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NORTHWEST news

RIDING AGAINST AIDS

Portland bicyclist raises money to fight HIV
by Caitlin Smith

Portland architect Tim Richard has single-handedly raised \$18,500 for AIDS causes to date. For the past seven years, he has bicycled in fund-raising rides that benefit organizations dedicated to fighting the epidemic.

Beginning in 1996, Richard was one of about 3,000 participants in the California AIDS Ride for two years, then he went on to bike in the Pacific Northwest's Ride for a Reason for two years. In 1999 he joined forces with Hawaii's Paradise Ride, in which bikers tour several islands.

When that fund-raiser shut down because of dwindling participation, Richard began looking for another ride—and found one in New York. Beginning Aug. 18 he will be pedaling the Empire State AIDS Ride, which begins at Niagara Falls and ends in New York City's Battery Park—some 500 miles over six days. The scenic route runs through the historic Erie Canal and the wine country of the Finger Lakes, around the foothills of the Catskill Mountains, down the Hudson Valley and into Manhattan.

In past cycling events, up to 89 percent of the funds raised were used to pay for the costs of the ride itself, which generally includes meals, road support, bike techs, a medical team, pit stops with refreshments and bathrooms, tents for the nighttime stops and someone to shuttle bags from stop to stop. These amenities add up quickly; the little remaining money was given to the beneficiaries of the race.

The Empire State AIDS Ride is unique because all the money raised goes to the beneficiaries. Bikers are asked to pay a higher registration fee (\$300), and the ride is sponsored by

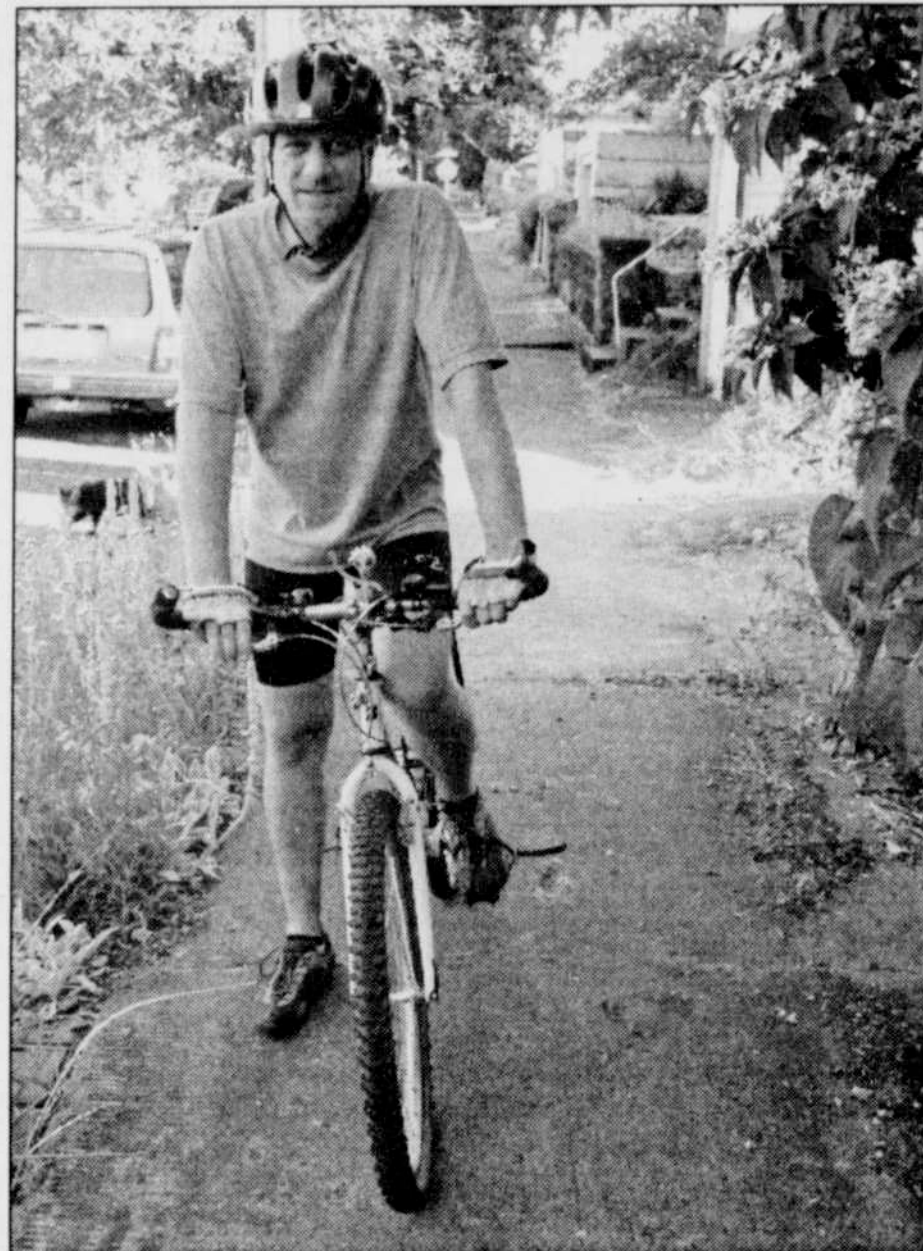


PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Tim Richard wants to raise money—and awareness—in the ongoing fight against the global AIDS epidemic

companies and individuals. Riders must also raise a minimum of \$3,200 to participate.

The beneficiaries of the 2003 Empire State AIDS Ride all are nonprofit organizations that provide treatment and advocacy work for people with HIV. The donations will mainly support Doctors Without Borders for their work in some of the world's most severely AIDS-ravaged communities. Funds will also benefit AIDS Rochester and African Services Committee, which serve people with HIV/AIDS in New York state, and Health GAP, which advocates for treatment and access to affordable generic drugs.

A recreational bicyclist and a bike commuter, Richard participated in his first AIDS fund-raising ride shortly after coming out of the closet—"at

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