

Event set for Sunday

Youth agency pulls off complex chase

Organizer and starter for the novel events in Common Ground's third Great Birmingham Bicycle Chase, July 11, is Jeff Crosby, Community Youth Worker from Birmingham, whose salary is paid by several area churches.

"As I see it," he said recently, "only in a city like Birmingham could a youth agency pull off a chase with the complexity of this one. The police, the city commissioners, the DPM, the merchants, Smiths Bike Shop and other shops (Crane, Levee, Testosterone, Detroit Edison, Aerial Press, Birmingham Jr. Women's Club, a hundred stall and volunteers from Common Ground, plus the United States Cycling Federation have to all work together."

Events will be staged on an eight tenths (a mile) course of crowded streets in downtown Birmingham from 11:30-4:30 p.m. on July 11. Entry blanks for the

The couple's medley relay, scheduled at 6:30 p.m., will involve two laps for each rider. The first four winners get prizes, including the top prize which is two Marti Minko panels from Orthopaedics, Birmingham.

Any type of safe bikes or tires will be acceptable in the juniors race, set for 4 p.m. There will be races for 11-13 year olds and for 14-16 year olds. They will race two to four laps and receive trophies for first through third places. Big Wheel and tri-cycle racing for three-five year olds, is scheduled at Martin and Pierce, at 2:30 p.m. Joyce Pippie from Birmingham's Junior Women's Club is in charge.

"I see these races as an extension of the alternatives program at Common Ground which is uniquely theirs and which developed from Ted Rice's role as messenger to the community and youth from Christ Church, Cranbrook," Crosby said. Rice,

who has been at Common Ground since 1971, is an Episcopal priest. Crosby noted that he feels the concept of missions in the community and community youth work is innovative and exciting.

"I don't like for my support churches (First Presbyterian, Northbrook Presbyterian, Kirk in the Hills, First United Methodist, Birmingham Congregational, and St. James Episcopal) to get too smug about what they are doing, and think they have done it all," he commented, "because I'm keenly aware that the Birmingham Bloomfield community could use several youth workers, but I think the churches should be proud of the vision they have shown and of what has been started here."

Jeff, who is available by telephone 24 hours a day, sees his work as an eternal project extending a helping hand to local young people experiencing difficulties in their lives. "He develops a meaningful

Points rather than finish in criterion decide race winner

By JOHN BUZZO

The first person to cross the finish line in the Birmingham Bicycle Chase may not necessarily be the winner.

Many of the races involving United States Cycling Association riders will be criterion races. Riders earn points for their position at the end of specified laps. The person with the most points, not the person who finishes the race first, is the winner.

Ted Rice, director of the Common Ground Alternatives Program which began and runs the bike chase, explained that if a race is 10 laps, points may be accumulated at the end of the second, fourth, sixth, and 10th laps.

It takes quite a while to figure out who the winner is sometimes, Rice said.

DESPITE THE importance of their position at the end of each lap, the riders will voluntarily exchange the lead throughout the race. It's part of a technique called drafting—the leader cuts the wind resistance and other riders try to follow in the wake. Because of the energy involved, riders take turns cutting the wind.

Mike Walden, president of the Michigan Bike Federation, said that drafting is just one of the techniques which makes bicycle racing the fastest, most competitive sport.

Bicycle racing is the fastest, most competitive racing sport, Walden said. "There is the mechanical factor, the pacing factor and the technical factor involved in riding a bicycle."

Speed skating is similar to bicycle racing in that you travel on a long blade, Walden said. "Yet you can't go at top speed all the time. You have to go at some

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New tennis classes set

All new summer tennis classes, sponsored by Farmington Community Center, are set to open the week of July 12.

Three, three-week sessions are offered for both young persons and adults.

Morning classes will be taught by Norman Staniszwski. Evening classes will be taught by Gary Bodenmiller and Ed Sedo.

All highly qualified instructors.

Classes are arranged for beginners, advanced beginners, and intermediates, on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Registration and payment must be made in the center, but all classes will be taught at the North Farmington High School courts, which are located on Thirteenth Mile

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