

the Rear Derailer



Happy Oktoberfest!

Vol. 1

An Unofficial Publication of the September 30, 2005 Chicago Critical Mass Ride

No. 1

From the Editor

Welcome to Issue #1 of the **Rear Derailer**, a publication celebrating Chicago's rich bicycle and draught beer preservation communities.

While you enjoy tonight's ride, and perhaps a fresh stein of bier, let's not forget that draught beer and public houses have played a crucial role in the American democratic experiment. The American Revolution was planned and fomented in colonial taverns, with frothy mugs in hand.

Today, barrelled-beer and taverns continue to be central in building dynamic, vital communities, offering public meeting spaces and promoting hospitality.

But wrong thinkers threaten this rich legacy, and indeed, our very way of life. Chicago has lost more than half of our taverns due to regressive city policies. Similarly, cycling, walking and public transit are all threatened by small-minded Chicago political bosses and car-bound bureaucrats.

Local Draught Beer Preservation Societies have sprung up in many Chicago communities, working to further our participatory democracy by protecting beer drinkers' rights and advocating for improved public beer drinking facilities.

The Rear Derailer urges all readers to get involved in the many local movements profiled in this publication to protect pedaling and the corner pub. Join the velorution and Chicago's draught beer revolution -- Be a part of the solution!

Contributors: Peter Zelchenko, Claire Micklin, Rev. F. Sam Barker, Liesl Phillips, Don Jaime, John Greenfield, Becki Retzlaff, Alex Wilson, Josh Deth, Capt. Pank, & Frank Payne.

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www.BringBacktheDraught.org

www.ChicagoCriticalMass.org

Will Critical Mass Take City Hall?

Wendt Eyes Mayoral Bid

by Peter Zelchenko

Longtime Critical Mass rider, journalist and community activist William F. Wendt, Jr., has been added to the short list of potential contenders in Chicago's upcoming 2007 mayoral race.

And why not? He's younger than Richard M. Daley and far more energetic. He's more eloquent on his feet and his ethics are unimpeachable.

He attends at least as many public hearings as Daley, and usually has more to say when there.

When asked recently about his mayoral ambitions, Wendt replied, "Well, I think I'd be better off running the Department of Planning and Development. You can get more done there."

Wendt was careful not to specifically rule out his candidacy for the city's top office.

Progressives and the Critical Mass community have greeted Wendt's potential mayoral bid with widespread enthusiasm.

"He's got my vote,"

said Alex Wilson, publisher of the CM 'zine the Derailleur. "He would be a pro-bike Mayor who actually rides a bike!"

"I'd vote for him over Daley anytime," echoed cycling sister Dena Al-Khaib.

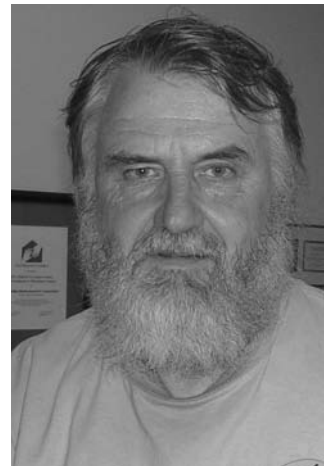
Rails Against "Yuppie Valhalla"

Wendt's great love is transportation. Raised in Terre Haute, Ind., in an intellectual

family, he grew up a rail fan and can probably tell a story about every foot of track in Chicago. He understands regional transportation problems and considers Chicago's recent efforts woefully inadequate.

Wendt rails against what he calls the "Yuppie Valhalla" -- upscale development by Daley cronies that replicates suburban, car oriented communities within the city limits.

Whereas Daley is seldom seen biking the streets of Chicago, Wendt rides his year-round, avoiding public trans-



Bill Wendt: Cityhall bound?

portation as perhaps mildly bourgeois.

And while Daley has paid only bemused lip service to the growing movement to depave Lake Shore Drive, Wendt is already in full support and often sports a well-worn Depave LSD T-Shirt.

Wendt has spent a good deal of time over the years skewering car dependency and touting overhead monorail technology, which he believes is the solution to virtually all of Chicago's transportation problems.

cont'd on other side

Draught Preservation Calendar



Sat. Oct. 22, 2pm-9pm
Logan Square Oktoberfest
2600 N. Talman (Betw. Logan and Schubert)

Join the Logan Square Draught Preservation Society as we roll out the barrel to benefit Hurricane Katrina victims. Bands, blocked off streets and plenty of draught! Sponsored by 4th Congregational Church and Logan Triangle Ass'n.

Friday, November 18, 7pm. Ukrainian Village Draught Beer Stroll
2301 W. Chicago Ave.
Visit the premiere draught houses of Chicago Avenue on this free walking tour. Sponosred by the Ukranian Vil. Draught Beer Pres.Soc.

Saturday, Oct. 15, 8pm
Andersonville Pub Bike Crawl. Meet at Simon's Tavern 5210 N. Clark St
Visit five of Andsonerville's hidden tavern gems on this free costumed bike crawl. Sponsored by the Andersonville Draught Beer Preservation Society.

More Draught Pres. info: www.BringBacktheDraught.org

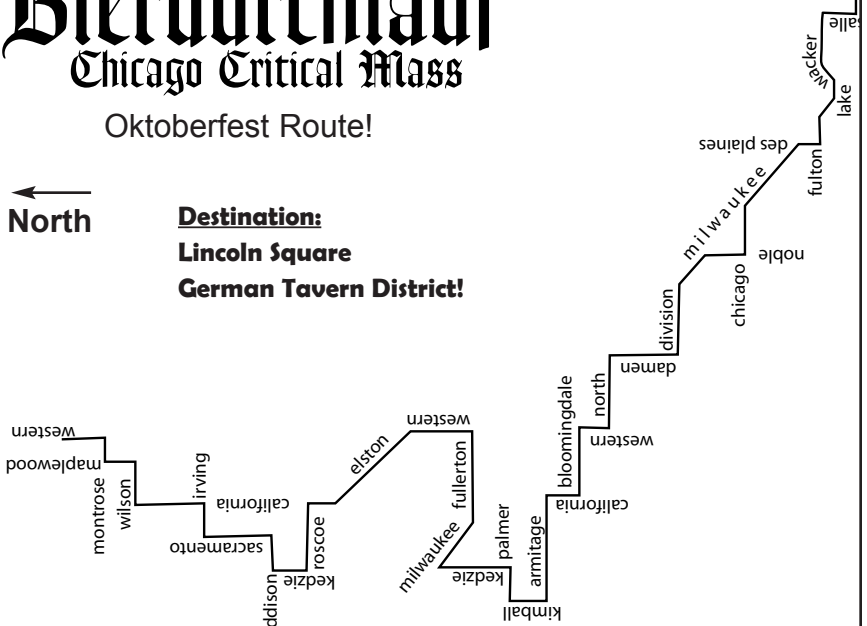
Bierdurchlauf

Chicago Critical Mass

Oktoberfest Route!

North

Destination:
Lincoln Square
German Tavern District!



Become a More Popular Cyclist in 4 Easy Steps

by Rev. F. Sam Barker

Dear friends, are you tired of being lonely? Tired of being unfulfilled? Tired of being just another face in the CCM crowd??!!

Are you ready to throw off the yoke of anonimity? Are you ready to be the center of attention, the life of the party??!!

Are you ready to be the most POPULAR person at CCM??!!

THERE IS AN ANSWER!! THE CCM BEER PANNIER SYSTEM!

With the CCM Beer Pannier System, large quantities of the well known and popular

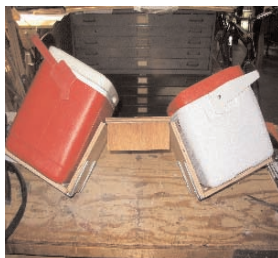
social lubricant BEER can transported over the long haul and kept icy cold for hours!

Folks that you have never laid eyes on will want to get to know YOU better after just one look at the frosty bounty that YOU have at hand!

Used by millions for thousands of years, cold beer WILL make you SMARTER, WITTIER, and much more ATTRACTIVE! Cold beer is SAFE, ALL NATURAL & NON HABIT-FORMING!

Why waste another moment? Why miss another opportunity for happiness?

Start changing your life today! THE CCM BEER PANNIER SYSTEM! BUILD YOURS TODAY!



Top Left: All you need is some wood, glue, metal fixtures and two dumpster dived six pack coolers.
Top Right: Shape boards around your rack.
Bottom: Mount 2 coolers and Voila! The CCM BEER PANNIER SYSTEM is ready to roll. No more lonely nights -- GUARANTEED!

Letters

A Nacional Beer is Good

America has too many choices. Why agonize over choosing among 43 types of dental floss or deodorant? Aren't they all pretty much the same?

The time spent pondering which consumer item to buy would better be spent taking action to stop the madness in Washington.

Same goes for beer. The choices are phony.

Beer is beer, let's face it. Hops.

How much money do you think goes into packaging and creating an IMAGE that one product is better than another, rather than actually MAKING it better.

An obscene number of choices clutters the American mind with consumerist triviality and blinds them to larger problems which, if not addressed, will result in the loss of most freedoms.

Except, of course, for the sacred freedom to choose among consumer products, including, I assume, draught beer. But then again, maybe that's justice.

Another Pilsener grande, por favor.

Don Jaime Redd Banos, Ecuador

The editor replies:

Let's not throw out the baby with the Budweiser.

America may well have too many choices when it comes to deodorant, but our foriegn policy stinks due to a lack of mainstream political choice.

Not only is it hard to tell the Democrats from the Republicans, in Chicago, the Democrats are Republicans!

Daley has shut down more than half of Chicago's taverns during his reign, successfully stifling political dialogue.

If and when Bill Wendt is elected Mayor, bastions of free speech such as the corner pub will have nothing to fear, but the wrongheaded policy-makers in Washington will!

Fall Biergarten, Bike Lane Fashion Preview

by Liesl Phillips

One recent late summer ozone action™ morning, while cycling down the big, hairy ass-crack that is Milwaukee Avenue, I began to ponder what the end of the Empire might look ----err, that is, I began to ponder what the It Girls and Boys of the Cycling World will be wearing this fall season.

What will they don while cruising their trusty rides, or sitting on their fine reedy arses in our city's finer beirgartens und booze shacks!?

I've heard mumblings about

tweeds and short jackets; flat boots and layered jewelry; and I keep seeing people who appear to have been attacked by an Ohio Buckeye tree about the head and neck; but will they be hip enough for...Longjohns!??

That's right, just like grandpa used to wear. Call them tights or lederhosen; whether silk or polyester, thrift store or Eddie Bauer; you're gonna want that extra layer, liebschoen, cause this Bike-Fashionista predicts that folks are going to be putting the thermostat down a

few notches this year.

Don't expect to see many of those 'yuppie warmers' - the freestanding propane heaters some bier gartens use to extend their outdoor alcohol income season -- either. It's going to be all about snuggling up in large makeout groups near the radiator while passing the steins (sorry - thin German beir may lose out to thicker brews; think Guinness and woolies!), then biking home fast to dive under the down comforter with your favorite(s) to gleefully peel each other like Concord

grapes.

Don't stop at the tops and bottoms, though.... Your fingers and toes will need extra layers, too. Check out lined, felted mittens and poly sock liners for a few bucks from your nearest bike shop (if they don't have 'em they can order 'em). Get the mussy, bedhead look by wearing your woolie cap indoors all the time. Hot!!

There you have it: überlagern sie lederhosen!

More at:

www.BikeWinter.org

Wendt, from p. 1

Stormy, husky, brawling

To be sure, Wendt is not afraid of a skirmish. In his youth, he successfully fought in federal court, constructing a sophisticated defense in response to draft evasion charges against him.

He served on the front lines of the anti-war movement in Chicago during the '68 Democratic Convention, helping to hasten the US withdrawal from Vietnam.

He's a journalist who has published thousands of articles over the years in newspapers as well as his own broadsides.

Wendt's more recent political battles include his tireless efforts to expose wasteful transportation policy, police brutality, and his strident opposition to the redevelopment of Maxwell St.

Supreme Court Filings

Wendt insisted that the democratic process had been subverted when Maxwell Street, a near westside cultural haven for blues musicians and small entrepreneurs, was turned over to polit-

ically connected developers in 1998.

He pursued the corrupt politicians, keeping judges and officials in court for five years, singlehandedly researching and filing numerous cases in local and federal courts, and even filing two Supreme Court petitions in 2000 and 2002.

Wendt is a left libertarian by stripe, which explains why he can be seen at progressive rallies and yet disagree with much of the dialogue there.

He is always ready at the College of Complexes with a strong retort against simplistic "unionheads" and "commies."

"Bill's ethics are firmly set in the high ground of individualism," said Milan Vydareny, a writer and a student of the College. "And he never hesitates to defend his strong belief."

Those familiar with Wendt's oratory skills are keenly anticipating a rhetorical showdown with Daley.

"If Daley agrees to debate Bill Wendt, the race would be as good as won," said

Poetry Corner

First Love, Second Love

First love, you are cold and frothy

Draught is best

I walk with you

I dance with you

I sit with you

I even once washed my hair with you

As friends moved far away, you could not travel

No beer on the el, they say

No beer while driving either

Next, I met my second love, you are fast and racy

Fixed is best

I ride you in the rain

I ride you in the snow

I ride you in the sunshine

I even knitted a warm and fuzzy seat cover for you

Now I can go as far as my legs can take me

Passing the drivers in their cages

Who would rather be drinking draught beer

Now, my two loves meet

Oh first love, you never tasted so good!

Oh second love, you were never so fast and racy!

-- B. R.

Fran Tobin, a Rogers Park activist and Wendt supporter.

Wendt is single and lives in West Town with two or three cats.

To get involved with the Wendt Campaign, visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Wendt4Chicago/>