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SPECTACULAR!

JULY 1985

**TRADE
IN YOUR
OLD BIKE
FOR A NEW
SCHWINN
PREDATOR!
PAGE 18**

**HOW TO DO
WHEELIES
LIKE A PRO!**

MARC
McGLYNN

HARRY
LEARY

**GNARLY
GROUND
TRICKS!**

**CRAZY
SKATEPARK
PILOTS INVADE
THE PIPE!**

**RACE
TRACK
ATTACKS!**

RON WILKERSON

EDDIE FIOLA

LAKE JUMPING LUNATICS

MASTERS OF DISASTER

RUPE'S WINNING SCOOPS

UNREAL RAMP RIDERS

**THE BADDEST DIRTY
DOZEN OF BMX!**

**MAKE
IT BIG IN
FREESTYLE:
FACTS FROM
FIOLA!**



The '85 GT® Pro Performer™ The Best Freestyler, Even Better

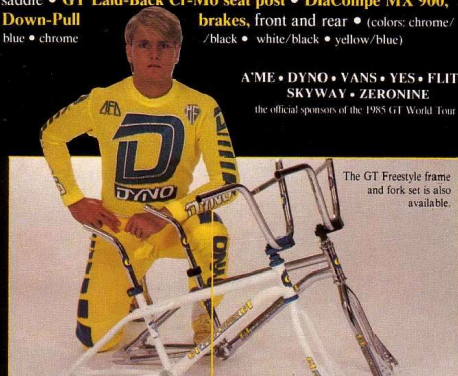


GT PRO PERFORMER

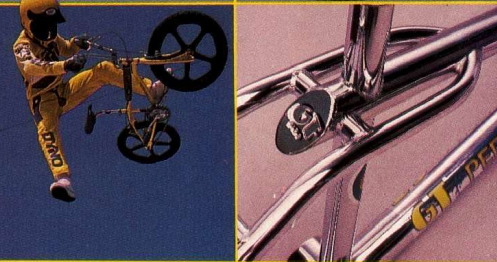
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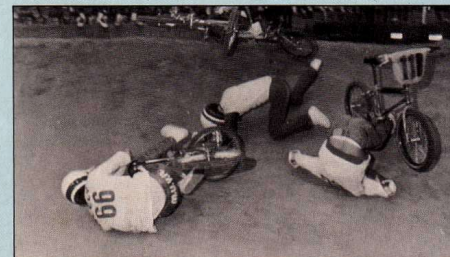
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ON THE COVER:—Using an amazing process whereby light transforms dormant chemical strips into a visually appealing array of colors and shapes, we have provided a sampling of radness encompassing all aspects of the BMX/freestyle spectrum. That's Mike Buff up top, Ron Wilkerson in front of the wave, Marc McGlynn at Del Mar, Harry Leary on the race track, and Eddie Fiola near the bottom. Dennis West provided all artistic guidance, and Valley Film transformed John Ker's photos into tiny dots for printing purposes.

WARNING: Much of the action depicted in this magazine is potentially dangerous. Virtually all of the riders seen in our photos are experienced experts or professionals. Do not attempt to duplicate any stunts that are beyond your own capabilities. Always practice discretion and wear the appropriate safety gear.

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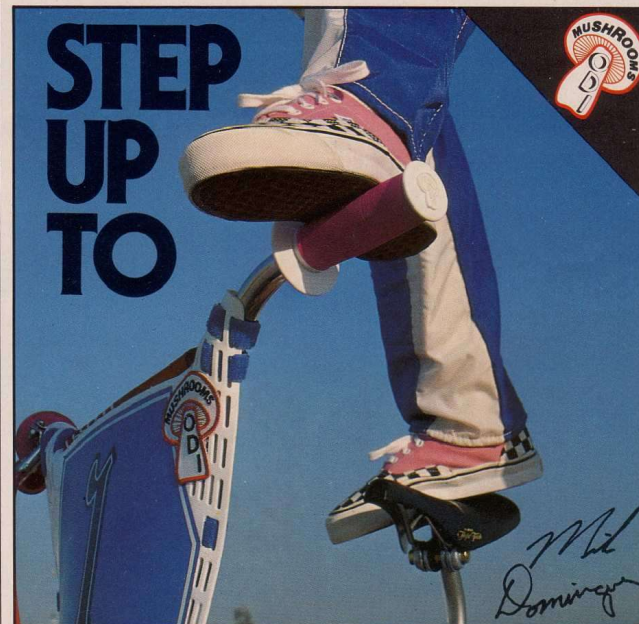
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FREESTYLE'S CRAZIEST CRANKERS

SKATEPARK VIRTUOSOS

The bowl patrol

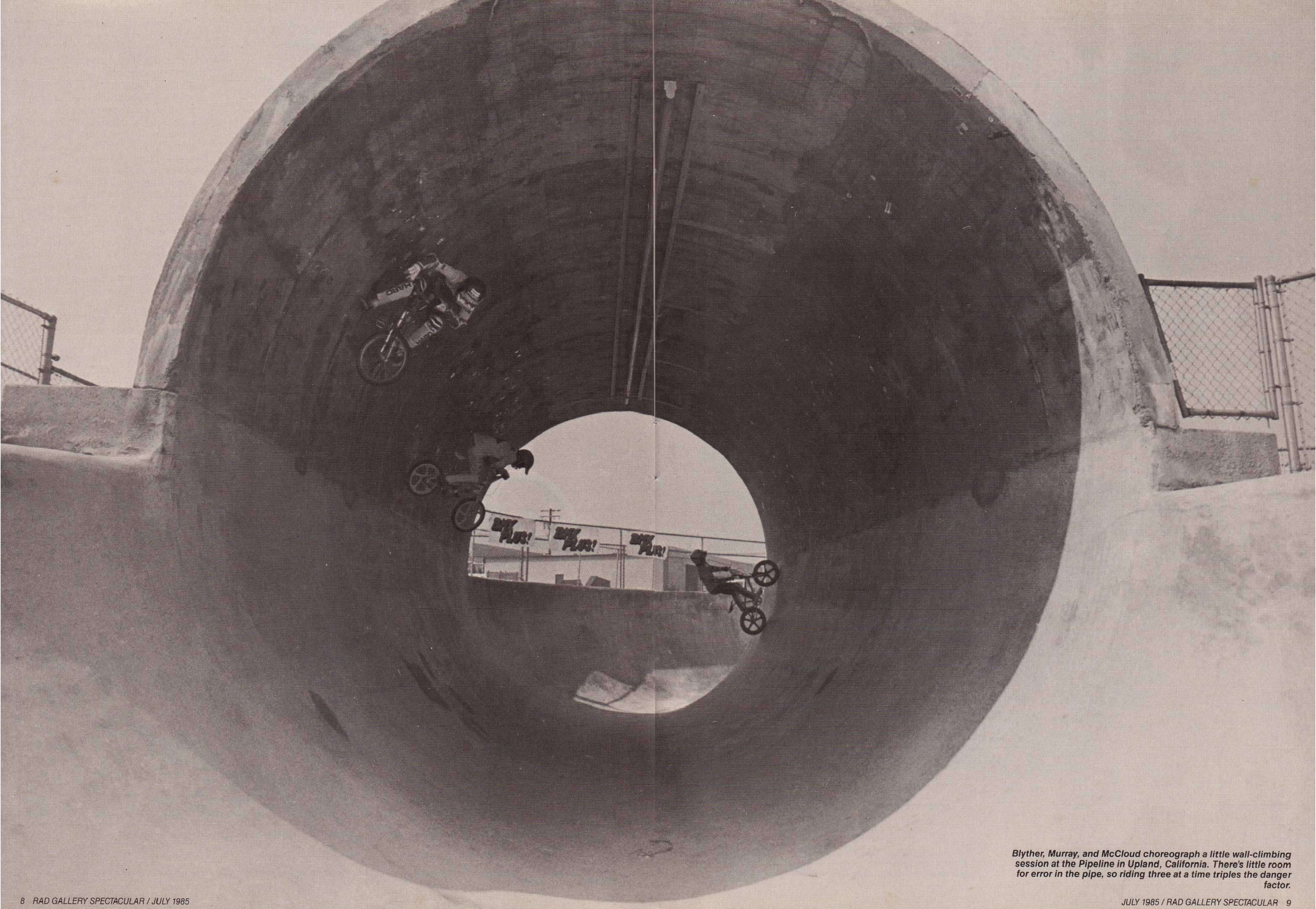
□ Skateparks were designed for all of the people who gave up common sense for the freedom of insanity. Only a true madman would even attempt what most freestyle flyboys consider an average day's work. Aerial artistry as performed by guys like Fiola, Blyther and Dominguez is the most exact science on two wheels. A mistake can mean complete annihilation. Places like the Skate Ranch in Del Mar, California, or the Pipeline in Upland, California, are no-man's lands for the timid.

Despite the danger that every skatepark presents, riders daring enough to challenge the realm of vertical freestyle take their tasks in stride. The performance of a top park rider is pure magic. For a BMX photographer, a skatepark is Mecca. A park rider's critical contortions often translate into visual perfection through the lens of a camera. Take a look at the next pages and see what we mean.



Ritter the Ripper doesn't make it to the Pipeline much, but judging from the way he rides, you'd swear he lives there.

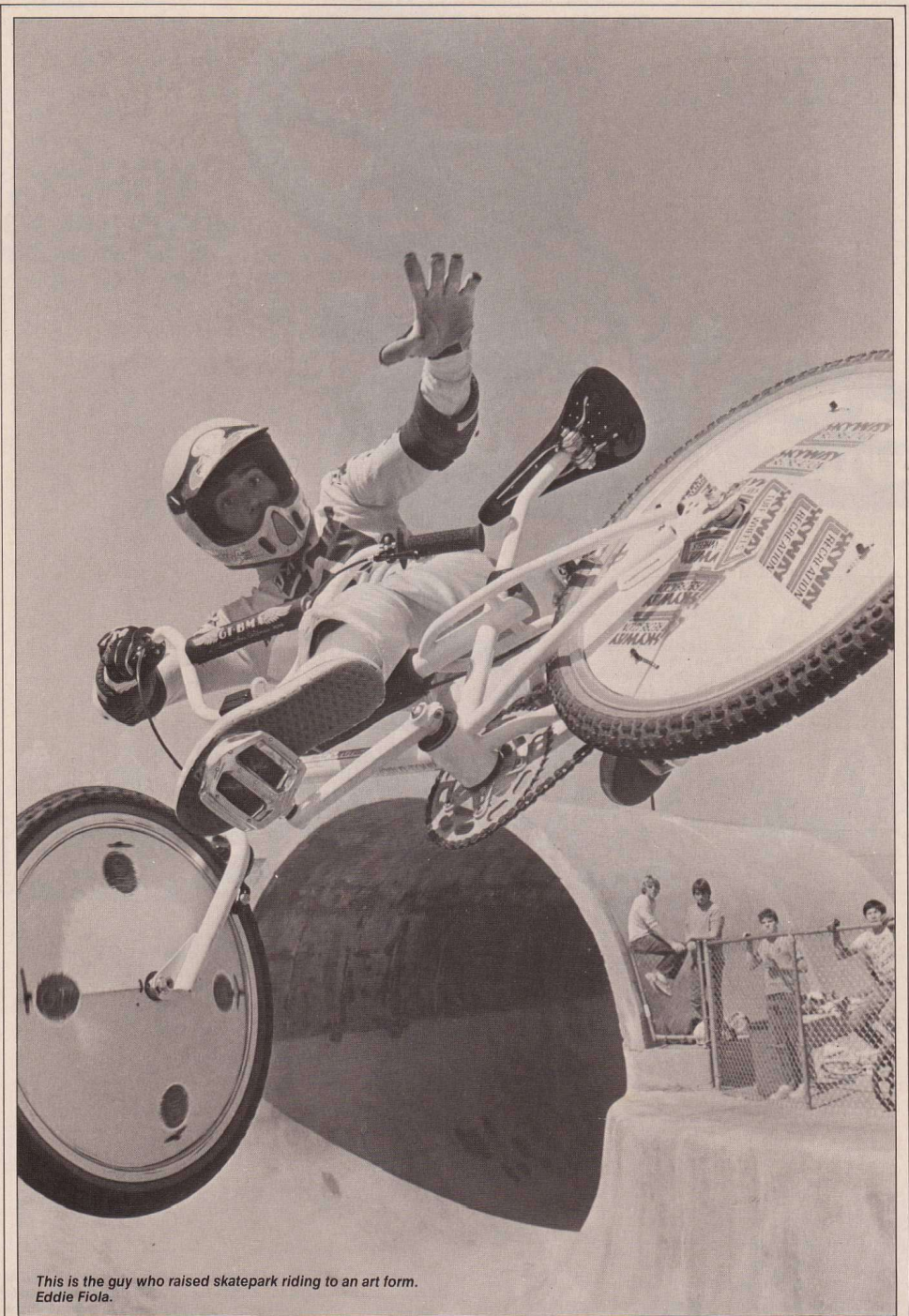
◀ Flyin' Brian Blyther is Upland's "local extraordinaire." The Pipeline's way-beyond-vertical challenge is not for the mild-mannered—definitely pros-only territory.



Blyther, Murray, and McCloud choreograph a little wall-climbing session at the Pipeline in Upland, California. There's little room for error in the pipe, so riding three at a time triples the danger factor.



Flyin' Brian Blyther is the current scourge of vertical freestyle's pro ranks. So far this year, Brian has won two of the three contests he's entered.



This is the guy who raised skatepark riding to an art form. Eddie Fiola.



Del Mar local Tony Murray is on the rise. At this recent AFA contest at the Skate Ranch, Tony the Tiger tore 'em up in 17 & Over Expert.

The GT FREESTYLE TRICK TEAM will be at HANK & FRANK on JUNE 14!

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□ **DECEMBER '84**
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□ **FEBRUARY '85**
Mongoose Rupe Signature Model, SE Hauler, Freestyle's toughest tricks



□ **MARCH '85**
JMC Patterson Series, Haro FST, ABA Grand Nationals, Freestyle of the Year election



□ **JANUARY '84**
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□ **FEBRUARY '84**
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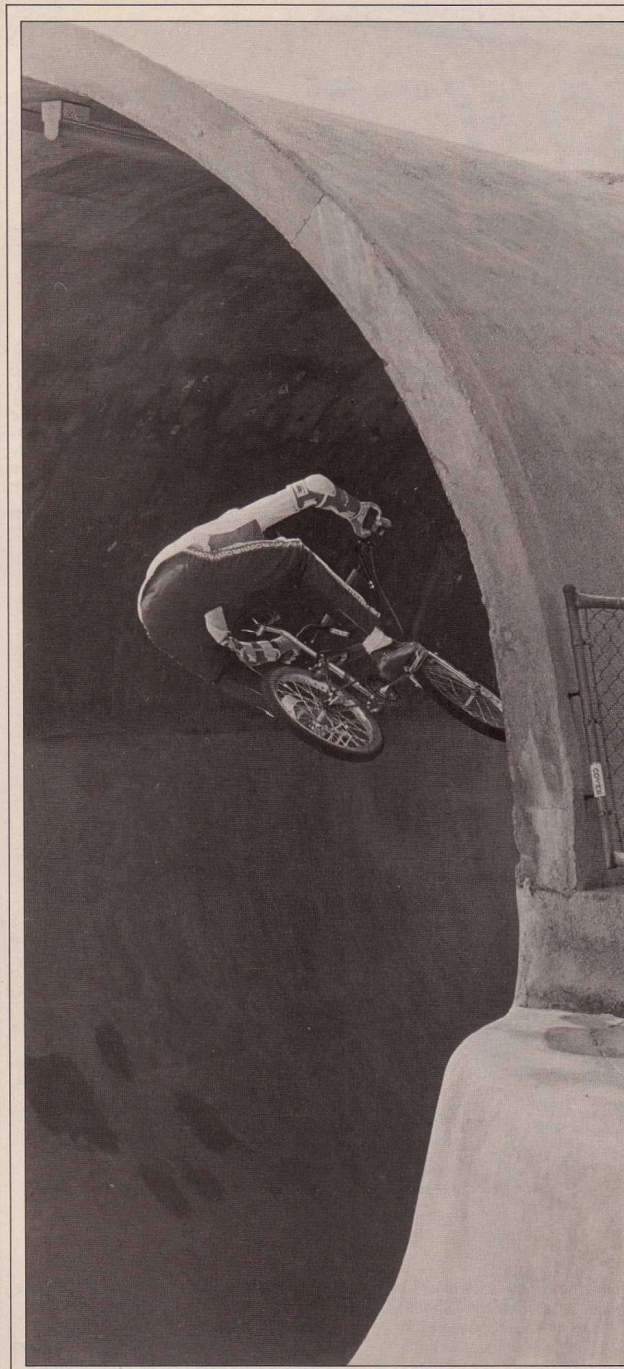
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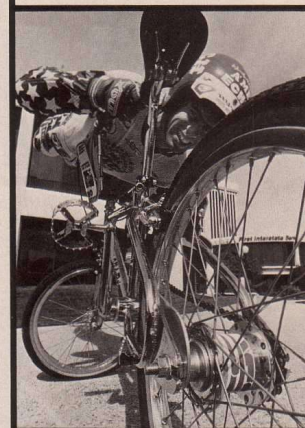
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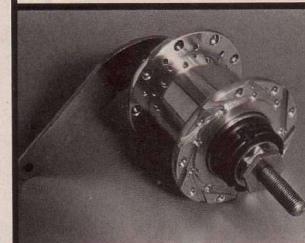


The south side of Brian going north off the hip in the pipe. Hanging your wheel on that edge means certain death. □

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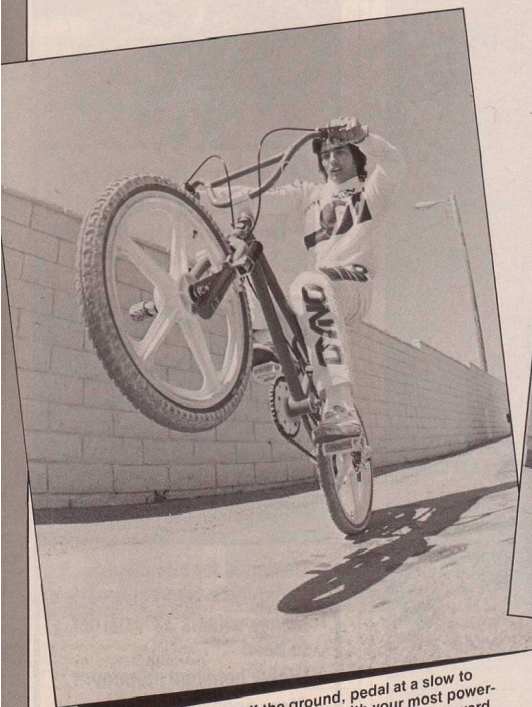
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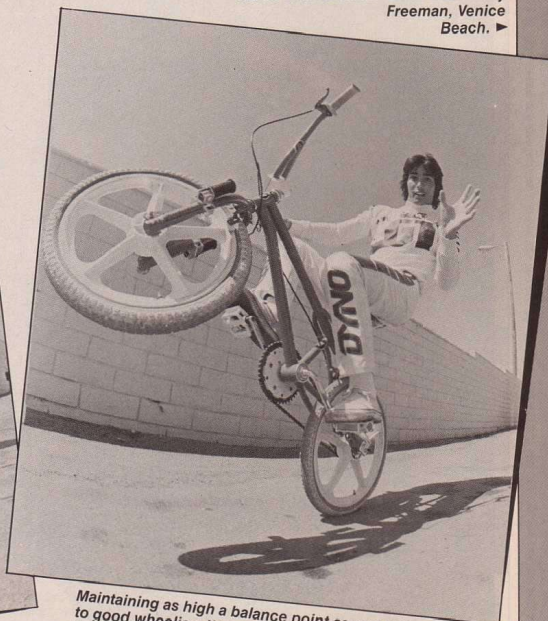
HOW TO WHEELIE

Mastering freestyle's most basic trick

Brian Scura is the wheelie king of BMX. In a recent undocumented attempt, Brian wheelied his specially prepared Pro Performer 34 miles through the streets of Orange County. Scura's wheelie bike setup includes a banana seat, Vector handlebars and a direct drive rear hub that lets him pedal backwards and forwards. Brian and Scotty Freeman, Venice Beach. ►



To get the front wheel off the ground, pedal at a slow to moderate speed and set the cranks with your most powerful leg forward. Apply downward pressure on the forward pedal and pull up on the handlebars at the same time. Keep your body weight over the rear wheel until you reach your balance point.



Maintaining as high a balance point as possible is the key to good wheelies. When your front wheel feels weightless in the air, your maximum balance point has been reached. To keep your bike from rising above this point, tap your coaster brakes or use your hand brakes. Touching the back brakes will lower your front end slightly and allow you to apply more pressure to your pedals. Advanced wheelies don't rely on their arms—they use pedal pressure and balance to keep the front end up.

□ What do you think the first step to freestyle greatness is? Learning to get ten-foot airs at the Pipe? Mastering no-handed cherrypickers? Pulling off 127 consecutive front wheel pogos? According to *BMX Plus!* Freestyler of the Year Eddie Fiola, freestyle supremacy begins

with the most basic trick of all: the wheelie. Yet surprisingly, wheelies are one of the most overlooked tricks. Even if you're a freestyle natural, knowing the basics is essential in order to advance in trick riding. Elsewhere in this issue, Eddie outlines the ten funda-

mental tricks that every freestyler needs to know. Wheelies are number one on his list. These tips are the same ones that Eddie followed when he was getting started many years ago. Who knows, if you follow them too, you could become the next king of freestyle. □



What do you mean, trade in my deluxe bike for a new Schwinn?



THE WORST-BIKE-IN-THE-WORLD CONTEST

TRADE IN YOUR OLD BIKE FOR A NEW SCHWINN



Have you got an old BMX bike you'd like to exchange for a brand-new one? Well, this is your chance to do just that. We're looking for the worst bike in BMX. If you've got it, we're going to give you the chance to trade it in for a brand-new one—a radical new Predator Black Shadow Schwinn.

All you have to do is send us a photograph of your old BMX bike. From the photos we receive we'll pick the worst-looking bike in BMX today. If it's old—that's great! If it's rusty—that's perfect! If the components are terrible—that's excellent! If the bike is ugly, heavy, and ridiculous—that's just what we want to see!

All you have to do is send us a photo of it.

We're going to judge the entries on the basis of the photos we receive. We'd prefer black and white prints (5x7 or 8x10), but we'll also accept color prints (3x5 or larger, please) and color slides. And make sure you put your name and address on the back of the photo, so there's no way somebody else can get credit for the picture of your bike.

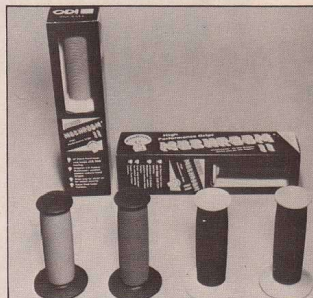
When you think you've got the winning picture, send it, with the official entry blank below, to *BMX Plus!*, Worst-Bike Contest, Box 9502, Mission Hills, CA 91345-9502.

Deadline for entries is August 1, 1985. All entries and photos will become the sole property of *BMX Plus!*. Our judges' decision will be final.

If you win, we will notify you by phone or mail and make arrangements for you to receive your prize.



SECOND PLACE WINNER will receive an awesome new JT ALS-1 helmet.



THIRD THROUGH TENTH PLACE WINNERS will each receive a pair of O.D.I. Mushroom grips.

TOP PRIZE WINNER will need to present his old bike to an authorized Schwinn dealer (there are roughly 4000 of them in the United States) in order to receive the first prize. (If the dealer wants to let you keep the bike, that's okay with us). Second, third, and fourth prize winners may keep their old bikes. Their prizes will be sent to them.

A list of the winners and the pictures of their winning entries will be published in a future issue of *BMX Plus!*. □

OFFICIAL ENTRY

Just fill in this entry blank and send it to us along with your photo of what you think deserves to be recognized as the worst bike in BMX.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/ZIP _____

Phone () _____

Send your entry to *BMX Plus!*, Worst-Bike Contest, Box 9502, Mission Hills, CA 91345-9502. Deadline for entries is August 1, 1985.

THE RIGHT STUFF



Factory pilots Eric Rupe, R. L. Osborn, Team Haro and the Diamondback team know the importance of pre flight safety checks. And when they suit up, they wear the right stuff. Haro, Protective equipment designed to withstand the demands of reentry and impact.

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Featured Riders: Rich Sigur, Eric Rupe

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Carlsbad, CA 92008
(619) 438-4812

A freestyle flyer in mid-air above a ramp. The flyer is wearing a white and pink jumpsuit, a helmet, and gloves. The bike is upside down. The background is a clear blue sky with some clouds. A crowd of people is visible at the bottom of the frame, looking up at the flyer.

AIR RAID

RADICAL RAMP INSANITY

Freestyle's plywood flyboys

▲ We're talking BIG-TIME aerial insanity here, folks. Mike Dominguez—Montgomery, Alabama.

□ For some freestylers, asphalt radness just isn't enough. They want to push their limits just a little farther. For them, the sky is the limit. It is this stratospheric vision that gave birth to the quarterpipe. Those wooden monstrosities offer a new dimension to freestyle. A sport that was once confined to mother earth can now stretch its wings toward the cosmos. Freestyle is now destined to fly as far as gravity and common sense will allow. And sometimes beyond. Ramp riding is here, and freestyle is never going to be the same again.

This was one scene for the filming of "Freestyle's Raddest Tricks." Mike Buff and his backyard halfpipe were the stars of the show. ▶





This is a Buff air—a vertical version of the classic Hannah. Mike Buff, the inventor of the move, is at the controls.

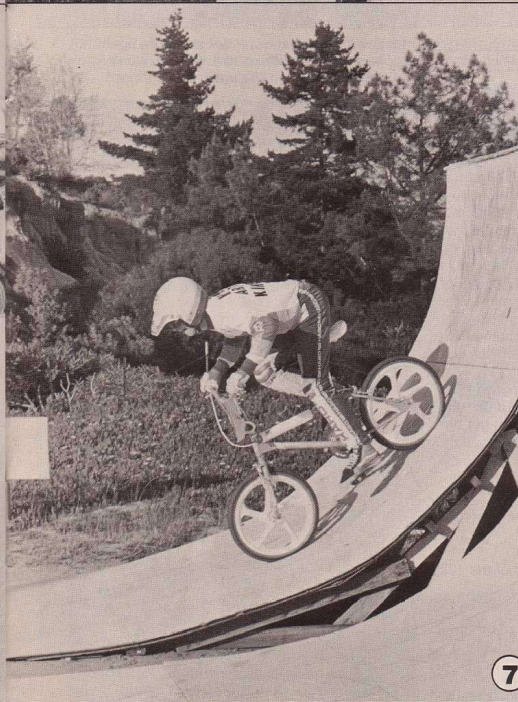


Ron Wilkerson.



This is the backyard halfpipe of Donovan Ritter. That's Ritterland local Chris Meier gettin' stylish for the camera.

◀It's the ever-stylish Spiderman, Rich Sigur, hangin' it out at Buff's place.



The anatomy of a one-handed one-footer by Ron Wilkerson. Notice how on the approach Ron relaxes his body and bends at the knees. Staying loose is very important to riding smoothly. During his pivot in midair, Ron takes his right foot and left hand off the bike. If you turn to the left during aerials, take off the opposite limbs. At the apex of the aerial, Ron moves his hand and foot back to the bike and

touches his rear hand brake to bring the front end down (notice how perfectly his front wheel comes into contact with the top of the ramp). Ron absorbs the shock of the landing by bending at the knees upon reentry.

ONLY RADICAL RIDERS NEED APPLY THEM!

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RG57-5

FOR MORE RADICAL PHOTOS OF BIZARRE BMX
BEHAVIOR, CHECK OUT THE LATEST ISSUE OF
BMX PLUS! AT YOUR NEWSSTAND NOW!!



Rampsters just don't get any more aggressive than Wilkerson. Most of Ron's tricks border on the unreal.



Radical Ron Wilkerson is the master of the exotic drop-ins. When you commit yourself to a one-handed, one-footed variation like this, there's no turning back.



If you're good on a quarterpipe, Bob Haro will find you. Dennis McCoy is a Haro-sponsored freestyler who lives in Kansas! What does it feel like to climb out of the wheat fields and into the limelight, Dennis?



Mike Buff has one of the cleanest backyard playgrounds in freestyle. Buff-O-Matic's halfpipe set him back over \$2000, so you know he's serious about practice. ☐

This is the highest vertical drop-in ever recorded in the pages of a BMX magazine. The rider is Mike Buff, the ramp is 12 feet tall, and there is four feet of straight vert between him and the ramp's transition. Crazy.



OFFICIAL GUIDE ON WHAT TO RIDE IN '85
ALL-NEW PHOTOS, FACTS & FIGURES!!

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FROM H-ZOOT
SCOOTERS TO
RADICAL BOOTS!

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Or a set of leathers. Or an ATV. Or a new shock. Whatever you're thinking of buying, check it out in the new 1985 *DIRT BIKE/DIRT WHEELS BUYER'S GUIDE* first. Give it the old visual once-over, read all the stats, look at the price, *then* decide. Do you really want those hot-pink boots, or would a high-tech kidney belt make your race look more complete? Figure out what you need in the privacy of your home without the on-the-spot pressure you can find at a shop.

Get the preview of the summer off-road scene. Get the all-new *DIRT BIKE/DIRT WHEELS BUYER'S GUIDE*, then get out your wallet. The money you save will be your own.

DIRT BIKE '85 dirtwheel!

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A TALK WITH THE NATION'S TOP PRO



ERIC RUPE'S ADVICE FOR YOUNG RACERS

Eric's holeshots are the stuff legends are made of. North Park, Pittsburgh.

Now 21, Eric has been racing in the pro class of BMX since he was 14.

How he got to the top— & how you can too

□ At 21 years of age, Eric Rupe is the number one pro in BMX. He has won more major events in the last year than any other pro in the sport. He finished 1984 by winning Number One Pro titles in both the National Bicycle League and the United States Bicycle motocross Association. To top things off, the readers of *BMX Plus!* recently voted Eric the *BMX Plus!* Racer of the Year for 1985. When he first started, however, Eric was one of the worst racers ever to sling a leg over a BMX bike.

When Eric began racing in 1974, the only thing he knew about BMX was that he liked it. He certainly wasn't very good at it. In fact, as he tells it, he was *terrible*. He didn't win a single trophy in his first year of racing. For that matter, he didn't win one in his second year of racing, either. Finally, in his third year of BMX competition, Eric took a second place at a race at the Van Nuys Youth Center in Van Nuys, California, and was awarded his first trophy, at age 13.

The result must have encouraged him, because he started winning trophies fairly often after that. So what did he do? He turned pro at age 14. Losing races was nothing new to Eric, so it wasn't a

big surprise that he then started losing virtually all his pro events. In fact, in his first year and a half in the pro ranks of BMX, he won money only once. His take was a whopping three dollars. And that was for second place at a local race at Van Nuys where he had paid two dollars to enter the class in the first place.

If nothing else, Eric was persistent, so he kept racing. And with time, he kept getting better. By 1980, at 17, he was starting to win an occasional pro class at Nationals. Despite winning five NBL War of the Stars Nationals that year, Eric was still not considered one of the top stars of the pro ranks. The major luminaries of that time were Stu Thomsen,

Greg Hill, and Brent Patterson.

In fact, it wasn't until September of 1983 that the BMX world really began to pay a lot of attention to Eric. That was when he staged the upset of the year and took the NBL's National Number One Pro title away from the heavily favored Brian Patterson.

Suddenly Eric Rupe was the top pro in the country—at least in the record books. He himself didn't even believe he deserved the title. After all, Brian Patterson had won eight NBL events that year while Eric had only won five, but points rankings were what counted. The points checked out, and Eric was happy to get the title.

In 1984 Eric set out to prove that he really was the top pro in BMX. He trained harder, rode more, and raced more races than probably any other pro in BMX. And he won. And when he didn't win, he placed second or third, almost without fail. By the end of 1984, there was little doubt that Eric was the top rider in BMX. And this time, he had two titles to prove it!

RAD GALLERY: What kind of advice would you give to a kid who wants to be a top racer like yourself?

Eric: Start off by setting goals for yourself that are reachable. You wouldn't want to start off, just two weeks in the novice class, and say, "That's it. In two



ERIC RUPE'S



The Rupe training regimen is simple: He goes out riding with his friends every day when he isn't on the road.

years I want to be top pro." You'd want to win your novice classes and set a goal to become a competitive expert. And just work real hard and work your way up. And don't expect too much too soon.

RAD GALLERY: What is a reasonable series of goals for a kid to set?

Eric: If I had just started racing, my first would be to be, most of all, a good rider. It pays off. You can't win races if you can't ride your bike well.

The next goal would be to win on the local level in the novice or expert division.

RAD GALLERY: Once a kid turns expert and starts winning on the local level, what should he do then?

Eric: Try to get some sort of sponsorship with a bike shop or something like that, and then plan on attending the Nationals in the area.

If you're living here in Southern California, there are Nationals you can drive



At five-foot-six and 148 pounds, Eric is one of the smallest pros in BMX, but there is no question whatsoever that he is also one of the fastest. South Park.

to. You don't have to fly all the way back East. They schedule the Nationals so there's one in just about every area of the country, so you can at least go to one or two in your area without having to travel too far.

Go to those races and work toward getting out of the motos, making it to the Semis. You might not make it to the Semis. You might not make it out of the Semis to the Main. But you don't want to just say, "All right, I can win at the local level. I'm going to that National, and I'm going to win the class." I mean, that's fine if you do. That's great. You're awesome. But if you set that goal and you don't do it, you're going to get depressed.

Some people wind up quitting if they set a goal like that and don't reach it the first time. You can't put things too far out of reach.

RAD GALLERY: How do you suggest a kid deal with the disappointment of losing? Obviously he's going to lose more than he's going to win.

Eric: You can't get down on yourself. Even being a number one pro, you'll have gone through plenty of losses. Nobody wins all the time. There's just no way around that. Everybody loses.

Keep a positive attitude whether you do badly at the races or not. Eventually you'll do better. Just stick with it. If you feel like quitting, then you won't be able

to ride very well. You're thinking, "Ahh, this is lame—I want to get out of this—I'm not doing any good"—stuff like that. You have to keep a positive attitude.

Don't set your goals so far out of reach that you can't attain 'em. I'm not going to go out there and try to win every National and tell everybody that I'm just going to kill everyone and nobody's going to stand a chance. You just can't meet goals like that. Nobody can win every time. I'm going to go out and do the best I can. I know that my best is one of the best, and that's all I can do.

RAD GALLERY: How much do you train?

Eric: My training is similar to other guys. I might not train as much as other guys as far as hours, but I've found that you can ride too much and burn yourself out. I don't like to be out on my bike more than three or four hours a day, because it gets boring and you just get burnt out, and you don't want to do that. You want to keep it exciting. You want to keep it fun. I just ride my bike.

RAD GALLERY: What kind of riding do you do?

Eric: Mostly we go to riding spots with jumps that are set. We just jump, jump, and jump some more. And we have little tracks set up. We do races. Wherever we go, we always make sure that somebody has a stopwatch, and we are constantly in competition with each other, doing laps, going for lap times, things like that. Seeing who can take a section the fastest. It makes things exciting. That's why I always tell everybody when we're teaching a school or something like that, make sure you go riding with somebody, because going alone is the ultimate bore. You don't really get much out of it. We never go anywhere without having some sort of a contest.

RAD GALLERY: Who do you usually go riding with?

Eric: What's this guy's name? (Looks over at brother Robby.)

RAD GALLERY: Robby?

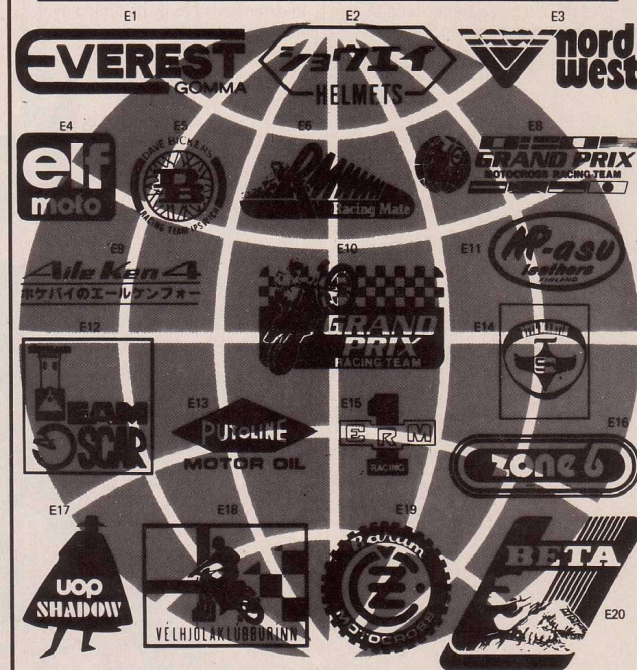
Eric: Yeah, Uncle Bob. My brother Robby, Mark Pippin, Richard Zagars, and Mahlon Abrams—those are the guys I usually go riding with. It keeps it fun to go ridin' with the guys you're usually racin' against. If I were to go out riding alone every day, doing everything on my own all the time, and never getting involved with anyone else, when I got to the track, it would seem weird to go out and compete with a bunch of guys that I never talk to, never ride with, and never associate with. So I go riding with Robby, Richard, Mahlon, Clark and the rest of them, and when I go out to the races, I'm racing against the same guys, so I've got a more positive feeling when I'm out there. □

AROUND THE WORLD



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AROUND THE WORLD

FLATLAND FRENZY

GROUND CONTROL

Freestyle tricks from the asphalt assassins

□ When the seed of freestyle was planted years ago, it sprouted roots in the streets. This is one reason why the sport has become so popular—anyone, anywhere, can do it whenever he likes. Flatland freestyle is limited only by the rider's imagination.

The alternately smooth and erratic gyrations unique to today's tricksters place them in a class somewhere between ballet and slam dancing. The

sport's top freestylers are practitioners of an art form for the aggressive. When they get on their bikes, the result is always the same: pure entertainment. Freestyle is perfect for the terminal showoff. Learn a few tricks and you will get noticed... guaranteed. Concentration is the key to flatland freestyle success. After all, trick riding is really just an extension of body and mind over bike.

One of the first flatland specialists: Martin Aparijo. When Martin and Woody rode together for Vans, no team in freestyle looked better on the ground. ►

Haro's David Nourie burst onto the pro freestyle scene in a hurry. His balance routine has so many variations, it's unreal. No one can do more tricks in less space.





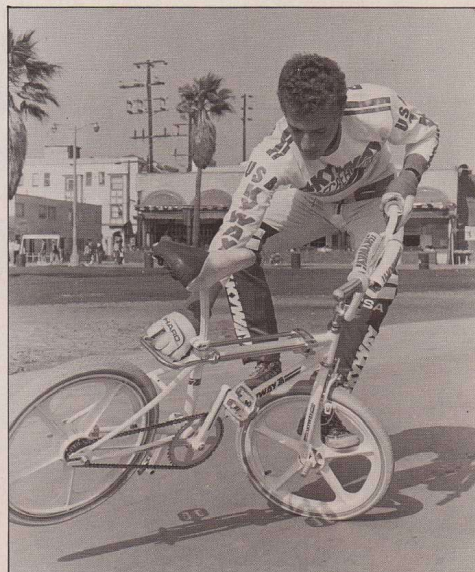
GT's mad scientist Brian Scura is a stylish trickster. How many freestylers do you know who practice their craft in a tuxedo?



Hutch's factory radman Woody Itson gets all over his bike when he performs. He got down to some serious crowd-pleasing at this ABA BMX event.



Who said skatepark riders can't hold their own on the ground? Eddie Fiola, coping with the laws of gravity during some original forkstand stylin'.



The man who started the freestyle balance craze: Robert Peterson. A while back this guy was giving pointers to some dude named David Nourie.

Freestyle funnyman David Nourie is Haro's latest twisted trickster. Dave's balance buffoonery has few equals. ►





Nourie and friends, hangin' out at the Pavillion in Venice Beach, California. ■

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FREESTYLE'S RADDEST TRICKS ON VIDEO!

GET IT WHERE YOU WANT IT

If you're like most freestyle fanatics, reading about an occasional contest or checking out a couple of rad photos once a month is just not enough! You want radical tricks and gnarly action whenever you can get it. You want to see top freestyle stars pulling off insane aerials and incredible grounds tricks. You want to hear cool tunes with a hot beat. You want your RAD TV!

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Get it on video! Scope out the hottest freestyle moves ever captured on video and do it in the comfort of your own home. Order the brand-new video from **BMX PLUS!**—FREESTYLE'S RADDEST TRICKS—and learn the raddest moves in freestyle from the guys who do them best. It's all in your hands: Skip ahead, freeze it, go back and check out your favorite tricks again and again. Even the slickest tricksters can pick up tips from this 30-minute video, but it's totally fun to watch whether or not you're trying to learn! Order your copy today!

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H2O BMX

LAKE JUMP LUNACY

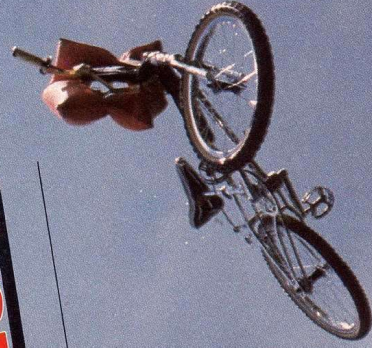
Wet & wild aerial antics

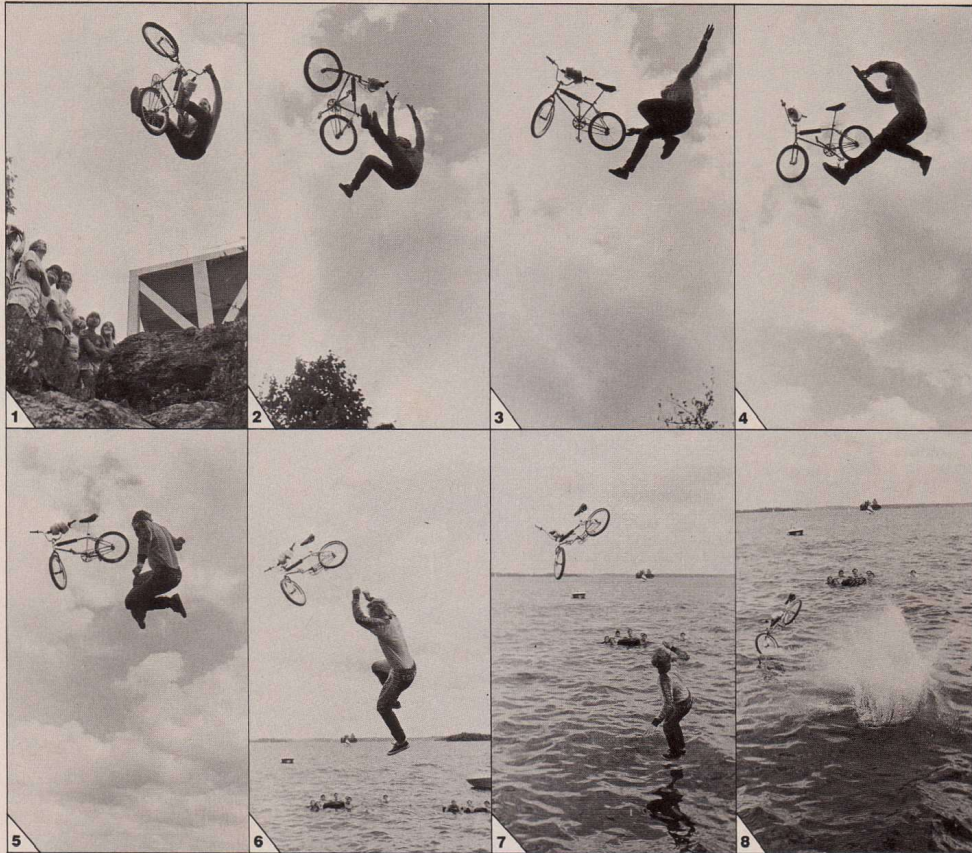
□ Your friends want to go swimming. None of them understands why you'd rather go jumping when temperatures are pushing the three-digit range. You really want to get rad, but a quick dip in the pond does sound inviting. How are you going to handle the situation? Lake jumping, of course. It's the only way real BMX radsters cool off during the blazing summer months.

Lake jumping is BMX's ultimate alternative pastime, but it does have a unique set of rules which must be followed. First, lake jumpers must know how to swim. Second, participants

Auto racing has the Indy 500. Freestyle has the Pipeline. BMX has South Park in Pennsylvania. And lake jumping has this—the cliffs at Percy Priest Lake in Nashville, Tennessee. Byron Friday's the guy about to take the plunge.

should display a willingness to dive for the other guy's bike. Finally, BMX aquanauts must face one major consequence: If done often enough without concern for proper maintenance, lake jumping will quickly corrode a BMX bike into oblivion. Once a person has resolved himself to those three harsh realities, lake jumping becomes the most fun you can have on two wheels. And it's the only kind of riding where we don't recommend using a helmet—a pair of shorts and some ratty sneakers are all the safety equipment you'll need.





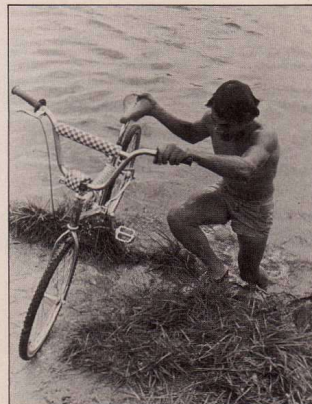
Lake jumping at its finest. The man crazy enough to launch himself over the icy depths of the Percy Priest Lake in Nashville, Tennessee, is BMX's main aqua-nut, Byron Friday. The ten feet of air that Byron caught off the jump plus the height of the 20-foot cliff almost certainly makes this the highest anyone has ever been on a BMX bike.



This is Mecca for serious lake jumpers. The beach on the Percy Priest Lake is about 100 yards away from one of BMX's most famous tracks, the Dixieland Raceway in Nashville, Tennessee. Each year, thousands of BMXers converge on this spot for the annual Murray World Cup race and for a chance to witness the wildest lake-jumping lunatics in the business. Mickey Lundy, June '83.



If you're a talented lake jumper, running away from your bike is sometimes a lot easier than going down with it.



Getting into lake jumping is easy, but sometimes getting out of it can be a hassle. Most hard-core water 'crossers bring a few friends to drag their bikes out of the pond when things get crazy. □

WILL THIS POSTER KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF?



YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT!

When we showed M.X. Mug a sneak peek at this amazing new Radical Rick Poster—he flipped!

And when you see this super colorful piece of artwork, you'll know why M.X. Mug is so jazzed about this radical poster. It's got everything: Rick, Mug, good guys, bad guys, action, excitement...

WHY CAN'T WE SEE ONE THEN, HUH?!

This Radical Rick Special Edition Poster is so awesome, so riveting, so absolutely incredible that we decided to rush the news to you even before the paint dried! Take it from M.X. Mug, it'll knock your socks off, too!

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RGST-5

SOIL SURVIVORS

DAREDEVILS OF DIRT

Look how they earn their wings in BMX

□ When you get right down to it, almost anyone can jump a bike. The group that can do it well, however, is considerably smaller. Probably 40 or 50 members of the sport's top ranks can get rad, but there are less than a dozen of them that can give the term new meaning. This select few can reach the fine line between genius and insanity and tie it in knots. We're talking about the truly gnarly jumpers of BMX—the guys who are as rad as they are fast. Mike Miranda, Timmy Judge and Harry Leary are three of this group's charter members. When any one of these guys is faced with the right pile of dirt, the results are incredible. They must be seen to be believed. Fortunately, we've taken care of that. Ladies and gentlemen, introducing the stuntmen of aerial BMX...

◀ Cody Smart has the reputation of being Texas' main radster, off the track and on. Track action at the 1984 Gold Cup Finals, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Classic stylin' from da Judge. ▶





The gentle giant, Andy Patterson, goes for air and style over the canyon jump at Parks in Fullerton.



If you don't think this is a radical jump, you're probably from another planet. Woody Itson pulls off a no-handed wheel grabber on a dirt session at Colossus. □



There are no throwaway moves from Timmy Judge. If he can't ride it out, he won't bother doing it. ►

SPILLS & THRILLS

THE MASTERS OF DISASTER

The flip side of BMX

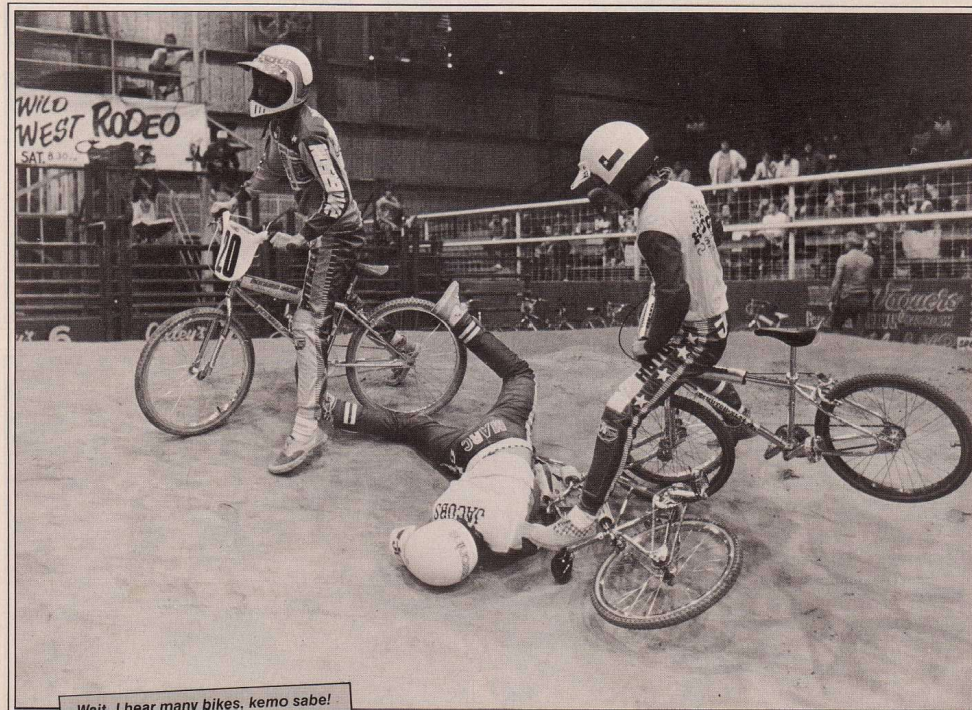
□ The reason for getting involved in BMX is simple: It's fun. For spectators, however, the sport holds a more gruesome allure. We're talking, of course, about the crashes. Everyone who's ever been involved in some aspect of racing has seen them: the gnarly face plants off the killer doubles, the wild skull bongs in the whoopedos, and the massive pileups in the first turn.

The following assortment of BMX bails and get-offs represents some of the wildest crash photos ever assembled. Some of the survivors are superstars; some are not. Fortunately, no fatalities were reported from any of these crashes. You didn't really think we'd show pictures of people getting hurt, did you?

The initiation ritual of the Snooky Lanson Fan Club is a bizarre one. After the traditional weenie roast, club pledges must don the Captain America bullet-head costume and carry their bikes through the stables of the Escambia County Rodeo facility. An embarrassing task, to say the least.



By securely fastening his brake cable to the frame as outlined in the rules for bicycle maintenance, Brian Berger (48) was able to save his handlebars during this mid-moto mishap. Unfortunately, Brian didn't pay as much attention to his headset.



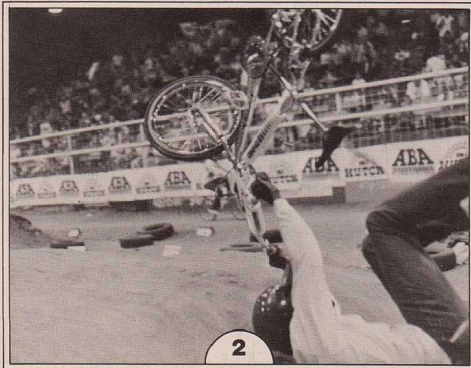
Wait, I hear many bikes, kemo sabe!

THE MASTERS OF DISASTER

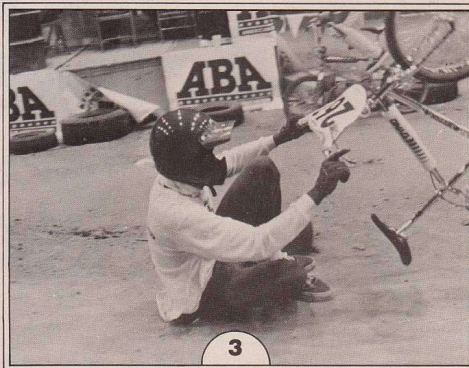
When University of Nebraska gymnast Vincent Griswald decided to try BMX, he didn't realize it was a test of speed and not style. Nevertheless, Vincent executed this perfect pommel horse somersault hoping for possible bonus points from the officials.



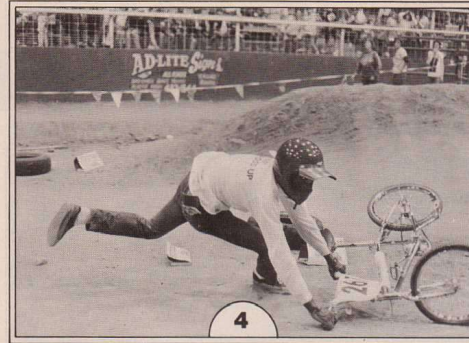
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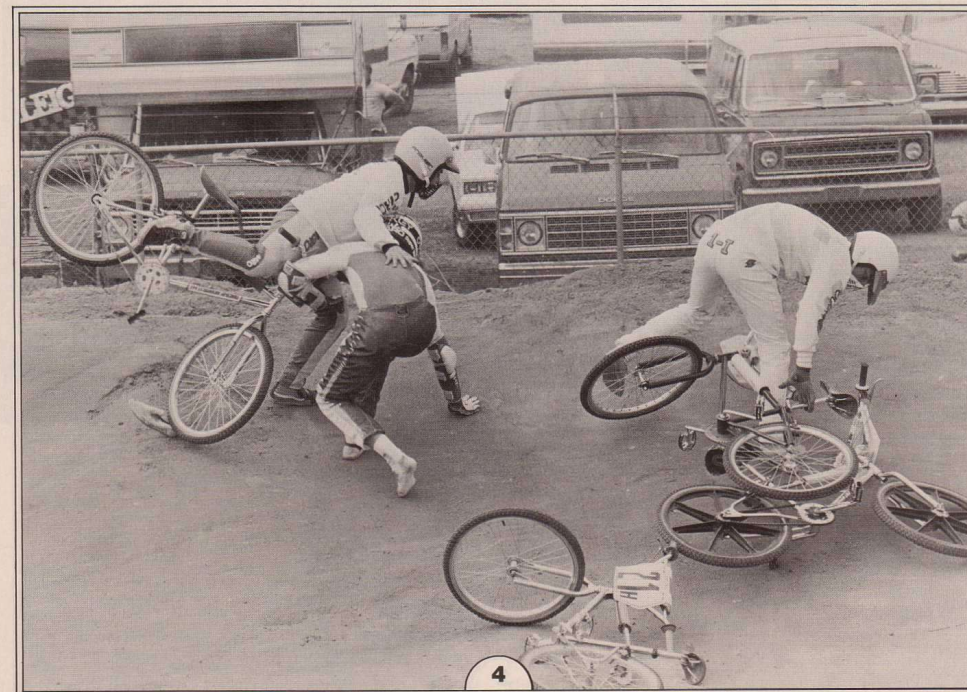
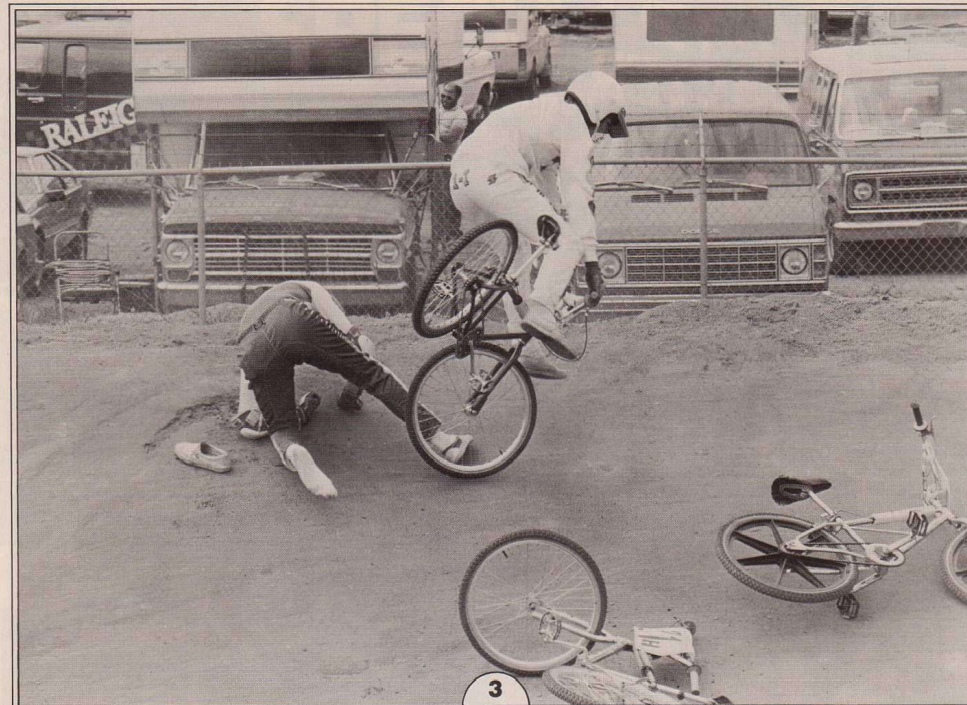
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THE MASTERS OF DISASTER

If you can think of a caption to go along with this incredible sequence of misadventures, you're doing better than we were.



THE MASTERS OF DISASTER

When the tandem Vander Roll didn't work, Richie Anderson and Skippy Bingenheimer tried to save the act with their two-man bike juggling routine. Needless to say, the plan was a miserable failure.



1



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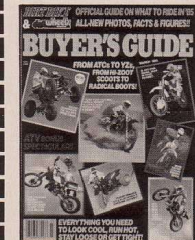
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THE MASTERS OF DISASTER

It's obvious that this guy is a novice. A seasoned expert crasher would have launched himself head down toward the tire on the side of the jump. Top crashers know the value of style. ☐



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BMX SUPERSTARS

THE DIRTY DOZEN

Twelve of the sport's finest

□ Stu Thomsen, Eric Rupe, Brian Patterson, Greg Hill, Richie Anderson. These are but five members of BMX's dirty dozen. Between them they share over 20 national and international BMX titles. This group of professional athletes represents the finest in their field. The most dedicated, most respected BMX competitors on the planet. This elite corps has done more to shape the sport of BMX than any other. They have

set levels of intensity in their riding and training that will not be rivaled for many years to come. As a result of their hard work, they have also reaped the greatest financial rewards. These men have paved the path that all aspiring BMX stars will follow. Their accomplishments in bicycle motocross are legendary. This article is a dedication in words and pictures to that legend. We're pleased to introduce the Dirty Dozen of BMX.

▲ Tommy Brackens (80), Harry Leary (78), Stu Thomsen (4), and Gary Ellis (2), locked into assault formation at the Gilley's National. BMX doesn't get much better than this.



GREG HILL

TOBY HENDERSON

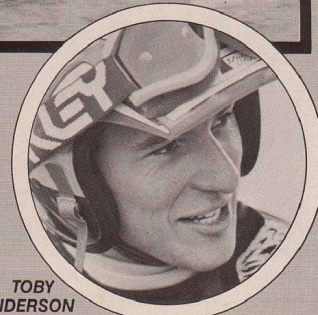


GREG HILL



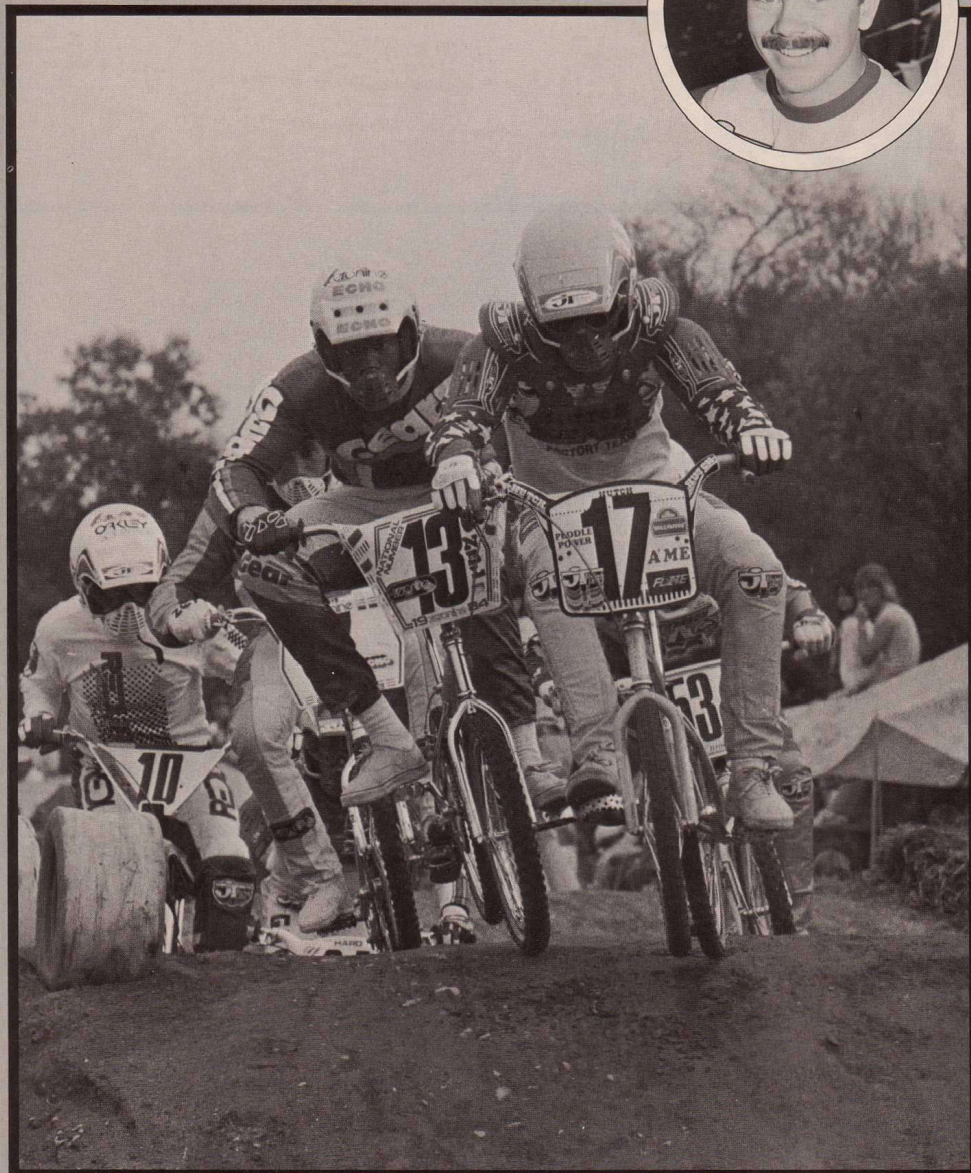
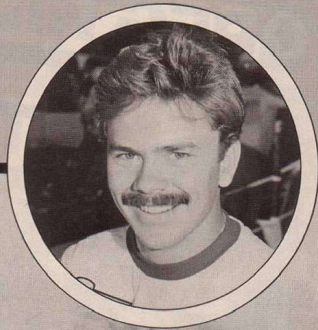
Greg Hill (05) and Toby Henderson (1) are two of the sport's most consistent riders. Toby is the current NBL Pro Cruiser champ, and Greg has NBA and ESPN titles to his credit, as well as two World Championships.

◀ *Takin' care of business has a double meaning for Greg Hill (2). When he's not at work on the race track, Greg's usually putting in time at the office of his own company, GHP.*



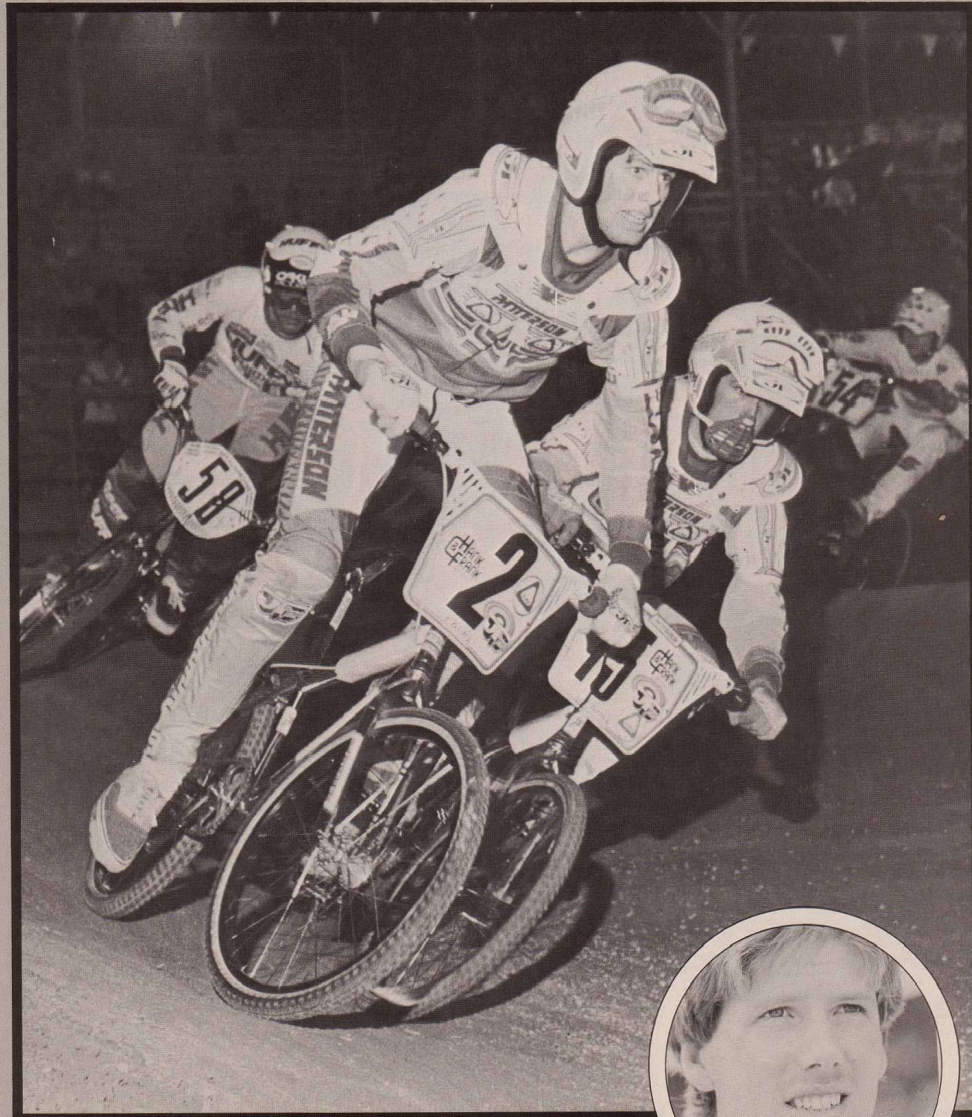
TOBY HENDERSON

MIKE MIRANDA



Stylish, flamboyant, and aggressive are three words that describe "Hollywood" Mike Miranda. Mike's winning personality has earned him a healthy following of fans from all over the world.

BRIAN PATTERSON



No one has won more Nationals in a single season than Brian Patterson. During 1983 Brian won 13 Pro Money Mains in NBL, ABA, and ESPN competition. He is also the only pro ever to score two ABA Number One titles.

STU THOMSEN



This is **THE MAN** in BMX: five-time National Number One Stu Thomsen.

RICHIE ANDERSON



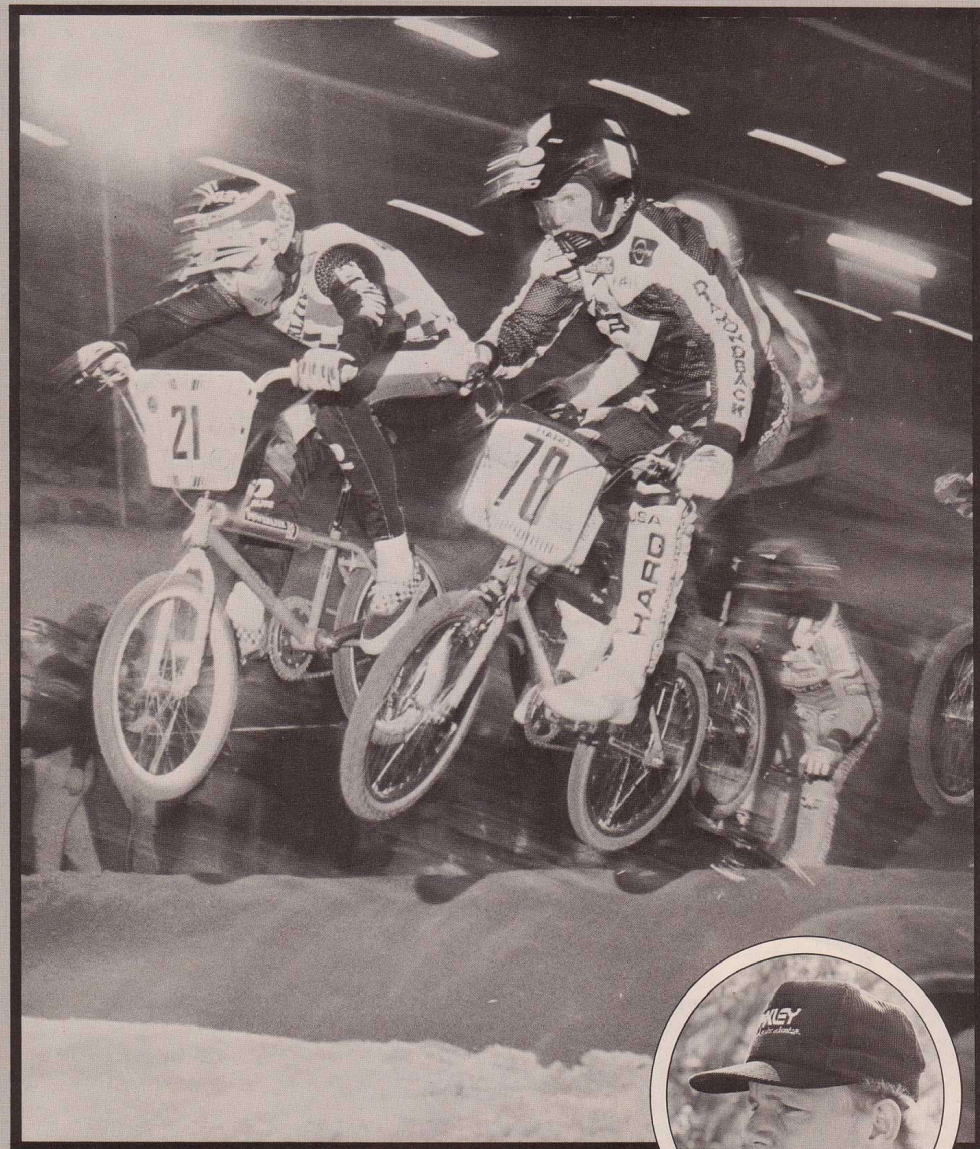
Richie's rise to pro superstardom has been the fastest of anyone in the sport. If he learns to dominate now as he did in his amateur days, the Avalanche will be nearly unbeatable.

PETE LONCAREVICH



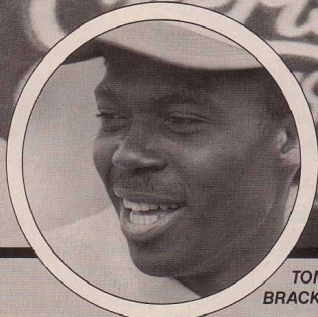
So far in '85, this guy owns BMX. CW's Pete Loncarevich has won every ABA National he's entered and done almost as well in NBL competition. If he keeps it up, Pete will be looking at his second ABA Number One Pro title.

HARRY LEARY



The lead in this year's ABA Pro Spectacular series has been in Harry's (78) hands almost from day one. Long considered one of the most popular riders in BMX, he is now vying for recognition as the fastest.

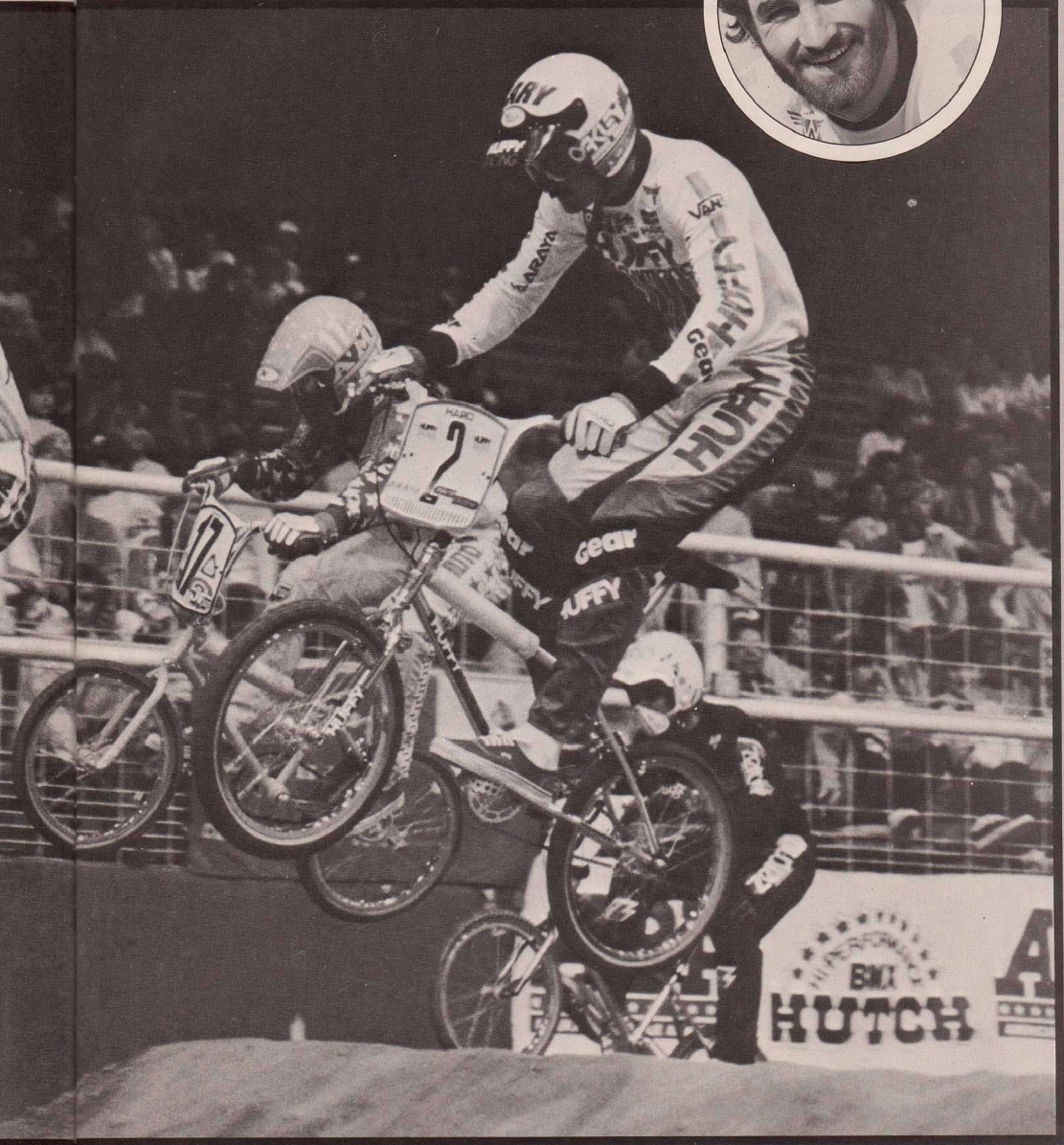
TOMMY BRACKENS



TOMMY
BRACKENS

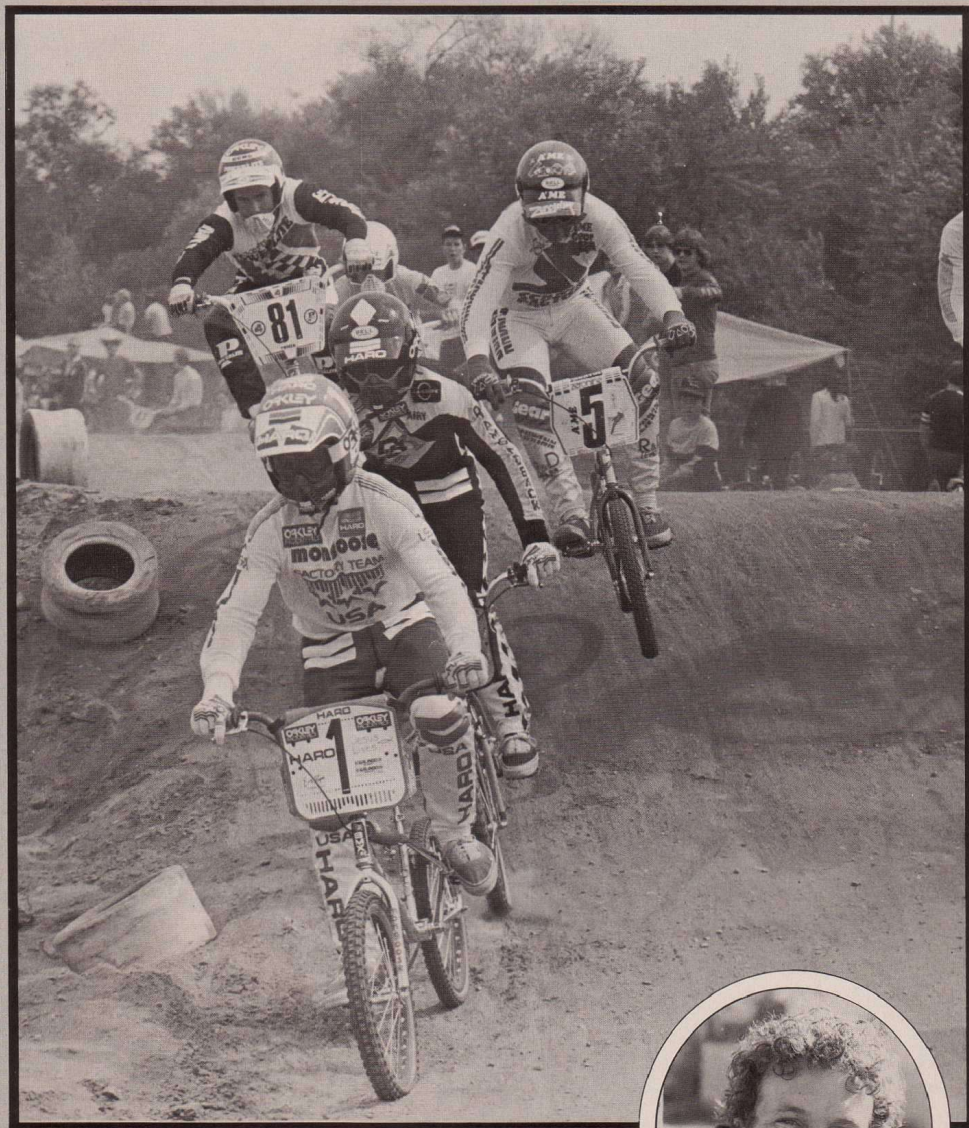
GARY ELLIS

GARY ELLIS



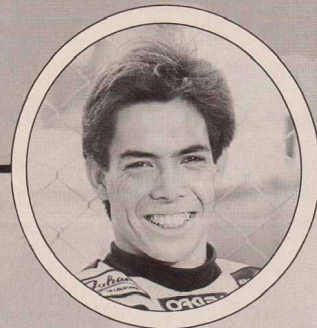
Tommy Brackens (80) and Gary Ellis (2) are two guys you can always find in the pro payout line. Tommy's sheer speed and Gary's incredible tenacity really pay off in the Mains.

ERIC RUPE



Eric (1) seems determined this year to hold his NBL National Number One Pro title. So far, a lot of his competition has come from number two, Greg Hill. If Eric is successful, he will become the sport's first three-time pro champ in the same organization.

EDDY KING



King Edward is the other half of Diamond Back's Dynamic Duo. Although Eddy is smaller than most pros, his racing savvy and speed make up for his size. □

EDDIE FIOLA

The world's top freestyle star talks about his past, his future, his highest aerials, his worst crashes, his TV and movie work, his upcoming world tour, and his tips for riders who want to make it big in freestyle



Fiola is a great believer in protective equipment. He wears these Hallman elbow protectors under his uniform on his elbows, his knees, and sometimes, like here, even his shoulders whenever he rides.

Story & Photos by John Ker

□ This past month Edward Lynn Fiola was elected the Freestyler of the Year by the readers of *BMX Plus!* Magazine. This occurrence was not exactly a surprise. It is no secret that Eddie is widely considered the top freestyle rider in the world.

At five-feet-four and 125 pounds, Eddie is probably not what most people picture when they think of professional athletes. In fact, Eddie is as much a professional performer as he is an athlete. The athletic competition of freestyle and skatepark contests is only a small part of his career. For him, work more often consists of riding his bike for magazine photo sessions, acting in television commercials, and traveling around the world putting on freestyle shows.

It's more work than most people realize, but the money is pretty good—a little under \$25,000 a year right now, by his own estimate—and Eddie likes the job.

We met with Eddie at the Pipeline Skatepark for a photo session. Afterwards, we proceeded to the local Carl's Jr. for lunch and this interview.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN FREESTYLE?

"I got started by doing jumps and things like that, watching other guys ride in the skatepark and just wanting to ride in the skatepark. It eventually grew from there."

WHEN WAS THAT?

"That was when I was 14. I'm 20 now."

WHO WAS RIDING IN THE SKATEPARKS BACK THEN?

"Stu Thomsen used to ride. The big guy who used to ride parks when I first started was Tinker Juarez. A couple other of my friends got me into it."

HOW DID YOU DO THE FIRST TIME YOU EVER RODE A SKATEPARK?

"Just like anybody else would do: sat down and carved the pools. You'd never get out of the pool, aerials weren't invented back then. You'd be doing just carves and trying to stay on the wall. The big thing was to hit coping and try to make it to coping."

WHO WAS THE FIRST GUY TO GET AIR ON A BIKE IN A SKATEPARK?

"I don't remember. I think it was Tinker. I started to do some pretty high airs way back then, but I really don't have any idea who was doing aerials first."

WHAT'S THE HIGHEST AERIAL YOU'VE EVER DONE?

"The highest recorded aerial was nine feet two inches."

DO YOU THINK THAT WAS YOUR HIGHEST OF ALL TIME?

"I'm sure I've done higher, but recorded and in pictures, that was the highest. Nine-foot-three, I think, is the highest now, but I'm sure I've done almost ten feet."

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO DO A REAL HIGH AERIAL?

"It doesn't feel like you're going up that high. It feels like maybe three feet in the air. It's just that you're stalled a long time. If the aerial is done correctly, then there's no problem, but once you feel like you're going to fall, then you know how high you are. Then you realize, hey, you're up here pretty high, and you're going to die if you come down the wrong way."

WHAT'S THE WORST BAIL YOU'VE EVER HAD?

"The worst bail I've ever had was when you were taking photos, and I slammed at the bottom of the pool."

ABOUT A MONTH AGO? (BMX Plus!, May 1985)

"Yeah. My whole Tuff Wheel blew up. I hit my arm, my leg, and my helmet, all at the same time. It didn't hurt really bad, but that was the worst I ever had."

YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF INJURIES. TELL US ABOUT THEM.

"I broke my leg. I broke both collarbones, one twice, fingers, toes, my nose, a couple of wrists, and an ankle."

ANY CONCUSSIONS?

"No, not real bad concussions—not that I remember (laughs). I don't think you remember concussions."

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU WERE DOING WHEN YOU GOT THOSE INJURIES?

"One of the collarbone ones I remember I was jumping out of a pool, and I'd just changed bikes. I went to a lighter bike and lighter rims and everything. So the bike was really light, and I went to go jump out of the pool, and instead I threw my bike up. I landed on top of the pool, but the bike was still going higher. I didn't want it to fall into the pool, but I didn't want it to fall on the ground either, so I was underneath it trying to catch it—and I missed the bars, and it came down on my collarbone. That was one."

"This other time I was doing a tabletop over a jump called 'Bandini.' And on the other side—I didn't know what was on the other side—there were these ruts. I just came out wrong, and I broke my collarbone there. The second time I broke that same collarbone was right after it had healed. I was out riding my bike, and I fell on it and broke it again."

IS IT USUALLY SKATEPARK ACCIDENTS WHERE YOU'VE BROKEN BONES?

"Not all of them. I was riding a half-pipe and that's when I broke my leg, but the main injuries from skateparks are broken wrists, things like that, because the first thing that's going to hit is your hands—if you're riding a bike. If you're on a skateboard—or if you're Steve McCloud—it's your knees that are going to hit first."

Eddie Fiola must like to fly. When he's not logging air time at the pipe or a GT show, he's frequently jumping continents aboard a 747. Some life, huh, Eddie? ►





Recently voted the top rider in freestyle by the readers of *BMX PLUS!*, Eddie attracts a crowd anywhere he goes in the world—especially here in the parking lot at the Pipeline.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO AVOID INJURIES IF YOU'RE RIDING A SKATE-PARK OR A QUARTERPIPE?

"The best way is to use all your safety gear: elbow pads, knee pads, gloves. If you're going to go into a pool, skatepark a quarterpipe, or anything like that, you've got to use what feels right, what you know you're not going to get hurt with. Be able to see well out of your helmet—have a helmet with a lot of vision so you can see what you're doing.

"Just take your time when you're riding. You've probably got your ramps wired. If you've got a ramp wired and then you come out to the skatepark, don't think it's like your ramps, 'cause it's different. You want to take your time and just take it easy.

"A couple of guys came out to the skateparks. They could get six-foot airs on their personal ramps, so they came out to the skatepark and just went for it. It was different, and one of the guys broke his collarbone the same day."

DO A LOT OF GUYS COME OUT TO THE PIPELINE TO TRY TO SHOW YOU UP?

"No (laughs). Not too many people come out and try that. I'm sure there are those who want to and who probably could if they tried hard enough, but all they have to do is enter the competition."

HOW WOULD YOU ADVISE A KID TO GET STARTED IN FREESTYLE?

"Well, if he's got a race bike, a regular BMX bike, the best thing to do is to get some of those add-on parts, like the GT forkstanders and framestandars. Take it slow and learn the basic tricks—curb endo, front pogos, back pogos. There are kids out there who are able to do a cherry picker but aren't able to do a front pogo.

"You've got to learn the basics first. Master those, and then gradually get up into the harder stuff. If there's a contest in freestyle, you're judged on the basics also. They don't want someone out there to have only learned one hard trick."

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE THE FIRST TEN TRICKS A KID SHOULD LEARN IN FREESTYLE?

"The first trick would probably be a wheelie. You've got to be able to hold the front wheel up for at least two car lengths. The second would probably be a curb endo. Third would be a front pogo. Fourth would be a back pogo. Fifth would be a rock walk. Sixth would probably be a framestand. Then a track stand. Then a poser. I've got two more? (thinks for a few seconds.) A fakie and (thinks a few more seconds) a kick turn on the small ramp."

WHERE DO YOU THINK FREESTYLE IS GOING?

"I think it's building up, because it's going to keep going. Freestyle is always going to be here. It's just growing and growing. It'll peak off somewhere, but not for a long time. Every kid is going to have a bike, and, more or less, it's going to be a BMX bike. And every kid is going to do a wheelie—or jump off a curb—or do a rock walk or a front pogo or a curb endo—and that's freestyle. Freestyle is going to be around for a long time."

DO YOU THINK PROFESSIONAL FREESTYLE IS GOING TO GROW TOO?

"Yeah. You notice how BMX is getting into commercials? The Wheaties commercial, or the raisin bran commercials? Well, I just got done doing three other commercials for Mountain Dew, Foot-locker, and Del Monte. That all has BMX in it.

"I did a show at the Universal Amphitheater with Lionel Richie and Menudo. That's not the kind of thing you do often."

WHAT DID YOU DO THERE?

"We did a show for all the Pepsi executives and bottlers, people like that, and showed that all the stuff we did in the commercials wasn't just fake, from filming. It's real stuff. We really did it. We had our ramps on the theater floor, and it went really well."

WERE THEY IMPRESSED BY THAT?

"Yeah. There were different acts that went on, and we got the most applause, we thought. It went really well."

DID YOU MEET LIONEL RICHIE?

"Kinda quick: 'Hi,' 'Goodbye,' 'How's it goin', and 'Gotta go.' The show started at seven, and he was supposed to be there by eight. He got there at like seven-fifty. He got there just early enough to make it into the theater, and he left right after, so nobody got to meet him for a long talk or anything like that. But it was fun."

DO YOU GET PAID WHEN YOU DO THESE COMMERCIALS?

"Yeah. We get paid. I just joined the Screen Actors Guild. That's a union for actors. And anytime you're in a commercial, you get paid a certain amount a day—that's almost 300 dollars a day you get paid—and anytime the commercial comes on, you get royalties. That means you get more money out of it. So, hopefully, I'll be able to get maybe 14 or 15 grand out of this whole thing."

SO, ARE YOU MAKING A PRETTY GOOD LIVING NOW?

"Right now, yeah. I want to get into movies and stuff like that. Hal Needham called me up not too long ago. I don't know if you know who Hal Needham is."

HE WAS THE DIRECTOR OF "SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT" AND A COUPLE OF OTHER MOVIES. WASN'T HE?

"Yeah. He came out with a couple of bombs, and he came out with some good ones. He wants to come out with a movie all about BMX. There's going to be a star, there's going to be a good guy, there's going to be a bad guy, there's going to be a girl. There's going to be everything in it. And there's going to be a lot of stunts in it. He wants me to pick out guys to do this movie. All the guys will be able to wear their own sponsors' uniforms, so it'll be good for the people. The guys will get paid; the only bad thing is it will be 11 weeks in Canada.

"He hasn't really set a date, but hopefully, it will be in the summer so the kids will be out of school. It'll probably be sometime in July."

JULY, AND A COUPLE OTHER MONTHS TOO IF IT'S 11 WEEKS LONG, RIGHT?

"August and the beginning of September."



Eddie spends so much time at the Pipeline that he keeps a spare bike there at all times. That way all he has to do is ride his motorcycle out to Upland for a quick session in the concrete bowls.

ARE YOU DEFINITELY A PART OF THAT MOVIE NOW?

"If the movie comes through, I'll be in there for sure. It's still in the stage where Hal is trying to get all the other promoters for the movie. Hal is trying to talk to them and tell them, 'Yeah, BMX is all over the world. Kids are really into it.' They don't understand."

WHAT KIND OF REACTION DO YOU GET WHEN YOU GO OUT OF THE COUNTRY—WHEN YOU GO TO EUROPE AND JAPAN AND PLACES LIKE THAT?

"They're really excited to see us ride and stuff like that and to talk to us. It's kind of hard to talk to them because they don't all speak English. We just go out there to have fun, to do shows, to make other people have fun."

DO YOU ENJOY GOING OUT TOURING AND DOING SHOWS?

"Yeah, I do. It's something different from being around the house and goofin' around. It's traveling. You get to see different sights. The only bad part is that you've got to take your bike apart; you've got to put it back together. And the plane flight is like 13 hours to get to Japan. It takes a long time. But it'll be fun."

"This tour, our world tour, is going to be the best tour I've ever had or am going to have, because we don't stay in one place too long. The longest stay is England, and that's a place where we can talk to people. Most of the stays at other places are only four or five days long."

WHERE ALL ARE YOU GOING TO GO?

"We start in Hawaii. We spend four days in Hawaii in the first week of May. We go from Hawaii to Japan, from Japan to Australia, from Australia to the U.K., and I'm pretty sure Germany, Hol-

land, Belgium, Switzerland, places like that. Then we come back to the U.S. in July."

ARE YOU GOING TO TOUR THE U.S. THEN?

"No, we have two teams. Martin Aparijo and Rick Allison are going to tour the United States while we're on our world tour."

DO YOU WORK SEVEN DAYS A WEEK WHEN YOU'RE ON TOUR, OR DO YOU GET A FEW DAYS OFF HERE AND THERE?

"There are no days off. If we're not riding our bikes, we're either unpacking them, packing 'em, gettin' on a plane, or gettin' off a plane. And if we're not doing that or tryin' to get somewhere, we're trying to get some shut-eye because the jet lag is gettin' to us because of all the different time changes."

DO YOU MEET A LOT OF GIRLS ON TOUR?

"No, there's no time. Really, there's no time to meet anybody. There's a quick, 'Hi, how's it goin'?' Yeah, that's great. Goodbye.' And that's it. It really is. There's no time to meet and have a good conversation with anybody."

During our show we have to put the ramps together. We have to take the ramps apart. There's getting everything situated, getting our bikes set just right. And once that's done, our show is done, and we have to take everything apart. And right after that we go to the hotel and sleep. There's no time."

IT SOUNDS LIKE THIS TOUR IS GOING TO BE NONSTOP WORK, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO IT?

"Yeah, I'm kinda looking forward to it. We're going to be makin' money off the tour; we'll be makin' money off the shows and things like that. It'll sell the bike, and that's what it's mainly for, to sell GT."

"The first time I went on tour—that was in Japan—I spent a total of 50 days in Japan and did 48 shows. And it was almost eight-hour drives to each show—with no sleep. But it was fun."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ENTERTAINING PEOPLE? IS THAT FUN?

"Entertaining people is what we like to do most. To get the crowd enthused by doing tricks is satisfaction for us. If the crowd gets enthused and claps and yells, that makes us feel happy."

IS THAT MORE SATISFYING THAN THE MONEY?

"Yeah. I think it is. Having a crowd that gets really amped on what we do is better than the money."

WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU WEREN'T IN FREESTYLE RIGHT NOW? ANY IDEA?

"I have no idea. Probably washin' dishes at some Carl's Jr. or someplace." □

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