

Doug Hissom

Born to be Mild

Gangs of cops on bikes benefit charity

You can call these cops "pigs" and they won't mind. But they might ask you for money to help out their favorite charity. They're the gang called "Renegade Pigs" and they're, well, PIGS—they have pride, integrity, and guts, according to their acronym of choice.

The Pigs here are a local chapter of law enforcement and firefighter types that ride American motorcycles, dress in colors and hold a couple events a year to raise money. They might be getting the bikes ready for one more ride as the leaves fall.

"Yeah, people raise an eyebrow," says Renegade Pig Jeffrey Doss, a 15-year local law enforcement pro, of the club's jean jerseys and very much gang-like patches and logos. "They see colors and motorcycles and they think it's a club. We're not here to rape and pillage and burn, but it's always the image."

Doss thinks they might be doing the other Milwaukee vest-wearing motorcycle clubs a favor, in terms of acceptance and attitudes—that clubs are not just filled with nasty, dirty souls.

"We want to get away from a bad boy image even though we dress up like bad boys," he says.

Pig chapter President Todd Dickau, a Milwaukee County Sheriff's sergeant with 11 years on the force, says sometimes the boss "worries what we get into. There's a misconception we're out to terrorize the citizens."

Cops, bad boys? Not these guys. Their hearts are filled with doing good deeds from the saddle of the bike. As long as they can have a poker-run, they can raise money for charity. This summer, they raised several thousand dollars for the daughter of a helicopter pilot in Iraq, since her disease wasn't covered by a military man's health insurance. He was footing the bill alone, without a wife or mother for his daughter. Before he had to go back on tour in Iraq, the Pigs put some money together to keep her alive.

"It was a no-brainer for us," says Dickau, adding that the group has raised over \$20,000 in three years.

There are several motorcycle clubs that bring the law enforcement and firefighting communities together: the Blue

Knights, Warhogs, and Wind & Fire, to name a few in Milwaukee. They are extensions of the brotherhood those two professions carry with them.

Being a cop and calling yourself a Pig could be the height of identity crisis. But the Pigs are an international motorcycle club with some 1,000 members.

The group's national annual meeting will be held in Milwaukee in 2006, when the snow will be flying. The good weather is for biking. And in the depths of winter they also hold a "Black and Blue" Ball as a fundraiser.

"It's something for the wives," says Dickau.

But leave the Vespa at home.

Where Can Johnny Read? The Cedarburg School District ranked first in reading proficiency among schools in southeast Wisconsin. Kettle Moraine lost the top spot it held last year and placed second in the survey by the Public Policy Forum. The rest of the top ten included: Arrowhead, Grafton, Greendale, Mequon-Thiensville, New Berlin, Shorewood and Germantown. The Public Policy Forum surveyed 50 public schools in the region for its study. The most improved were Grafton, which moved from 13th to 5th, Greendale, which moved from 11th to 6th, and Germantown, which went from 12th to 9th. New Berlin took the biggest fall, going from 2nd to 10th.

The Show Must Go On: Speaking of reading and schools, some parents at Wauwatosa West are now concerned because the forensics team's suddenly controversial play could go unperformed for the public after pressure from outside forces caused its cancellation. They are entertaining thoughts of asking West students to put the show on anyway at a venue outside the school. A group of parents and former parents of students at the school pressured the superintendent and principal into canceling a public performance of *A Bird of Prey*, written by nationally acclaimed author Jim Grimsley. Led by Don and Donna Soderberg, who do not have students in the school, a group objected to the play's content, which contains mentions of sex, gays, and a dislike of God.

The play was performed by the Tosa West students at a contest Oct. 23 and the troupe did well enough to head further into the state tournament.

The Power of a Military Base: Military bases hold a strange sway over politicians. Take Gov. Doyle's quandary. He's generally against the war in Iraq, but appreciates what Fort McCoy means to the economy—about \$619 million worth of appreciation. So now Doyle has to be a hawk because new wimpy generals in charge of the Army say it's too cold in Wisconsin winters to use the fort as a staging area to ship troops overseas. Doyle worries that with a winter leave, the fort could be in line to be closed permanently.

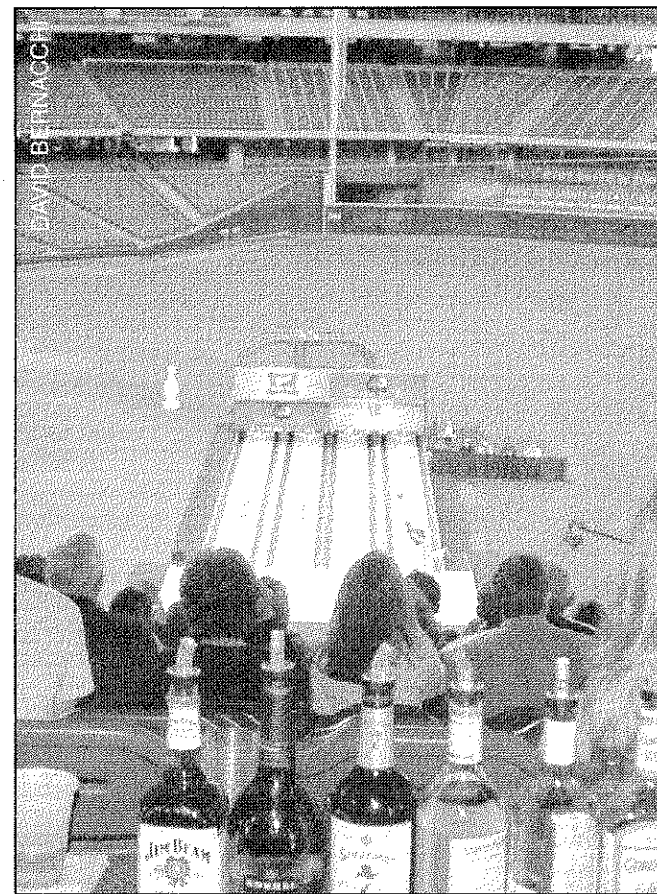
Say it With Me, 'All the way with VK': Vincent Kuttemperoor is a guy who must be used to getting his way. He was eyeing some land in Brookfield to develop, so he offered to build the Elmbrook School District a new school for \$15 million, give another \$1 million for a new gym and cafeteria at two other schools, and lease space to allow for free engineering classes. Oh, and he wanted the school to be named after his wife, a request he later dropped. In return, he would get an existing school and the 25 acres it sits on, which he would combine with 30 acres he already owns and make a commercial and residential boon for himself. School district officials had to admit they've been talking about this for about a year, while some parents are rightfully concerned the district is up for bid.

Kuttemperoor recently got back from a trade trip to Japan with Gov. Doyle. He and members of his family gave Doyle \$15,700 in campaign donations.

Narrow Radio Band: Charlie Sykes' morning show was broadcast live on CSPAN last week as part of its political coverage. While CSPAN's motives may have been purely journalistic, the featured right-wing radio talkers suddenly had access to high-level campaign operatives as guests while their show was being broadcast. Sykes' Toledo counterpart, "Radio Denny" was able to mock Democratic Party chief Terry McAuliffe live on the air, while Sykes interviewed National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and GOP Chairman Ed Gillespie.

Transportation Party Time: It's turning out that those joyous, free-spending times of having a Republican in the governor's mansion were quite expensive. A recent audit showed that Department of Transportation engineering contracts to private consultants rose 45% in five years, from \$82.1 million in 2000 to \$119.1 million in 2004, but most of those substantial giveaways were done before Gov. Doyle took office in 2003. Under his oversight, contracts grew just 2%. Who was looking after the cookie jar before that? The remnants of the Tommy Thompson administration under the guidance of Scott McCallum, an administration known for its largess to the roadbuilders.

Burn that Flag: The National Association of Minority Race Fans invaded the NASCAR race this weekend in Atlanta, offering rednecks the opportunity to exchange their Confederate flags for an American flag, a NASCAR flag or a drivers' flag. The group asked that



Pro Bowling is Back in Brew-Town: Milwaukee got one of its three 'B's back when the Professional Bowlers Association tour came back to town for the first time in over a decade. Now, despite secret protests from the tourism promotion crowd, Milwaukee is again ranked as a beer, brats and bowling town. How can it be denied? The PBA show was held at a place called Miller Park, home of the Brewers. One added feature of the event, however, was that a full bar was available to fans, not the regular serving of brew that the Miller Park faithful get when the boys of summer take the field.

NASCAR take the lead in helping rid the sport of its beer-swilling white-boy image, but NASCAR obviously doesn't want to bite the hand that feeds.

Sometimes Going Native is Not a Good Plan: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave its approval to a land swap which would give a native-owned oil company the right to drill in the 9-million acre Yukon Flats refuge in Alaska. The area—which was suggested for protection in 1987—is right next to the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. This latest plan is opposed by the tribes that actually live there, while the energy company is fronted by a different tribe of natives.

It could be the new trend for corporations to use native cover to get their energy plans going. A dam being built on a formerly protected river in northern Ontario is getting dammed up under the guise that two tribes need the cheap power.

Play Ball: Mark your calendars and hide the teenage girls. The Yankees are coming. The Milwaukee Brewers will play ball with the New York Yankees here from June 6-8. For those with short memories, when the Yankees used to come to town, rape and pillage were their to favorite activities.

Maybe It's True Love: A Portage woman was arrested after she was accused of exhuming her dead boyfriend's ashes and taking them home, drinking the beer and smoking the cigarettes that were buried there as well. The exhumation wasn't discovered until recently—some ten years after the digging.

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The Barometer

Rising: Deer/car crashes. The number of deer taking on cars in the metro area and causing accidents has increased 20%. Apparently hunters aren't good shooters anymore.

Falling: The noise of snowmobiles. The state Natural Resources Board passed a rule requiring snowmobiles be a little quieter come winter. The new standard would be 86 decibels at idle speed. Most sleds off the shelf crank up at 76 decibels. But legislative approval is required and the measure is opposed by the industry and snowmobile clubs, so it's likely to get mired in some concealed gun rule, too.