

Playboy On The Scene

WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHERE IT'S HAPPENING AND WHO'S MAKING IT HAPPEN

Vicious Cycles

Daredevil bikers the Crusty Demons, at home in the sky or the dirt

A man who jumps motorcycles 75 feet in the air can be called a lot of things. Sane is not one of them. "We've rented volcanoes; we've ridden on Easter Island and Machu Picchu," says Jon Freeman. In 1994 he and his partner, Dana Nicholson, blew the lid off the underground freestyle motocross scene with the landmark video *Crusty Demons of Dirt*, a searing compilation of motorcycle skill and lunacy. "There was nothing like it in the industry," Freeman says. "It had no racing, just people trying to one-up each other." Three years (and two films) later came the first freestyle motocross competition, which in 1999 became part of the X Games. "Travis Pastrana jumped all the way out into San Francisco Bay," recalls Freeman. "They took his prize money, but he didn't care." Freeman and Nicholson have remained the sport's dominant documentarians, and their videos have spawned a touring show. Their 14th DVD, *The Chaotic Chronicles of the Crusty Demons of Dirt*, is available at crusty.com.



From Candy to a Baby

Can an ex-stripper from Minneapolis conquer Hollywood? Only if she has an interesting name. Meet Diablo Cody

Diablo Cody's 2005 memoir, *Candy Girl: A Year in the Life of an Unlikely Stripper*, gave readers a witty, unflinching look at her experiences taking it all off. David Letterman was smitten (look for the clip on YouTube), as were critics generally; if they'd had a stack of dollar bills handy, they would have tossed them onstage. *Candy Girl* ended up attracting enough attention to get Cody's other projects in front of director Jason Reitman, whose bracing 2005 comedy *Thank You for Smoking* made him a Hollywood player. The result? Production wrapped this past spring on *Juno*, a dark comedy Reitman directed from Cody's screenplay about the relationship between an accidentally pregnant teenager and the Gen X couple that wants to adopt the baby. Reitman paired Cody's words with actors Ellen Page as the pregnant Juno and Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman as the couple. Look for it to hit the festival circuit this fall, with a theatrical release to follow. "When you read a screenplay where every time the writer has to make a decision, the decision is unexpected, that's special," said Reitman in an interview. "That's really rare, and that's what caught my attention." Don't be surprised if you see a lot more from Cody in the coming year. She's developing another movie script for Warner Bros., as well as a half-hour sitcom for Showtime based on a concept from Steven Spielberg, who got in touch after being similarly wowed by her offbeat sensibility. The way we see it, she's living proof that good things start to happen whenever you take off your clothes.