laugh about. If we lived some place out in the middle of nowhere, and just sat on the porch we'd be really bored. We always just invite them up on the porch and hang out with them."

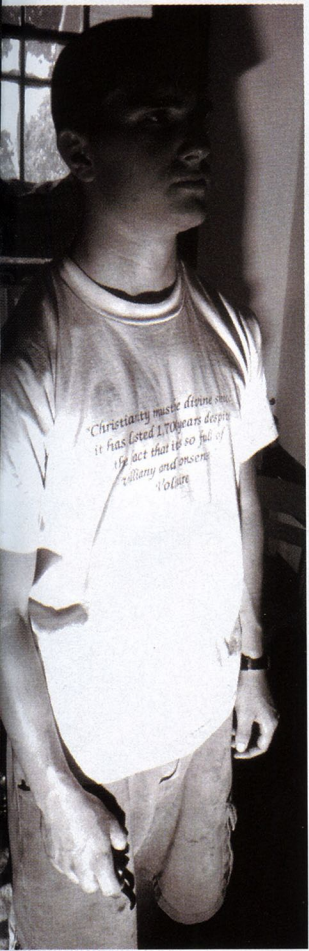
## Stew Johnson





# Wilbur Barrick

"Whatever just feels right for the time. I try not to be too preconceived. I don't want to make a conscious effort to be one way or another in terms of style, just whatever comes naturally. It's the way I've always gotten the most out of my riding."



riding."





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HE WILL NOT DIVULGE. DREW'S STYLE  
ON THE OTHER HAND, SHALL REMAIN A  
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WEASEL

# KINK

J



THE RIG

THE PORCH

THE MACK

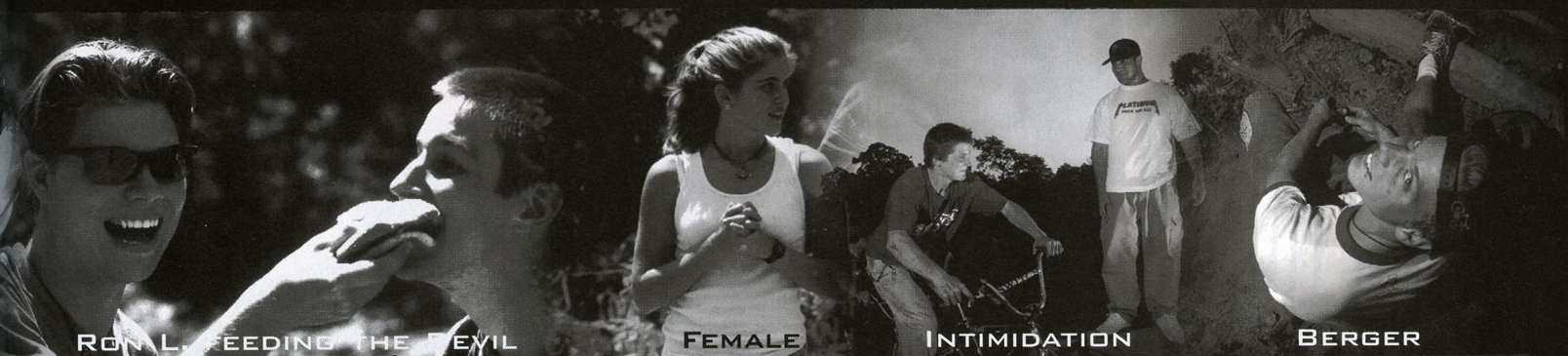


# Fort Wayne The Ravine Indiana

THE FORT WAYNE STORY, AS TOLD BY STEVE CRANDALL...

THE FINAL EPISODE OF THE KILL YOURSELF JUMPING SERIES TOOK PLACE ONE FINE SATURDAY AT THE RAVINE (HAND BUILT AND OWNED BY NONE OTHER THAN CHAZ'S OLDER BROTHER MAGILLA) IN FORT WAYNE. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED KRIS BENNETTS NAC-NACS, WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN OFFICIALLY REINSTATED BY THE MAN WHO RUNS THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY. MUCH INSANITY WAS PROVIDED BY THE KID WITH POLKA DOTTED HAIR: INSANE NO FOOTERS, CANDY BARS, AND A LOT OF CROWD SUPPORT TO BOOT. DEFYING ALL LAWS OF GRAVITY WAS CHUCK, WHOSE LARGE BUTTOCKS COULD BE SEEN DOING SOME OF THE HIGHEST TABLETOPS EVER; EVEN HIGHER THAN THE PITCH OF BRENNAN BROWN'S DOG WHO WOULDN'T SHUT UP ALL AFTERNOON.

AFTERWARDS THINGS REALLY GOT CRAZY, AS THE PUSH KIDS AND WEASEL'S FRIENDS ALL TOOK THE "CHRIS SALES- AGE OF FADES" TRAINING COURSE, AND COULD LATER BE FOUND PUKING ALL AROUND THE HOUSE. AND SO CONCLUDES THE HOSE YOURSELF JAMS, 1996. YES! HELL YES!



RON L. FEEDING THE DEVIL

FEMALE

INTIMIDATION

BERGER

# Kill Yourself Jumping Jams

THINGS LOOKED REALLY GOOD FOR THE START OF THE 7-11 JAM. A LIGHT RAIN THE NIGHT BEFORE HAD THE TRAILS IN PERFECT CONDITION, AND PLENTY OF PEOPLE FROM FAR AND WIDE SHOWED UP FOR A TASTE OF THE LONG ISLAND SOIL. SOME REALLY GOT IT TOO!

FROM THE START THE CROWD WAS PRETTY MUCH SPLIT IN TWO BETWEEN THOSE WHO COULD JUMP THE RHYTHM, AND THOSE WHO COULDN'T. THOSE WHO COULD JUMPED MOSTLY THE SIXTEEN PACK, WHILE THOSE WHO COULDN'T PRETTY MUCH STAYED BACK AT THE STYLE JUMP. THE STYLE JUMP IS WAY IN THE BACK OF SEVS, AND UNLESS SOMEONE TOLD YOU IT WAS THERE, YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T KNOW. SO BASICALLY THERE WAS TWO JAMS GOING ON. THE RHYTHM JAM AND THE TRICK JAM.

THE REAL DRAMA TOOK PLACE BACK AT THE TRICK JAM. NOT SO MUCH BECAUSE OF THE GREAT TRICKS BEING PULLED, BUT RATHER THE GREAT SPILLS WHICH OCCURED. I MUST SAY THAT NEW YORK CITY KIDS RULE! SOME OF THEM LOOKED LIKE THEY HAD NEVER SEEN A DIRT JUMP BEFORE, BUT THEY WEREN'T AFRAID TO TRY. BIG MIKE, HOLLYWOOD, AND JAMIE RODRIGUEZ WERE SOME OF MY FAVORITES, AS WERE THE TWO MADMEN WHO TOOK THE BAIL TROPHY BACK TO NYC. FIRST, THERE CAME AL CAIN, "COCAINE" AS HE WAS AFFECTIONATLY CALLED, WHO SPRINTED AT THE JUMP LIKE A MAN ON COCAINE (I SHOULD MENTION THAT THIS JUMP WAS ONLY FOURTEEN FEET LONG OR SO), WENT HIGHER THAN ANYONE ALL WEEKEND, CLEARED THE JUMP BY ALMOST DOUBLE IT'S LENGTH, AND PRETTY MUCH BROKE HIS NOSE ON HIS CROSS-BAR WHEN HE LANDED. INSANE! ANOTHER GUY, WHO I'VE HEARD HADN'T RIDDEN IN A LONG TIME, DID ALMOST THE SAME THING. I GUESS HE WAS SCARED OF NOT CLEARING THE JUMP, BUT OH MAN DID HE CLEAR IT, AND WITH POSSIBLY THE LARGEST LAWN DART I'D EVER SEEN. FIFTEEN FEET TO YOUR HEAD DOES NOT FEEL GOOD, AND BELIEVE ME HE WAS HURTIN'. ALL I CAN SAY IS GET WELL SOON, AND OFFER THIS BIT OF ADVICE: WHEN YOU'RE AT A NEW JUMP TRY FOLLOWING A LOCAL WHO KNOWS HOW FAST TO GO.

OUT AT THE SIXTEEN WAS WHERE I SPENT MOST OF THE DAY. ROBO COULDN'T RIDE, BUT HE WAS ON HAND TO HECKLE AND HELP ME OUT WITH PHOTOS NONE THE LESS. THE LOCALS LOOKED GOOD (SURPRISE, SURPRISE). ECD WAS IN THE HOUSE AND REPRESENTING. I WAS IMPRESSED BY A NEW FACE: VAN HOMEN, WHO BUSDROVE NO LESS THEN THREE SETS IN A ROW. BASICALLY THERE WAS WAY TOO MUCH GOOD RIDING TO MENTION, AND FAR TOO MUCH TO PICTURE IN THE MAGAZINE. SOMETIMES I WISH I COULD DO A WHOLE ISSUE ON EACH EVENT I GO TO, AND THIS WAS ONE SUCH OCCASION.

IF YOU HAVE THE MEANS TO GO TO ANY OF THE KILL YOURSELF JAMS NEXT YEAR, I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU GO. DO IT FOR THE DRAMA, DO IT FOR THE FUN, DO IT BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO, BUT WHATEVER THE CASE JUST GO.

7-11  
Long Island  
New York





# VAN HOMEN

THE YOUNG AND  
THE RESTLESS



YOU'VE  
PROBABLY  
HEARD OF  
K R I S  
BENNETT,  
WHO IS  
F R O M  
TITUSVILL  
E PA; BUT  
YOU PROB-  
A B L Y  
HAVEN'T  
HEARD OF  
B E R T  
ELLIOT,  
WHO IS  
A L S O  
F R O M  
TITUSVILL  
E. STYLE  
TO SPARE  
IN HIS  
CURRENT  
H O M E -  
TOWN OF  
F O R T  
WAYNE.



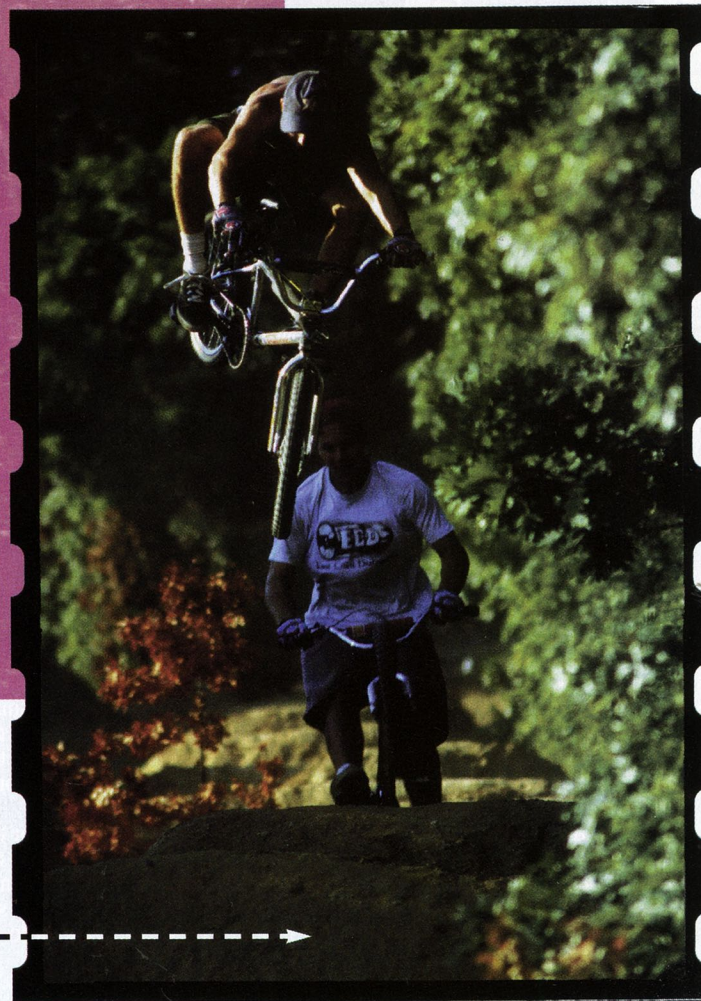


# Pictorial

THE MAN  
----->  
SUPERFLY  
-----<  
THE CAR

BRANDON  
"WHERE'S  
PUNJAB"  
PUNDAI:  
CROSS-  
DOWN  
STYLE  
OVER THE  
BIG SIX HIP  
AT THE  
RAVINE.

JAY LONEGRAN DIVING  
THROUGH THE SIXTEEN PACK  
WITH "TRAILMASTER"  
KNOCKIN' ON HIS BACK DOOR.  
ECD ALIVE AND WELL AT THE  
7-11 JAM.







# A Bunch of B.S.

Like I stated previously, I've been disconnected. I haven't been around to hear nor witness what's been going on, but looking at what is going on with non-prejudiced eyes (meaning I haven't passed judgement, nor made an opinion on any person, people, company, or corporation) I think people should begin riding for themselves. Too many people are wrapped up in "scenes." Don't get me wrong, it is cool having a bunch of friends to ride with, and a kick ass place to ride. That is something to get wrapped up in, your local scene, but when someone decides it's their right to publically / nationally announce his / her disapproval on what someone decides to do with their own bike company, corporation, park, property, or in this case, competition, that is stepping over the line. It is a noble cause to try and keep this whole BMX thing from being exploited and "dying", as it did in the 1980's; but as did Green Day's rise and fall, if it does happen, it will be just a phase, a trend, and like all other trends, it will fizzle out.

Besides, if BMX does become the next "trend", are you going to stop riding? If so, then quit riding now; because, the metaphorical "Tree of BMX" doesn't need dead branches. What it needs is strong roots. The roots that will stay strong no matter what happens to the tree. Remember those roots. Remember the day you took your training wheels off. Remember the day you jumped your first curb, remember the driveway where you rode your first wheelie, remember the first log and wood panel you nailed together for a jump to hold the "longest jump" contest with your neighbor.

Stop all this Nationals, ESPN, B.S., X-Games bull dung, and start riding for yourself; because, BMX is a part of you. It is in your heart, in your head, and in your blood, and BMX will never die until you decide not to fix that flat tire.

Sincerely yours,  
Neil F. Jauquet  
Platteville, WI

To Neil (and those it may concern),

First of all, I'd like to say that I have nothing against Matt Hoffman, nor any of the Hoffman crew. I do think the contests suck, but I don't blame that on them. As for my "holier-than-thou" attitude, I was just voicing an opinion, an opinion that I share with a lot of people.

Now let me also say that it is fun to voice opinions, just as it is fun to write into the magazine with yours. Opinions make the world interesting, and if there were no opinions in this magazine it would be boring. Just know that it is an opinion, and you have every right to disagree.

Let me also say that you have not been to these contests, and I think that if you had been, your eyes would be a bit more prejudiced. Yes, the Hoffman contests of old were the "shit". I used to get so bummed on the way home from a contest; because, I realized I was going back to normal boring life. While I was at the contest I felt like I fit in, like I was important, like I belonged to something. Well, these new contests offer no such feelings of glory.

When I go to one of these contests I feel like a lab rat, and I know I'm not alone. Almost everyone I talked to says the same thing—they're just not fun! Now I get bummed at the contest, and pray for the weekend to be over so that I can go back to my regular boring life.

What's different? Well, one change you would definitely notice at the new and "improved" made for TV series is a distinct lack of riders. There's nobody there! Nobody that is except for people off the street whom they can bribe with Slim Jims and tee shirts for applause. Nobody except those riders who stand to make some money. Nobody but nobody wants to go to these things. The latest contest in Seal Beach California was twenty one and over to spectate, and it cost twenty five bucks to get in. Does that sound like the Hoffman comps you remember?

Also, if it's not my right to try and save the sport, who's is it? Why does it have to be a trend? Why can't BMX be promoted as a lifestyle, as something to do because you love it, and not because it's on TV. I do ride for myself, and no I won't stop riding no matter how big or small it gets. I've never stopped riding for any reason (Well, except broken bones and such). I've got roots deep enough to know a time when there were no pegs, no gyros, and yes I do remember the day I took my training wheels off.

Finally I'd like to say that I have nothing against you. Thanks for keeping me in check. I think you ride for the right reasons, the same reasons that I ride for, and that's what I want people to understand. I want people to look through all the hype, and see the real reasons why people ride. Maybe I didn't say that clear enough, but I was pretty upset at the time.

I talked to Steve Swope, and he told me that things will be different next year. The company who was running the contests is no longer doing so, and they are open to suggestions. So maybe things will be better in the new year. In any case, I'll still be riding, you'll still be riding, and BMX will still be the best.

Thanks for sharing your opinions.

I have received a lot of feedback, both praise and flak, about my treatment of the B.S./ESPN contests and the X-Games. Many people have commended me on my harsh and heart felt views on the contests, while others were shocked and couldn't understand where I was coming from. Mark Losey is one such detractor, as is Dave Mirra, who thought I was ripping on him. I wasn't.

One of the main arguments is that the contests enable the pros to earn a better living than they ever could before, and that they are therefore good. Another commonly held view is that the coverage is good for the sport, i.e. the "TV is your friend" point of view. Fair enough, but what about all the kids who lost a contest series?

Then I got this letter from a man named Neil which opens up a whole new can of worms. The whole letter is too long to print in whole, but it begins with an account of Neil's riding career, how he had become "disconnected" with riding for a few years, and how he recently got back into the sport he loves. He tells of how, since returning to BMX, he has been riding for up to four hours a night by himself, and how stoked on riding he is. This leads up to the day he first found Tread...

Then one day I stumbled upon a magazine with an article about a contest called the ESPN-BS comp. At first I didn't know what they were talking about, the last thing I ever heard about a B.S. contest was that they were a small, garage style competition held two, maybe three times a year. They were the "shit" in the freestyle world; and now here this author was ripping both the comp. and the men to shreds on how they're running the sport, as if for some reason this guy was titled "Holier-than-thou."

I ride by myself. I ride better alone. I ride for myself. I ride for the satisfaction of feeling my legs burn with exhaustion. I ride because it allows me to escape, allows me to express myself in a way that nothing else can. If somebody sees me ride and enjoys watching me, so be it; but when most people see me do a grind they think I crashed. I just laugh and say, "No, I meant to do that," and ride away.



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# GRAND



# NBL

# 16x

Interviews by  
Brennan Brown

**Van Homen: plain wrap, New Jersey**

**B: Van Homen, why do you think 16X is so hard?**

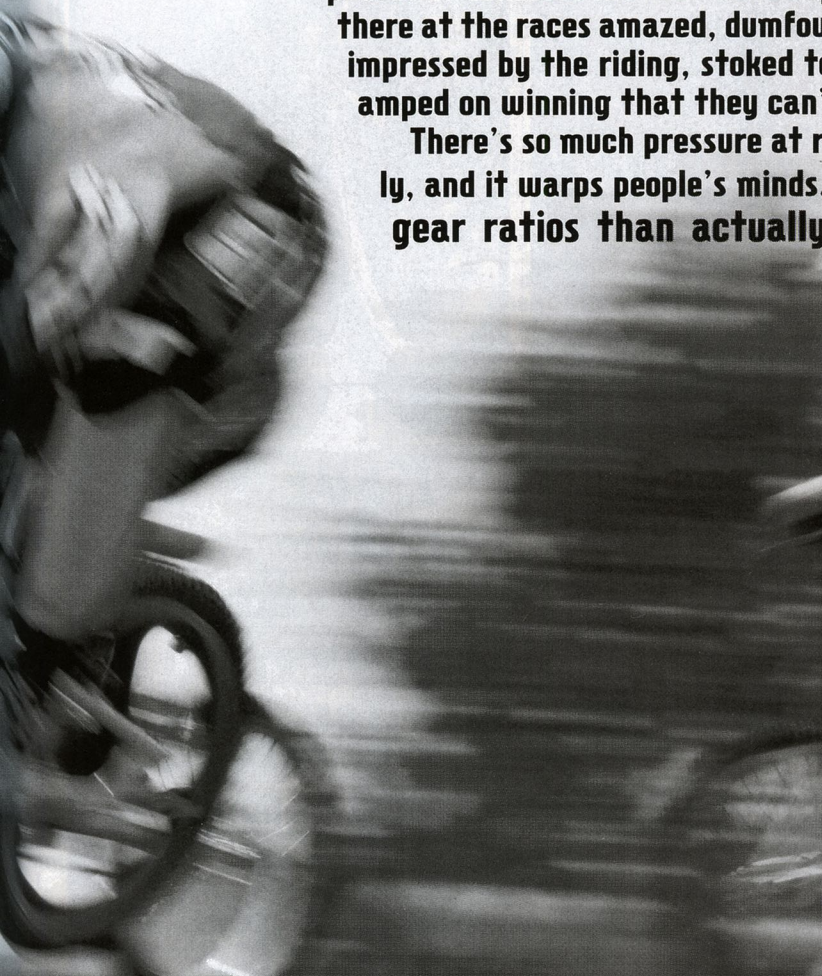
**V: I don't know, I guess we just ride a lot or something. We like to ride trails a lot, so everybody's really skilled and fast.**

**B: Who do you think is going to get number one?**

**V: I'm rootin' for Dan Lachman.**



# NATIONAL



**Racing amazes me!** Not just racing, but the whole race atmosphere. It confuses me too. Actually it stirs up all sorts of conflicting emotions. I stand there at the races amazed, dumfounded, stoked one minute, and bummed the next. I'm impressed by the riding, stoked to see all my friends, and bummed when I see kids so amped on winning that they can't just relax and have a good time.

There's so much pressure at races, so many people taking things way too seriously, and it warps people's minds. They start to worry more about grams and gear ratios than actually enjoying themselves. Everybody is brainwashed into believing that's what BMX is all about. BMX should be fun, period! There's really no other reason to ride. Sure you can make a living if you happen to be one of the best in the world, but even then, if you don't like what you're doing, there's easier ways to pay the rent.

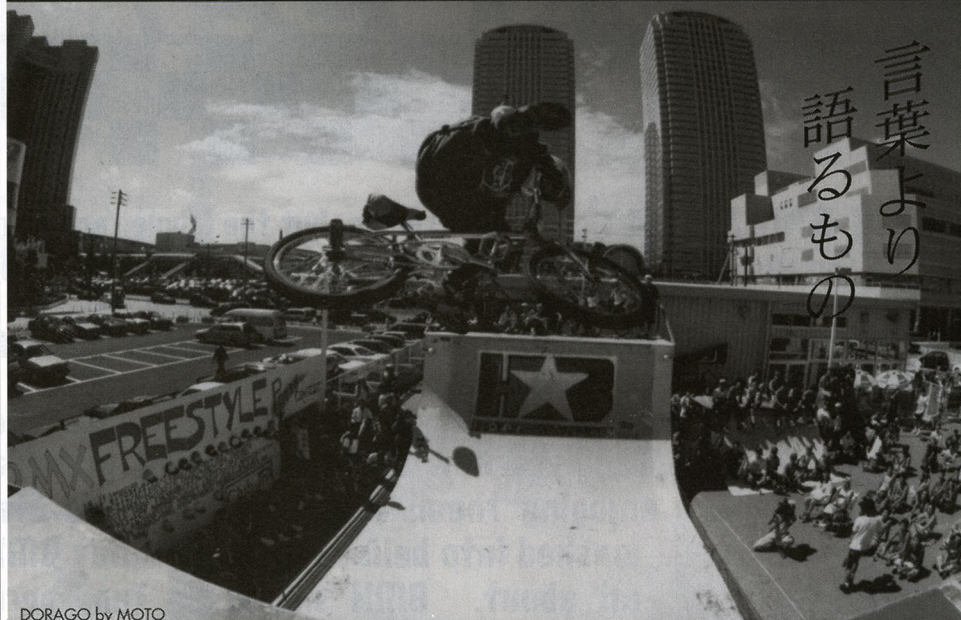
Here's a good example of what I mean. One racer, who shall remain nameless, refused to ride the bike his sponsor gave him, and instead rode a bike which was about a half pound lighter; because, he felt his bike was too heavy. He honestly thinks that half a pound is going to make that big of a difference, and he actually takes racing that seriously that he'd screw his sponsor for eight lousy ounces. That being said, it was pure poetic justice to see him lose every moto that he raced against his teammate, who was riding the very bike he refused to ride. Gee, how could that be. His bike was lighter, but he still lost? Maybe he should have had a Powerbar?

Racing is so incredible, the skill displayed and all you friends, and you should be having the best time of your life, but that's hard when you see so many people caught up in the "Win! Win!" mentality. For me, BMX should be something that you love, and something that you enjoy. It should be something that you do for the way it makes you feel, and not just to win at any cost. That's why I find races confusing.

But hey, that's just me. I guess for some "Winning is Everything," and the desire to win is what drives them to be the best. With that in mind, Brennan talked to possibly the most competitive and stressful class out there. No they're not the pros, at least not yet, they're the Sixteen Experts, and they're some of the best in BMX. Brennan talked to them to find out what they think of their class, racing, and BMX in general.



# ディギット

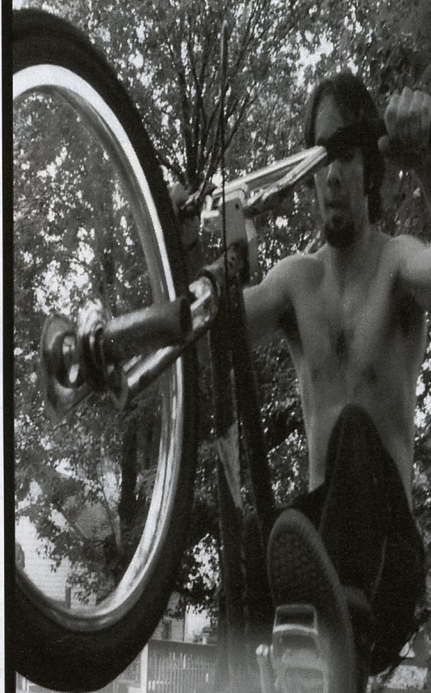


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**“So many damn smooth kids, they can all pedal their asses off too.”**

**Dan Lachman:** S&M, Pittsburgh

**B:** Why do you think 16K is so damn hard?

**D:** Everyone knows how to ride! So many damn smooth kids, they can all pedal their asses off too.

**B:** Is it hard this weekend?

**D:** Hell yeah! Semi's stacked. Everything's stacked.

**B:** Who do you think is going to get number one? There's only about six of you guys in contingency.

**D:** D!

**B:** You?

**D:** Dee's nuts. No. There's so many people who could, it just depends who makes the main.

**B:** Pick a name!

**D:** I don't know. There's a good candidate right there. (Points to Jason Johnson)

**Jason Johnson:** Rocket Racing, Atlanta / Florida

**B:** How many good kids do you think there are in 16K on any given day?

**J:** About twenty.

**B:** Jesus! And why do you think it's so hard?

**J:** Because we're all husky men, and we all picture good looking girls at the finish line, and it just makes us so fast, and we're factory and cool like that.

**B:** Who do you think is going to get number one?

**J:** I don't know. If I say me I think we'll have a brawl.

**B:** You're one of the guys sitting in the top spot huh?

**J:** Yeah, so are about ten other people.

**B:** So it's a little tight?

**J:** Yeah.

**Keith Terra:** TNT / Simple, Long Island

**B:** Keith, what's your views on 16K?

**K:** It's the hardest class ever! Everyone's fast, and everyone's got skills. There's no advantages. And everyone's factory, so it makes it that much harder.

**B:** Who do you think is going to get number one?

**K:** It's kind of tough, but I think my boy Dan Lachman's gonna get number one.

**B:** Alright, that's two on the bedpost for him.

**Mike Albine:** Poweraid, Orlando

**B:** Give us your views on 16K.

**M:** Anyone can win it man.

**B:** How many people do you think are in the number one contention?

**M:** Quite a few. I'm not really in there so I don't care.

**B:** Who do you think is going to get number one?

**M:** Can't tell, there's so many people out here.

**B:** Anything else about 16K?

**M:** It rocks man!

**Kevin Dougherty:** Pro Cycles, Florida

**B:** What do you think about the gene pool in 16K? Where do you stand on it?

**K:** In the middle.

**B:** Why is it hard?

**K:** Everybody's fast! There's not one person who's slow, everybody on the gate is fast.

**B:** Who's getting number one?

**K:** Kevin Dougherty.

**B:** You're the returning champ from last year after four years of getting your butt kicked!

**K:** Yup. Five years of getting my butt kicked.

**B:** Five years, and you finally got number one last year. So you think you can hang on to it?

**K:** We'll see.

**Stevie Harold:** Pro Cycles

**B:** How many years have you gotten number one in this class?

**S:** Just once.

**B:** The year before last?

**S:** Yeah.

**B:** Then Kevin Dougherty took it from you last year?

**S:** Yeah.

**B:** Is it hard for you?

**S:** Yeah, there's a lot of fast guys. A lot of factory teams, and it's aggressive.

**B:** You turned up right before this race huh?

**S:** Yeah, my birthday's August 30th.

**B:** So coming into this race, how do you feel about it?

**S:** It's hard, but...

**B:** Do you look forward to it?

**S:** Yeah, I look forward to it. It's a good challenge, a chance to prove myself I guess.

**Mark Hildebrand:** Illinois

**B:** What do you think of 16K, what are your views on it, is it hard, and why is it so hard?

**M:** There's so many people that are fast. Everybody's so equal, and everybody has skills.

**B:** Do you think it's harder here at the Grands than at most races?

**M:** Yeah, it's a lot harder here; because, everybody's here, and everybody trains for



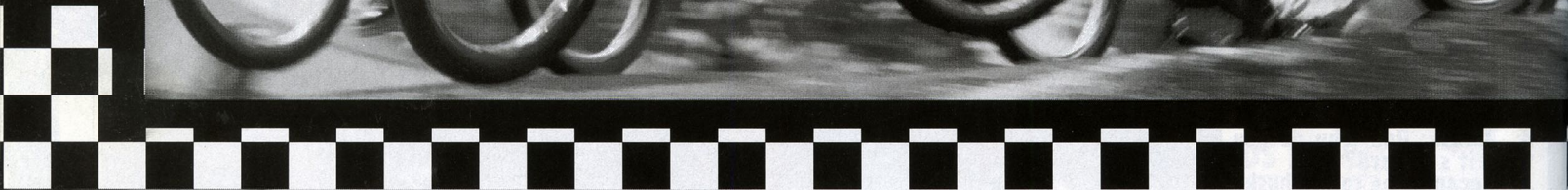
**“Because we're all husky men, and we all picture good looking girls at the finish line, and it just makes us so fast, and we're factory and cool like that.”**

**--Jason Johnson**



# “Everybody’s fast! There’s not one person who’s slow, everybody on the gate is fast.”

--Kevin Dougherty



Wing Ding

B: Wing Ding, you raced 16K for the better half of the season, and you're always a good contender to be taking some guy out, so what do you think of the 16K guys this weekend, and who do you think is going to get number one?

D: I think Jason Johnson is going to get number one, and I think 16K is the hardest class. I can't race it. That's why I'm not racing the Grands this year.

B: Did you take out anybody good this year? Any big names you can claim on your hit list?

D: I took out a bunch of scrubs, that's about it.

B: Who's the biggest name guy that you've ever taken out in that class?

D: I don't know.

B: Have you ever taken out Kevin Dougherty?

D: No.

B: Dusty Wiedeman?

D: I never raced him before.

B: Keith Terra?

D: Yeah, Keith is a wuss though. He cries when I take him out.

B: What about Dan Lachman, I heard that guy can't take a turn?

D: No, he takes a turn like a retard. That's why he didn't make the main. (laughter)

## After the semis

B: Keith, now that you haven't made the main, who do you think is going to get number one? Because Dan Lachman's out of the running now, so that means your bet's off?

K: My boy Dan didn't make it, that's right. I'm rootin' for Jay or Dusty; because, I really don't want to see Harold or Dougherty get it. Not trying to talk trash or anything, but they've had it for too long.

B: Bovona says, "and they're gay."

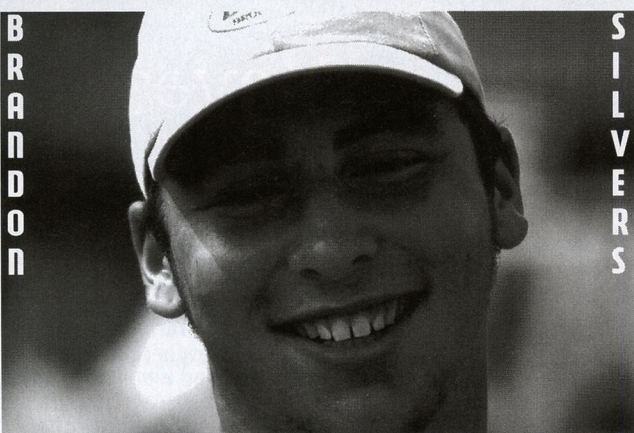
K: Well, that's an opinion. I don't want to talk trash or nothing'.

B: You see Bovona used to be 16K until he turned 17. Hey Bovona! This is Tom Bovona from New York, LI. What do you think about 16K; because, you were 16K for half the year?

T: It's definitely tough. It's like a AA race I'll tell you that. It's a lot harder than my class, where there's Royal, you know, but he's gay. There's a lot of fast people, Terra, Brandon...



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this race, so...

B: Who do you think is going to get number one?

M: Well, I'm not really sure. I'm not really in contention for number one this year, so I really don't know. Maybe Dougherty.

Brandon Silvers: BASE, Long Island

B: What do you think? Why is it so hard?

BS: Everybody's out for the same thing. Everybody's equal. Nobody's really that much better than anybody else. It's scary!

B: Who do you think is going to get number one?

BS: Can't say. Anybody in both the semi's has potential to win the main any day of the week. You can't tell. It's scary to tell, you don't want to jinx anyone.

Paul Bailey:

B: What are your views on 16K?

P: It's pretty hard. We've got nine fast guys who could win the main at anytime. I don't know why it's so hard. It's been getting harder the past couple of years I know that. A lot of guys are coming over from ABA, and it's just getting harder and harder.

B: You said nine guys, do you think that's about how many good strong guys you have every time?

P: For sure.

B: That's more than a main.

P: Yup. It's going to be tough to get in.

B: So going into the semi, who do you think is going to get number one?

P: Me!

Dan Morgenstern: Clayborn

B: What do you think about 16K?

M: It's a hard class, really hard to transfer through.

B: What do you think of this race, as opposed to the rest of the year?

M: It's pretty much been the same all year, always the same top finishers. It's hard all year.

B: Who do you think is going to get number one?

M: Myself! I don't know, probably Kevin again.

Dusty Wiedeman: Cyclecraft, Florida

B: Give us your views on 16K.

D: It's hard as shit! There's seriously no other harder class out here.

B: How many good guys do you think?

D: At least ten.

B: Who do you think is getting number one/

D: Seriously, Lachman's getting it. I'm down too far to get it. Unless I win the main and everybody else falls, Lachman's getting it.

B: How many guys that you know of are in contingency for it?

D: Seven or eight I think.

B: How many points apart?

D: I'm in seventh and I'm nine points down.

B: And how many points can you get for winning the main?

D: Twenty points for the main. It all comes down to it.

Robert Pierce: Powerlite

B: What's your views on 16K?

R: The class is real tough. All eight guys that are in the main are super fast.

B: How many strong guys do you think you have to look forward to at every race?

R: Everybody! You can't underestimate anybody, or they're gonna go right by you.

B: Who do you think is going to get number one?

R: Honestly I couldn't tell you.

B: It's that close?

R: At least what I've heard. I haven't been paying attention just 'cause I don't know how to read the points, but from what I heard everyone's within nine points away.

Unfortunately they didn't make it, but what can you say.

B: Who do you think is going to get number one?

T: Hopefully not Harold or Dougherty, but hopefully Dusty or Jay.

B: Brandon Silvers is finally giving his opinion on who's going to win number one.

BS: It better be either Dan Lachman...

B: It can't! Dan Lachman didn't make it out of his semi you fool.

BS: Well, I was over there cryin. Who made it? Tell me who made it first.

B: Dusty, Stevie, Harold, Kevin Dougherty, Paul Bailey, and Jason Johnson.

BS: Jason Johnson or Dusty Wiedeman, one of those.

B: Dan Lachman, I had a lot of votes for you for number one this year, and you didn't make it out of your semi, so what do you think of 16K now?

D: It's still pretty hard, but it got a lot harder in that semi in the first turn.

B: How many guys were there in your semi that were really hard?

D: Eight of them!

B: Who do you think is gonna get number one now that you're not in the running?

D: Steve Howard or Kevin Dougherty, maybe Jason Johnson.





# Mike Tagliavento

This photo is from the "DK Dirt Circuit" at the NBL Grands. The jump comp was sheer brilliance, quite a stark contrast to the atmosphere of the Grands, and a welcome change. There were 41 participants when Budman cut off the sign ups, and if he hadn't there would have been plenty more. Steve was worried that it would be out of control, and that's exactly what it was. Complete Chaos! It was BMX in it's finest hour. I loved it, and felt sorry for Steve; because, he couldn't enjoy the madness that he was responsible for. All he could do is sit back and watch as Steve Crandall rocked the mic, and 40 odd BMXers vented their pent up aggressions. One after another they threw themselves across the chasm with a blatant disregard for the rules, personal safety, and the safety of those people crashing in front of them. No matter what happened they wouldn't stop. Now that's BMX!







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