

Derby City Customs

by: Caroline Ennis



The boys at Derby City Customs are concerned about their image. Not so much how hard it is, but rather, the lack of it. As I sit in a fold-out lawn chair in GM Jason Cantwell's office, I get the feeling that I'm just hanging out in a friend's backyard, talking about bikes with people who love to be around them.

Not surprising: until recently, Derby City Customs used to be a garage outfit, the father and son Cantwell team working on neighbors' and friends' bikes under a small plaque bearing the Derby City Customs title as a joke. Ride Real is their slogan, one emblazoned on one of their various T-shirt designs, and it's more than a motto, it's a lifestyle evident in their attitudes

and appearances.

Mike Cantwell, Jason's father and owner of Derby City Customs, is a bike enthusiast and is rarely present around their humble but growing digs on Hurstbourne Parkway. Who you will find in the shop along with Jason is Keith Nichols, one of the reasons their shop is what it is today. Keith and

Jason work together as a team on the projects that

come in, and their good-natured friendship is evident as we talk.

Mike got the ball rolling when he introduced Keith to Jason. Keith, 34, has 17 years of experience with bikes of all sorts. He builds his own bikes, and says he never had the lux-