

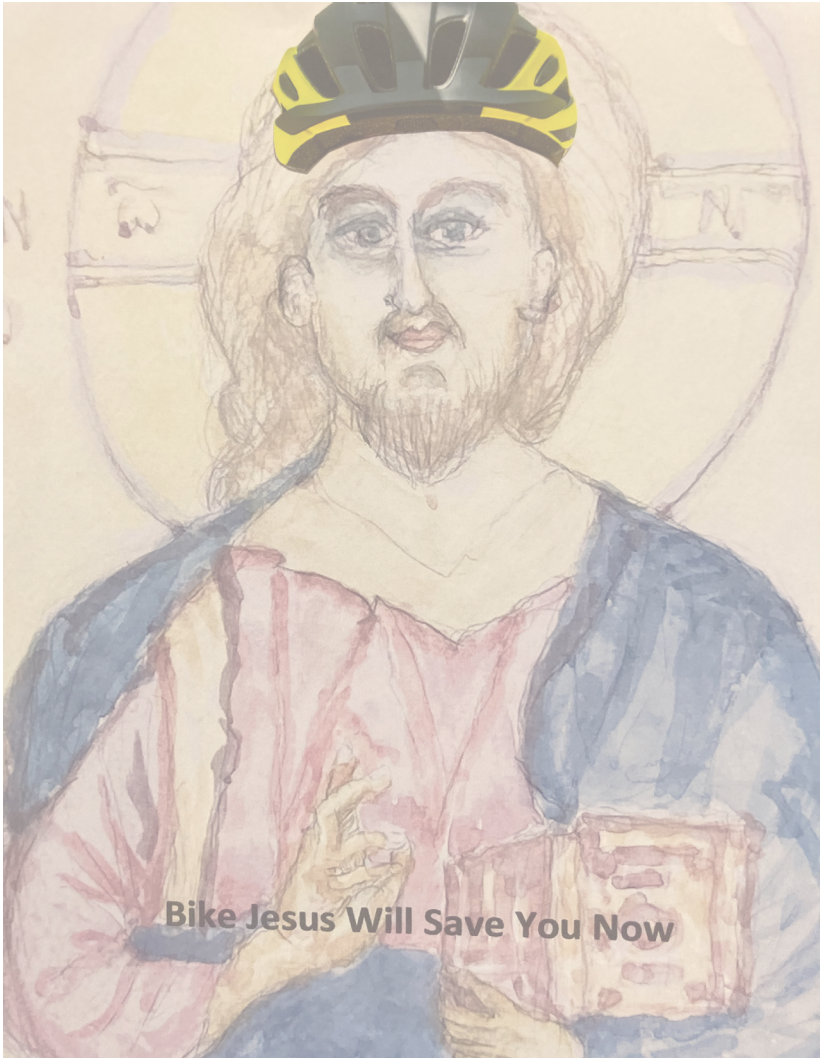
The Inkslingers'

Velo Tête-à-Tête

2025

Belles Lettres

4th Quarter



“Cover the world with side walks and bike paths, not love. Love will find its own way.”

Everything Has an Archenemy

By: Skooks Hayduk

General Platoon always said, "Keep your friends close and keep your archenemies even closer."

So, I have been walking around the house identifying all the archenemies.

The archenemy of books is not book banning, it's drinks in a bookstore.

The archenemy of love is not hate, it's apathy or indifference.

The archenemy of librarians is not noise, it's dyslexia.

The archenemy of Crunch Berries is not flour weevils, it's an open box...

The archenemy of the bicycle is not rust, it's a motor.

The archenemy of popsicle sticks is not fire, it's a milkshake.

The archenemy of bad hair is not a comb, it's poor self-confidence.

The archenemy of spilled milk is not crying, it's my brother mopping it up with his sock and putting his foot back in his shoe.

The archenemy of overspending is not debt, it's the dollar store.

The archenemy of Huck Finn was not Judge Thatcher or the wida' women Douglas, it's Tom's girlfriend, Becky (she's gonna Yoko Uno the band).

The archenemy of the future is not the Flux Capacitor, it's the past.

The archenemy of ants is not ant

eaters, it's picnic basket jelly.

The archenemy of Dr. Suess is not the Grinch, it's CNN.

The Story of Annie Londonderry (Book) "Spin"

By: Peter Zheutlin

"I slept fitfully and spent my waking hours distracted by the inner voices pulling me in different directions. I'm not, as you know, someone given to belief in the supernatural, but with no reconciliation in sight, I started hoping for a sign, some fortuitous event, that might nudge me one way or the other, and it came, perhaps not surprisingly, in a bicycle shop." - 1896

The Impossible Ride (The Quest):

To ride the impossible ride;
To climb the unfortunate climb;
To bear with unbearable sorrow;
To roll where the brave dare not go.

To shift the unshiftable gears;
To draft pure and chase from afar;
To try when your legs are too weary;
To pass that pace-chasing car,
This is my quest...

To follow that car,
No matter how hopeless,
No matter how far.

I'll fight for the lead.
Without question or cause;
To be willing to sprint into Hell
For a heavenly pause.

And I know if I'll only be true,
To this glorious quest,
That my blood will test clean
When I'm interviewed and pressed
And that world will be better for this.

And that one man, stripey tanned
covered with scars,
Still strove with the last
ounce of Gu gel,
To reach the unreachable pace car.

You Could make a Sermon Outa this...

In 2004, during the World Down Hill Championships, Cedric Gracia (Volvo/Cannondale Team) was in third place and only feet behind the leaders of the grueling downhill mtn. bike race when halfway to the finish line he performed a back-flip on a section of the trail that formed a 1/2 pipe. The move shocked the crowd, as at that time, back-flips on mtn. bikes were rarely done. 20 years later people are still talking about it.

Question: who won the race?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JyApH2jf8g8>.

Top 10 Bicycle Movies We Should Watch This Winter

- 1) The Flying Scotsman (2006)
- 2) Pee Wees Big Adventure (1985)
- 3) Rad (1986)
- 4) Quicksilver (1986)
- 5) Pedal - a documentary (2001)
- 6) Klunkerz - a documentary (2006)
- 7) American Flyers (1985)
- 8) Breaking Away (1979)
- 9) Ride the Divide (2010)
- 10) Premium Rush (2012)

Trial and Error 1st. Engineering 2nd. Never Think. Do:

By: Bobbles Nsuch

I watched a documentary a few years back about how they don't really know how a bicycle works. They took the theories of centrifugal, centripetal, and gyroscopic forces and mechanically modeled them on a bike, and it didn't stay up.

It took a mechanical engineer in Germany in 1815 during a volcanic ash-snowing summer to come up with the idea looking at spiny tops and ice skates to figure it out because there was no horse feed or grain.

There is a human element in the

equation.

I don't think an engineer came up with an algorithm for doing a front flip on a snow mobile.

I think it was a drunk college kid on spring break and the engineer wrote the equation afterwards.

Front Flip Snow Mobile $f(x) = \text{angular momentum} \cdot (\sqrt{3} \cdot 147) \cos(h \cdot \text{snow coefficient friction}) + LB$ (lotta Balls). LB being the un-negligible factor.

"Engineers always come second. Langley and ALL the resources and talent... couldn't get a plane off the ground until a couple bicycle makers (who understood physics without understanding physics) gave them permission to fly." - Cullen.

"Physics fails to factor in Divine Intervention (there is no symbol or unit for it) and the fact that history has a destination". - CBrown.

Conclusion: Thinking can be over-rated.

"My Church, the Bicycle, Will Not be Motorized!!"

Bike Quotes From Famous People

"Get a bicycle. You will never regret it if you live." - Mark Twain

"I never touched that stuff, Miss Looinski." - Lance Armstrong

"My Arse is killing me." - Luigi Gan-

na (the first man to ever win the Giro de, to the newspapers, May 1909 at 2:53 am in Milan, Italy. He was a brick-layer by trade. The most quoted man in the history of cycling).

"You are 'on the rivet' - 'if you're going as hard as you can," (an ancient phrase meaning sitting on the rivet at the front of your Brooks saddle).

"Be radical about something." - Troy Rarick.

"Since Troy is the next Gary Fisher, you could be the next Troy Rarick." - James Ferriday.

"I thought of that while riding my bicycle." - A. Einstein, the Theory of Relativity.

"To bicycle, or not to bicycle: that is not a question." - William Shakespeare.

"If you want to make a bicycle from scratch, you must first create the universe." - Carl Sagan.

"Not all of us who bicycle are lost." - JFF Tolken.

"Left it in the road with a bottle and a toad and I wrapped it 30 times in a steal chain, Baby, my bike is gone." - Rapper Flash Light Brown (song).

"Who urged the 'moaning mimies' of the North to 'get on your bike' to the more prosperous South?" - Margaret Thatcher and her minions.

"I left it in front of the bar at 1 am, unlocked, and a stupid person stole it." - Unknown.

Cowbike Poem

Inspired by riding to Meeker from GJ and reading about Kid Curry and the last great train robbery in Parachute, CO.

A large hat.

The Sun beating down.

The wind has filled my mouth with dirt.

I haven't seen another human in days.

I thirst to have conversation, even with an imbecile.

The rocky terrain, the scrub oak is tearing calves to pieces.

How much water is left? How many more miles? My sweaty clothing is my skin.

A modern day cowboy is nothing more than a lonely man on a mountain bicycle.

The Future Evolution of Wheelbuilding Seminar at Interbike: Which Are Better - Black or Silver Spokes?

By: Jenny Kallista

I, myself had to ask one question that I was super interested in, to hear what these super-pros had to say about it.

I have a theory of my own, which is that black spokes are not as durable

as silver spokes, and I believe that to be because of the coating, or variance in the surface of a black (or any colored) steel spoke. This coating, in my opinion, creates more friction than a naked steel spoke, and thus is part of that micro-exacerbation over all those load cycles.

When I finished my theoretical proposal, Jude excitedly jumped up and said that this particular subject was one of great interest to her, and she had thoughts to share. She's in a coastal area, and with that come special considerations pertaining to the salty environment, which is notoriously corrosive. Add in an additional variance in the oxidizing process used to blacken the spokes, and there is a chemical recipe for corrosion which is accelerated; and so she was in agreement with me, that there is likely less durability to some degree with black-spoked wheels.

Rich furthered the thought behind these assertions, with the microscopic degree of surface variance in terms of fatigue. As micro-fissures result from the tension changes as the wheels go round in the "skin" of the spoke (the skin being the blackness), those micro-fissures are then transferred to the "body" of the spoke, and thusly could result in a lowered life-span of said spokes. Gravy insisted that testing done at DT Swiss has shown no discernible difference

between their black spokes vs the silver variety.

Thinking about why my theory developed in my mind, it was due to seeing far more broken black spokes over the years than silver, but I can concede that I saw this mostly on factory built wheels spec'd on bikes, rather than hand-built ones. Which simply reaffirms the known fact that hand-built is always better!

Bike Love Stories

When I was in high school, my friends would disappear off into the backyards while I watched the bikes in the girl's front yard. I had a great personality. And I was just the kind of guy that should watch the bikes. That's what they told me.

When I was in high school, I had a riding buddy who taught me endlessly about the best way to repair my bike, have fun while struggling through grueling miles, bike camp with a lean-to tent, and to never be ashamed of whatever weird things cycling culture expected of me (red tan lines, degenerate helmets like skid-lid, wool shorts in summer, leather chamois, etc. ad infinitum). Then one night, while I was with other friends in the backyard with our girlfriends and didn't have said riding buddy to watch our bikes out front, mine was stolen.

After I mourned a few days over the bike loss, my riding buddy showed up at my house riding a new bike he had purchased for me. He handed over the bike to me and explained that he needed someone to ride with. Then he walked home. That's love.

When I was in high school, my best friend would always stop in the middle of a great cycling adventure to buy postcards for his girlfriend, and then find a stamp, and then find a mailbox. We all lived in the same town.

The neievitee of the impossible.

"I hate mtn. biking and I hate road biking, but I love gravel grinding, because the pictures are amazing." - Kirsten Gilb, 2025

The Triple Triangle - when the frame builder falls off the tater cart.

The penitent man asks, where do bikes go after you die?

The treacherous man asks, where does your bike go when you die?

Currently, I'm in my Club Ride phase of life.

Going Down Hill on a Bicycle

By: Henry Charles Beeching

A Boy's Song

With lifted feet, hands still,
I am poised, and down the hill
Dart, with heedful mind;
The air goes by in a wind.

Swifter and yet more swift,
Till the heart with a mighty lift
Makes the lungs laugh,
the throat cry: -
"O bird, see; see, bird, I fly.

"Is this, is this your joy?
O bird, then I, though a boy,
For a golden moment share
Your feathery life in air!"

Say, heart, is there aught like this
In a world that is full of bliss?
'Tis more than skating, bound
Steel-shod to the level ground.

Speed slackens now, I float
Awhile in my airy boat;
Till, when the wheels scarce crawl,
My feel to the treadles fall.

Alas, that the longest hill
Most end in a vale; but still,
Who climbs with toil, wheresoe'er,
Shall find wings waiting there.

Get Mad

By: Clifton Skidmore

The times I have noticed "big" movements in my life have been the times I have gotten mad. Not mad in terms of unbridled anger, but more like extreme focus: kicking down doors, pulling the trigger, accepting the fact that today might be a hard day. Risk is always involved. It's not a time or place to be a Nancy Boy (I hope this isn't too dramatic).

Some examples have been: asking that girl out, asking that girl to marry me, buying a building, firing those bastards, summiting Pikes Peak or Mt. Evans (always the last three miles), camping out alone in the library cubicles for weeks, so I could graduate.

Get Mad.

2026 Rides:

1976 was the country's Bi Centennial - 200-year-old birthday.

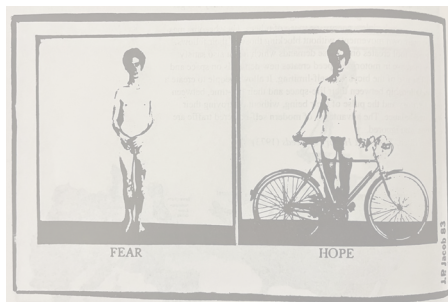
A lot of people celebrated it by riding their bikes across the country as a celebration to discover America. 2026 is the 250-year b-day. A lot of the Bi-Centennial folks are now in their 70s and planning to relive or do a re-ride of their trips (A few will hold out for the 300-year ride).

I was late to the party and did mine

in 1984 as I was only 11 years old in 1976 and had to be in by dark. I don't have a vision for 2026 yet. Got any ideas??? That Northern Tier?? War-road, Minnesota to Buffalo, Niagara Falls via Wisconsin would connect some yet to be done country for me. Ideas?? Probably July 2026.



Bike Centennial Route Sign,
near Cannon City.



Fear Night in Grand Junction

By: Itchy Strachy

What if you put on your older brother's football helmet and shoulder pads and a few down jackets along with your demon-skater-knee-pads and faced every mountain bike fear in the valley all in one night? The following is a list of things I won't do on my mountain bike that I see everybody else doing without even a thought:

Fear List:

- 1) That other drop off at the bottom of Curt's Lane.
- 2) Skate Board park drop in.
- 3) Drops on Curt's Down.
- 4) Entry to Horse Thief Bench.
- 5) Grand Ave loading dock bridge embankment on the bike path.
- 6) Animal Hospital patio on the way back from Lunch Loop.
- 7) Ride the length of the entire 4" wall on Broadway Bridge.
- 8) Pedal up the stairs on the bike over-pass, on the Parkway.
- 9) Jump at the bottom of Bentonite Hill.
- 10) Toilet bowl on The Ribbon.

The end game might be to discover what that one guy said, "The only thing to be afraid of is fear it's bad-self." - FDR 1932. On a lot of these 2' kickers, it's the anticipation that melts

you. If you just did the thing, more often than not, you would discover there was nothing to be afraid of in the first place. In the movie Hitch, his advice was to go in 80%. If she shuts you down, you still have enough room to save face. That's not how this works. Once you commit, you have to go all the way. Don't do what my little brother did and stop short on the ramp right before take-off and pile-drive himself into the backyard concrete. Let me know how it turns out. Make sure you bring a lot of friends to record it, "For Glory!" Also, the kids these days don't scream "Geronimo" at the end of the ramp. They scream "Bonsai!" Keep up with the times.

"One Bike" Bicycle Design Contest

By: Sinclair Lewis

Brown Cycles Bike Shop hosted a bicycle design competition in an attempt to discover the mythical One Bike. "One Bike" is an elusive idealistic concept that has plagued pedaling men for a century. One bicycle that would function equally and efficiently on road, mtn., and utility, was the goal for the entrants. Each designer was called to design a bicycle and present their best ideas.

Three categories were available for the entrants:

- Actual/Rideable Bicycle Frame and Complete Bike.
- Modify an Existing Bicycle into a One Bike.
- Virtual Concept One Bike.

The majority of the final designs focused on tire size, air pressure, and frame geometry.

The concept of a One Bike, or Quiver Killer, as some have called it, is a driving force in the industry today, although nobody is using the term. Gravel Grinder bikes and Plus tire sizes have opened the flood gates for riders to use a single bike on multiple road surfaces. But to date, nobody in the industry has gone "all the way."

John Hefner, entry in the virtual category, stunned the audience when he announced that One Bike had already been achieved in Dec. of 1903, when the Wright Brothers flew at Kitty Hawk, NC. The first airplane was made of bicycle parts and could be used on any terrain, including water.

Many of the attendees and judges at the event were skeptical. "I don't think it's possible, however I do think it's noble" - Cullen Purser, Fruita, Colorado.

"The One Bike will not exist until the

second coming of Christ as clearly stated in the New Testament book of Revelation.”

“The One Bike is a golden unicorn running through a rainbow. The concept of One Bike only exists in our imagination. Like TV on wrist watches and ovens that cook in minutes.” - Skooks Hayduk.

It was hard for the contestants not to drift into an ethos of philosophical debate:

Is My One Bike Your One Bike?

If I attain One Bike, and I have Other Bike, have I really attained One Bike?

If I am not a professional mtn. biker or road racer, does a concept bike that handles 80% of my mtn. and road bike requirements constitute a One Bike?

Once One Bike is achieved, will there ever be a need to buy a new one?

One Bike

One Man, One Heart, One God.
One Mission, One Soul, One Solution.

One Vision, One People, One Decision.

One Word, One Nation, One Voice, One Bond.

One Magic,

One Love,
One Life,
One Passion,
One Bike.

Although perfect harmony was not achieved on this night, everybody that showed up walked away an inch closer than where they were when they rolled in.

The Man Who Rode His 10-Speed to the Moon.

By: Bernard Fischman

Page 14:

Shifting was so simple! He realized what the young man had been trying to explain. All you must know to anticipate a hill, is to move to the proper gear before the rise; the energy output remains the same, smooth and easy.

Page 18:

He was not at all tired when he got back to his apartment, and he was beginning to be aware of a strange sensation, an innate knowing, that on a bicycle such as his, a man could go anywhere. Anywhere.

Secret Riding Techniques

Super Toast by Willy Stewart.

Blend together: two avocados, two beets, half a cooked sweet potato, a handful of blueberries, a spoon full of chia and flax seeds, salt, squeeze a couple of lemons and blend till a paste is created. I put the paste in a bowl, cover it, and put it in the fridge. Add paste to toasted toast like you would an avocado toast. I typically add on top beet slices and/or blueberries. Eat two of these toasts with a couple of eggs for a power breakfast!

Combine The Right Stuff with Ucan in the water bottle for no cramping.

Super Beets Pills.

AMP PR lotion rubbed on your legs, quads, hammies, and buttox, before a heinous ride. Sit in the living room with no shorts on until it dries. 15 minutes should do.

Peeing Like a Race Horse

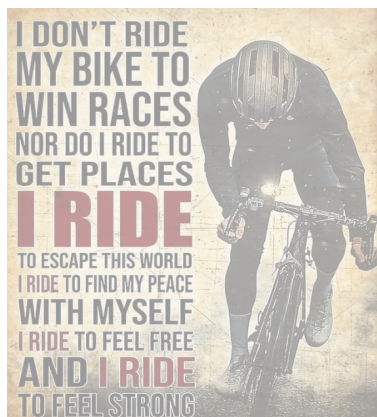
Recently, I was watching videos online of horses peeing. There is something raw and organically beautiful about when that dam breaks. Dang, that's a lotta water!! And it just goes everywhere. "Let it loose girl, that's it. Just let it all go." In the blink of an eye it goes from nothing to a raging torrent.

In the 1920s, at the Six Day Bicycle Races, around the circular track at Madison Square Gardens, the popping of a cork was the signal for the track racers that a prize was on the line and for the exhausted riders to stand up and let the dam break.

The racers, who had been on the track for 1-5 days, pedaled in a cathartic state while the crowd of well-to-do celebrities and party goers kibitzed and drank in the stands listening to jazz music. The horses on the track came alive in the wink of an eye with raw organically beautiful energy like the waking of a sleeping giant.

The dam would burst and for a few moments the giant crowd would be on their feet.

To memorialize this moment of raw emotion, a lot of cyclists will paper clip a bottle cork to dangle from their seat rails. Pop!! Dang, that's a lotta water.



Help Wanted. Dream Job. Inquire Within.

Work in a drug free, dopeless, clean, dry, healthy, indoor environment, listening to good music as you “wow” the masses with your clever mechanical skills, allowing customers to explore good health and community by pedaling their bikes around town.

Your workspace is clean, neat, organized, and spins like a top.

It was a time of splendor, charming people, good food, laughter, and brave ideas.

-enough to entertain us for years. (Maya Angelou)

Perks:

Work Downtown

40 Hours Week

You get to fix bikes and you don't have to pay for it

Big Discounts on Bikes and Parts

Prerequisite Films for Employment:

World's Fastest Indian

All the John Cusack movies

Rider and the Wolf

One Bike

(Pay particular attention to the Workshops in these movies)

Required Reading for Employment:

Bicycle Junction

No Hands. The Rise and Fall of the Schwinn Bicycle Company

Apply at Brown cycles or email resume to: info@browncycles.com