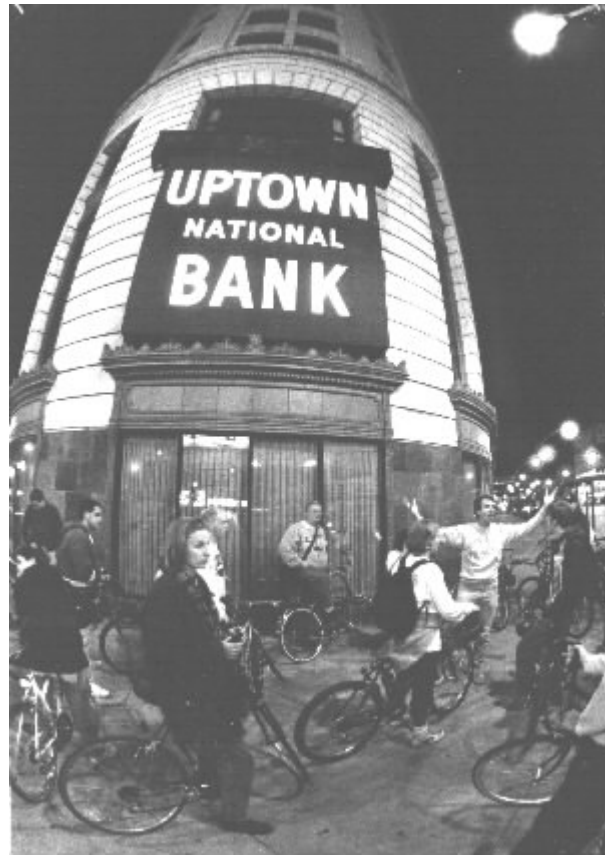


THE MIDNIGHT BIKE RIDE

Hog Butcher for the
World,
Tool Maker, Stacker
of Wheat,
Player with Railroads
and the Nation's
Freight Handler;
Stormy, husky,
brawling,
City of the Big
Shoulders.
(Carl Sandburg)



Chicago has been called many things: "the Second City," "the Windy City," "city on the make," "the City of the Century," "City in a Garden," and (in H.L. Mencken's words) "the gargantuan abattoir by Lake Michigan." The city is the product of natural and man-made forces and the subject of one of the most robust literatures in American social science. By some accounts, more has been written about Chicago than any other city in the world.

Since 1989, Loyola University history professor Timothy Gilfoyle has conducted a "midnight bike ride" for his students and friends. The event introduces students to major themes in American history by visiting various historic sites in Chicago.

The adventure begins at 9 p.m. in the circle between Mertz Hall and the Gentile Center on the Lake Shore Campus of Loyola University. Riders normally return to campus between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. the following day. The ride takes place in the late evening and morning hours in order to avoid daytime and rush-hour traffic and because participants always see and learn more on a bike than during a bus ride or walking tour. Riders pedal at a leisurely pace (this is not a race), frequently stopping at important historical and architectural sites. Pit stops to eat, drink, and visit the rest room are frequent. All Loyola students, faculty and alumni are invited, and they are encouraged to bring family and friends.

Participants are urged to dress warmly, preferably wearing layers of clothing in order to adapt to the frequently changing Chicago weather. Gloves are also recommended in the event of cold weather, particularly in the early morning hours. Participants should bring money to pay for food and drink, and are also required to sign a legal waiver of release prior to the ride.

Past bike rides have visited the following places:

[A. Finkl & Sons Steel Works](#)

[Unicom Cooling Plants on State Street and Wacker Drive](#)

[Site of the Haymarket Tragedy of 1886](#)

[Lower Wacker Drive](#)

[State Street](#)

[Uptown](#)

[Where the Chicago Fire of 1871 began](#)

[Chinatown](#)

[Hull House](#)

[Pre-1855 "Sunken Houses"](#)

[Bucktown and Wicker Park](#)

["First" Apartment Building in Chicago](#)

[Water Tower](#)

["Bughouse Square"](#)

[Prairie Avenue Historic District](#)

[St. Ignatius College Preparatory School \(origins of Loyola University\)](#)

[World's First "Skyscraper District"](#)

[St. Valentines Day "Massacre" site](#)

[Oldest Railroad Station in Chicago](#)

DATES OF UPCOMING MIDNIGHT BIKE RIDES

Thursday, 15 September 2011

Thursday, 13 September 2012

Thursday, 12 September 2013



[Back to Timothy Gilfoyle](#)